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Partido de Socialismo Unido**

No tears for Trump

GAZA IS STILL BEING BOMBED!

The struggle must go forward

By Stephen Millies

The first question that must be asked about the shootings at the July 13 Trump rally is: who does it benefit? It's obviously Trump himself.

All it took was a bloody ear for the corporate media to place a phony crown of martyrdom on the billionaire's head. Florida Senator Marco Rubio declared, "God protected Donald Trump."

Nobody is protecting 1.8 million poor people in Florida who have been kicked off Medicaid.

The spectacle at the Butler, Pennsylvania, fairgrounds was televised and conveniently occurred just days before Trump's coronation at the Republican National Convention.

However, Saturday's event doesn't pass the smell test for millions of poor and working people. The alleged shooter, 20-year-old Thomas Crooks, was killed at the scene. Dead people can be blamed but can't testify.

Once again, it's claimed that a wannabe assassin was a "lone nut." No motive has been ascribed to Crooks.

With dozens of police and Secret Service agents present, how was Crooks allegedly able to climb up on a roof overlooking Trump's rally without being stopped?

It should be recalled that former Vice President Mike Pence feared being kidnapped by pro-Trump Secret Service agents on Jan. 6, 2021, and taken to Andrews Air Force Base. He would then be prevented from presiding over the count of the electoral votes in the capitol.

President Biden lectured people on

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Protest against U.S.-led war machine in Washington, D.C.

ABOLISH NATO

SLL photos: Sharon Black

'There is a connection between our suffering, our unemployment, our low wages with NATO and the U.S. war machine.'

Struggle-La Lucha Washington bureau

July 7 — Hundreds marched in the streets of Washington, D.C., under the banner of the Resist NATO Coalition, initiated by the International League of Peoples Struggle U.S. Chapter.

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Heard on the street and in the bleachers: FREE FREE FREE PALESTINE

- ▶ Supreme Court rules: U.S. president above the law
- ▶ Feds attack when UAW calls for Gaza ceasefire
- ▶ Chris Silvera, a Teamster speaks on class warfare
- ▶ Haiti & Bastille Day: Tear down the walls!
- ▶ Imperialism and the road to socialist revolution
- ▶ Threat of war looms over NATO Summit



Six Supreme Court judges declare the U.S.

By Stephen Millies

Fifty years after Nixon was driven out of the White House, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with the Watergate war criminal that presidents can commit any crime they want.

“When the president does it, that means that it is not illegal,” Richard Nixon told his British television interviewer David Frost in 1977. Nixon was referring to the notorious Huston Plan, a 1970 scheme to crush the Black liberation and anti-war movements.

On July 1, six Supreme Court “justices” — three of whom were appointed by Trump — declared that presidents can’t be prosecuted for their “official acts.” This includes Trump’s illegal conspiracy that tried to overturn the 2020 presidential election, which he lost by 7 million votes.

The whole world saw Trump inciting a mob on Jan. 6, 2021, to attack the Capitol, where Congress was conducting the official tally of the Electoral College votes. For 3 hours and 19 minutes, troops were kept from rescuing members of Congress and allowing the electoral vote count to continue.

Among those who held back assistance was Gen. Charles Flynn, whose brother — retired General Mike Flynn — was Trump’s first national security advisor.

According to then Vice President Mike Pence, himself a vicious reactionary, Trump ordered Pence to toss out the electoral votes of states that Trump lost. Pence even feared being kidnapped by members of the Secret Service.

These “official acts” — really dangerous crimes — were proclaimed exempt

from prosecution by six enemies of poor and working people in black robes. These “Supreme” judges should be considered co-conspirators of Trump.

If presidential actions are untouchable, why did President Gerald Ford pardon the disgraced Richard Nixon?

Responding to this awful ruling, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that “the president is now a king above the law.” Sotomayor was joined in her scathing dissent by two other women Supreme Court judges, Ketanji Onyika Brown and Elena Kagan.

“When the president uses his official powers in any way, under the majority’s reasoning, he now will be insulated from criminal prosecution,” wrote Sotomayor.

“Orders the Navy’s Seal Team 6 to assassinate a political rival? Immune. Organizes a military coup to hold onto power? Immune. Takes a bribe in exchange for a pardon? Immune. Immune, immune, immune.”

Abolish the Supreme Court!

This horrible decision, written by so-called Chief Justice John Roberts, shouldn’t surprise anybody. The communist leader and labor organizer Vince Copeland described the Supreme Court as the most undemocratic feature of the federal government in “Market Elections: How Democracy Serves the Rich.”

Its members are appointed by the president, confirmed by the U.S. House of Lords — also known as the Senate — and can serve for life, like a pope. Two years ago, a majority of the Court outlawed reproductive rights.

In the 1857 Dred Scott case, Chief Justice Roger Taney declared that Black peo-

ple “had no rights that the white man was bound to respect.” It took a civil war to repudiate Taney.

In its 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson ruling, the high court upheld segregation, a decision that was the law of the land for 58 years.

The Supreme Court has thrown out state laws banning child labor and blessed injunctions against strikes. Countless legal lynchings were given the green light, including the execution of Troy Davis in 2011.

In the 2013 Shelby v. Holder decision, Roberts and four other Supreme Court judges gutted the Voting Rights Act. This spit on those who were beaten in 1965 by George Wallace’s state troopers in Selma, Alabama.

The Selma march forced Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act, which wouldn’t have been necessary if the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution had been enforced.

In 2022, the Court declared that the right to abortion no longer exists.

John Roberts succeeded super bigot William Rehnquist as Chief Justice. Roberts had also clerked for Rehnquist.

Rehnquist was a racist thug who tried to stop Black and Mexican people from voting in Phoenix in the early 1960s. In 2000, Rehnquist led a Supreme Court that split 5-4 to stop the vote counting in Florida and make George W. Bush president.

The July 1 decision protecting Trump follows a long series of “sovereign immunity” cases in which the Supreme Court has thrown out lawsuits against city and state governments. These cases often involved police brutality and killings.

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a dictatorship

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Free Leonard Peltier!

Genocide Joe Biden, whose bombs are killing thousands in Gaza, also denounced the Supreme Court's decision.

Mr. President, if you are so interested in justice, why don't you pardon 79-year-old Leonard Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement? The political prisoner, who has been imprisoned for 48 years, has just been denied parole.

The Supreme Court has confirmed what revolutionary socialists and communists have said: the U.S. is a dictatorship of the rich. Whoever is elected president, poor and working people will have to struggle.

Only an upsurge of the working class and oppressed people can stop Biden's war against Palestine and all the Trumps. #

Thousands march in NYC on '4th of You Lie' for Palestine

Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau

Thousands of people in New York City "celebrated" the Fourth of You Lie by demonstrating for Palestinian freedom. They rallied in Manhattan's Union Square, where hundreds carried Palestinian flags and signs.

The rally and march were called by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition, which includes the Palestinian Youth Movement, The People's Forum, and PAL Awda: the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, among many others.

Among the speakers was Omowale Clay, Chairman of the December 12th Movement. Clay urged protesters to carry the struggle to Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant, both famous Black communities in New York.

People marched up the Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue) in a loud, fast-moving procession several blocks long. Many onlookers showed their support.

Police harassed the march throughout, arresting five people along the route.

The protest wound up in Times Square. Speakers denounced the nearby military



John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.

LA protest:

No funds for 'Zionist vigilantes,' end Palestine occupation

By John Parker

On July 2, over 20 organizations, including Jewish, Palestinian, human rights, and anti-racist organizations, demanded that Los Angeles City Council members vote against a resolution that would provide \$1 million of public funds to racist Zionist vigilante groups. Following is the talk given at the protest by John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.

If you go to the occupied Palestinian city of Ramallah in the West Bank, you will see a giant 20-foot statue of the late South African President Nelson Mandela. The statue is located in a square named after Mandela.

Mandela said, "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."

In our fight against Israeli genocide, we have good company.

When we are denied our right to protest against Israel's genocide and the continuing theft of Palestinian land being sold right here in the U.S., right here in Los Angeles, we have good company in our experience of repression and violence. When we are vilified for calling Israel an apartheid state ... we have good company.

We are here because we are told that we don't have a right to protest against genocide for basic human decency. It is especially sad that Black politicians and a Black mayor right here at City Hall do not remember how our history in the U.S. is a long history of the racist theft of land, many times enforced by the Jim Crow birth of the Ku Klux Klan which looks a lot like the Zionist vigilante groups that hire former Israeli Defense Forces that teach warfare tactics. And right here in the Los Angeles City Hall, a motion was presented to gift \$1 million of public funds to Ku Klux Klan-like organizations that promote ultra-violent actions for simply trying to stop the sale of occupied Palestinian lands.

Last Sunday, there was a sale of Palestinian land with a picture that looked a lot like Gaza's shores that Netanyahu is clear-

recruiting station where young workers, usually unemployed, are enticed to do the dirty work for Big Oil.

In the evening, thousands more gathered in Washington Square in solidarity with Palestine. They marched from there to the Hudson River, where crowds gathered to watch the annual fireworks display.

NYPD goons tried to block the marchers, but protesters circumvented their barricades and marched through the West Village, drawing applause from people on the sidewalk. Cops violently arrested 22 people, including an Orthodox rabbi who was holding placards condemning Zionism and supporting the Palestinian people.

Frederick Douglass famously asked, "What is the Fourth of July to a slave?" He answered: "a day that reveals to him [and her], more than all the other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he [and she] is the constant victim."

Palestinians, of whom 40,000 have been killed in Gaza by Genocide Joe's bombs, have no more reason to celebrate the Fourth of You Lie. Free Palestine! #



Omowale Clay
SLL photo: Stephen Millies

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Hands off the UAW!

Photo from Tlaib on X.

By Stephen Millies

Feds' probe is retaliation for urging peace in Gaza

What's behind the investigation of United Auto Workers union president Shawn Fain by U.S. government-appointed monitor Neil Barofsky? The inquiry comes just eight months after UAW members won big wage gains by striking Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis (which took over Chrysler).

This was the first big strike in the U.S. since the Teamsters' strike against UPS in 1997. The UAW has started organizing drives in southern auto plants. It won a union recognition election at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The capitalist government took advantage of corruption charges involving both UAW officials and Chrysler corporation executives to impose a monitor on the UAW in 2021. Stealing money from a union is reprehensible, but it's chicken feed compared to the crimes committed by the auto companies and their government.

Over 40 years of givebacks and job cuts devastated entire cities, including Detroit and Flint, Michigan. General Motors closed nine of its ten plants in Flint, impoverishing the Black-majority city.

Why wasn't former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder sent to jail for poisoning the children of Flint with filthy water?

The 2009 government bailout imposed pay tiers that sharply cut the pay of newly hired employees. These pay cuts helped GM to rake in \$100 billion in profits in the following decade.

The victorious UAW strike last year restored equal pay for equal work.

'Stay in your lane'

The current investigation is ostensibly about an internal union dispute concerning UAW Secretary-Treasurer Margaret Mock. But it's really about the UAW President Shawn Fain supporting a ceasefire in Gaza.

