

Unite to say 'No war on Korea!'

By Deirdre Griswold

The progressive movements in the United States — those struggling for the rights of people of color, low-wage workers, women, immigrants, the LGBTQ and disability rights communities, the environment and much more — need to take note of the discussion going on within U.S. ruling circles about whether to launch military measures against north Korea that could lead to a nuclear war. They call it the “bloody-nose option.”

We could say that starting a nuclear war is unthinkable. But they are thinking about it. And planning for it.

The evidence is abundant.

Victor Cha, who was a leading candidate for the position of U.S. ambassador to south Korea, was dropped from consideration for the post after he wrote an op-ed piece for the Jan. 29 Washington Post in which he rejected “as some Trump administration officials have suggested, a preventive military strike.”

Cha, a former Bush administration official, is no dove. Nor did he express any sympathy for the people of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the northern, socialist half of the Korean peninsula, in the event of such a war. Cha proposed in his op-ed what he called “a forceful military option available that can address the threat without escalating into a war that would likely kill tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of Americans.”

Even suggesting that the U.S. should not provoke a nuclear war was enough to get him barred from a post in this administration.

Trump’s State of the Union address

An article in The Atlantic of Jan. 31 was headlined “Is Trump Preparing for War with North Korea?” It begins, “The more closely you read Donald Trump’s comments about North Korea in his State of the Union address, the more plausible it becomes that he is preparing for war.”

The magazine noted that in his speech, “Trump devoted a mere sentence to Russia and China. He devoted 23 words to Israel, 34 to Afghanistan, and 48 to Iran. Even the war against ISIS, which Trump cites as the main foreign-policy achievement of his first year in office, garnered only 302 words. North Korea received 475.

“Second, there are the things Trump didn’t say. The Olympics begin in South Korea in 10 days, and the South Korean government hopes participation by athletes from the North will ease hostility on the Peninsula. But Trump didn’t mention the games. In fact, he didn’t mention diplomacy at all.”

Henry Kissinger’s testimony to Senate

Henry Kissinger, in testimony to the Senate Armed
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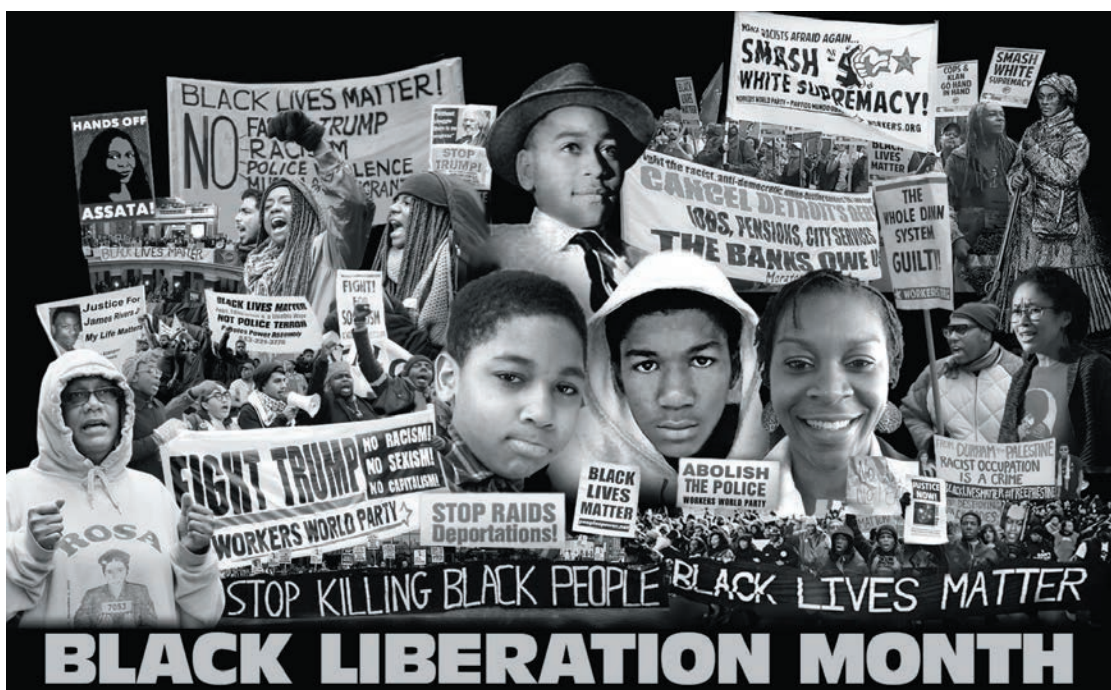
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African Americans vs. imperialism • Civil Rights hero Ruby Sales •
 Takiyah Thompson: Toppling white supremacy •
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WORKERS WORLD editorial

Market turmoil: What it means for workers

As we write this — noon on Tuesday, Feb. 6 — the global financial markets are in their third day of turmoil. It is reported that stocks have already lost at least \$2 trillion in value. This is not the first, or the fifth, or even the tenth time such a contraction has happened. Indeed, periodic crises in the stock market have occurred repeatedly throughout the history of capitalism.

In the capitalist media, everything is focused on which companies are the biggest losers and which large investors will be hit hardest. Not one word addresses the impact this will have on workers all over the world.

As far back as the early 1980s, three-fourths of the people in the U.S. owned shares of corporate stock or stock mutual funds either directly in their own names or indirectly through their pension funds, insurance policies, savings accounts, etc. A deep drop in the markets can make all this go up in smoke.

As Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy wrote after the crash of 1987: “The stock market, which had

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NYC forum

'Smash women's oppression'

Special to Workers World

"Women and the Fight for Socialism" was the theme of a forum held on Feb. 3 in New York City sponsored by the New York branch of Workers World Party. The following questions and more were discussed.

In this period of mass resistance by women against sexual harassment, misogyny and sexism, the question looms large of how to end women's oppression. How can we take the recent victories against sexual predators and serial sexual assaulters further? How can working-class and trans women benefit from the progress made in Hollywood and by other more privileged sectors?

How can the women's movement unite with trans women to fight against this extra oppression and build unity between cis-women and transwomen? How do other forms of oppression like white supremacy intersect with sexism? What advancements have been achieved by women in socialist Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?

Opening remarks were made by Workers World Party members. Monica Moorehead reviewed the issue of "Violence against women at Michigan State University – isolated or systemic." Cosmia Bohannan-Blumke addressed the "Fight for Trans Liberation." Julie Varughese reported on "Women's status in the DPRK," and Teresa Gutierrez



Julie Varughese, Taryn Fivek, Teresa Gutierrez, Monica Moorehead and Cosmia Bohannan-Blumke, Feb. 3.

summed up with a talk on "Women in Cuba show how socialism is the only solution to end women's oppression." Taryn Fivek chaired the meeting. To view these talks, go to tinyurl.com/y7dkt5uf/.

Women's oppression is the oldest oppression of all, rooted in the origins of class society. It is a complex and intricate web that is inculcated in every facet of life. It permeates every single part of society. Sexism exists in the boardroom and the bedroom, in the office and in the fields, in Hollywood and at McDonald's. It can only end when we end capitalism. □

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Workers World Party announces with sorrow the death of Milt Neidenberg -1922-2018, founding member of the Party, steel worker, labor organizer, teacher of organizers, and revolutionary communist leader. Memorial plans will be announced by the Party. A tribute to his life will appear in a future edition of Workers World.

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, joblessness and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else – unless they can pay for it.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black and Brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Harvard U. workers unite to defend immigrants

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Cambridge, Mass.

Sixty workers marched on Harvard University President Drew Faust's office Jan. 31, demanding she take action on behalf of those who hold temporary protected status.

The newly formed Harvard TPS Coalition consists of members of UNITE HERE Local 26 representing dining hall workers, Service Employees Union 32BJ representing custodians; the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3650; the Harvard Graduate Student Union; plus faculty and student supporters.

Two Latinx lead organizers, Martha from UNITE HERE and Doris from SEIU 32BJ, both of whom are from El Salvador, led the group to the door of Faust's office to deliver a letter with their demands. The letter said in part:

"As you know, the Department of Homeland Security announced, between November 6, 2017, and January 8, 2018,

that TPS would be terminated for Nicaragua, Haiti and El Salvador. These decisions affect 5,300 Nicaraguans, 59,000 Haitians and about 250,000 Salvadorans, with potentially more terminations coming in the future, such as for Hondurans and others.

"Haitians and Salvadorans, who are the majority of TPS workers at Harvard, also have, respectively, 27,000 and 195,000 children who were born in the United States. Since the devastating earthquakes in 2001 in El Salvador and 2010 in Haiti, these hard-working immigrants, many who arrived here eight to 17 or more years ago as kids, have become very connected in their local communities. Most Salvadorans have been here much longer, for 20 or more years since fleeing the civil war, and we all should remember America's role in this conflict.

"The Boston area is a center of the Salvadoran and Haitian communities, and we Harvard workers are also part of the university community. Between feeding Harvard students and cleaning Harvard offices, we are the first to greet the stu-

dents at breakfast and the last to see departing researchers each evening. Like many from Haiti and El Salvador across the country, we cook, clean and provide for [U.S.] American children that dream of more opportunity than we had back home. We also actively contribute to the economy: we buy cars and take on mortgages, start businesses and pay into Social Security.

"However, opportunity is not our only concern. We will be targeted for violence and could even be killed if we return to what, for many of us, are unfamiliar countries. We are Americans who deserve permanent residency here in the United States."

The letter, signed by more than 300 union members, students, student groups and faculty, asks that Faust hold a press conference supporting the transition to permanent residency for TPS workers; write a letter to Congress, the Senate and U.S. president advocating permanent residency; and encourage other college presidents to take these same steps.

At the end of the letter are photos and

short bios of seven workers and their families, which detail the political, social, economic and emotional anguish and hardship that canceling TPS will have on them. Put together by TPS workers on the coalition committee, this narrative is designed to confront Faust with the realities of workers' lives. The narrative will be used as an outreach tool to workers and their unions at other universities and will also provide information for unions rallying and lobbying in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 5.

The Harvard TPS Coalition is deliberately and methodically talking with other union members on campus to educate them that an attack on TPS workers is an attack on the unions; that the same forces pushing "right to work" legislation, which will demolish unions, are the same forces pushing attacks on immigrant workers.

The Harvard TPS Coalition has vowed to continue to build on campus, join allies on other campuses and unite with other unions to stop these vicious attacks on immigrant members, on all immigrant workers and on the existence of unions. □

Detroiters defend immigrant rights

Frigid weather in downtown Detroit on Feb. 3 did not deter defenders of the Dreamers and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals law, which relates to immigrants brought to the United States as children. Activists in the "Show Up for the Dream" march and rally demanded an end to the raids and deportations and defense of immigrant rights. The protesters marched from Roosevelt Park in Corktown, a neighborhood once filled with Irish and Mexican immigrants, down Michigan Avenue to the McNamara Federal Building. The action, called by Michigan United, was led by



African-American pastor Rev. W.J. Rideout III. Workers World Party members were among the activists.

— Workers World Detroit bureau

Celebrate and release Ahdad Tamimi!

A group of radicals gathered Jan. 30 outside the Israeli Consulate in Chicago to do two things: celebrate the birthday of Ahdad Tamimi and demand her release. Activists wore birthday hats, brought balloons and made noise with party kazoos. The action was called by Jewish Voice for Peace, the US Palestinian Community Network and American Muslims for Palestine. Various other groups supported the protest, including Workers World Chicago cadre. The action ended with everyone singing happy birthday to honor Ahdad and signing a



birthday card to be sent to her.

