

CHALLENGE



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May Day 2011:

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

PLP Must Spark Revolutionary Opportunities from Crisis Hitting the Working Class



May Day is the day the international working class reviews its forces, assesses the struggles over the past year and marks the beginning of a new year of struggle against the dictatorship of the capitalist class. The international working class faces its worst crisis in decades, but within every crisis is an opportunity. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is using it to unite the working class to smash racism, sexism and nationalism with communist revolution.

PLP has maintained the tradition of marching on May Day and calling for the dictatorship of the proletariat (working class) for 40 years, since 1971, picking the red flag up out of the mud where it was dropped by revisionists — fake “communists” — who abandoned the fight for revolution. Despite weaknesses, PLP is in motion, leading and participating in struggles around the world. (See back page.)

Fighting Racism Is A Key Struggle

Racism is capitalism’s lifeline because it is both the source of super-profits and the primary weapon against the international working class. Racism, along with its twin — nationalism (advocating unity of all classes in subjection to the bosses’ flag) — divides and pacifies our class from unity.

Anti-immigrant racism is the cutting edge of racism today. Bosses worldwide hope to build nationalist loyalty among workers to fight their imperialist wars while simultaneously building anti-immigrant racism. This intimidates both “legal” and “undocumented” workers into passivity.

Capitalists worldwide use racist immigration laws to do this. In the U.S., workers from Latin America are mainly targeted; in France, workers from northern Africa; in Germany, workers from Turkey; in China, workers from Southeast Asia. In many countries, Muslim and Arab workers are also especially terrorized. In an address to members of the German Christian Democratic Union Party (CDU) on October 17th,

2010, Chancellor Angela Merkel declared the German “experiment in multiculturalism” had “utterly failed,” stating non-Germans, particularly Arabs and Muslims, were incapable of living “side-by-side” with the German people.

In the U.S. — a country where 2.6 million, 70% black and Latino workers, are in prison and where Obama’s election supposedly signaled a “post-racial” era — Obama set a record-breaking goal of deporting 400,000 immigrant workers in 2011. He plans to deport up to 700,000 workers per year by 2013. In the state of Arizona, the government passed the fascist law SB 1070, requiring workers to carry documentation proving U.S. residency at all times, and to immediately show them when asked by police.

In response, PL’ers from Los Angeles joined bus caravans to Arizona organized by their labor unions and carried red flags to the Arizona state capitol. Distributing CHALLENGE, PL’ers placed the debate on immigration within the context of the needs of U.S. imperialism, while exposing the liberal bosses’ DREAM Act trap as a disguised military draft.

Capitalists and their politicians, like Merkel and Obama, punish immigrant workers with deportations, but it is their system that creates the conditions forcing workers to roam the globe for work. Workers in Africa have few other options after 400 years of European imperialist-led theft and enslavement of the African continent through privatization of land and resources. This includes the devastating modern-day U.S., European and Chinese imperialist-funded civil wars. Globalization means investments and the bosses that control them are free to travel throughout the world seeking markets, resources, and more workers to exploit for profit.

Only the international working class is bound within national borders, and this is why the Progressive Labor Party is building one international Party and raises the slogan, “smash all borders, workers of the world unite.”

Elections Are No Way Out

Capitalism has always presented workers with crisis and imperialist war for profit, and the working class has always heroically fought back. Today, millions march and strike around the globe against being forced to pay again for another capitalist crisis. But most workers are still limited by reformist ideas: they still believe in some or all of whatever future changes that liberal bosses and political misleaders promise.