The UAW is so far the largest union to demand an end to the killing of Palestinians. Other union leaders urging a stop to the war include American Postal Workers Union President Mark Diamondstein, who is Jewish.

Government monitor Barofsky urged Fain to be silent. Barofsky called Fain the night before the UAW president spoke at a Dec. 14, 2023, news conference calling for a ceasefire.

As the UAW attorney Benjamin Dictor



On Dec. 14, 2023, UAW President Shawn Fain called for a ceasefire alongside congresspersons Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, and Ilhan Omar outside the U.S. Capitol.

pointed out, Barofsky's action had nothing to do with his job as a monitor. Even Barofsky admitted that "this issue is outside the Monitor's jurisdiction."

This was an outrageous attempt to make a union leader shut up. Big business, if they tolerate unions at all, want labor leaders to "stay in their lane."

The wealthy and powerful want to go back to the days of the Cold War. AFL-CIO President George Meany supported the

dirty U.S. war against Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia that killed millions, including 58,000 GIs.

Unions supporting a ceasefire in Gaza is a good first step. We hope the UAW and the rest of the labor movement go further.

The UAW's endorsement of Joe Biden won't stop the Trumps. Only mass action, like the UAW strike last year, can do that.

Government Monitor Neil Barofsky needs to be fired. Hands off the UAW. #

Protest against U.S.-led war machine in D.C. Abolish NATO

Continued from page 1

A few days later, the 75th anniversary NATO war summit was to be held on July 11 and 12. The key agenda items were the continuing U.S. proxy war against Russia and war maneuvers against China.

Activists gathered at Washington's McPherson Square and marched to the White House and Lafayette Park, where they joined additional protesters from the "No to NATO, Yes to Peace" rally. Ann Wright, an ex-U.S. Army colonel who resigned in opposition to the Iraq war, declared, "NATO represents U.S. militarism. To end war, we need to end capitalism and imperialism."

Marchers continued to Farragut Park, chanting, "No bombs in the air, no boots on the ground" for an ending rally. Pro-

testers carried Palestinian flags along with giant banners.

The previous day, the coalition held a "People's Summit" prior to street marches. Keynote speakers Nicaraguan Ambassador Lautaro Sandino and Ali Barghouti of the Palestinian Youth Movement spoke to an overflow crowd at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Most participants came from Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. Erica Caines from Black Alliance for Peace and Andre Powell from Peoples Power Assembly, both from Baltimore, explained the connection between NATO and Cop City. Powell proclaimed, "There is a connection between Baltimore — our suffering, our

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Pro-Palestine protest at Orioles game sparks media frenzy

By Lev Koufax

On July 23, four Peoples Power Assembly organizers raised two Palestinian flags in the stands behind home plate at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Baltimore's baseball team, the Orioles, has called Camden Yards home since 1993.

As soon as the PPA organizers drew the flags, they were stormed by right-wing fans and Orioles security. It should be noted that seats become more expensive the closer they are to the field. Plenty of working-class people attend Orioles games; however, the individuals sitting in the most expensive seats were, for the most part, wealthy and hostile to the cause of Palestine.

Several fascists attempted to snatch the flags from the organizers' hands. Other right-wing fans spit on the group and hurled slurs. That said, support could be heard from the seats higher up in the stands. The masses of the people support Palestine.

Even though security and fascists forced the PPA organizers from the game, the demonstration generated a large reaction in the mainstream press. The Orioles' Baltimore Sun beat reporter captured the entire demonstration and altercation on X, formerly known as Twitter.



In the rich seats at Oriole Park in Baltimore.

In particular, ultra-Zionist media sources such as "Shirion Collective," "the Media Research Center," and "Israel Hayom" responded strongly to the anti-Zionist disruption. Shirion Collective actually went as far as to encourage a violent response to the PPA organizers. Yet, it was the Zionists who were inciting.

Directly after the demonstration, the Orioles released a ludicrous statement: "The individuals displaying political signage, which is a violation of our policy, were not seated in their ticketed seats and inciting fans in the surrounding area."

So, to get this straight, four people wave two

flags and that justifies a fascist mob response? There always seems to be an excuse for the right wing's bad behavior. Fact is, Orioles owner David Rubenstein has skin in the game. Rubenstein's investment firm, the Carlyle Group, is heavily invested in General Dynamics and similar defense contractors. Needless to say, the genocide against Gaza has been profitable for Rubenstein and Carlyle. As if that wasn't bad enough, Rubenstein has a

long-standing friendship with genocidal maniac-in-chief Benjamin Netanyahu.

The movement for Palestine must continue to confront the U.S. warmongers and fascists behind Zionism's reign. As long as Palestine remains occupied, the U.S. ruling class and their Zionist running dogs must know absolutely no peace.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.

Abolish NATO

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unemployment, our low wages with NATO and the U.S. war machine.

"The trillions and I say trillions spent on the U.S. state apparatus which includes not only NATO, U.S. military bases, AF-RICOM, the CIA, the FBI, and every rotten fascist cop in every city and rural area — could provide for our people!"

Filipino diaspora organizers denounced U.S. imperialists' role in building an Asian NATO. BAYAN USA chairperson Adrian Bonifacio declared, "In the Philippines, more than a dozen youth were recently killed by the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines, who are backed by the U.S. These are youth who dedicated their lives

to the cause of national democratic revolution, who, when faced with the convergence of NATO in Asia Pacific, including the Philippines, and the guns of the U.S. military — they did not back down, and they pointed their guns back!"

A representative of the Palestinian Youth Movement outlined that NATO is "the armed wing of U.S.-led imperialism suppressing liberation movements, led by 'Genocide Joe' and 'Bloody Blinken.'" #

NATIONAL MARCH & SPEAKOUT FOR TRANS LIVES

SATURDAY OCT 19 COLUMBUS OHIO

JOIN US!

Under Gov. Mike DeWine and the Republican legislative supermajority, Ohio has become a battleground for trans healthcare and reproductive rights, as the far right attempts to create a beachhead in the midwest. No matter who wins the national elections in November, we will need to continue fighting for our rights. Help organize a national protest to push back the attack on trans people, LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities, immigrants, and workers.

Protect trans youth & trans lives
No bans on gender-affirming care, restroom access and sports

End police violence against our communities.
Justice for Frank Tyson!

End attacks on nurses, teachers, librarians
Free, legal, accessible abortions

Safe, affordable housing for queer youth

Stop attacks on privacy - protect sex workers

Demand federal enforcement of civil rights coast to coast

End attacks on immigrants

Stop genocide in Gaza!
Israel is no friend to LGBTQIA+ people

Expand Medicaid and SNAP - Fund healthcare for all, not warfare

Initiated by Protect Trans Lives Coalition
Volunteer & endorse at ProtectTransKidsMarch.org

HAITI & BASTILLE DAY

By Stephen Millies

The pushing back of the fascists in the French election gives new hope for an upsurge of the working class. So many French capitalist fortunes — like those in the United States and Britain — originated with slavery.

Haiti defeated the French slave masters in the only successful slave revolution in history. It's outrageous that Haitians were later forced to pay \$21 billion to their former masters — the odious debt that impoverished Haiti wasn't paid off until 1947.

Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide justly demanded \$21 billion in reparations from France for this robbery. The U.S. and France responded by overthrowing the democratically elected Aristide in a 2004 coup.

The New Popular Front in France should demand reparations be paid to Haiti. The U.S., France, and Britain need to be kicked out of Africa. And the Haitian Revolution should be studied by all working and poor people.

Haiti and Bastille Day

July 14 is Bastille Day. On that date, in 1789, tens of thousands of poor people in Paris attacked a hated prison called the Bastille and began the French Revolution. The continual intervention of poor people in the cities and countryside — particularly in Paris — drove the revolution forward.

The modern political world began with the French Revolution. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels — the founders of communism — lived in that revolution's aftermath.

Lenin and the other leaders of the Bolshevik Revolution studied the French Revolution. Lenin became chairperson of the Council of People's Commissars, a term derived from the French "commissaire."

Even the terms "left" and "right" derive from the French upheaval. When the National Assembly met in 1789, the supporters of the king seized the right portion of the chamber and forced revolutionaries to sit on the left. They did this because of an ancient prejudice against left-handed people.

The French Revolution started in Europe, but it belongs to the world. And there would have been no French Revolution without Haiti.

Capitalist riches from enslaved workers

The French Revolution was a capitalist, or bourgeois, revolution. It swept away all



Final battle of the Haitian Revolution.

the old feudal rubbish, like the remnants of serfdom, that oppressed people. Even the formation of a national market, a necessity for capitalism, had to be fought for.

The capitalist class or bourgeoisie was not a new class. It began its rise centuries earlier in merchant trading. Its earliest attempts to challenge the old feudal order, usually under the guise of religious differences, were thrown back with bloody reprisals.

The Bourbon kings and the big nobles of France were aristocratic parasites who feasted while millions starved and lived in rags. They were symbolized by Queen Marie Antoinette, who, when informed that people had no bread, exclaimed, "Let them eat cake!" (This referred to the burnt remnants of bread caked inside communal ovens.)

During the 1700s, the Bourbon monarchy was increasingly challenged by the bourgeoisie. Its ideologues, led by Voltaire, questioned everything and led the great intellectual movement known as the Enlightenment. Voltaire campaigned against executing people on "the wheel," a torture device to which people were tied while their bodies were broken, sometimes just for allegedly mocking a religious procession.

But what gave the bourgeoisie its newfound confidence to oppose the monarchy were the profits flowing into its coffers from the labor of people held in slavery.

As C.L.R. James pointed out in his classic book "The Black Jacobins": "Nearly all the industries which developed in France during the eighteenth century had their origin in goods or commodities destined either for the coast of Guinea or for America. The capital from the slave-trade fertilized them; though the bourgeoisie traded in other things than slaves, upon the suc-

cess or failure of the traffic everything else depended."

The livelihood of 2 to 6 million people in France — out of a total population of 25 million — depended on slavery and products grown by enslaved people. French possession of Haiti meant it owned the richest colony in the world. Its trade employed 24,000 French sailors on 750 ships.

While Britain had an export trade of 27 million British pounds, the French were close behind with 17 million. The wealth produced by the Haitian people in slavery accounted for nearly 11 million pounds alone.

Liberty seized by enslaved people

The French bourgeoisie declared "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" as the watchwords of their revolution. This is still the motto of France today.

But most French capitalists never wanted to abolish slavery or grant liberty to Black people kidnapped from Africa who were worked to death in Haiti, Guadeloupe, and Martinique.

At that time, conditions were such in Haiti that the average life expectancy for a Black person on the island was 21 years. Then, news of the French Revolution reached Haiti and created a political ferment as it became known to people in slavery.

Dutty Boukman, an African originally enslaved in Jamaica, started a revolt in August 1791. Over 1,800 plantations were burned. Boukman was eventually killed, bravely fighting. But new leaders like Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines arose. The rising of Haiti's enslaved people could not be stopped, and it found support among the French poor.