— Report and photo by Thomas Tellgren-Leng

San Diego

In defense of Chicano Park

By Zola Muhammad and Carl Muhammad
San Diego

Around 50 white supremacists were in the minority on Feb. 3, when an awe-inspiring 1,500-plus Californians showed up to defend San Diego's historic Chicano Park. They came from as far away as the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles to defend the park from racist attack by a group calling themselves the "Bordertown Patriots," Trump-style bigots who claimed to be coming there for a "patriotic picnic."

In reality, these were right-wing reactionaries who planned to deface and defame the beloved murals and the statue of a Mexican revolutionary leader. They have been emboldened by the rise of Trump and angered by the heroic actions of Takiyah Thompson and Bree Newsome, two Black women, both of whom boldly removed official symbols of white supremacist oppression.

"¡Tierra, Liberación y Revolución!" ("Land, Liberty and Revolution!") were the words of Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, who is honored in the park with a beautiful bronze statue. In 1970, they were also the words of Chi-

canx activists as they cried out to affirm the liberation of Chicano Park.

That was the year the community of Barrio Logan, one of the oldest communities in San Diego, began to fight for the park to be built. The city, however, had another idea for the use of the land under the Coronado Bridge and began construction of a new State Highway Patrol station. Mario Solís, a Brown Beret, was the first to notice the construction underway on the previously unused parcel of land and immediately organized a protest occupation of the construction site. After 12 days of confrontation, the city accepted defeat in the face of the Chicano community's united opposition and reluctantly accepted the Chicano community's takeover of the land for the park.

The Feb. 3 invasion of white supremacists is the second recent targeting of Chicano Park. In September 2017, a right-wing blog, Patriot Fire, called for a "picnic" in the park, but they were run off by members of the community.

The local press reported that these more recent racists wanted to remove a statue of Zapata and deface the murals depicting the history of the Chicano people and the images of Che Guevara, Fidel

Castro, Frida Kahlo and other revolutionaries. They also evidently intended to remove the flags of Aztlán and Mexico and replace them with U.S. flags.

The Chicano Park Steering Committee organized a massive security team that kept the white supremacists from harming anyone. Most of the people in the park were completely unaware of the small skirmish that resulted in a few arrests.

But Chicano Park is also under assault from the city as well through gentrification, since outside interests are moving into the community under the guise of redevelopment.

Attendees and speakers at the Defense of Chicano Park event included a Native motorcycle club, Aztec dancers, Brown Berets, Unión del Barrio, members of the LGBTQ community who carried Mexican flags with rainbows on them, Interfaith Ministries including Muslim, Jewish and Christian spokespeople, the Black Panthers for Self Defense, a Mexican low riders club, Workers World Party and many, many more community members.

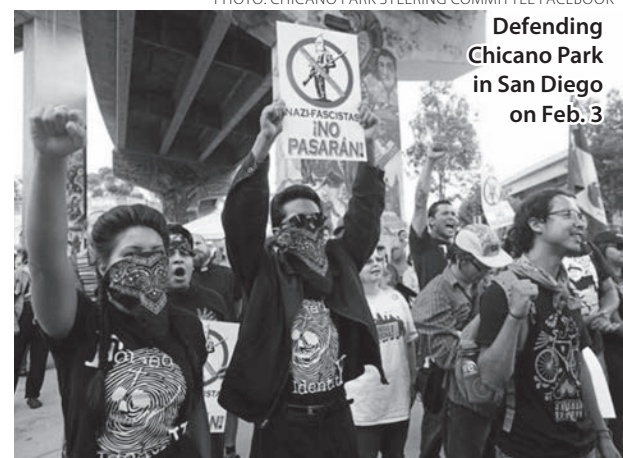


PHOTO: CHICANO PARK STEERING COMMITTEE FACEBOOK

Defending Chicano Park in San Diego on Feb. 3

Workers World Party candidate members Ryan Stray and Mickey Saldívar-So-to worked security detail and the medical tent, respectively.

Attendees at the defense event celebrated the revolutionary park by beginning with a Native blessing by Stan Rodríguez from the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel. The event ended with a performance by the Aztec Dancers, with the community being asked to join in for the last dance. The present writers and WWP organizer Gloria Verdieu danced along with the Indigenous dancers as Native elders sang songs of prayers.

According to the "picnic" organizers' website, their ultimate goal is to close Chicano Park. But white supremacy has lost another battle. The people have made it clear with their sheer presence that Chicano Park is here to stay. □

West Virginia

Education workers fighting back

By Otis Grotewohl

Teachers and school support staff are currently in motion in West Virginia. On Feb. 2, roughly 2,000 teachers and service employees from Mingo, Wyoming, Logan and Raleigh counties staged a walkout and took their message to the capitol. It was visually reminiscent of the Wisconsin public employee mass protests in 2011. In other counties teachers held walk-ins or informational pickets with additional school personnel, state employees and parents that day.

The American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia and West Virginia Education Association have been working with each other in a united front across the state in response to anti-union and anti-public education attacks coming from the far-right, Republican-dominated Legislature.

All state and education workers are facing unaffordable increases in health care premiums and deductibles through the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA). State employees are represented by the Communication Workers and United Electrical Workers.

In addition to increases in PEIA, a bill was introduced to strip teachers of their seniority, which is the primary factor in determining reductions and transfers each year. Eliminating seniority would permit administrators to openly practice discrimination and favoritism.

For-profit charter school bills have also been introduced; at this time, charter schools do not exist in the state.

West Virginia teachers rank 48th in the U.S. in pay. The billionaire governor did introduce a 1% increase for teachers, which the Legislature passed. Most peo-



PHOTO: AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS-WEST VIRGINIA

Teachers, staff, students and community rally Feb. 2 in Lewis County, W. Va., part of a wave of protests against right-wing attacks on unions and public education.

ple feel that is a slap in the face, especially considering the potential increases in insurance costs starting July 1. Carlene Rhodes, a special education teacher at Westwood Middle School, told the Morgantown Metronews, "A one percent raise doesn't even cover the cost of the healthcare." (Morgantown Metronews, 2/3/18). It is common for many teachers to work second or third jobs to make ends meet.

Material conditions in West Virginia

Like all of the United States, West Virginia is a state that rests on stolen Indigenous land. It is a place that has been exploited by resource extraction companies for centuries, where the politicians have always prioritized the needs of coal, timber, oil and gas bosses over the needs of the people who live and work there.

West Virginia is home to many historic class battles between coal miners and companies. Gov. Jim Justice is a coal baron himself and a personal friend of Trump. He was elected in 2016 as a Democrat but switched parties after last year's legislative session. He is also the proprietor of the Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., where the GOP recently held its congressional retreat.

The state does not have collective bargaining. The arch-reactionary legislature passed "right-to-work" (for less) legislation in 2016, which negatively affects unions in the private sector. Education and state employees already worked under RTW conditions.

While West Virginia public workers have no collective bargaining, teachers did carry out an 11-day strike in 1990, which brought many gains, including decent pay. Once again, education workers are showing their strength. Union rallies are being held across the state and are expected to continue until the legislative session concludes on March 10. While union membership is optional, most workers belong.

As the people mobilize, legislators are introducing more archaic and barbaric bills against the working class and oppressed. There will be a statewide rally at the capitol in Charleston on February 17. Before or around that time there may be a statewide vote on whether to walk out.

The state has already made some concessions in relation to PEIA policy proposals, but there is still a long way to go. The solidarity among union members and between different unions is showing the strength of the rank-and-file. □

Strategies for workplace organizing

By Workers World NYC bureau

A dynamic meeting on workplace organizing took place Jan. 28, as members and friends of the New York branch of Workers World Party enjoyed a showing of "Street Scenes/15." This exciting 20-minute film documents the power-

ful, multinational Fight for \$15 and a union movement in Boston during 2014-16 (available at filmourwayfilms.com).

A panel discussion afterwards featured filmmakers Bob Lamothe and Yvonne Lamothe. Sue Davis, an editor of WW's "On the Picket Line" column, commented on trends in the labor movement, stating that workplace battles have been uplifted and influenced by the Black Lives Matter movement since the Ferguson uprising. An experienced incognito field organizer filled the audience in on how to expose divisive, union-busting methods that bosses spend millions to perpetrate. Administrators of the social media project Labor Against Racist Terror encouraged folks to spread the word about union and workplace efforts that oppose racism and white supremacy.

Other struggles raised by the panel included the People's MTA, which fights for 100 percent accessible transit, free of police harassment of riders and workers; the heroic Florida prison strike; the on-



WWW.FILMOURWAYFILMS.COM

going strike against media giant Spectrum; racist Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids at job sites like the 7-Eleven stores; and more.

In addition to asking questions about the film's content, people raised resourceful examples of how to get workers who are unemployed or underemployed, not in unions or not all in the same union to join together; how to assist coworkers in demanding their rights; and how to get existing unions more active in community issues.

Participants agreed that campaigns to raise the minimum wage must extend to those excluded from the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act for the purpose of super exploitation: people with disabilities, prisoners, farm workers, domestic workers, sex workers and tipped workers.

The consensus of everyone present was to hold monthly gatherings focused on workplace organizing that — like this one — combine culture, theory and practice, as we approach May Day 2018. □

Seattle

School bus drivers strike for health care

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Feb. 5 — Over 400 Seattle school bus drivers, members of Teamsters Local 174, went on strike against First Student, the giant global school bus contractor, on Feb. 1. They are still out as of today, buoyed by strong labor and community support.

School bus operations for the city's public schools have been mostly shut down. Large numbers of drivers are picketing at two First Student bus yards. Dozens of Teamsters who drive recycling trucks and other drivers have honked their solidarity while driving out of their yard at South Park in the mornings.

Local 174 members held a one-day strike on Nov. 29. The drivers voted down by 85 percent First Student's disrespectful contract offer in a packed meeting on Jan. 6.

The strike is protesting woefully inadequate health care benefits and retirement plans. Only 7 percent of drivers — those who work at least 30 hours weekly — qualify for the current health care plan, which is still expensive for them. First Student's recent proposals offer no real improvement.

The company is the largest school bus contractor in North America and operates 44,000 buses in 1,000 school districts with 50,500 employees. The Seattle School Board balked at paying \$1.7 million more to cover health care for the remaining drivers, as it is already paying

\$27 million a year for its contract with the company. First Student could easily afford to include all drivers in the current health care plan without passing along further costs to the district.

Solidarity!

The 5,000 teachers of the Seattle Education Association voted to stage a half-day walkout on Feb. 7, and will join the Teamster drivers on their picket lines. "The bus drivers are who the kids see first thing in the morning, so that kind of sets the tone for how they come into school. ... We want to make sure that they are healthy and have a secure retirement," says SEA President Phyllis Compano. (Seattle Weekly, Feb. 2) Sebrina Burr, president of the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association, asserts, "They can afford to pay health care and retirement [benefits] for these people and they're choosing not to." (clicklancashire.com, Feb. 3)

Two school bus drivers' union locals have passed resolutions supporting the Seattle strikers and Teamsters Local 174. They are the Boston School Bus Drivers, United Steelworkers Local 8731 and the San Francisco school bus drivers in the SMART Local 1741.

City Council members Kshama Sawant and Teresa Mosqueda, as well as parents with their children, have joined the picket lines. Supporters are bringing food, coffee, heat and solidarity to the strikers. □

Labor support for Puerto Rico

Buffalo, N.Y.

Members of the Puerto Rico Hurricane María Relief Fund Committee were at a Feb. 3, Buffalo, N.Y., rally which called on the federal government to provide vital support for Puerto Rico. The island is suffering in the aftermath of the hurricane and at the hands of predatory banks. The rally was called by the Western N.Y. Area Labor



Federation, AFL-CIO and held at the Puerto Rican community's Belle Center.