"The Blacks were taking their part in the destruction of European feudalism begun by the French Revolution," James wrote, "and liberty and equality, the slogans of the revolution, meant far more to them than to any Frenchman."

'The aristocracy of the skin'

While the French Revolution was a bourgeois revolution, it was poor people in the cities and countryside who fought for it. In Europe, there was as yet no modern working class because there were no big industries. The Industrial Revolution had just started in Britain a few years before with the first cotton spinning machines.

Haiti was different. As James pointed out, "Working and living together in gangs

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Tear down the walls!

Continued from page 6

of hundreds on the huge sugar-factories which covered the North Plain, they were closer to a modern proletariat than any group of workers in existence at the time.”

The French poor hated aristocrats and royalty like Marie Antoinette. But the “aristocracy of the skin,” as it became known, became the most hated. Poor people in Paris found it detestable that people could be enslaved, branded, and sold like cattle just because of their skin color.

James wrote: “In these few months of their nearest approach to power [the French poor] did not forget the Blacks. They felt towards them as brothers, and the old slave-owners, whom they knew to be supporters of the counterrevolution, they hated as if Frenchmen themselves had suffered under the whip.

“It was not Paris alone but all revolutionary France. ‘Servants, peasants, workers, the laborers by the day in the fields all over France were filled with a virulent hatred against the ‘aristocracy of the skin’ [James was quoting a supporter of slavery]. There were many so moved by the sufferings of the slaves that they had long ceased to drink coffee, thinking of it as drenched with the blood and sweat of men turned into brutes.”

As the French Revolution went forward, those bourgeois political leaders who opposed radical measures became known as Girondists. They were named for the region surrounding the French port of Bordeaux. Like Liverpool in England, Bordeaux’s economic life depended on the slave trade.

The opponents of the Girondists were known as Jacobins. Most schoolbooks slander Jacobins like Maximilien Robespierre or other radicals like Jean-Paul Marat as bloodthirsty “terrorists.”

But most of the Girondist leaders who talked so grandly about liberty didn’t want to abolish slavery. It was only when Robespierre and the radical Jacobins were in power that slavery was formally ended in all French possessions by the decree of Feb. 4, 1794.

This was a historic measure by France’s National Convention, but it only confirmed the freedom that the enslaved people themselves had already seized.

Defending the revolutions

The French Revolution was opposed by all of feudal Europe and by Britain, its commercial rival. Like the Bolshevik Rev-

olution more than a century later, France was invaded on a dozen fronts. The Duke of Brunswick, commander of the Allied Army (principally Austrian and Prussian), issued a manifesto threatening the destruction of Paris.

Although Britain bankrolled some of the armies invading France, its own army was absent. That’s because it was invading Haiti. This move was a disaster for the British ruling class. “By the end of 1796, after three years of war, the British had lost in the West Indies 80,000 soldiers including 40,000 actually dead,” wrote James.

If the British army that invaded Haiti had marched on Paris along with other European powers, the French Revolution might have been crushed. By defending their own freedom in a battle with British invaders, the Haitian people also defended the freedom of 25 million people in France.

“It was the decree of abolition, the bravery of the Black [people], and the ability of their leaders, that had done it,” wrote James. “The great gesture of the French working people towards the Black slaves, against their own white ruling class, had helped to save their revolution from reactionary Europe. Held by Toussaint and his raw levies, singing the Marseillaise and the Ça Ira [two revolutionary songs], Britain, the most powerful country in Europe, could not attack the revolution in France.”

In “A History of the British Army,” J.W. Fortescue concluded that people who had been enslaved “had practically destroyed the British Army.” He admitted that “the secret of England’s impotence for the first six years of the war may be said to lie in the two fatal words, St. Domingo [the old name for Haiti].”

Two centuries of revenge

After the French Revolution, the radical Jacobins were overthrown, and many were executed. Napoleon Bonaparte eventually seized power and became a military dictator.

Napoleon defeated one European feudal army after another. But he couldn’t conquer Haiti. Napoleon sent an army to Haiti commanded by his brother-in-law, Charles Leclerc, and Toussaint Louverture was kidnapped and died in a French prison.

But as Leclerc wrote to a French government minister: “It is not enough to have taken away Toussaint; there are 2,000 leaders to be taken away.” Leclerc died in Haiti, knowing he was defeated.

(Aldon Lynn Nielsen, “C.L.R. James: A Critical Introduction”)

Despite massacres that included drowning a thousand Black people at a time, as well as public burnings and hangings, the French army suffered a worse defeat than the British. Out of 34,000 French troops, 24,000 died.

Dessalines declared Haiti’s independence on Jan. 1, 1804. But the world capitalist class has never forgiven Haiti for its revolution. U.S. slave masters had nightmares about leaders in the mold of Dessalines, like Nat Turner, who led an 1831 uprising of enslaved people in Virginia. Haiti is still deliberately kept the poorest country in this hemisphere by the United States and other capitalist countries.

However, the Haitian Revolution changed history forever.

Tear down the walls

French capitalists use Bastille Day to glorify French colonialism. But socialist revolutionaries should celebrate Bastille Day by demanding that the more than 2 million prisoners locked up in U.S. bastilles be freed, starting with Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Dr. Aafia Siddiqui, and Simón Trinidad.

Bastille Day should also be celebrated because of the Iraqi Revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed and British-backed monarchy on Bastille Day: July 14, 1958. Capitalists never forgave Haiti’s revolution and haven’t forgiven Iraq’s people for taking over their own oil. The Pentagon has invaded Iraq twice and still occupies it.

The U.S. capitalist class is as obsolete and useless as the French aristocracy was 235 years ago. Capitalists want to take away health care, privatize Social Security, and cut wages even further. A socialist revolution is needed just to stop capitalism from cooking the earth.

The multinational working class in the U.S. will be forced to rise, as the French and Haitian masses did. An absolutely necessary requirement for success is that millions of white workers, part of this multinational class, break with racism. They need to see, and will see, that they are being used as political cattle by the wealthy and powerful, like Donald Trump, who actually despise them.

Tear down the Bastilles! Down with the aristocracy of the skin! Reparations for Haiti!

Source: C.L.R. James, “The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L’Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution.”

Dockworkers commemorate Bloody Thursday 2024

By Lallan Schoenstien

On July 5, 1934, San Francisco port bosses pulled out all stops trying to break a two-month West Coast dock strike over the favoritism and racism of the “shape-up” hiring system.

Two maritime workers, Nick Bordoise and Howard Sperry, were shot in the back and killed by the police on “Bloody Thursday.” Outraged, over 100 unions shut down the city in the historic San Francisco General Strike.

Today, on the sidewalk outside the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 union hall are permanently drawn figures of the two labor heroes. Every year, the ILWU shuts down West Coast ports to commemorate Bloody Thursday.

On Bloody Thursday 2024, when ILWU retiree Clarence Thomas presented a resolution to Local 10 members inviting Chris Silvera to speak on Bloody Thursday 2024, he told Local 10 members who Silvera is, just in case they didn’t know.

The Resolution said:

- Brother Chris Silvera, secretary-treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 808 in Long Island City, New York, is the longest-serving principal officer in the Teamsters; and
- Brother Silvera was a critical East Coast organizer of the ILWU Local 10 initiated Million Worker March in 2004; and
- In 2006, during his tenure as the Chairman of the Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC), the African American Longshore Coalition hosted delegates of the TNBC at a dinner/dance titled “A Joining of Hands,” at the William (Bill) Chester Hiring Hall; and
- Brother Silvera has played a leading role in the reclaiming of May Day in the labor movement, resulting in his achieving May Day as a paid holiday for a division of his union members in their collective bargaining agreement; and
- Brother Silvera is one of the most important radical voices with a long history of struggle in the Teamsters.

This is the video of Chris Silvera:

<https://tinyurl.com/ChrisSilvera>

Chris Silvera’s full talk, which was cut short by time restrictions at the union commemoration.



Laborvideo: tinyurl.com/ChrisSilvera

Chris Silvera speaking at the ILWU Local 10 Bloody Thursday 2024 Commemoration.

Teamster Chris Silvera speaks

1934, A year of good trouble

Good afternoon, Sisters and Brothers of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10. I bring solidarity greetings from Teamsters Local 808 in NYC. I also want to express worker-to-worker solidarity. In times of open warfare between capital and labor, when we must resort to the battlefield of the picket line, Teamsters will stand firmly with the ILWU. We stand firmly on a legacy of solidarity between our international unions.

We must never forget the battles that brought us here — the sacrifices of life, blood, and the tears of families who carried the burden of family members’ deaths in the ongoing struggle of labor to defeat capital.

Why was 1934 so significant in the war against the capitalist ruling class? You must first go back to the Gilded Age, the Roaring Twenties.

During the period known as the Roaring Twenties, America experienced a surging economy with highly concentrated wealth at the top of the class division. This caused massive wealth inequalities between the zero-point one percent (the ruling class) and working-class families.

Consumption became the order of the day. For the first time in America, more people were living in cities than on farms.

The 1920s brought us the Harlem Renaissance, Jazz, and Big Band Clubs up in

Harlem, mixing of the races, the introduction of the consumer culture, then Prohibition, and ending with the economic crash of Oct. 29, 1929.

The Great Depression lasted almost 12 years. Twenty-five percent of all jobs were wiped out. President Herbert Hoover acknowledged the “crazy and dangerous” actions of Wall Street speculators.

That being said, he believed that the Federal government was not the solution to the problems facing the country. Working families lost their savings and, as a result, their homes. Shantytowns grew and were nicknamed “Hoovervilles.” The 1930s brought a severe drought in the Plains states, known as the Dust Bowl. Two and a half million farmers packed up and moved to California, abandoning their farms back home. Between 1930 and 1933, over 9,000 banks folded, costing depositors over \$2.5 billion in lost deposits.

That is \$77.5 billion in today’s dollars when adjusted for inflation. At that time, banks were unregulated and uninsured, and the government offered no support to unemployed workers or banks. It must be pointed out that this period brought the American working class very close to seeking communism as a solution to their problems.

Enter Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. He was elected President in 1932 and

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moved to rescue capitalism with steps that some would argue were socialism.

His first step was to shore up the surviving banks. By June of his first term, he had passed 15 major laws. Some of these were the Glass-Steagall Act, the Home Owners' Loan Act, the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Agricultural Act, and the National Industrial Recovery Act. These laws fundamentally changed the economy and its trajectory. In addition, he created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave millions of young men jobs on environmental and public works projects.

In 1941, President Roosevelt's most well-known program was the Work Progress Administration. This program employed over 8 million people in government-created jobs. Skilled and unskilled workers found jobs in manufacturing, infrastructure construction, and the arts. One of the most important intellectual achievements was documenting the lives of surviving enslaved Africans.

on the history of class warfare

The National Industrial Recovery Act was enacted on June 16, 1933. This law led to a growth spurt in organizing workers.

The birth of the Congress of Industrial Organizations – breaking away from the AFL and craft unionism

The Congress of Industrial Organizations chose to organize all workers in the industry, increasing the mass of workers who were now unionized and fighting for a greater share of the profits.

This new model brought significantly more workers into the fold of organized labor.

It also was more inclusive of Africans in America.

Some of the major unions were the United Mine Workers, ILWU, National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians (NABET), TWU, RWDSU, and United Steelworkers of America, just to name a few.

Now unto good trouble, 1934, workers are feeling the brunt of a Depression that is now four years old and with no end in sight.

Today, workers are threatened by greed, technology, and greed. Our economic well-being in the workplace and in retirement is threatened as never before. The advancement of artificial intelligence and robotics is being developed to threaten workers across the spectrum of work. We must

reach back and call upon our ancestors in the workplace and imbue the militancy of 1934 to protect our future and the future of our children and grandchildren.

What did the troublemakers all have in common? They were identified as socialists and/or communists.

Three great events created the momentum for labor's advancement that carried us well into the mid-1960s.

Toledo Auto-Lite strike

The Toledo Auto-Lite strike started on April 1 and ended on June 3, 1934. The workers were organized by the American Federation of Labor into a Federal Labor Union. A Federal Labor Union is a group of workers who are organized and affiliated with the AFL but are not affiliated with an International Union.

The strike is most notable for a five-day running battle between 10,000 strikers and 1,300 members of the Ohio National Guard.

It is remembered as the Battle of Toledo.

That struggle cost the lives of two strikers and injured 200.

In March 1934, the four Federal Labor unions organized in the automobile industry voted to strike for union recognition, a 20% wage increase, and the reinstatement of all workers fired for union activity.

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, opposed the strike, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt also opposed it because of its impact on the national economy.

Roosevelt created the Automobile Labor Board to resolve the issues. He also endorsed the idea of company unions.

Green endorsed a weak settlement, which resulted in the loss of almost half

of the automobile workers that had been organized by the spring of 1934.

Unemployment had reached a staggering 70% in Toledo, and with the declaration of bankruptcy by the largest employer, Willys-Overland automobile company, the city's largest bank collapsed, and other banks and savings and loan associations also collapsed.

The city of Toledo laid off hundreds of workers, including 150 police officers. Times were increasingly more difficult each and every day.

Against the economic and social devastation of the Depression, Federal Labor Union 18384 began to demand recognition of their union and wage increases. FLU 18384 was organized with multiple employers. The companies were Bingham Stamping and Tool Co. and Logan Gear Co., both of which were subsidiaries of the Electric Auto-Lite Co., as well as Spicer Manufacturing Co. This allowed the union to strike one employer and remain economically viable.

This economic power gave rise to a necessary militancy to defeat the capitalist class.

On Feb. 23, 1934, FLU 18384 initiated a strike that lasted for five days. The company agreed to a 5% wage increase and to negotiate a contract by April 1. The union demanded an additional 20% wage increase, seniority rights, a closed shop, improved working conditions, union recognition, and an end to discrimination against union members.

The employer refused to agree, and a strike was authorized. Only 25% of the workers walked out this time, and the strike started to collapse.

The American Workers Party intervened on the union's side. The AWP was formed the year before, in 1933. The AWP had been organizing unemployed workers under the banner of the Lucas County Unemployed League throughout the city,

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The Toledo Auto-Lite strike in 1934. A running battle between the strikers and the Ohio National Guard cost the lives of two strikers and injured 200. It is remembered as the Battle of Toledo.



On May 9, 1934, West Coast longshoremen went on strike, shutting down ports in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego.

Teamster Chris Silvera speaks on the history of class warfare

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and those workers became allies instead of strikebreakers.

The company sought and got an injunction against the picketers. The workers and their allies defied the court injunction. The picketers were arrested, and with hundreds of supporters in the courtroom singing, cheering, and disrupting the proceedings, the judge released the picketers without rendering a decision. The company hired 1,500 strikebreakers and armed guards in an attempt to restart production. The sheriff's department deputized a large number of special deputies that were paid for by the Auto-Lite company. The company also purchased \$11,000 worth of tear and vomit gas. On May 23, the sheriff's deputies moved against 10,000 picketers, arresting one of the leaders of the strike and four picketers.

Then, they began to beat an old man, thus setting into motion a brick and bottle-throwing response by the supporters of the striking workers. A running battle with National Guardsmen and the police went on for two days. On May 24, the soldiers opened fire on the striking workers and their supporters. Two men died: 27-year-old Frank Hubay, who was shot four times, and 20-year-old Steve Cyigon. (Please say their names.)

On May 25, the company agreed to keep the plant closed in an attempt to quell the violence. However, violence continued around the factory, becoming more intense and ending the day with 51 of the cities' unions endorsing a general strike. The struggle intensified, and by June 2, 1934, the union had accepted a settlement. That struggle led to more organizing in the auto industry and a successful strike against Chevrolet. Toledo remains one of the most unionized cities in America. In 1935, FLU 18384 became UAW Local 12.

West Coast longshoremen's strike

In 1910, the Longshoremen on the West Coast agreed to re-affiliate with the International Longshore Association, the ILA,

on the condition that they would remain and retain full autonomy within the ILA.

The Autonomous Pacific Coast District of the ILA called the strike.

On May 9, 1934, West Coast longshoremen went on strike, shutting down ports in Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, San Pedro, and San Diego. The issues included wages and working conditions. The workers wanted \$1.00 per hour, a six-hour day, and a 30-hour week.

Equally important, they wanted to end the shape-up system and create a union hiring hall. The Embarcadero had become known as the slave market.

The strike lasted 84 days. By May 13, the Teamsters refused to handle any work on the docks in San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, and Los Angeles. On May 13, sailors, firemen, cooks, stewards, masters, mates, and pilots joined the strike. On May 15, not one ship moved, and international commerce on the West Coast was effectively shut down.

The employer group called the Industrial Association of San Francisco and other employer groups in the Pacific Northwest and Los Angeles joined in a plan to break the strike by force.

The Industrial Association's membership included almost all of the city's banks, railroads, manufacturing, insurance, and shipping companies. Its mission was to eliminate unions and the influence of those unions that survived.

At that time, all work was casual, and there was no job security, paid vacation, sick days, or pensions.

It must be noted that the police did not work to protect the striking longshore workers but to protect the interest of the ruling class, the employers.

The media did not support the strikers; the newspapers called them vultures. The Central Labor Council passed a resolution condemning communists among the maritime workers. Remember that the media and the police are tools of the capitalist class and are never friends of labor when we are at war with them.

In mid-June 1934, the ILA International President Joseph Ryan, nicknamed King Ryan, arrived in San Francisco and entered into negotiations with Mayor Angelo Rossi, leaders of the Pacific Coast District, the head of the Industrial Association, the Chamber of Commerce and representatives of the Waterfront Employers.

On June 16, 1934, they announced that the strike was over. They were wrong, and the workers rejected the Ryan deal because it did not address the central demands of the Pacific Coast District. The strike continued with intensity, and on July 5, 1934, workers returned to the battle after taking some rest on July 4.

Some Teamster leaders stood in solidarity with the striking Longshore workers and refused to work any struck cargo.

The Mayor and the police decided to use force to end the strike. The mayor told Bridges and his committee that went to see him, "You had a chance to end this peacefully. You were told that if you didn't take that June 16 agreement, the strike would be ended by force."

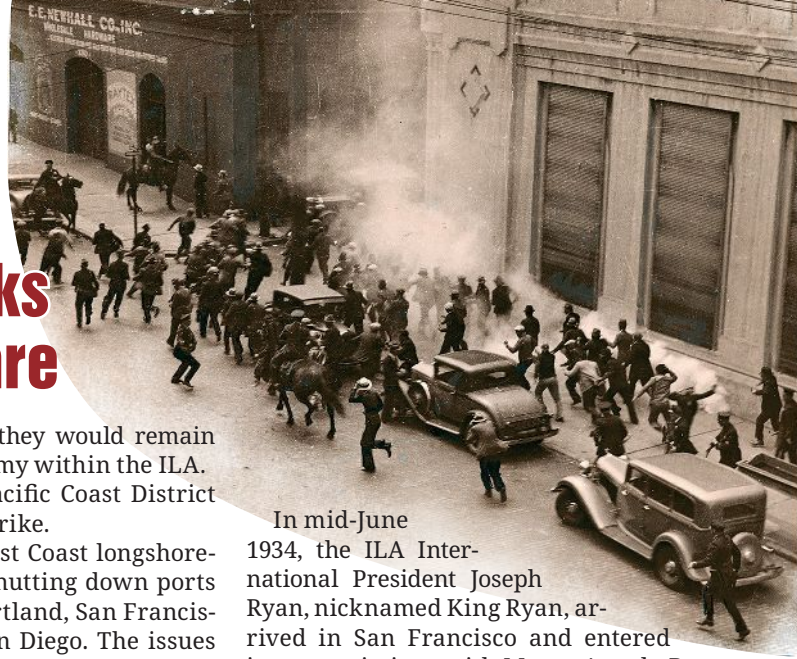
Strikers and their supporters were in a rock-throwing battle to stop the strikebreakers from doing their work. The police drove them into an area at the intersection of Steuart and Mission Street. In the early afternoon, thousands had been driven into this area of Mission and Steuart streets.

A plainclothes policeman arrived and threatened the striking workers with guns in both hands. He started shooting into the crowd. One man died, one managed to survive, and later, one was found dead from buckshot from a police riot gun. More than 100 were injured by gunshots, tear gas, and police clubs.

The Governor sent in the National Guard equipped with tanks, machine gun nests, snipers, and soldiers equipped with bayonets on the waterfront to protect the strikebreakers, the employers, and their profits.

A few days later, there was a funeral procession from the union's headquarters to a

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Mobilizing in Our Own Name
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funeral parlor in the Mission District. Thousands of strikers and supporters marched in solidarity with the Longshore workers.

George Kidwell, a Teamster leader of the Bakery Wagon Drivers, led the calls for a general strike. Four days after the general strike, Local 38-79 voted to arbitrate the issues.

The arbitration was a win for the strikers and provided the union with what set the stage for today's hiring hall. They got a six-hour workday and a 34-hour workweek.

The company and the union jointly paid for the hiring hall; however, the union determined the dispatcher.

In 1937, the Pacific Coast District voted to leave the ILA and affiliate with the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The creation of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union permanently divided the longshore workers in the United States. The solidarity of the coast-wide organization has led to better outcomes for the ILWU members in negotiations.

Please say their names: Nick Bordoise and Howard Sperry.

We must never forget those who gave all for us to have what we have today.

Minneapolis Teamsters' strike

The other significant event of the Depression in 1934 occurred in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were coal drivers, and we were organized under the leadership of Vincent Dunne and Carl Skoglund into Teamsters Local 574. When the coal operators refused to recognize the union, the workers went on strike on Feb. 7, 1934.

The strike lasted three days when the coal bosses agreed to negotiate wages and working conditions. Following the small win, the union moved to target the market district that dealt in perishable food. They targeted 11 major companies demanding a closed shop and \$27.50 per week and overtime pay. The companies formed the Citizens' Alliance, representing 166 companies. The companies refused to negotiate with the Teamsters. The union called for another strike. On May 16, 1934, Teamsters Local 574 took the workers out on strike.