— Report and photo by
Workers World Buffalo bureau

TRUMP, THE GENERALS & THE FBI

By Fred Goldstein

A most remarkable and telling indicator of where the ruling class stands today on the question of war and peace is the widespread acceptance of the Trump administration's open surrender of civilian control to the military. Three high-ranking generals are his close aides in the White House: National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Chief of Staff John Kelly.

An axiom of imperialist democracy is civilian control over the military. This has never been honored. The military has always been able to make its influence felt in the White House. But this facade has always been maintained as a matter of doctrine in order to sustain the fiction of U.S. democracy.

And the capitalist media, instead of sounding the alarm about the danger posed by the military, have praised the generals as “the adults in the room” who will restrain Trump.

The ruling class has been silent about Trump's State of the Union speech. He attacked China and Russia as adversaries and promised to reverse the decades-long policy of weapons limitation with a gigantic nuclear weapons buildup to come. Plans for “modernization” of the nuclear arsenal, begun at the end of the Obama administration, have been greatly expanded by Trump.

Military as a Trump defender

With Donald Trump, the military has attained a goal that it sought for years: a major share of political control at the center of the capitalist government. This occupation of the White House by the military brass is particularly dangerous as the Trump administration lays plans for a military attack on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The achievement of this long-sought goal of the Pentagon has more than just military implications. The three high-ranking generals in the White House have political input on both military and domestic policy. These generals — and the entire military — need Trump. They can count on his bellicose, belligerent bluster to give them cover for their aggressive, expansionary military plans. Furthermore, he is the one who let them in the door and enabled them.

Trump gave them more troops for the battlefields in Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa; more authority to carry out military operations without oversight; full authority to launch drone strikes without having to check with Washington. Above all, he promised them a vast increase in the military budget and authorized a \$1.2 trillion nuclear buildup. He has been the arms salesman in chief, making \$110 billion in deals for arms to Saudi Arabia.

This dangerous escalation of militarism has gone largely uncriticized in the capitalist media.

The billionaires and bankers in the administration and beyond need Trump. They thrive off his tax cuts, the destruction of corporate and environmental regulations, the giveaways of public lands and the sea coasts to big oil, and the destruction of regulatory agencies. Gary Cohen of Goldman Sachs, head of the National Economic Council; Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin of Goldman Sachs; Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, former CEO of ExxonMobil; and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, a billionaire financier and buyout king — all have circled around Trump to ward off any threats to his presidency.

What does this mean politically for the generals, the Pentagon and the masses? It means Trump's Wall Street appointees have just as much at stake as the generals in protecting the president.

As of this moment, until Trump's crisis becomes far more serious, the brass in the White House and beyond will defend him against the Mueller investigation. They will defend his draconian, repressive immigration policies. They will defend his playing with nuclear catastrophe in Korea. They will defend him from anything that undermines his hold on the White House.

Trump vs. the FBI

For example, in Trump's furious struggle against the FBI, the Justice Department and much of the capitalist establishment, the brass stood with Trump. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray went to appeal to the White House to stop the release of an anti-FBI, anti-Mueller memo drawn up by House Intelligence Committee Chair Devin Nunes. The memo was designed to protect Trump from Mueller's investigation into his relations with Russia. Gen. Kelly met with the two officials and turned them down, telling the public that the President wants the memo out “pretty quick.”

The chief executive of U.S. imperialism, with the consent of his entire administration, together with the Republican Party leadership in the House of Representatives, are in a campaign to discredit the FBI as being partisan against Trump and part of a “deep state” conspiracy.

How should this fight between Trump and the FBI be viewed?

The White House, the chief purveyor of violence, war and reaction on the planet, is at war with the FBI. But the FBI is the supreme capitalist institution of repression and persecution. It is now operating in 70 countries. It is the implacable enemy of the radical movement, liberation organizations and all the oppressed, as well as the unions and other working-class organizations. It has persecuted communists, socialists, anarchists, Black liberation organizations, civil rights organizations and anti-war activists ever since its inception after WWI. The FBI and the Pentagon are twin enemies of the workers and oppressed worldwide.

But the more Trump tries to discredit the FBI and the Justice Department, the more he is accused of violating the “independence of the FBI and the Justice Department.”

Post-Watergate rules and protocols

Why is it that the Trump administration and the Republican Party are being condemned by the anti-Trump press and the Democratic Party for violating long-standing protocols against presidential meddling in the Justice Department and the FBI? Indeed, the Democratic Party has become the staunchest defender of this reactionary spy agency, the political police of the ruling class.

First of all, we must understand what the corporate media and politicians mean by an “independent” FBI and Justice Department.

During the Watergate crisis, Richard Nixon tried to use elements of the CIA and the FBI against the Democratic Party and, in general, against his political opponents. This led to a strong movement in the ruling class and the political establishment to prevent the use of the spy agencies against a president's political enemies. To make it plain, capitalist democ-

racy was supposed to bar the use of the repressive apparatus by one political faction in the ruling class against its opponents.

The idea of the “independent” FBI and Justice Department meant that the White House was not supposed to communicate with the FBI or the Justice Department except under rare circumstances. For example, when Bill Clinton met with Obama's attorney general, Loretta Lynch, on the tarmac of a Phoenix airport in June 2016 — while Hillary Clinton was under investigation for using a personal email account as secretary of state — Lynch had to recuse herself from the investigation. The automatic assumption was that Bill Clinton was trying to influence Lynch in favor of Hillary Clinton. Lynch's recusal followed protocol.

Trump and military vs. capitalist legality

The fact that Trump is on a crusade to violate bourgeois legality is a matter of concern to the workers and the oppressed. Trump's crusade is open. The military has its own hatred and contempt for bourgeois democracy — which can stand in their way of launching war and aggression — but they are quiet and act behind the scenes.

Our concern, of course, has nothing to do with defending the FBI or the Justice Department. It is that Trump and the generals' contempt for bourgeois legality, custom and protocol has been, and will be, turned against the masses, as exemplified by the open attempt to ban Muslims from immigrating to the U.S.

The workers and all the oppressed need to know what's happening in the

ruling-class struggle over the FBI. The Mueller investigation into alleged Russian attempts to influence the elections is a false inquiry, as far as the exploited classes are concerned. The very premise of the investigation is calculated to sow anti-Russian chauvinism and war fever among the population. It is meant to bolster the military buildup, including nuclear weapons.

Trump is trying from the right to overturn all the rules regarding political interference, influence and bourgeois legality — not just in the Mueller investigation but in many spheres. Undocumented workers are kidnapped off the streets by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Torch-bearing Nazis and Klansmen in Charlottesville, Va., were praised as “good people.” Trump openly rakes in profits from his businesses while he is president and refuses to submit his tax returns.

Trump violates nuclear treaties by commissioning new weapons. He unilaterally pulls out of the Paris Climate Accord. He threatens to tear up the Iran Treaty, which was signed by four imperialist countries plus Russia and China. His mode of operation is to overstep bourgeois norms and violate bourgeois legality in the interest of political reaction.

The only way to stop the anti-working-class lawlessness of Trump and his generals and bankers in the White House is to mobilize the masses in the streets for militant resistance. A place to start would be a massive anti-war struggle demanding “Hands Off Korea” and saying “NO to the nuclear buildup,” which Trump and his military handlers have put on the agenda.

□

Read this book!

‘Generals Over the White House’

“Generals Over the White House” is a book that should be read and reread. It was written in 1980 by the late Sam Marcy, who founded Workers World Party in 1959. Its main subject is the takeover of the Carter administration by the military at the end of the 1970s. But this history is only part of its value.

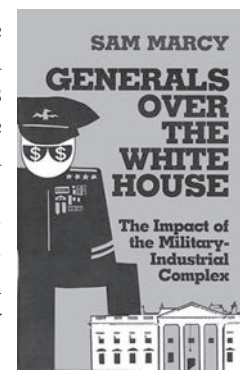
The book's greatest value lies in its Marxist analysis of the military in relation to the civilian government — and this sheds piercing light on the Trump administration today.

Marcy shows how, under capitalism, the military never stops striving to take over the capitalist government and has contempt for capitalist democracy, which stands in its way of carrying out the most aggressive military policies.

For example, Marcy wrote:

“The difference between civilian and military control does not derive from any fundamental class difference. Both the civilian and the military wings of the capitalist government are securely in the hands of the ruling class. There is, however, a basic difference in this very important respect: the more the military encroaches, the more it erodes every conceivable element of what remains of bourgeois democracy.

“The military in the imperialist epoch organically tends in an anti-democratic, totalitarian, if not fascist direction. Wherever the military lays its hands, the more it invests its field of operations with repressive, anti-democratic and totalitar-



ian measures. Nothing escapes their long, grasping reach.”

Marcy describes how the military drains the resources of society and contributes to the physical decay of the infrastructure and the intensification of the poverty of the masses. He dwells on the economic crisis of capitalism and how it contributes to the advance of capitalist militarism and the military.

Marcy's book, written in 1980, could not be more timely.

At this moment, Trump has opened the door wide to the military in the executive branch. He is threatening war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and plans a nuclear military buildup against Russia and China.

The U.S. capitalist establishment is praising the generals in the administration as “the adults in the room.” Meanwhile, Trump and the generals are trying to destroy capitalist legality. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is kidnapping undocumented workers in their homes, at their jobs and on the streets. Muslims are being banned from the U.S. Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan are being praised as “good people.”

Understanding the relationship of the military to all this is crucial. And “Generals Over the White House” is invaluable in deepening our understanding of yesterday and today from a Marxist point of view.

—Fred Goldstein

You can read “Generals Over the White House” free and online at tinyurl.com/ybsk562f/□

CELEBRATE BLACK

PART 1

African Americans reject imperialism Black Liberation and the Vietnamese struggle

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

During the height of the genocidal war waged by the United States against the people of Vietnam during the 1960s and early 1970s, African Americans were involved in a life-and-death campaign in the U.S. aimed at reclaiming their national identity, human rights and racial dignity.

January 30 was the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive that shook the foundations of the U.S. war strategy in Vietnam. In a surprise move, the forces of the National Liberation Front and the People's Army of Vietnam attacked more than 100 cities and towns across the country.

The U.S. anti-war movement during this period is often portrayed as led by white university students who had left-wing political leanings, with African Americans being almost exclusively preoccupied with Civil Rights and Black Power demands within a domestic framework.

The reality of the period proves to be quite the contrary. From the early 1960s, leading figures in the Civil Rights and Black nationalists movements expressed their opposition to the U.S. role in Vietnam.

The most advanced elements offered concrete acts of solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the North and the National Liberation Front operating in the Pentagon-occupied South.

Both Vietnamese and the African-American people were subjected to imperialism and national oppression by an enemy that sought to crush their respective entitlements to peace, social justice, self-determination and sovereignty.

Dating back to at least 1924, the man who became known as Ho Chi Minh (Nguyen Ai Quoc) had lived in upper Manhattan as an activist among the African-American community during the period known as the Harlem Renaissance.

Ho had worked with the organization

led by Marcus Garvey known as the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League, headquartered in New York City at its zenith in the early 1920s.

Ho reflected on his observations conducted just six decades after the conclusion of the U.S. Civil War and the legal dissolution of chattel slavery, in a period of extreme state repression, widespread institutional racism and arbitrary violence, in a 1924 pamphlet entitled "On Lynching and the Ku Klux Klan." The work documents various aspects of social conditions prevailing in African-American communities throughout the U.S.