The union demanded recognition of the union, wage increases, shorter working hours, and the right of the union to represent the inside workers. Inside workers were warehousemen and loaders. The strike brought all trucking in the city to a standstill.

The union used a tactic known as flying pickets that patrolled the street to ensure that no scabs were used to break the strike. A Women's Auxiliary group was formed to organize demonstrations at the city hall, support picket lines, and operate a food commissary and a hospital to fix up workers' injuries during the struggle.

It was noted that many of the women took part in the street fighting when workers confronted the police. The union established a constructive relationship with unemployed workers' organizations, undermining employers' ability to find scabs.

Police violence against the workers first started on May 19, when workers tried to stop scabs from unloading a truck. May 21 and 22 saw significant violence as the police and armed vigilantes working for the Citizens' Alliance attacked 20,000 workers and their supporters who were trying to keep the market closed.

Around this time, building trade workers walked out in opposition to the police violence against the workers.

On May 25, 1934, the employers agreed to accept the striking workers' demands. The strikers returned to work, and the employers chose to renege on their agreement. The union filed over 700 grievances, and the companies refused to abide by their agreement to allow the union to organize the inside workers. On July 17, 1934, the workers returned to the picket line.

A large group of workers were lured to a street corner by police in a fake scab truck. More than 100 police began firing at the unarmed workers. This incident became known as Bloody Friday. Two picketers, Henry Ness and John Belor, were killed, and over 65 were injured. Please say their names: Henry Ness and John Belor.

The violence of the police was so vicious that support and donations rushed in. Workers joined in the strike to protest the shooting and other police violence.

A crowd of 100,000 people attended Henry Ness's funeral. Governor Floyd B. Olson declared martial law and deployed 4,000 soldiers. Picketing was banned, and trucks driven by scabs were issued military permits and began to move again.

The union demanded that the permits be revoked and voted to return to the picket line on Aug. 1, 1934. On July 31, the National Guards surrounded the union hall and arrested many of the leaders.

Rank and file members from many of the city's unions, 40,000 strong, confronted the soldiers and demanded the release of their leaders. The leaders were released, and the union hall was returned to the members.

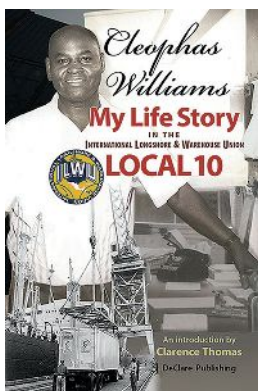
The strike ended on Aug. 31, 1934, with the union winning most of its central demands. The Citizens' Alliance

was broken, and workers began to organize in earnest.

The Minneapolis Labor Review wrote, "The winning of this strike marks the greatest victory in the annals of the local trade union movement. ... It has changed Minneapolis from being known as a scab's paradise to being a city of hope for those who toil."

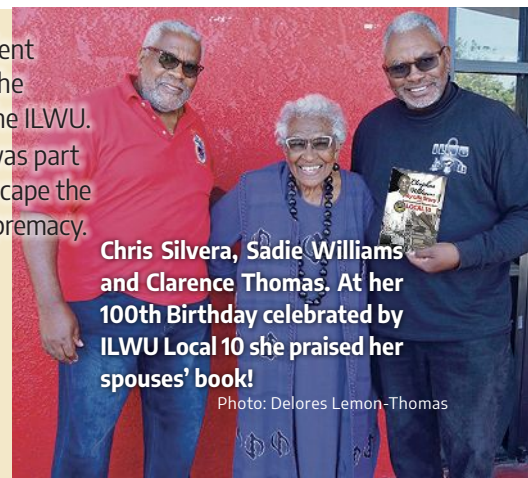
The strike was pivotal for the Teamsters and the labor movement. Lessons learned from that strike led to the creation of the National Master Freight Agreement and later the UPS National Master Agreement – lessons learned by James R. Hoffa from socialists and communists.

Today, we have tent cities all over the country as wealth inequality continues to drive more people into homelessness. #



Cleophas Williams' election as president of ILWU Local 10 in 1967, made him the highest elected African American in the ILWU. Born in rural Camden, Arkansas, he was part of the Great Migration – seeking to escape the horrors of systemic racism & white supremacy. He was a leader of Local 10 in the civil-rights vanguard of the labor movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

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Chris Silvera, Sadie Williams and Clarence Thomas. At her 100th Birthday celebrated by ILWU Local 10 she praised her spouses' book!

Photo: Delores Lemon-Thomas

Imperialism and the road to socialist

By Gary Wilson

Introduction to the second edition of "War and Lenin in the 21st Century" by Gary Wilson.

Over a century has passed since Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution, wrote "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism." This work defined the politics of the last century. That's in part because Lenin was the leader of the first socialist revolution as well as the de facto leader of the Third (Communist) International. Even if Lenin had not led a socialist revolution, his pamphlet likely would have been influential, though maybe not as much as it has been.

To fully understand the importance of Lenin's pamphlet, you need to know the circumstances in which it was written and why Lenin wrote it. Lenin always had a specific political purpose for his major writings.

Lenin wrote "Imperialism" while European capitalism was tearing itself apart in the upheaval of the First World War.

Leaders of the Second International — an international organization that was estab-

lished in 1889 to unite socialists worldwide — had recognized the growing likelihood of a major conflict among the European powers. While Lenin expected the war, the disintegration of the Second International caught him off guard. As the war unfolded in Europe in the summer of 1914, most of the Second International's branches caved in. They sided with their own countries against the other countries, effectively ending the Second International.

Before the war, the socialist parties of Germany, France, and other European countries had been agitating widely against war. Workers staged mass anti-war rallies in most capital cities, pledging solidarity with workers of all countries against the bosses. At that time, the anti-war struggle was considered an inseparable part of the working-class struggle against capitalism.

Based on the sizable anti-war movement before the war and the anti-war conferences held by the parties of the Second International from all countries, the outbreak of the war was expected to put the overthrow of capitalism at the top of the Second International's agenda. The

workers of all these countries were united to defend their own interests against the capitalists and their war.

Workers were expected to unite to overthrow their rulers, who were forcing them to take arms against fellow workers in other countries.

Competitive capitalism had transformed into monopoly capitalism. Monopoly capitalism meant imperialism and the competition for colonial domination and for world markets.

As Lenin points out in "Imperialism," it wasn't just about colonizing other countries. In the drive for capitalist profits through the exploitation of labor, a small group of powerful capitalist countries maintain dominance through monopoly control of finance and industry. This exploitation took many forms, such as extracting resources, controlling markets, or dominating trade.

Imperialism (monopoly capitalism) was the root cause of the war; therefore, overturning capitalism would end it. That's what the Second International had vowed before the war. However, too many

Continued on page 13

No tears for Trump Gaza is still being bombed! The struggle must go forward

Continued from page 1

July 14, declaring, "We can't allow this violence to be normalized." What about the violence in Gaza, Mr. President? At least 40,000 Palestinians have been killed there with bombs and shells you've shipped to Netanyahu.

'As ye sow so shall ye reap'

Donald Trump has a long history of advocating and committing violence. His rallies are up-to-date Ku Klux Klan cross-burnings.

Syria was bombed and occupied throughout Trump's presidency. His imposition of economic sanctions against Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, and other countries were acts of wanton violence that resulted in hunger and a lack of medical supplies.

Trump had Iranian Gen. Qasem Soleimani assassinated by a U.S. drone strike on Jan. 3, 2020. Soleimani was on a peace mission — mending relations between

Saudi Arabia and Iraq — when he was murdered along with four Iraqi officials at Baghdad International Airport."

The murder of the Iranians was a violation of international law and an act of war against both Iran and Iraq. Trump deserves Nuremberg justice for this bloody crime.

In 1989, Trump took out full-page ads calling for a return of the death penalty in response to the arrest of five Black and Latinx teenagers on rape and assault charges.

The Exonerated Five — Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana and Corey Wise — were framed and spent years in prison before authorities admitted they were not guilty. Yusef Salaam is now a member of the New York City Council.

The capitalist media is virtually conceding Trump's election. They are seeking to demoralize poor and working people, as well as all activists.

Whoever wins the November election



— U.S. presidential elections are really selections by the wealthy and powerful — we have to struggle. Both Trump and Biden are war criminals.

We have to continue to organize and protest. One of the first steps is confronting war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu when he speaks to Congress on July 24.

The people united will never be defeated! #

revolution

Today's socialists face the questions that confronted earlier generations, both in the U.S. and worldwide, especially the question of imperialism and imperialist war.

Continued from page 12

of the Second International parties in the imperialist countries ended up supporting their own imperialists in the war.

Lenin's writings in those years were linked to the Second International's collapse and the efforts to establish a new Third International. From Lenin's perspective, the new International would be based on the lessons learned from the Second International's failure.

The meaning of imperialism

Today's socialists face the questions that confronted earlier generations of socialists, both in the U.S. and worldwide, especially the question of imperialism and imperialist war. What is the meaning of the word imperialism?

What position should you take on the wars now raging in Palestine, Yemen, and Syria and the threatening spread of a U.S. war on Iran? What about the U.S./NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine? Or U.S. AFRICOM's operations in Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Niger? Or Washington's threats targeting Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea? Or the war buildup against China?

The struggle for socialism in 1914 and now

Struggles against imperialism are often fought with socialist goals, such as the Cuban Revolution in 1959. Socialists today support and defend Cuba and the Cuban Communist Party.

However, anti-imperialist struggles are not always led by and for the workers. Sometimes, as we have seen, resistance to imperialism is led by reformist political forces that are pro-capitalist, even reactionary (racist and xenophobic), the opposite of all that socialists believe in. What stand should we take when Biden mobilizes the U.S. Army and Navy, the Air Force and Marines, and NATO, then sends billions in weapons and ammunition to Ukraine for war on Russia to enforce, in his words, a civilizing "rules-based [Western] international order" against the "evil" Putin?

Before World War One, socialists in the Second International opposed the imperialist war against the reactionary monarchy of China as a colonialist war of aggression. But the right wing of the Second International began to argue that imperialism had a civilizing mission. They claimed that Western capitalism

was bringing "Western civilization" to the "uncivilized nations" (forgetting that the brutality of Western capitalism, colonization, enslavement, and exploitation is the most uncivilized force ever seen in history). They said those countries must go through a stage of capitalism and become "Western civilized."

A majority of the leaders of the Second International rejected this. However, the openly pro-imperialist, pro-colonial, racist right-wing Social Democrats who supported the "civilizing mission" of imperialism were tolerated as a legitimate current within the Second International.

Later, the whole Second International was ripped apart as various sections of the International supported their own imperialist governments against other imperialist governments. After this occurred, Lenin and his supporters concluded that the Third International they were trying to build would have to exclude such racist, pro-imperialist, pro-colonial forces.

Uniting two revolutionary currents

Lenin's pamphlet on imperialism connects two revolutionary currents: the proletarian revolution in imperialist countries and the anti-imperialist liberation struggles in colonized nations.

Rather than being separate, unequal events, Lenin shows they are interdependent; they are linked.

Imperialism is global, making the world revolutionary process also global. Lenin's analysis extended Marxism from being a theory of the proletarian revolution in the advanced capitalist countries to a theory of world revolution.

Lenin wrote in another document that the Communist International's entire policy should rest primarily on a closer union of the proletarians in the imperialist countries and the oppressed masses of all countries for a joint revolutionary struggle to overthrow the landowners and the ruling

class. (Thus, the slogan "Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!") That unity alone can guarantee victory over capitalism.

Socialism is now the goal of all revolutions, no matter where they occur. As for why the Second International collapsed, Lenin answered based on an earlier suggestion by Frederick Engels that a "labor aristocracy" had risen in the imperialist countries that were "bribed" from imperialist super-profits.

At that time, the U.S. was an emerging imperialist power. As a settler state, its colonies were internal, starting with the brutal subjugation and genocide of the Indigenous population and the enslaved African American colony.

Following enslavement, African Americans were forced to sell their labor power at a considerably cheaper price than the white workers and, therefore, perform extra unpaid labor compared to white workers. This extra unpaid labor created a profit above and beyond the average rate of profit, the super-profit that was partially shared with a privileged, segregated labor aristocracy, particularly the labor leaders and politicians.

This is the material basis for the widespread racism among white workers that has so weakened the U.S. working class and the labor unions. The U.S. has also attracted many immigrants from countries around the world who are also super-exploited. Among the most super-exploited were the immigrants from China starting in the late 1800s. The various immigrant communities, in some cases, have served as what amounted to "internal colonies" that produced extra surplus value.

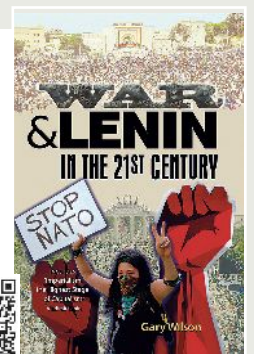
That's why the fight against racism, against national oppression, for Black and Brown liberation, for gender liberation, and for international working-class solidarity is paramount in the struggle for socialism. #

WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Lenin's pamphlet on Imperialism is included in Gary Wilson's book.

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote "**Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism**" in 1916. It remains an influential critique of imperialism. As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

Paperback or kindle at tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



Threat of war looms over NATO summit in Washington

By Gary Wilson

On June 30, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) blasted the joint military exercises conducted by the U.S., Japan, and South Korea in the region, labeling them as "reckless and provocative." The DPRK pointed out that the military "war games" disrupt peace on the Korean peninsula and the broader region.

The hostile military drills expose the formation of an "Asian version of NATO" led by the U.S., declared a statement by the DPRK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 30.

The three-day military operation known as "Freedom Edge" took place from June 26 to 29, involving South Korea, Japan, and the U.S. The "Edge" featured all three militaries, including the U.S.'s Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, headed by a nuclear-powered U.S. aircraft carrier, Japanese Defense Force naval carriers and destroyers, and Republic of Korea F-16 Falcon fighter jets.

Freedom Edge targeted not only North Korea but also China.

The exercise draws its name from other U.S. military operations with Japan (Keen Edge) and South Korea (Freedom Shield). The annual Freedom Shield and Keen Edge exercises aim to demonstrate military capabilities near China's borders.



South Korea submits to imperialist Japan

These maneuvers are part of a broader network of Indo-Pacific alliances led by the U.S. to encircle and confront China. The Freedom Edge war maneuvers came out of an agreement between the U.S., Japan, and the Republic of Korea at Camp David last August. That agreement was historic because never before had the Republic of Korea submitted to such an agreement with imperialist Japan, which had occupied and colonized Korea from 1910 to 1945 (when the Korean People's Revolutionary Army ousted them and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was formed).

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's Camp David agreement with Japan has been denounced throughout the Republic of Korea. Some have called it the country's "biggest humiliation." Yonhap News Agency reported on May 31 that President Yoon's approval rating has fallen to 21%.

The DPRK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the U.S., Japan, and South Korea for their continuous provocative military actions against the DPRK and other independent states in the region.

"Lurking behind the recent drill is the strategic design of the U.S. to escalate regional military tensions, exert pressure upon the Far East of Russia, and lay siege to China," the Ministry statement said.

In recent years, the U.S. has intensified military exercises surrounding China and Korea, forming new military partnerships like the AUKUS and QUAD.

U.S. President "Genocide Joe" Biden has invited Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to Washington in July for more "trilateral talks" as well as participation in the NATO war summit taking place on July 9-11.

NATO targets China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Sofia, Bulgaria, on May 27 that one of the "main topics at the Washington Summit will be global partnerships, and in particular, our Asia Pacific partners - Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Korea."

The U.S.-commanded military alliance called NATO includes the armed forces of the U.S. and all other countries in the alliance, including Britain, Germany, and France.

NATO has undertaken eight military actions, all since 1990. The alliance did not undertake any military operations during the Cold War. Since 1990, NATO has engaged in two actions related to the first Gulf War, two in the former Yugoslavia, and military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Libya.

Stoltenberg then said that NATO's primary focus now is targeting China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. He called them threats to NATO's dominance. He didn't talk about the war threats that have come from NATO and the "Asian version of NATO."

With his stilted bureaucratism, Stoltenberg did add, "NATO will remain Europe and North America, but to work with our partners in the Asia Pacific and therefore welcome that the leaders of the Asia Pacific will be at, we have invited them to attend, the summit in Washington."

[ChatGPT translation: While NATO's focus remains on Europe and North America, we recognize the importance of collaboration with our Asia-Pacific partners. Therefore, we're pleased to welcome leaders from the Asia-Pacific region to the upcoming summit in Washington — the Asian NATO.]

The specter of war will loom large over the NATO summit in Washington. #



Photo: U.S. Navy

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) arrives in Busan, Republic of Korea (ROK), June 22, 2024.

U.S. complicity in Gaza genocide and military profiteering

By Gary Wilson

Following is an epilogue for the book “War & Lenin in the 21st Century” by Gary Wilson. The book is available in online bookstores.

The chapters in this book were written in the year before Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was launched on Oct. 7, 2023. The following genocide in Gaza by the Zionist regime has sparked a worldwide movement that includes many Jewish people against Israeli apartheid, genocide, and for Palestinian self-determination, from the river to the sea.

According to a report by Bloomberg on Nov. 14, the U.S. was secretly supplying weapons and ammunition to aid in the invasion of Gaza, separate from the official Congress-approved military aid to Israel. The Pentagon covertly increased military support to Israeli forces, providing laser-guided missiles, cannon ammunition, bunker-buster munitions, night-vision devices, and new army vehicles. These deliveries include a variety of military armaments beyond the well-known Iron Dome interceptors and Boeing smart bombs.

There can be no question that the U.S. is fully behind the apartheid regime’s “ethnic cleansing” of the Gaza Strip, an operation that began after President Joe Biden’s theatrical public embrace of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv on Oct. 18, 2023. It was the hug that launched an invasion.

Zionist-occupied Palestine – “Israel” – is an apartheid settler state, more like a U.S. colony. Joe Biden recently repeated a line he famously said in 1986: “If there were not an Israel, we’d have to invent one.” Actually, they did invent one.

Although the British declared the creation of the settler colony in the 1917 Balfour Declaration, it was after World War II, with British power fading, that the Zionist state of Israel was founded (invented) with the backing of the United States. It couldn’t and wouldn’t have been done without U.S. backing. From that beginning, Israel could not have existed for even one day without U.S. financial and military support.

The United States has officially given Israel more than \$260 billion in combined military and economic aid since World



President ‘Genocide Joe’ Biden, PM Netanyahu and PM Sunak.

War II, plus about \$10 billion more in contributions for missile defense systems like the Iron Dome, according to a U.S. News report. No other country in the world has received such military and economic support from the U.S. Some have even called it the 51st state of the U.S.

In a speech in December 1981, Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of State, said Israel is “the largest American aircraft carrier in the world that cannot be sunk, does not carry even one American soldier, and is located in a critical region for American national security” (source: NYT article, Dec. 15, 1981).

The profits of this “American aircraft carrier” go to Big Oil and the military-industrial weapons manufacturers.

Taking over Europe’s gas market

Since the 1990s, Washington and Wall Street have been trying to take over the natural gas market in Europe from Russia. The Nord Stream pipeline was the primary route for Russian natural gas, and Nord Stream 2 was built to expand capacity. Before the NATO proxy war against Russia began, Victoria Nuland, then undersecretary of state for political affairs, declared that “one way or another Nord Stream 2 will not move forward.” On Sept. 27, 2022, the pipeline was blown up by the U.S. military, as reported by Seymour Hersh.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the disruption of the Nord Stream pipelines a “major strategic opportunity for years to come” and highlighted that the “U.S. has become the leading supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe,” which is at a significantly higher price than the Russian natural gas.

LNG, delivered by ships, is the only alternative available right now to Russian natural gas delivered through pipelines.

The top two suppliers worldwide of LNG are the U.S. and Qatar. The North Field East Project of Qatar Energy is an Exxon-Mobil, ENI, Total Energies, ConocoPhillips, and Shell partnership. They are talking of a pipeline across occupied Palestine to the Mediterranean to expedite deliveries to Europe.

The U.S. oil giant Chevron already plunders natural gas from the stolen waters off Palestine. Chevron operates a major natural gas facility, named Tamar, located 12 miles off the coast in the territorial waters of the Palestinian Territory of Gaza. As the New York Times reported, this has been projected to become a hub for exporting natural gas to Europe through the proposed EastMed pipeline.

Military-industrial profits soar

Never to be underestimated, “Wall Street eyes big profits from war,” was a Guardian headline on Oct. 30.

“Wall Street is hoping for an explosion in profits,” the Guardian reports.

“During third-quarter earnings calls this month, analysts from Morgan Stanley and TD Bank took note of this potential profit-making escalation in conflict and asked unusually blunt questions about the financial benefit of the war ...

“Joe Biden has asked Congress for \$106bn in military and humanitarian aid for Israel and Ukraine and humanitarian assistance for Gaza. The money could be a boon to the aerospace and weapons sector, which enjoyed a 7-percentage point jump in value ...

“Greg Hayes, Raytheon’s chairman and executive director, responded: ‘I think really across the entire Raytheon portfolio, you’re going to see a benefit of this restocking ... on top of what we think is going to be an increase in the [Department of Defense] top line [budget].’” #

Is Russia imperialist?

By Gary Wilson

For socialists, the fundamental understanding of imperialism goes back to World War I and is found in V.I. Lenin's pamphlet "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism."

Imperialism is not a policy chosen by one government and dropped by another. Imperialism is a system.

The first world war was the outcome of imperialism, Lenin wrote, an imperialist war waged for the political and economic exploitation of the world, export markets, sources of raw material, spheres of capital investment, etc. The imperialist powers raised huge armies and navies, not only to forcibly subjugate oppressed people in the colonies but to wage war against other imperialist countries competing for control.