'The Black race is most oppressed'

Ho Chi Minh noted in this important work: "It is well-known that the Black race is the most oppressed and the most exploited of the human family. It is well-known that the spread of capitalism and the discovery of the New World had as an immediate result the rebirth of slavery. What everyone does not perhaps know is that after 65 years of so-called emancipation, American Negroes still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings, of which the most cruel and horrible is the custom of lynching."

Ho chronicles the history of racial terror against African people from the end of the war between the states over the future of slavery to the burgeoning resistance of the people following World War I.

During the war and afterward, African Americans migrated in the millions



to Northern, Midwestern and Western cities, becoming a social force in the struggle for freedom and democratic rights whose impact extended beyond their own population.

This same pamphlet emphasized the significance of this transformation: "The victory of the federal government had just freed the Negroes and made them citizens. The agriculture of the South, deprived of its Black labor, was short of hands. Former landlords were exposed to ruin. The

Klansmen proclaimed the principle of the supremacy of the white race. Anti-Negro was their only policy.

"The agrarian and slaveholding bourgeoisie saw in the Klan a useful agent, almost a savior. They gave it all the help in their power. The Klan's methods ranged from intimidation to murder. The Klan is for many reasons doomed to disappear. The Negroes, having learned during the war that they are a force if united, are no longer allowing their kinsmen to be beaten or murdered with impunity. They are replying to each attempt at violence by the Klan.

"In July 1919, in Washington, they stood up to the Klan and a wild mob. The battle raged in the capital for four days. In August, they fought for five days against the Klan and the mob in Chicago. Seven regiments were mobilized to restore order. In September the government was obliged to send federal troops to Omaha to put down similar strife. In various other states the Negroes defend themselves no less energetically."

The Vietnamese Revolution and challenges to imperialism

Ho Chi Minh left the U.S. and traveled to other parts of the world including Europe. In 1930, the Indochinese Communist Party was formed, encompassing revolutionaries from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia who were battling French colonialism. Later Vietnam was occupied by both France and Japan.

The struggle for national liberation and unity consequently took on an international character. After the defeat of Japan, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was proclaimed in December 1945, prompting another guerrilla war against French imperialism.

By 1954, France had been humiliated at the battle of Dien Bien Phu. Ho Chi Minh had become a hero in the international movement for independence and socialism.

However, U.S. imperialism took over the war of domination from France, and by the early 1960s President John F. Kennedy was deploying "advisors" in the form of military personnel to South Vietnam, which was under U.S. occupation. The U.S. refused to allow free elections and the war continued.

African-American opposition to the Vietnam War and solidarity with the NLF and the government in Hanoi were embodied by Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) and the Nation of Islam (NOI). They had been against U.S. involvement in Vietnam since the early 1960s.

After leaving the NOI, Malcolm X adopted a decisively revolutionary position related to world revolution and spoke frequently of solidarity with the People's Republic of China and the Vietnamese Revolution.

Next: The rising tide of the Black Liberation Movement and international struggles for national liberation and socialism.

'DO IT LIKE DURHAM': Takiyah Thompson speaks

By **Workers World Boston bureau**

"Do It Like Durham!, Workers Solidarity — Tear Down White Supremacy" was the theme of a Workers World Party forum in Boston on Jan. 27. The Black History Month event brought together working-class organizers who are challenging and toppling the racist, sexist, anti-transgendered ideas and institutions of capitalism.

Featured speaker was Takiyah Thompson, a Durham, N.C., freedom fighter who, along with their comrades, tore down a racist Confederate statue in that city on Aug. 14. Thompson spoke about the decision to act and the need felt for concrete action to underscore that anti-racist activist Heather Heyer's death at the hands of Nazis and KKK members in Charlottesville, Va., two days before was not in vain.

Thompson described the toppling and the reverberations across the country, as more racist statues were taken down in following months.

Thompson told the crowd the movement that started in Durham will not stop until all charges against Durham activists are dropped, all monuments to racism have been removed, and white supremacy has been destroyed.

Mahtowin Munro of the United American Indians of New England talked about the struggle to abolish Columbus Day and celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day instead: "When we go into [City Council] hearings to talk about why we need to get rid of Columbus Day, we are told by bigots ... that we were cannibals and that Columbus brought civilization to us. When we talk about genocide, they say that we all died off from diseases as though untold numbers of massacres never occurred.

"And they say, 'Why don't you people get over it?' To which we respond:

"We can't get over something that you remind us of every single day, with your white supremacist holidays, settler whitewashing of our experiences and history, and physical manifestations of our oppression. We can't get over something that continues to impact our lives through oppression and intergenerational trauma. We can't get over the fact that this racist garbage continues to be forced on our children as history.

"So we seek to tear down the symbols of Columbus, just as Takiyah Thompson and so many others are tearing down the hated symbols of the slavocracy. As Indigenous and Black people, our struggles and lives are linked, as they have been for

centuries, so it is especially meaningful when we are united in tearing down these hated symbols."

Christine Renee of the WWP Trans Caucus and Stonewall Warriors told the audience: "Right now, the legal status and livelihoods of over 300,000 people from Haiti, Honduras and El Salvador are currently at risk. Just today there was a rally for Siham Byah, a local activist who was deported last month to Morocco. Also at risk now are the livelihoods of transgender people here in Massachusetts.

"Three weeks ago, in North Adams, Mass., Christa Leigh Steele-Knudsen was killed by her husband. This marks the beginning of yet another year stained with anti-trans violence. Last year was reported by many news outlets to be the deadliest year to be transgender on record, with about 28 trans people being killed. The culprit behind the struggles of immigrant and transgender in America is the exploitative capitalist system."

Describing the discrimination she faces as a young person with disabilities searching for a job, Kristin Turgeon of WWP called on people to fight the dead-end system of capitalism that oppresses all poor and working people.

Two Latinx union leaders from Har-

vard University, in UNITE HERE Local 26 and Service Employees Union 32BJ, were welcomed with cheers when they spoke of their organizing to defend temporary protected status for immigrants and elevate TPS to permanent residency. Andre Francois, president of United Steelworkers Local 8751, representing Boston and Randolph school bus drivers, also spoke. (See "Bus drivers' leader on Trump's attack on Haitians," WW, Feb. 1.)

Tonight's meeting was chaired by Hazel of the WWP Trans Caucus. Delicious home-cooked Haitian food was provided by Chantal Casimir of USW Local 8751. □



LIBERATION MONTH

WW COMMENTARY

Civil Rights hero Ruby Sales and white supremacy

By Mikisa Thompson
Durham, N.C.

For Black History Month, I would like to introduce or reintroduce you to Ruby Nell Sales. Born July 8, 1948, in Jemison, Ala., Ruby Sales is the founder and director of the Spirit House Project. She is one of 50 African Americans to be spotlighted in the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

I met Ruby Sales for the first time when she spoke at a Feb. 1 forum with community leaders and activists in Durham. Later, she spoke at North Carolina Central University, a historically Black university. Sales' visit for Black History Month was sponsored by many local organizations.

As a teenager in 1965, Ruby Sales participated in the Selma-to-Montgomery march, answering a call put out by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other organizers. Later that year, during organizing for the Black Civil Rights movement, Sales and activist Jonathan Myrick Daniels were jailed for trying to register voters in the Lowndes County town of Hayneville, Ala.

Daniels pulled Sales out of the way and took a bullet that was meant to kill her on

the steps of a convenience store, having been released from jail that same day. Daniels died from the shotgun blast fired by a county deputy sheriff. The deputy sheriff was later acquitted.

At the sham trial, Daniels was vilified for reading "Communist literature while in jail and for wearing colored underwear." Despite receiving death threats, 17-year-old Sales stood her ground and faced her oppressors, testifying in the face of many racists and white supremacists. She stood in the long line of Black women speaking out against injustice, like Mrs. Recy Taylor in Alabama in 1944 and Erica Garner in New York in 2014.

Sales has said of Daniels: "He was the first white person who had said to me that I had pretty hair. It did take me aback a bit. Not that I didn't think my hair was pretty. I had grown up being told that by other Black people. But I had never heard a white person say it. In some real ways, he was the first person I'd heard who said Black was beautiful, the first white person." (Howard Mansfield, "The Movement's Unheralded Hero," Washington Post, Nov. 6, 1990)

During the forum talk, Sales touched on many topics, but what stood out to me was white supremacy.

Sales said, "White supremacy is a death sentence for the oppressor and the oppressed. It creates unnecessary fear." This instilled an "aha" moment for me.

The pseudoscience of white supremacy is derived from eugenics, which in 1883 was given the racist definition of "improvement of the human race germplasm through better breeding." Genocide was, and is still, allowed due to a belief in eugenics — and fear. (DNA Science Blog, Sept. 21, 2017)

In the U.S., an early legal upholding of eugenics came in 1927, relating to Carrie Buck. As the blog noted, Carrie Buck had been sterilized because her own child, her mother and Carrie were all said to be "feeble-minded." Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. wrote in the ruling against them: "Three generations of imbeciles are enough."

Fear makes it easy to create a system that systemically kills. Either you are literally killed by police because of the fear Black skin has been said to create. Or you are killed by many other forms of genocide, such as being penalized for being poor. Or your people are being bombarded with billboards in disenfranchised, redlined and gerrymandered neighborhoods that promote abortions for Black and Brown women. This is in stark contrast to what is found in white neighborhoods where the billboards tell you to find an alternative to abortions.



WW PHOTO: TAKIYAH THOMPSON

Ruby Sales (left) and Mikisa Thompson, Durham, N.C., Feb. 1.

In November 2017, I attended the Workers World Party National Conference in Newark, N.J. The conference was held to "Chart Our Next Steps in the Struggle to Smash White Supremacy, Capitalism, Imperialism — Fight for Socialism!"

Sales was a reminder to me to keep this fight going into 2018. "Movement is painful, and it is continual," said Sales.

Revolution is a daily call to action. Agitations that help to decimate the racist counterrevolution are essential to our movement. Your call to action is to smash capitalism and smash nationalism. Sales said: "It creates the king's foot soldiers."

Nationalism is the tool used by white supremacists to create Immigration and Customs Enforcement internment camps. Checkpoints to verify citizenship, as well as the denaturalization of citizenship are byproducts of white nationalism. For instance, this January an Indian-born man, Baljinder Singh, was the first person ever to be stripped of his American naturalization status under a new ICE initiative, Operation Janus.

We all must continue to agitate for the eradication of ICE. When we do this, we are in turn against white nationalism, white supremacy and the vile wheels of capitalism that do not benefit us as workers.

We cannot and must not go back. Fear can only lead us to death. □



on toppling white supremacy

By Kaitlyn Griffith
Chicago

Takiyah Thompson, a member of Workers World Party in Durham, N.C., and a student at North Carolina Central University, spoke to over 70 people on Feb. 3 at the United Electrical Workers hall in Chicago about resistance to white supremacy and toppling its monuments. The event was sponsored by WWP, Black Youth Project 100 and Black Lives Matter Chicago.

Thompson participated on a panel with Inez White from BYP 100 (second from right), Maria from BLM (far right) and

Dani Boachie from WWP (far left). All the speakers focused on the need to build a movement to fight white supremacy and the system that fosters it.

Thompson noted the necessity of a "sustained effort to build a movement and protect those who were arrested" as a result of the people's Aug. 14 removal of the Confederate statue in Durham. Thompson was the first person arrested. Several hundred people turned themselves in at the sheriff's office the day after the arrests, saying they too opposed white supremacy. They showed up again to fight back against the Ku Klux Klan, who tried but failed to march through Durham a couple days later.

While felony charges against the Durham arrestees have been dropped, they still face misdemeanor charges and need solidarity. "I don't need more allies. I need comrades," Thompson told the crowd.