According to Lenin, the world was already divided among the great capitalist powers when he wrote "Imperialism" in 1916. The war resulted from inter-imperialist competition to redivide the world.

The wars since WWI have changed circumstances. And World War II signaled a turning point in world imperialist relations. The United States emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, gaining control of former European empires in Asia and Africa.

The overturn of the socialist Soviet Union in 1991 and the breakup of the Soviet republics into individual nation-states dismantled a planned economy, resulting in underdeveloped capitalist economies. Out of these ruins, an imperialist Russia has not suddenly, almost magically, appeared.

Lenin thought that imperialism had a few characteristics, including the rise of finance capital and the export of capital, not just commodities. The U.S., for example, exports not just commodities but capital — mostly in the form of loans or investments. U.S. banks are at the center of world commerce.

Russia's economy is almost neocolonial

Today, capitalist Russia ranks 55th in GDP (PPP) per capita (a measure of a country's economic output per person adjusted for the cost of living). Russia's economy is almost neocolonial, heavily dependent on the export of raw materials like oil, natural gas, and metals. Russia is currently the world's largest exporter of wheat and a major exporter of other grains like barley and corn.

This is the classic economic relation-

ship of a colony to imperialist finance capital. In the list of the top 50 banks in the world, not one is Russian. The ruble is not a currency of trade. Russia does not export capital.

During the Soviet period, Russia and the other republics that formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made remarkable industrial progress. Indeed, between 1921 and 1988, there were no years of negative economic growth — no recessions — except for the World War II years.

The Soviet economy fell into recession only in 1989 as the Gorbachev government began to dismantle the planned economy.

Under Gorbachev and then even more drastically under the openly anti-communist, anti-socialist government of Boris Yeltsin in the Russian Federal Republic and in the new non-Russian former Soviet republics, including Ukraine, the socialist industry was dismantled.

Yeltsin finished the job of dismantling the Soviet economy that Gorbachev began. The years of Yeltsin are now remembered as perhaps the worst period in Russia's 1,000-year history. This was the greatest economic disaster any country has seen in modern times, in war or peace.

Ukraine had the second-largest economy in the USSR. "Independent" Ukraine is now the poorest country in Europe. By the end of 2020, some 45% of the population was in the poor category, according to a study by the Ptukha Institute.

Putin's role

Putin, Yeltsin's prime minister and chosen successor, took a more protectionist approach, unlike Yeltsin and Gorbachev, who had fawned on the West.

Does that mean Putin moved away from Yeltsin's and Gorbachev's policies, which had oriented the economy to exporting raw materials? Did Putin adopt a policy of industrialization?

Under Putin, there has been little growth in Russia's manufacturing production that the "perestroika" reforms had demolished. Manufacturing is the foundation of any successful modern economy. Yet, under Putin, Russia continues mainly as an exporter of raw materials and grains. Manufacturing is a small part of Russia's GDP.

Russia now accounts for about 6% of the global aluminum supply, 3.5% of the copper supply, and 4% of the cobalt supply. Russia is also the world's largest crude oil producer and the second-largest dry natural gas producer after the U.S.

Russia is in the top 10 exporters of grain crops, including barley, corn, rye, oats and especially wheat. From 2017 to 2019, it was the biggest exporter of wheat, accounting for about 20% of the world market.

Russia is a capitalist state, but that does not make it imperialist. Not all capitalist countries are imperialist nations. For example, Indonesia is a capitalist country with an economy (Purchasing Power Parity — PPP) slightly larger than Russia's, but is Indonesia an imperialist or exploited country? Saying that it is capitalist is not enough to know the answer.

Lenin named five characteristics of imperialism: concentration of production into monopoly; merging of bank capital with industrial capital, creating finance capital; export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities; formation of international monopolist capitalist associations that share the world among themselves; and territorial division of the world among the biggest capitalist powers.

The role of finance capital and the export of capital may be most important. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have taken over the economies of the world. The dollar (not gold) is the currency of world trade. Today, almost every country is capitalist, and most of those are exploited by imperialism, by finance capital.

Indonesia is capitalist but not imperialist. Russia, too, is an exploited country in relation to imperialism, like Indonesia.

NATO targets Russia

Russia is the primary provider of gas and oil to much of Europe. The European Union imports 40% of its gas from Russia, putting Russia in competition with the U.S., the biggest producer of gas in the world.

The U.S. has been on a drive to control the world market in oil and gas. This can be seen in its attacks, actual acts of war (sanctions) against Iran and Venezuela, as well as its war on Iraq. These are countries that had sought national sovereignty over oil and gas.

Russia, too, has been a target, especially its Nord Stream 2 pipeline, but not just for that.

NATO is the U.S.-commanded military alliance established in 1949 as a military force aimed against the Soviet Union and the Eastern European socialist states. After the overturn of the Soviet Union, NATO was expanded to almost every

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country in Eastern Europe to lock in capitalist retrenchment in the formerly socialist countries.

Look at a map of NATO's expansion since the breakup of the USSR. The countries put under NATO include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Romania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, North Macedonia.

In 2008, NATO put the inclusion of Ukraine and Georgia, both bordering Russia, on the table.

The threatened expansion of NATO's military force to Ukraine, on the border of Russia, along with NATO naval operations in the Black Sea, are direct provocations aimed at Russia. As Leon Panetta — White House Chief of Staff under Bill Clinton, CIA Director and Secretary of Defense under Barack Obama — explained, the conflict in Ukraine is a NATO "proxy war" against Russia.

NATO war on Yugoslavia

Despite the war propaganda that's presented as news these days, the first war in Europe since World War II didn't just start. That war was launched by the U.S. and NATO against Yugoslavia in 1999.

For 78 days, from March 24 to June 10, 1999, U.S. and NATO bombers hit Belgrade, Pristina in Kosovo, Podgorica in Montenegro, and several other cities. On the first day, more than 20 buildings in Belgrade were leveled.

Much of the U.S./NATO bombing hit civilian targets. A passenger train was bombed. Cruise missiles could be seen flying down the streets. The U.S. directly bombed the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, killing three Chinese reporters.

Russia understood the lesson of Yugoslavia and told the U.S. and NATO "no" to expansion to Ukraine and Georgia on Russia's borders — 5 minutes by missile to Moscow.

The former U.S. ambassador to Russia, William J. Burns, who is now director of the CIA, said in a February 2008 embassy cable that Ukraine joining NATO constituted a security threat for Russia. Burns noted that to push for this "could potentially split the country [Ukraine] in two, leading to violence or even, some claim, civil war, which would force Russia to decide whether to intervene."

The U.S. never withdrew the proposal to include Ukraine.

Maidan coup

In Ukraine, the so-called Maidan coup in 2014 that was openly supported and financed by the U.S. put in a government that made NATO membership a policy mandate.

The U.S. even picked the prime minister for the coup regime.

In a leaked phone conversation from 2014, Victoria Nuland, then the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, was heard discussing the political situation in Ukraine with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey Pyatt. In the conversation, Nuland said, "Yats is the guy." When Pyatt asked about the EU's role, Nuland responded, "F**k the EU."

Arseniy Yatsenyuk (Yats) became Prime Minister of the 2014 coup regime in Ukraine.

When Volodymyr Zelensky was made president in 2019, he repeatedly requested Ukraine's entrance into NATO. On Feb. 19, 2022 — five days before Russia's special military operation — at the Munich Security Conference, Zelensky demanded, once again, entry to NATO.

Many Ukrainians resisted the Maidan coup, particularly in the working class. In the Maidan civil war, fascist gangs emerged as a force for the coup. Resistance to the coup was strongest in the eastern section of the country. In Odessa, a neo-Nazi pro-Maidan gang targeted the Odessa House of Trade Unions, near the center of the resistance. The building was

firebombed and at least 46 anti-fascists and labor activists were burned alive.

The resistance to the Maidan coup has continued from 2014 to today. The independent Donetsk People's Republic and Lugansk People's Republic were created when the people there voted overwhelmingly (89% and 96%) to secede from the Maidan regime. They have been subjected to continuous attack since then, particularly by the Ukrainian National Guard's Azov regiment, a neo-Nazi stormtrooper-like operation. More than 14,000 were killed in Ukraine's war on Donetsk and Lugansk before Russia's special military operation to stop the neo-Nazi war on these independent republics.

As U.S. Ambassador Burns predicted, Russia was pushed into a corner by the unrelenting drive for NATO entry to Ukraine as well as the growing buildup of neo-Nazi militias and the war on Donetsk and Lugansk. Ukraine had promised in the Minsk agreements it signed in 2014 and 2015 that there would be a ceasefire, an end to all fighting, withdrawal of heavy weapons, the release of prisoners of war, and the recognition of self-government in Donetsk and Lugansk. Ukraine fulfilled none of these promises.

Putin may not be an anti-imperialist leader, but the Russian military operation to "demilitarize and denazify" Ukraine and recognize the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic is a move against imperialism, U.S. and NATO imperialism. #

No funds for 'Zionist vigilantes,' end Palestine occupation

Continued from page 3

ing out for more settlers by attempting to kill and starve the entire population of Gaza and then the West Bank.

The flyer advertising stolen Palestinian lands says: "Come and meet representatives of housing projects in all the best Anglo neighborhoods in Israel." — These Zionist real estate agents don't even have the decency to hide their white supremacist apartheid fascism.

This sale is hiding behind a Synagogue — but if the Ku Klux Klan were selling our land in a Christian church or a mosque or a synagogue, we would still protest that racist sale. But Karen Bass and Joe Biden wanted to encourage a fascist militia to attack us and deny the little constitutional

rights that we have left. And we know that this will inspire more racist attacks by the LAPD that prioritize Black and Brown people and now especially Palestinians.

It is odd that Los Angeles is suffering from a housing crisis that continues to increase despite the city's inadequate band-aids. They would rather use \$1 million to gag our calls for justice.

Well, I'll tell you what. After this press conference, we will be marching to city hall to demand the council members had better not even entertain the thought of funding to violently force our silence — because we have good company in inspiration given by the fortitude of the Palestinian people and all of the fighters against apartheid. #

Huelga en la Suiza Dairy, una cuestión de soberanía alimentaria

Continúa de página 20

del sindicato, Scott Barbés Caminero. Aquí se incluyen extractos de esta entrevista.

SLL: ¿Cual es el motivo de la huelga?

Scott Barbés Caminero: “Estamos reclamando que se solucione la aportación al plan médico, puesto que las condiciones de salud que padecen nuestras trabajadoras y trabajadores están estrechamente vinculadas al trabajo que realizan. Y que ante la privatización de los servicios de salud en Puerto Rico la empresa entonces tiene que asumir los costos de la salud de estos trabajadores. Hay una alta incidencia de cáncer, problemas óseos, diabetes, presión alta. Se nos han muerto compañeros incluso estacionando estos camiones, allí luego de trabajar 14, 16, 18 horas y ahí quedan en el camión con ataques cardíacos”.

“También estamos reclamando que se respete un acuerdo que llegaron con el grupo de los vendedores de la empresa, y luego de haber llegado a un acuerdo sobre el tema de las comisiones y los salarios, la empresa desde el Perú determinó que no iba a honrar el acuerdo y en menos de 24 horas de alcanzado ese acuerdo lo retiró de la mesa”.