When asked what should be done with the torn-down statues, Thompson replied: "Melt them down into urinals. That's an important first step. Then replace them with something that uplifts the community [the racist statues] were meant to oppress."

Thompson further explained: "Racism and capitalism washed up on this coun-

WW PHOTO: KAITLYN GRIFFITH

CHICAGO

try's shores together. No one can have a more pointed critique of capitalism in this country than its first exploited workers."

The program ended with Takiyah's mother, Mikisa Thompson, reciting a poem she had written for her daughter. □

PHOTO: ALLEN RUFF

MADISON, WIS.

By Workers World
Madison bureau

The Madison, Wis., branch of Workers World Party hosted Takiyah Thompson on Feb. 4 as part of their national speaking tour for Black Liberation Month. Thompson is one of the freedom fighters who led the people's removal of a Confederate statue in Durham, N.C., on Aug. 14.

Thompson spoke about the connection between the symbolic dimensions of white supremacy, exemplified by the Durham statue and other Confederate



statues which dotted the landscape until recently. The speaker referred to "institutional, political and economic legacies," such as mass incarceration and severe income disparities between different racial groups in the U.S. Attendees included community residents, supporters of the broad-based Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement (WIBOPM) and Workers World Party members from Madison, Chicago and Milwaukee. □



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Ecuador at the crossroads

By Michael Otto
Quito, Ecuador

Feb. 4 — The air was almost festive this balmy morning in Quito when Zoila Ramírez went out to vote against a seven-point referendum that would decide if Ecuador moves further away from its “Citizens’ Revolution” led by former President Rafael Correa. All was calm as the current President Lenín Moreno’s call for a “Yes” vote prevailed by 64 to 36 percent, according to CNE, the National Electoral Council.

The “Yes” vote prevents Correa, who was president from 2007 to 2017, from running for president again in 2021. This is important because despite the setback on the referendum, Correa remains the single most popular political leader in Ecuador. He is identified with the gains of the Citizens’ Revolution, which led to social and economic advances for the masses.

Correa, who led a popular, month-long caravan through Ecuador starting Jan. 7 that contested Moreno and the referendum, tried to rally his supporters after the vote. He tweeted, “Congratulations to all of our militants. No movement by itself can achieve the 36 percent that we achieved, even more unlikely in so little time and in such an unequal struggle. The struggle continues. ... Ever forward to victory.”

Correa was emphatic in a TeleSUR interview after the vote that he’s not interested in running again and that he only returned to campaign for “NO” on crucial question #3. That allows Moreno to replace the 10 constitutionally elected members of the powerful Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control (CPCCS) and through the CPCCS to replace another 150 state officials in what amounts to a dictatorial power grab. The CPCCS was established to institutionalize the appointment of state officials and empower citizens to participate in their nomination, which had historically been a matter of dividing the spoils between

power brokers.

Not only Moreno, but the banks, the oligarchy, the privately owned media, the imperialists and some 40 social organizations, including the unions, which represent 4 percent of the working class, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party Ecuatoriano — which is being denounced by Ecuador’s original CPE for its opportunism — supported the “Yes” vote on the referendum. The only social organization supporting the “No” was the National Women’s Forum, which was prevented from running their video spots on TV.

That 36 percent of the people questioned the official discourse and voted “No” on the crucial unconstitutional referendum question #3, which was designed to grant dictatorial powers to the new president, was still significant.

Nevertheless, there are fears that the regime will prevent Correa from returning home and that he will join former Vice President Jorge Glas as a political prisoner. Glas was convicted in December on alleged corruption charges. Many people consider this a legal lynching in this land of 16.4 million people, similar to the “soft coup” or “lawfare” which the oligarchy and imperialists used against Lula da Silva this year and Dilma Rousseff in 2016 in Brazil. A setback for the left in Ecuador will have consequences for all of Latin America.

The popular ex-president of Uruguay, José “Pepe” Mujica, worries that the people of Ecuador are too quiet.

Moreno turns to the right

After running as the candidate of Alianza PAIS, Correa’s party, and winning a narrow victory over banker Guillermo Lasso, Moreno abandoned his campaign promises and adopted the program of the right wing starting in March.

Now Correa denounces Moreno as a professional impostor, a liar and a traitor. Moreno’s circle includes Jaime Durán Barba, who also advises right-wing Argentine President Mauricio Macri in the art of dirty politics. Eduardo Mangas

resigned as presidential secretary after his taped words went viral, saying that Moreno made secret deals with an opposition party prior to the election.

Moreno even invited the FBI several days ago to investigate a bomb attack in Esmeraldas Province. A free trade agreement with the U.S. is in the works. Moreno is allied with bankers determined to maintain “dollarization” at all costs. Moreno calmed the bankers’ fears by putting the private banks in charge of electronic money. The paranoid bankers’ nightmare was that electronic money would end Ecuador’s use of U.S. currency.

Moreno has usurped dictatorial control of the state, and only a mass struggle will reverse the counterrevolution. Voting or passive support for the old Correistas won’t change things. Correa told TeleSUR in the Feb. 4 interview that the youth must carry on the struggle.

Correa’s history

More than 2 million people emigrated after Ecuador’s dependent neoliberal economy collapsed in the late 1990s. Their remittances saved thousands of families from destitution. The political upheaval from that disaster sparked the Citizens’ Revolution that united the people and ultimately put Correa in office in 2007.

Correa was also swept into power by the so-called “pink tide” of popular uprisings against military dictatorships in Latin America and the neoliberal Washington Consensus at the turn of the century.

Rafael Correa is compared favorably with the great President Eloy Alfaro, who introduced progressive changes in the early 20th century that benefitted Indigenous, women and poor citizens at the expense of the oligarchs and the church.

After Correa was elected, the Alianza PAIS movement founded a new constitutional order in 2008 with the framing of the Constitution of Montecristi. During Correa’s presidency, the rule of law was established, the infrastructure was developed, and education and health care were expanded. Government policies lifted 2 million people out of poverty during a period when oil prices were high. The Correa government refused to make the people pay for the crisis of capitalism with austerity and made Ecuadorians proud of their country.

In the following years, Ecuador put an end to neoliberal relations with the United States. Correa expelled the World Bank representative, renegotiated the foreign debt, and established trade and financial relations with China. Correa’s government reversed the terms of oil contracts with multinational corporations so that 80 percent of revenues now benefit the country.

In an important move, the contract for the U.S. military base in Manta was not renewed in July 2009. Friendly relations were established with Fidel Castro, Hugo Chávez and Evo Morales, along with membership in CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) and UNASUR (the Union of South American Nations). Many Ecuadorians in North America and especially in Europe appreciated the support they got from Correa’s government, and they are now

extremely critical of Moreno’s alliance with the bankers.

Dominant capitalist relations on the continent, however, were fundamentally unchanged, leaving capitalists in control of most industry, banking and media. In Ecuador, unions and social organizations, including some infiltrated by the CIA, fell into conflict with Correa. The lack of mass organizing for struggle and weaknesses on the national question regarding Indigenous nations became Correa’s Achilles heel.

Though Ecuador is an incredibly beautiful country, one never knows when the next big earthquake will shake it up, like the one that struck the coast on April 16, 2016.

Zoila Ramírez is proud of Correa’s powerful response to that earthquake, which took hundreds of lives. Ramírez returned with this writer to the country of her birth in 2015, after many years in New York, because she admired what economist Rafael Correa and his Alianza PAIS movement had accomplished in 10 years. Zoila never doubted that Ecuador’s commitment to bettering the lives of its people would change.

Moreno’s treachery

But things did change for the worse. Engineer Jorge Glas, who had managed the earthquake reconstruction as vice president under Correa, campaigned successfully to win the coast population. But people on the coast rewarded the party of Rafael Correa for coming to their aid by supporting Moreno in the second round of a close presidential election.

For his efforts, Glas was rewarded with a six-year prison term. He was framed in the Supreme Court and convicted without proof by an amazing constellation of retrograde forces. The president of the National Assembly and 44 National Assembly members from Glas’s own party, members of the opposition and the entire “judicial” system of prosecutors and judges have magically fallen into line behind Moreno and the media, public as well as private.

Jorge Glas is the scapegoat, but he is also a whistleblower who had to be silenced after he exposed a corrupt deal that Moreno made with disgraced former President Abdalá Bucaram.

Moreno has betrayed not only his party, but those who voted for him. After his inauguration eight months ago, Moreno halted the quake reconstruction process and diverted \$300 million of designated aid to the general budget, explaining that the funds were “idle.” Moreno has used the judiciary against his political enemies in a superficial anti-corruption campaign, which is apparently designed first to destroy Correa and second to roll back the Citizens Revolution.

Moreno was caught on video joking in a “dialogue” with bankers. The big-wig sitting next to him observed that Moreno would have to start supporting the president he once hated. Moreno replied that he would have to start hating his supporters.

Zoila now reflects, “I would think twice or even three times before coming back under these conditions.” She voted “No” — seven times “No”! □

New York protest says ‘Puerto Rico is not for sale!’



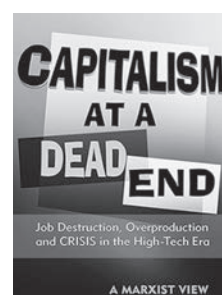
Puerto Ricans and supporters held an early-morning militant protest Feb. 1 at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House in lower Manhattan.

They were there to confront the U.S.-colonialist-appointed Financial Oversight Board (“La Junta”) which was meeting to plot the further privatization of Puerto Rico’s utilities and resources in the wake of last September’s Hurricane María. The Puerto Rican people also continue to suffer from a genocidal lack of disaster relief from the Trump regime.

When protesters and journalists demanded entrance to the Junta meeting, they were met with brutal treatment by armed, white supremacist Department of Homeland Security goons. Nevertheless, the bankers and other members of the board were forced to run a gauntlet of angry protesters chanting “U.S.A., out of Puerto Rico!”

Organized by A Call for Puerto Rico, the action was supported by many community, labor and left organizations.

— Report and photo by Greg Butterfield



Capitalism at a Dead End

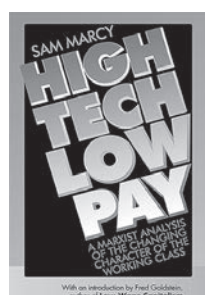
Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era
Fred Goldstein

High Tech, Low Pay

Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein

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Close Guantanamo naval base— U.S. OUT!

By Cheryl LaBash

The U.S. has occupied part of Cuba for over 115 years. On Feb. 23, 1903, the U.S. coerced Cuba into signing a lease agreement ceding land in eastern Cuba for the U.S. Guantanamo naval base called GTMO.

The naval base still sits astride, dominates and restricts entry to Cuba's Guantánamo Bay.

Now the Coalition to Close U.S. Foreign Bases has unanimously called for the U.S. to return that land to Cuba. At its Jan. 12-14 Baltimore conference, CCUSFB adopted a resolution for days of action on or around Feb. 23 to end the U.S. occupation.

This important call is the first time in recent memory that an organization outside the Cuba solidarity movement has called for a united action defending Cuban sovereignty.

The 1903 agreement, renewed in 1934, granted U.S. domination over the area of the Guantanamo naval base without an end date. The agreement requires both parties to agree to end the lease agreement, according to material produced by MOVPAZ (the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples).

Since the 1959 revolution established Cuban sovereignty and self-determination, the Cuban government has demanded that the U.S. vacate its illegally held naval base and return control of that land to Cuba. The U.S. has issued lease payments — now \$4,085 per year — but these pile up, uncashed by Cuba, except for the first one before the revolutionary government was fully consolidated. The Cuban position is clear: "All Guantánamo is ours."

Seventeen years ago, on Jan. 11, 2001, a notorious special torture prison for U.S. detainees was placed in the U.S. Guan-



1927 U.S. Navy museum photo captures of the vastness of Guantánamo Bay. The photo shows a U.S. fleet at anchor where the U.S. naval base sits, astride the entrance to the huge bay, blocking Cuban access to the sea and to the best fishing areas in the bay itself.

More than 200,000 people live in Guantánamo, the capital city of Guantánamo province. Since 1959, the Cuban revolution has protected the Cuban people living close to the base from the predation and exploitation feared and experienced by communities near U.S. foreign bases in countries still allied with U.S. imperialism. In a 37-minute documentary, "All Guantánamo Is Ours," filmmaker Hernando Calvo Ospina uses historical photos and testimony to demonstrate the conditions before the socialist revolution. (youtube.com/watch?v=XKES4mE7INs) Yet the corporate U.S. news media ignore the people of Guantánamo.

U.S. interrupts Cuba's fight for independence

In June 1898, U.S. troops landed at Guantánamo Bay. Although the U.S. naval base was leased in 1903, according to Cuban historians, the U.S. has main-

tanamo naval base. Since that time, an outcry has exposed the inhuman and illegal conditions, including force feedings dramatized by well-known rap recording artist and actor Mos Def, now Yasiin Bey, who endured such torture on video to inform the world.

But this movement against the GTMO prison has failed to make a demand that would prevent the imperialist monster from desecrating Cuban territory with anti-human actions that would never be allowed on territory under Cuban sovereignty. The demand should be to return Guantánamo to the Cuban people, the rightful owners, where it can never again be used for such a purpose.

According to the 2018 State of the Union address, the current U.S. president seeks to expand the U.S. use of GTMO. Everyone concerned about U.S. crimes should demand: U.S. out of Guantánamo, now!

Guantanamo, more than a prison

The 45 square miles occupied by U.S. Naval Station Guantánamo Bay (the base's official name) is less than 0.2 percent of Cuba's 2,389-square-mile Guantánamo province. The bay itself is 12 miles long and six miles across.

But more than these numbers is what a

Cleveland

Partial victory against racist sports symbol

By Susan Schnur
Cleveland

After decades of struggle, the hated racist symbol of Cleveland's professional baseball team will finally be removed from uniforms, caps and promotional materials. The team and Major League Baseball announced on Jan. 29 that the racist mascot will be eliminated in 2019, but the bigoted name of the team will remain.

Leaders of this struggle consider this a partial but important victory. Why is there a one-year delay? It is probably a business decision to make money so merchandise can be sold to the hardcore racists who miss the "good old days" of white supremacy and genocidal theft of Native land.

The first demonstration to ban the caricature was held in 1971. The size and militancy of opening day actions in Cleveland grew after 1991, with the formation of the Committee of 500 Years of Dignity and Resistance.

At the 1997 World Series, Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement and president of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports, was arrested for setting fire to a stuffed doll, which symbolized the despicable mascot. He did this while protesting outside Jacobs Field, now called Progressive (Insurance) Field. Juan Reyna and Juanita Helphrey from the Committee of 500 Years of Dignity and Resistance were also arrested.

After charges were dropped in 1998, another attempt was made to burn the effigy. Bellecourt and Reyna were arrested again. So were Charlene Teters, a leader from Illinois of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media; Zizwe Tchiguka, a local leader of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party; and James Watson, a white member of the Committee of 500 Years of Dignity and Resistance. Once again, all charges were

tained an ongoing presence since 1898. The U.S. intervened militarily after the Cuban people already had been fighting for independence from Spain for 30 years and were near victory.

Then Cubans were excluded from the Dec. 10, 1898, Treaty of Paris, in which Spain relinquished Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the U.S.

Cuban independence was finally won on Jan. 1, 1959, when the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship fled Havana and the July 26 Movement triumphed. Led by Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, Che Guevara, Camilo Cienfuegos, Vilma Espín, Celia Sánchez, Haydee Santamaría and a host of other revolutionary heroes, they birthed a Cuba on the path to the better socialist world we know is possible.

The U.S. military and capitalist ruling class continue their attempt to dominate the Caribbean, Latin America and the world through blockades, sanctions and threats of nuclear war. Cuba continues to show the way forward through unity and solidarity with the workers and oppressed of the world.

U.S. out of Guantánamo!

End the genocidal U.S. blockade of Cuba!

End all U.S. travel restrictions and regime change programs! □

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH — SUPPORT WW

FIGHTING RACISM in February 2018, **Black History Month**, means starting at the top and denouncing the openly racist, white supremacist in the White House. It means opposing and exposing the bigot in chief's racist policies, like ramping up Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on 7-Eleven stores all around the country and deporting Haitian and Salvadoran workers after slandering them and the entire African continent in vulgar terms.

Workers World makes a big deal of Black History Month because racism permeates and corrodes every aspect of life in this country today. Everything, from fighting for living-wage jobs to ending mass incarceration, to having affordable housing and decent schools, is rooted in the centuries-long struggle to end this country's brutal history of slavery and racism.

That's why every month, not just Black History Month, this newspaper chronicles the struggles of African Americans to eradicate institutionalized racism, root and branch. Like the work stoppage in Florida prisons and the Black youth murdered by police, whose crimes are not brought to justice. Like Workers World Party members in Durham, N.C., last August when they took matters into their own hands and toppled the statue of a Confederate soldier in response to the

neo-Nazi, KKK rampage in Charlottesville, Va., that injured dozens and killed a courageous anti-racist protester.

WW bases our weekly coverage of the ongoing Black struggle here and our coverage of the struggles in Africa to throw off imperialist chains on the principle of self-determination: that oppressed people have the right to fight to end all forms of inequality and injustice — by any means necessary.

If you appreciate such coverage, it's time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. We established it in 1977 so readers could help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to make qualitative, revolutionary change that crushes capitalism and fights for socialism.

For a donation of at least \$75 a year — and much more if you can — members receive a year's subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up to donate online at workers.org/donate/; it's easy to set up monthly deductions. Know that we're grateful for your help in building Workers World — for today and for the future! □



One of many ongoing protests against the continued use of racist symbols by big business sports teams.

dropped. (Workers World, April 12, 1998) Demonstrations, lawsuits and mass media articles continued to press for the elimination of the Cleveland team's racist name and mascot.

At the 2016 Cleveland vs. Toronto American League playoffs, Canadian activists sued to stop the use of the logo based on the Ontario Human Rights Code. The struggle went international.

Native fighters and their supporters will be out again at the team's home opening game on April 6. Demonstrators will guard against any double-cross on the logo by management and plan to continue the fight against the team's hated name. □

WORKERS WORLD editorials

Lessons of the 1968 Tet Offensive

This Jan. 30, revolutionaries around the world marked the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive, a popular uprising backed by armed forces that changed the course of the U.S. war against Vietnam.

Totally surprising the U.S. government and the military command of its occupation army of more than a half-million U.S. troops, tens of thousands of fighters of the National Liberation Front of Vietnam (NLF), supported by an ample civilian network and by their fellow Vietnamese from the north, launched a powerful popular uprising in 140 cities and towns across Vietnam.

Many liberation fighters laid down their lives to free their country from the deadly U.S. occupation. But they made the Pentagon and the puppet Saigon army pay a heavy price. The offensive killed 500 U.S. soldiers each week from February into March and even more troops in the puppet army.

The Tet Offensive shook the U.S. establishment to its core. As March ended, President Lyndon Johnson announced that he would not seek another term. The top U.S. commander in Vietnam, Gen. William Westmoreland, who had promised his political and Wall Street masters that the end of the war was in sight, was sacked in June.

Among the objectives attacked were all four zonal headquarters of the puppet Saigon Army, eight out of eleven divisional headquarters and two U.S. army field headquarters. In Saigon, the capital of the south, NLF fighters attacked the U.S. Embassy, the Presidential Palace, the joint U.S.-Saigon armed forces headquarters and the South Vietnam naval headquarters.

The NLF liberated the ancient coastal city of Hue in the northern part of south Vietnam. They hoisted the NLF flag over the main tower there and freed some 2,000 prisoners. Before they retreated, they held the city for a month against a torrential rain of bombs and artillery that completely destroyed the city.

To the south, where the U.S. military used bombs, rockets and napalm on the town of Ben Tre, killing more than a thousand civilians, the commander told a reporter, "It became necessary to destroy the town in order to save it." (New York Times, Feb. 8, 1968)

Much to their chagrin, from the hallways of the Pentagon to the halls of Congress to the mansions of the Wall Street masters of high finance, a large number of U.S. ruling-class figures realized the imperialist adventure in Vietnam was



doomed to failure. And so did the people of the U.S.

The Tet Offensive galvanized the anti-war movement at home and opened the eyes of tens of thousands of GIs. Beginning in 1968 and growing in number each year through 1971, ordinary GIs might roll a live hand grenade into the tents of any officers or sergeants who were too zealous about sending their troops into battle.

What does this mean 50 years later? Of the many activists who protested Trump's inauguration, who protested at both the 2017 and 2018 massive women's marches, who shut down airports across the country to oppose Trump's racist anti-Muslim policy, who faced off against the Klan and the Nazis in Charlottesville, Va., who toppled the Confederate statue in Durham, N.C. — many of their parents weren't born by 1968.

Nevertheless, the explosive impact of the Tet Offensive has echoed through the years. It showed that a determined people, led by a thoroughly trained cadre of leaders steeped in years of anti-colonial struggle as well as Marxist-Leninist ideology, can defeat the most technically advanced military in history. As the Black Panthers said at that time, "The power of the people is greater than the man's technology."

That thought underlines the lesson of the Tet Offensive for activists today. By organizing and training ourselves in the art of struggle, by educating ourselves about the freedom fighters of the past and present, by communicating a clear message of solidarity with ongoing struggles erupting around the globe and here at home, we can defeat the warmakers and overturn this rotten system. □

Market turmoil: What it means for workers

Continued from page 1

been an example of capitalist prosperity, now will turn out to be the instrument to facilitate the wholesale expropriation of millions of workers and middle-class people through the loss of their savings, pensions and other retirement funds, insurance funds and other institutions, all of which have played the stock market."

In another article about that crash, he said that "it confirms the Marxist conception of capitalist economics. It shows that, in the final analysis, all the most skillful manipulators and financial wizards on a global basis, with all the most sophisticated technological communications, cannot control the forces of capitalist anarchy and chaos."

We have no crystal ball. But we can say this: If the markets continue to tumble, Wall Street will demand a government bailout, as it did in 1987 and again in 2008. Fred Goldstein of WWP wrote in 2009 in the introduction to his book "Low-Wage Capitalism" that "several trillion dollars of paper wealth were wiped

out. An economic collapse was prevented only when Alan Greenspan, who was appointed head of the Federal Reserve in August 1987, poured tens of billions of dollars into the financial system to support the banks and the stock market on an emergency basis."

Right now, the budget for the Pentagon is eating up funds needed for medical care, safety, environmental protection, the infrastructure, job training and other services already sorely underfunded. If more layoffs follow this financial crisis, as has happened in the past, government assistance will be needed for millions more people. But even as it transfers over \$1 trillion to the richest people through the new tax laws, the administration can be expected to cry poverty as it pours billions into shoring up the capitalist market.

This market turmoil, no matter how it turns out in the short term, cries out for a strong response to protect the immediate interests of the workers and oppressed while building for an overturn of the destructive and outmoded system of capitalism itself. □

Unite to say 'No war on Korea!'