“Además, denunciamos la represalia en contra de los trabajadores a su ejercicio democrático y constitucional y humano sobre todo al derecho de la huelga. La compañía en vez de traer una propuesta para solucionar el conflicto lo que hizo fue el despido masivo de más de 400 trabajadores y trabajadoras estableciendo un cierre patronal ilegal”.

“Estamos en un momento crítico de la

lucha ante la insistencia de un juez que emitió una orden de cese y desista de las actividades de paralización que aquí se realizan. Y tenemos información de que la empresa ha contratado una empresa violenta de seguridad para romper la huelga y permitirle el acceso a otra compañía de limpieza de toda esta maquinaria. Planteamos que no vamos a permitir ni a los rompeshuelgas ni a esa empresa subcontratada porque ese trabajo le pertenece a la unidad de trabajadores y trabajadoras de nuestro sindicato y no vamos a dejar que le quiten su trabajo”.

“Por eso solicitamos al pueblo solidario a que se den cita en aras ya no tanto de apoyar solidariamente la huelga, sino de defender combativamente la línea de piquete porque se juega la vida de la industria lechera completa de Puerto Rico porque es la más grande y poderosa y ellos la quieren destruir”.

SLL: ¿Cual ha sido el papel del gobierno?

SBC: “De parte de Fortaleza (residencia oficial del gobernador Pedro Pierluisi) no ha habido ninguna expresión positiva; al revés, dijo que él no está interesado después que el producto llegue a las casas de la manera en que debería estar llegando. Aquí se juega la seguridad alimentaria de un pueblo; esto es importante dentro de la canasta básica y evidentemente el gobierno no tiene interés en el pueblo. Es un gobierno neoliberal extremadamente abusivo que esta misma semana aumentó la luz y el agua. Así que en ese sentido el gobierno no está protegiendo al pueblo”.

“Ante esa realidad nuestro planteamiento ha sido que alguien tiene que intervenir en lo que aquí está sucediendo. Es

una industria esencial y lo que la empresa Gloria del Perú está haciendo en Puerto Rico es lo que otras empresas hicieron por ejemplo con la industria agropecuaria. Aquí hubo un ataque masivo en contra de una industria que proveía alimentos, como el pollo, a toda la isla. Desde que nacía el primer huevito hasta que llegaba al plato del hogar y estas grandes industrias grandes multinacionales distribuidoras de pollo congelado en el mundo empezaron un ataque en contra de nuestra industria hasta destruirla. Y eso es lo que está sucediendo aquí. Incluso tenemos la sospecha de que el objetivo que está tratando de lograr la empresa es destruir o llevar a un mínimo la producción de leche fresca en Puerto Rico para entonces apropiarse totalmente de la industria de la leche de larga duración ó UHT con el objetivo entonces de matar la ganadería en Puerto Rico para el beneficio de ganaderos del extranjero y traer importada la leche UHT a Puerto Rico. Hacer un ‘dumping’ al igual que hicieron con los huevos y los pollos. Y básicamente someternos a más a la dependencia y la inseguridad alimentaria hacia el beneficio de otras industrias que no tienen nada que ver con el pueblo de Puerto Rico y mucho menos con el deseo de salud y de producción nacional. Eso obviamente sigue debilitando al pueblo, a nuestra fuerza trabajadora, y sigue creando condiciones para que los puertorriqueños y puertorriqueñas tengamos que abandonar nuestra tierra.

Por eso que estamos dando esta lucha porque aquí se juega mucho más que la aportación al plan médico que nosotros estamos exigiendo”. #

‘Además, denunciamos la represalia en contra de los trabajadores a su ejercicio democrático y constitucional y humano sobre todo al derecho de la huelga. La compañía en vez de traer una propuesta para solucionar el conflicto lo que hizo fue el despido masivo de más de 400 trabajadores y trabajadoras estableciendo un cierre patronal ilegal’.



Strike at Suiza Dairy, a question of food sovereignty

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

NOTE: At the time of finishing this article, it was reported that the PR Police Tactical Unit Force had arrested 16 protesters in front of the gates of the Swiss Dairy to make way for the strikebreakers.

It has been more than a month since the General Central of Workers of Puerto Rico has been on strike against the Peruvian capitalist association Grupo Gloria, which manages the dairy processing company Suiza Dairy (SD) here. This is one of the three milk processing companies in this country that together represent one of the few remaining native food industries.

A collective agreement was reached between the CGT and SD, but the company's contribution to the health plan was not included because it had been established during the negotiations that SD would respond at a later time.

To get more details on this strike, Struggle-La Lucha interviewed the union's secretary, Scott Barbés Caminero. Excerpts from this interview are included here.

SLL: What is the reason for the strike?

Scott Barbés Caminero: "We are demanding that the contribution to the medical plan be resolved, since the health conditions suffered by our workers are closely linked to the work they do. And that given the privatization of health services in Puerto Rico, the company then has to assume the health costs of these workers. There is a high incidence of cancer, bone problems, diabetes, high blood pressure. Our coworkers have even died when parking these trucks, after working 14, 16, 18 hours and there they lie in the truck, with heart attacks."

"We are demanding also, that the agreement reached with the group of the company's salespeople be respected. But after having reached an agreement on the issue of commissions and salaries, the company from Peru determined that it was not going to honor it and in less than 24 hours after reaching that agreement, they withdrew it from the negotiating table."

"In addition, we denounce the retaliation against the workers for exercising their democratic and constitutional human rights, above all, the right to strike. "The company, instead of bringing a proposal to solve the conflict, what it did was



Scott Barbés Caminero.

Foto: Berta Joubert-Ceci

the massive dismissal of more than 400 workers, establishing an illegal lockout."

"We are at a critical moment in the struggle because of the insistence of a judge who issued a cease and desist order on the stoppage activities we carry out here. And we have information that the company has hired a violent security company to break the strike and allow another company access to clean all these machineries. We state that we are not going to allow either the strikebreakers or that subcontracted company because that job belongs to the workers of our union and we are not going to let them take their jobs."

"That is why we ask the people solidarity in order not so much to support the strike, but to combatively defend the picket line because the life of the entire dairy industry of Puerto Rico is at stake since it is the largest and most powerful and they want to destroy it."

SLL: What has been the role of the government?

SBC: "On the part of Fortaleza (official residence of Governor Pedro Pierluisi) there has been no positive expression; On the contrary, he said that he is not interested as long as the product reaches the homes. The food security of our people is at stake here; This is important within the basic food basket and evidently the government has no interest in the people. It is an extremely abusive neoliberal government who this week increased electricity and water fees. So, in that sense the government is not protecting the people."

"Faced with this reality, our approach

has been that someone has to intervene in what is happening here. It is an essential industry and what the company Gloria from Perú is doing in Puerto Rico is what other companies did, for example, with the agricultural industry. Here there was a massive attack against an industry that provided food, like chicken, to the entire island from the moment the first egg was born until it reached the families' tables. Then, these large multinational industries that distributed frozen chicken in the world began an attack against our industry until it was destroyed. And that's what's happening here. We even have the suspicion that the company's objective is to destroy or bring to a minimum the production of fresh milk in Puerto Rico and then completely take over the ultra-pasteurized milk or UHT milk industry. Killing the livestock industry in Puerto Rico for the benefit of farmers from abroad who would bring imported UHT milk to Puerto Rico. Do 'dumping', just like they did with the eggs and chickens. And basically subject our country to more dependency and food insecurity towards the benefit of other industries that have nothing to do with the people of Puerto Rico and much less with our health and national production. This obviously continues to weaken the people, our work force, and continues to create conditions that push Puerto Ricans out our land.

That is why we are fighting this struggle; because here there is much more at stake than the contribution to the medical plan that we are demanding." #

Dylcia Pagán, ¡Presente!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Mucho está pasando en esta colonia que amerita discutirse ampliamente. Sin embargo, hoy quiero pausar y rendirle homenaje a una querida compañera de luchas que falleció el pasado 30 de junio. La compañera Dylcia Pagán.

Como muchas y muchos boricuas, Dylcia nació en la ciudad de Nueva York. Allí, dentro de las entrañas del monstruo, como llamaba José Martí a los Estados Unidos, pudo constatar sus injusticias de primera mano. Estudió en sus escuelas y colegios y viendo la necesidad de empoderar al estudiantado puertorriqueño, ayudó a crear la Unión de estudiantes boricuas en el Colegio de Brooklyn, lo que redundó en la formación de un Departamento de Estudios Puertorriqueños.

Se unió al movimiento de los Derechos Civiles; fue documentalista investigadora ganando prestigio como productora de programas infantiles en las principales cadenas televisoras de ese país.

Pero fue el amor a su patria, el ansia de que de una vez y por todas, Puerto Rico dejara de ser colonia de ese imperio donde vivía y donde cada día era testigo de sus crueldades, que se unió y militó en las filas de las Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional.

Esa afiliación, esa honrosa decisión de vida, le costó muchos sacrificios porque la persecución del independentismo por los agentes del imperio, tanto en Puerto Rico como en los Estados Unidos, era – y sigue siendo – incesante. Y por eso, le costó la



Dylcia Pagán

separación de su hijo, de muy tierna edad, a quien para proteger, dejó al cuidado de una familia mexicana. Así estaría fuera de peligro en EUA y PR.

El 4 de abril de 1980 fue arrestada y condenada a 63 años, junto a otros once militante en el estado de Illinois, acusada de conspiración sediciosa. Ese es el término que usan los federales para encarcelar boricuas combatientes: conspiración para derrocar el gobierno estadounidense en Puerto Rico.

Al cumplir casi 20 años de prisión, en el 1999, fue excarcelada junto a otros 9

compañeros y compañeras de lucha por el Presidente Bill Clinton luego de una intensa campaña internacional por su liberación.

Al regresar a Puerto Rico, hasta su último día, Dylcia se entregó a la lucha de las comunidades empobrecidas de Loíza en el norte del país.

Compañera Dylcia Noemí Pagán, ¡Presente!

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



Huelga en la Suiza Dairy, una cuestión de soberanía alimentaria

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

NOTA: A la hora de terminar el artículo, se reporta que la Fuerza de Choque de PR arrestó a 16 manifestantes frente a los portones de la Suiza Dairy para darle paso a los rompehuelgas.

Ya va más de un mes que la Central General de Trabajadores de Puerto Rico está en huelga contra la patronal peruana Grupo Gloria, que administra la procesadora de productos lácteos Suiza Dairy (SD). Ésta, es una de las tres procesadoras de leche en este país que juntas representan

una de las manguadas industrias alimentarias autosuficientes que quedan.

Hay un convenio colectivo acordado entre las partes, pero faltaba la aportación de la empresa al plan de salud, lo que se había establecido durante las negociaciones que la SD respondería en otro momento.

Para obtener más detalles de esta lucha, Struggle-La Lucha entrevistó al secretario

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Scott Barbés Caminero

Foto: Berta Joubert-Ceci

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