Continued from page 1

Services Committee on Jan. 25, admitted that "North Korea acquired nuclear weapons to assure its regime's survival; in its view, to give them up would be tantamount to suicide." Nevertheless, he went on to argue that any negotiations with the DPRK "need to be steps towards this ultimate goal: the dismantlement of Pyongyang's existing arsenal. They must not repeat the experience of the Vietnamese and Korean negotiations, which were used as means to buy time to further pursue their adversarial objectives."

Kissinger's hawkish testimony got little mention in the U.S. media. But the right-wing British tabloid Daily Mail of Feb. 2 was excited and wrote: "Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has said that the temptation to launch a pre-emptive strike on North Korea 'is strong and the argument rational'. He told a meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee last week that North Korea poses the most immediate threat to global security, arguing that denuclearization of the regime must be a 'fundamental' American foreign policy goal."

DPRK has no right to defend itself?

What it all boils down to is this: There are forceful elements in the Trump administration and the Pentagon who refuse to accept the existence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and are willing to engage in a nuclear war against it.

They admit that the DPRK has ac-

quired nuclear weapons in order to defend itself against attack. Yet they turn that into a reason to carry out such an attack.

What has the DPRK done to warrant an attack by the U.S.? Has it attacked anyone? No. Has it sent troops outside its borders? No. Does it have nuclear-capable ships, planes and submarines circling the globe? No.

The imperialist U.S. government, so totally an arm of the billionaire ruling class, is the aggressor, not the DPRK, which for decades has endured U.S. threats of invasion through annual war "games" simulating an attack.

A Feb. 1 editorial in the New York Times, "Playing with Fire and Fury on North Korea," ended with this admission: "The United States has been at war continuously since the attacks of Sept. 11 and now has just over 240,000 active-duty and reserve troops in at least 172 countries and territories. Enough."

This was written only two days after the same paper, in a Jan. 30 editorial on the State of the Union speech, said that Trump "deserved to take a bow" for "tightening sanctions on North Korea." Now, however, the war danger has finally sunk in. The Times editors may argue that sanctions are an alternative to war. But, in fact, they are a prelude to war, in the thinking of Trump and much of the military.

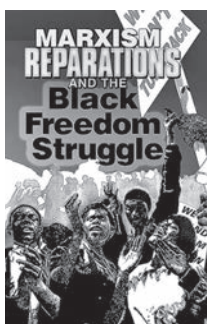
Letter of Korean foreign minister to U.N.

This was underscored in a letter sent Jan. 31 by DPRK Minister for Foreign Affairs Ri Yong Ho to U.N. Secretary General António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres.

After referring to the "inter-Korean dialogue" that has led to the "continued easing of tension on the Korean peninsula," Minister Ri says that the U.S. is "seeking to intentionally aggravate the situation by introducing the strategic assets including nuclear powered aircraft carrier groups into the vicinity of the Korean peninsula at a time when north and south are charting a course of peace together."

Ri says that "the scope of troop and war equipment being introduced" and "the

Continued on the next page



MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

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U.S. conducted biowarfare against DPRK

By Mike Kuhlenbeck

The U.S. government denies using biological warfare during the Korean War (1950-53), but mounting evidence reveals the Pentagon is lying.

Biological weapons had been used by the German Army in World War I to contaminate livestock, animal feed and humans. Given the horrific effects, this weaponry was widely condemned. However, the U.S. and Japan refused to sign treaties prohibiting this type of warfare.

The Japanese military conducted biowarfare in the 1930s and 1940s, with China their primary target. The U.S. obtained a Japanese report on such experiments in 1941 and built on this research at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute at Fort Detrick, Md., as early as 1942. After World War II, many Japanese scientists were spared (including chief germ warfare expert Gen. Shiro Ishii), courtesy of efforts spearheaded by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Nicknamed “The Institute,” this Maryland facility became the nerve center for biowarfare research during World War II in a joint effort of the U.S., Canada and Britain.

After the Axis forces surrendered, the



Chinese poster from Korean war period showed danger of U.S. biowarfare to people of both countries.

U.S. and Western allies turned to fighting socialist countries. The Korean War (the “Forgotten War”) was launched on June 25, 1950. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea still lives with the haunting memories of crimes inflicted by

the destroyer USS Maddox in the Gulf of Tonkin. But an article in Naval History Magazine of February 2008 by U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Pat Patterson admitted that “once-classified documents and tapes released in the past several years, combined with previously uncovered facts, make clear that high government officials distorted facts and deceived the American public about events that led to full U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.”

The U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, claiming it had “weapons of mass destruction.” But the Iraq Survey Group of the U.S. Defense Department itself issued a report on Sept. 30, 2004, reporting: “The ISG has not found evidence that Saddam possessed WMD stocks in 2003.”

Phony pretexts for war have worked in the past. Are the White House and Pentagon secretly plotting to create a pretext for an attack on the DPRK?

We must not wait for an unthinkable disaster to happen. Progressive movements must be alerted now to the real possibility that the U.S. is planning an attack on the DPRK. In addition to the catastrophe this would mean for all the Korean people, a byproduct would be a huge setback for every struggle for social justice. War breeds repression at home — in the name of “national unity.”

Unite behind Trump and the Pentagon? No! Let’s all unite to say, “No war, no way — Hands off Korea!” □

the U.S. military. During the three-year invasion, the U.S. dropped over 635,000 tons of explosives on numerous villages in a massive carpet-bombing campaign, destroying farmland and demolishing infrastructure.

In February 1952, the foreign minister of the DPRK announced that the U.S. Air Force had dropped plague- and cholera-infected insects in the north, encased in bombshells. The governments of the People’s Republic of China and the Soviet Union also found evidence supporting these allegations. International investigators examined the evidence and reached conclusions that countered those of the Pentagon.

The ‘monstrous war’ against Korea

Australian correspondent Wilfred Burchett was the first Western journalist to enter Hiroshima unescorted by the U.S. Army after the dropping of the atomic bomb. His report to the London Daily Express of Sept. 5, 1945, called “The Atomic Plague,” alerted the world to the lasting effects of radiation.

Burchett later penned the book “This Monstrous War” based on his experiences during the Korean War. Australian National University professor Gavan McCormack says that the manuscript was seized by U.S. Customs “and dumped in the sea on its arrival in that country later in the same year [1953], and as a result no major American library possesses a copy to this day.”

In the book, Burchett described the use of biowarfare on the Korean peninsula in a chapter titled “The Microbe War.” During a televised interview, Burchett stood by his reporting: “Germ warfare was carried out. There’s no doubt, nothing can shake me on that.”

In March 1952, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers published its “Report on U.S. Crimes in Korea,” including the discovery of “asphyxiating and other gases or chemical weapons” by the U.S.

The IADL report concluded: “By the deliberate dispersion of flies and other insects artificially infected with bacteria against the Korean People’s Army among the civilian population of North Korea, with the intention of spreading death and disease, a most grave and horrible crime has been perpetrated by U.S. forces in Korea, contrary to the provisions of the Hague Convention concerning the laws and customs of war on land of 1907, and to the universally accepted law pro-

hibiting bacteriological warfare which was re-stated in the Geneva Protocol of 1925.”

Another investigation, conducted by the International Scientific Commission led by British scholar Joseph Needham, published a report on “Facts Concerning Bacterial Warfare in Korea and China” in 1952. According to the report, “The peoples of Korea and China have indeed been the objective of bacterial weapons. These have been employed by units of the U.S.A. armed forces, using a great variety of different methods for the purpose, some of which seem to be developments of those applied by the Japanese army during the second world war.”

For U.S., ‘Korea a preview for Vietnam’

Canadian historians Stephen Endicott and Edward Hagerman co-authored “The United States and Biological Warfare: Secrets from the Early Cold War and Korea” (1999).

Examining the top-secret history of biological weapons during the Cold War, their research corroborated many of the conclusions made by the DPRK, including the use of contagious pathogens.

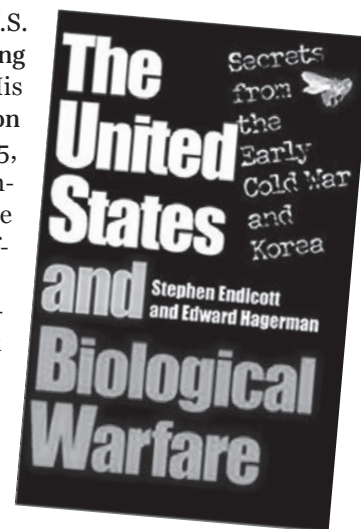
As shown in a press release for the book, “The evidence points to the conclusion that the United States government lied to both Congress and the American public when it claimed that American biological warfare program was purely defensive and for retaliation only.”

Dr. Endicott told this writer in an email on Sept. 17, 2017: “I still stand by the judgments we made in that book. No other information has appeared to make me change my mind.”

In the book “Terrorism and War” (2002), historian Howard Zinn wrote, “Most Americans have no idea what we did in Korea, but Korea was really a preview of Vietnam, particularly in the use of napalm and the bombing of villages, which contributed to more than 2 million people dying, most of them civilians.”

The U.S. has denounced the DPRK’s current weapons program, meanwhile ignoring its own crimes. A brief track record includes using Agent Orange during the war in Vietnam (1962-75), depleted uranium munitions during the first Gulf War in Iraq (1991-92) and white phosphorus in Fallujah during the second Iraq War (2004).

The Pentagon continues to impose sanctions and threatens war against the DPRK. The unpleasant truths suppressed by the ruling class must be exposed in order to halt the grinding gears of the war machine. □



Continued from page 10

U.S. current moves of military reinforcements are designed to make preemptive strike against the DPRK” and “drive the situation of the Korean peninsula into an unpredictable dangerous phase.”

He asks that “the issue of welcoming the process of improved inter-Korean relations and discouraging the neighboring countries from disturbing the process” be taken up in the U.N. Security Council.

A history of U.S. pretexts for war

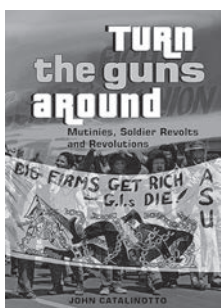
Many historians have exposed the pretexts that U.S. imperialist governments have manufactured in the past to rally the people of this country behind wars that benefitted only the ruling class and cost the lives of so many working people on both sides.

The explosion of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor was the pretext used to start the Spanish-American War in 1898, in which the U.S. grabbed Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines away from Spain. U.S. naval investigators in 1976 concluded that the explosion had been caused by a fire onboard the Maine that ignited munitions stocks — not by a Spanish mine, as charged by the war-mongering Hearst newspapers at the time.

The U.S. escalated the war in Vietnam in 1964 after claiming that North Vietnamese patrol boats had attacked

Turn the Guns Around

Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions
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— Pvt Larry Holmes

GI resister and organizer for the American Serviceman’s Union 1972-74.
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Trump y la clase dominante, de Davos a DACA y Mueller

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las/os oprimidos bajo la sociedad capitalista, estos derechos se truncan, se limitan estrechamente y se les ataca constantemente. Los patronos son los que están en una lucha constante para desechar los derechos democráticos que la clase trabajadora y las/os oprimidos han ganado.

Las/os trabajadores con conciencia de clase no deberían caer en esta falsa in-

vestigación a favor de la guerra de Rusia para obtener influencia contra Trump. Lo que necesitamos es un movimiento masivo para hacer retroceder toda la agenda derechista de Trump y desafiar a la policía, el ICE y el FBI que son opresores del pueblo.

No nos beneficiamos cuando una facción de la clase dominante elimina otra facción si las masas se quedan sentadas indolentemente. □

El capitalismo en un callejón sin salida

Fred Goldstein utiliza las leyes de la acumulación capitalista de Marx, y la tasa decreciente de ganancia, para demostrar por qué el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión.



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Centro de Trabajadores de Nueva York Central

Trump y la clase dominante, de Davos a DACA y Mueller

Por Fred Goldstein

29 de enero - Donald Trump, el jefe ejecutivo racista, intolerante, autoritario y derechista del imperialismo estadounidense, quien es despreciado por los trabajadores y las masas oprimidas del mundo, estuvo operando en varios frentes la semana pasada.

Trump fue a Davos, Suiza, para asistir a una reunión de millonarios y multimillonarios. Los representantes de la clase dominante europea jugaron con su ego, halagándolo y tratándolo como un emperador.

Al mismo tiempo que se codeaba alrededor de Davos, frotando hombros con otros miembros de la clase dominante, los dos halcones inmigratorios de Trump, General John Kelly - jefe de gabinete - y Stephen Miller - asesor, estaban en Washington trabajando en su draconiana propuesta de inmigración, el punitivo proyecto de ley que ha sido denunciado por el movimiento de inmigrantes como una ley de rehenes de "supremacía blanca".

Cuando Trump aterrizó en Davos, fue confrontado por los cargos, corroborados por numerosas fuentes de noticias, de que había intentado despedir ilegalmente al asesor especial Robert Mueller en junio pasado. Su respuesta: "Noticias falsas".

Sin embargo, los banqueros europeos le dieron a Trump un tratamiento de realeza, siguiendo el ejemplo de los príncipes saudíes que proporcionaron un grupo de músicos para tocar para él cuando ingresó en la sala de conferencias. Fue elogiado por los financistas corporativos por sus recortes de impuestos y desregulación, que elevaron los precios de sus acciones. Corporate Europe organizó una cena para él con los jefes de las 15 principales corporaciones europeas.

Su objetivo era aplacar a Trump lo suficiente como para evitar que lanzara un ataque contra los imperialistas europeos, la Unión Europea y la OTAN, los tradicionales sacos de arena de su arrogancia chovinista e imperialista. En esto, tuvieron mucho éxito. Trump mantuvo un discurso suave de 15 minutos redactado por sus manejadores. Pero fue abucheado cuando se salió del guión y denunció a la "prensa mentirosa".

Trump tomó crédito personal por el aumento en el mercado bursátil y los recortes de impuestos. Sin duda, los bonistas parásitos europeos estaban eufóricos. La línea clave de Trump era "Estados Unidos está abierto para los negocios", con el objetivo de atraer a los inversores europeos a sacar provecho de las bajas tasas impositivas y las regulaciones mínimas.

El discurso de Trump en Davos es un signo de debilidad

Su discurso en Davos fue un intento de volver parcialmente al redil imperialista sin alejarse completamente de su arrogancia nacionalista, prepotente y reaccionaria. Trató de asegurar a la audiencia que "América Primero no quiere decir sola".

No es que Trump haya tenido alguna conversión interna de su chauvinismo de gran poder. Más bien, se están iluminando aquellos en el campo de Trump que al

romper la alianza entre EUA y Europa, ha debilitado todo el campo imperialista en ambos lados del Atlántico, especialmente en el lado de los EUA.

El Pentágono necesita a la OTAN, junto con el imperialismo alemán y francés, en su lucha por subordinar a Rusia y completar la conquista de Ucrania. El Pentágono y el Departamento de Estado necesitan la colaboración del imperialismo francés y británico en África, donde ambas antiguas potencias coloniales tienen profundas raíces. Y Trump necesita la cooperación del imperialismo europeo si espera socavar el tratado nuclear de Irán.

Ninguno de los dos bandos puede lidiar con la parte socialista, planificada por el estado, de la expansión económica, comercial y diplomática de China. China está progresando constantemente con su proyecto Iniciativa del Cinturón y Ruta de la Seda para establecer una red internacional de ferrocarriles, carreteras, oleoductos y redes de servicios públicos que vinculen a China con Asia central, Asia occidental y partes de Asia meridional.

En una concesión, Trump incluso habló sobre la posibilidad de volver a comprometerse con la Alianza Trans Pacífica, una señal segura de que la fortaleza de China y la debilidad de Washington están comenzando a evidenciarse.

Y a medida que la administración Trump se acerque cada vez más a la guerra con la República Popular Democrática de Corea, y potencialmente con China e incluso posiblemente Rusia, necesitará el respaldo o al menos la neutralidad del imperialismo europeo.

Ninguno de los campos imperialistas -EUA ni Europa - es capaz de tratar con las/os oprimidos y la clase trabajadora del mundo, sin el otro. Ninguno de los dos bandos es capaz de contener los antagonismos inter-imperialistas o evitar que estalle una guerra que pueda desestabilizar el sistema imperialista capitalista. Trump, por supuesto, puede volver rápidamente a su vieja arrogancia. Pero, por el momento, eso es lo que explica el comportamiento "moderado" de Trump en Davos.

Propuesta DACA de Trump: ley de rehenes de supremacía blanca

Antes de irse a Davos, Trump anunció que tenía una propuesta que resolvería la crisis de la Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA por las siglas en inglés) ofreciendo un camino a la ciudadanía para 1,8 millones de Soñadores (Dreamers) y para personas elegibles para ser Soñadores pero que nunca se habían registrado. Estas/os jóvenes inmigrantes obtendrían un "camino hacia la ciudadanía" en un período de 12 años.

Sin embargo, la propuesta de Trump, llamada Dream Act, también exige \$30 mil millones para su muro fronterizo. Y reduciría drásticamente la inmigración para la reunificación familiar - un componente principal de la inmigración legal - al excluir de cualquier legalización a los padres de Soñadores. También cierra el sistema que cada año permite que unas 55.000 personas de todas las regiones del mundo obtengan visas para ingresar a EUA en forma de lotería.

La propuesta de la Casa Blanca limitaría el patrocinio familiar a cónyuges e hijas/os menores. Eliminaría una serie de categorías existentes, incluidos hijos/os adultos, tanto casados como solteros; padres de ciudadanos estadounidenses adultos; y hermanas/os de ciudadanos estadounidenses adultos. Los expertos han estimado que reducir estas categorías reduciría aproximadamente el millón de tarjetas verdes entregadas cada año en un 25 a 50 por ciento.

Un documento obtenido por CNN entra en más detalles: "El marco [del proyecto de ley] podría permitir detener a personas indefinidamente mientras esperan la deportación durante meses y años, algo que se ha reducido como resultado de las preocupaciones constitucionales en los tribunales. Las propuestas también podrían ampliar enormemente las definiciones de delitos que podrían someter a un individuo a la deportación". (26 de enero)

El movimiento por los derechos de las/os inmigrantes y las/os representantes de los Soñadores han denunciado la propuesta de Trump, negándose a poner a otras/os inmigrantes en riesgo con el fin de obtener un beneficio para ellas/os.

Greisa Martínez Rosas, directora de defensa de United We Dream y beneficiaria potencial del Dream Act, comentó: "Llamemos a esta propuesta por lo que es: una nota de rescate de la supremacía blanca. Trump y Stephen Miller mataron al DACA y crearon la crisis que enfrentan las/os jóvenes inmigrantes. Han tomado a jóvenes inmigrantes como rehenes, enfrentándonos contra nuestros propios padres, inmigrantes negros y nuestras comunidades a cambio de nuestra dignidad.

"Para la propuesta de supremacía blanca de Miller y Trump, los jóvenes inmigrantes decimos: No". (unitedwedream.org, 25 de enero)

El destinatario de DACA, Juan Escalante, en un comunicado de America's Voice, escribió: "No es ningún secreto que Miller, junto con el General John 'el adulto en el salón' Kelly, ha estado redactando algunas de las políticas de inmigración más atroces que salen de la Casa Blanca. Uno incluso podría preguntarse si Miller y Kelly, y no el presidente Donald Trump, están dirigiendo el gobierno por el lado, explotando el corto período de atención de Trump. ...

"Lo que la Casa Blanca está vendiendo al pueblo estadounidense no es más que una lista de deseos que reduciría la cantidad de inmigrantes, especialmente personas de color nacidas en países que Trump considera 'letrinas'". (26 de enero)

Trump y Mueller: legalidad burguesa vs. lucha de masas

Dentro de la sala de reuniones de Davos, Trump fue acosado con preguntas sobre cómo trató de despedir al asesor especial Robert Mueller, que lidera una investigación criminal sobre la relación de Trump con Rusia y sus conexiones financieras con los oligarcas rusos. Trump catalogó los cargos como "noticias falsas".

Pero según el New York Times del 26 de enero, Trump ordenó a su abogado, Don McGahn, despedir a Mueller en junio pasado. McGahn, temiendo su propia re-

sponsabilidad legal, rechazó la orden. La cantidad de testigos entrevistados llevó incluso a Fox News a confirmar la historia.

La historia ha sido objeto de interminables programas de entrevistas en la red, programas de noticias y la prensa capitalista.

El objetivo de la discusión es que el intento de despido de Mueller concuerda con los esfuerzos de Trump para lograr que el jefe del FBI James Comey no fuera duro con el asesor de seguridad nacional Michael Flynn. Cuando Comey se negó, Trump lo despidió.

Los moderados y liberales anti-Trump están analizando una y otra vez las diversas posibles violaciones legales, violaciones de procedimientos, violaciones del protocolo, etc., que Trump ha cometido.

Sin embargo, no lo combatirán políticamente por su racismo, su misoginia, su patriotería militarista, sus amenazas de guerra nuclear, su chauvinismo anti-inmigrante, su apoyo a la supresión de votantes, etc. Cuando hablan de socavar "nuestra democracia", siempre se refieren a que los rusos supuestamente interfieren con las elecciones. Pero no plantean la interferencia más seria con la democracia capitalista: la supresión de las/os votantes.

Millones de afroamericanas/os, latinas/os, nativas/os y blancas/os pobres no han podido votar debido a las leyes de identificación con foto, la redistribución de distritos para reducir el peso del voto en barrios pobres y áreas urbanas, el cierre de casillas electorales, la descalificación de personas con condenas por delitos graves, etc.

Todos los comentaristas burgueses siguen refiriéndose a la renuncia de Richard Nixon, que se enfrentó a un juicio político por el allanamiento de Watergate. Pero hasta ahora Trump no ha dado indicios de que honre la legalidad burguesa. Además, la Cámara de Representantes está muy a la derecha, y es ésta Cámara la que se encargaría de iniciar el proceso de acusación.

Estos comentaristas y la dirección del Partido Demócrata repiten una y otra vez que Rusia trató de "subvertir nuestra democracia". Sea lo que sea que Putin hizo o dejó de hacer, la democracia en este país es una versión muy restringida de la democracia capitalista. La clase capitalista tiene acceso a todos los niveles del gobierno, las comunicaciones y los poderes del estado. Es su democracia. Los derechos democráticos que existen para las/os trabajadores y las/os oprimidos dentro de este sofocante sistema capitalista se han luchado, a menudo con sangre, por generaciones.

Las/os afroamericanos han luchado por los derechos civiles. Los sindicatos han luchado por los derechos de las/os trabajadores. Las mujeres han luchado por la igualdad. También lo ha hecho la comunidad LGBTQ, desde el levantamiento en Stonewall hasta todas las batallas que siguieron. Las/os inmigrantes han luchado contra las deportaciones, las personas con discapacidad han luchado por la accesibilidad, y así sucesivamente.

Sin embargo, no importa qué derechos hayan ganado las/os trabajadores y

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