In the U.S., “anti-war” president Obama’s famous election slogan “change” has meant continuing the Exxon-backed occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan; expanding the wars against

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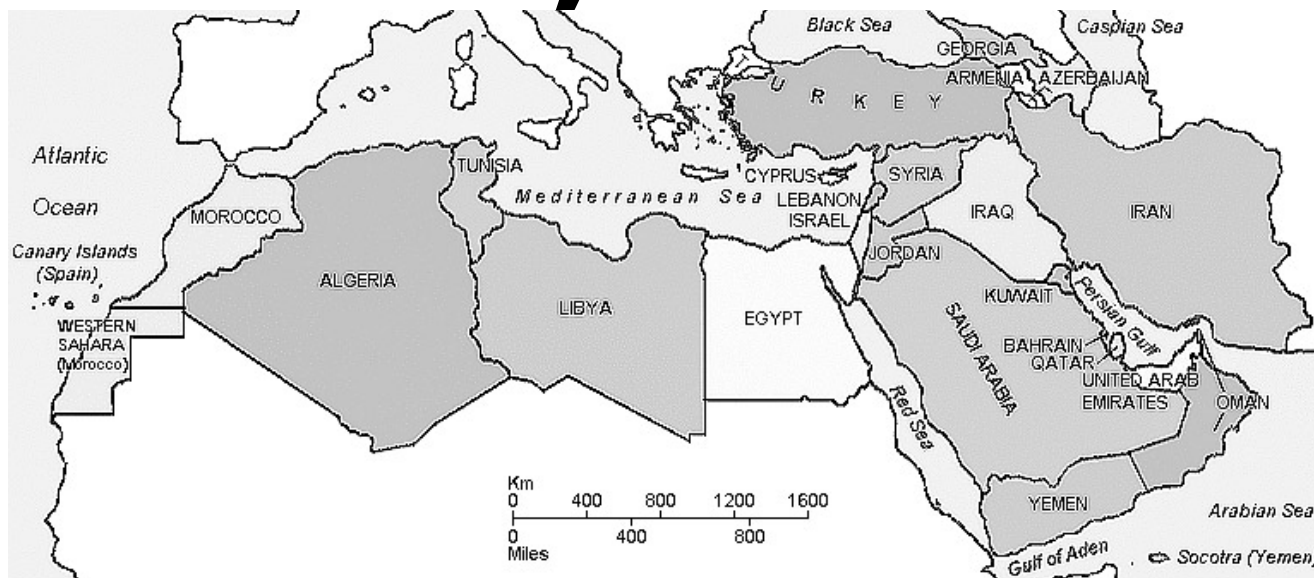
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How U.S. Rulers Decide: Where the Oil Is, Make Wars

U.S. imperialism needs to control militarily whatever it can of the world's energy supplies. This hard fact underlies U.S. rulers' selective response to uprisings and crack-downs across North Africa and the Middle East, and enables us to make sense of these responses.

Libya contains 42 billion barrels of oil and over 1.3 trillion cubic meters of gas. Testifying before the Senate on April 6, Richard Haass, president of the Rockefeller think-tank Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) representing the dominant wing of U.S. capitalists, said: "U.S. interests in Libya simply do not warrant such an investment [of ground war]..." But nevertheless, Libya's oil and gas resources do make it worth killing Libyans from the air — in-



voking a phony "responsibility to protect" Libyan citizens — while saving U.S. resources for strategically more important areas.

Meanwhile, hypocrite-in-chief Obama stands by as Syrian ruler Assad slaughters protesters — even mourners — since that country possesses little oil and gas. U.S. imperialism's top oil source, Saudi Arabia, holds a hundred times more crude than Syria. So, when demonstrations in neighboring Bahrain — where the U.S. Fifth Fleet is stationed — threatened to spill over the Saudi border, Obama, instead of "protection," saw a "responsibility to suppress." The invading Saudi troops that shot Bahraini protesters got a White House green light.

Main U.S. Bosses Favor All-out Gulf War and/or World War over Ground Strikes at Individual Foes

The Israel Lobby in the U.S. (ignoring Israeli massacres of workers in Palestine) howls at Obama's "shameful U.S. inaction on Syria's massacres." (Washington Post editorial, 4/22): "It [Syria] is Iran's closest ally; it supplies Iranian weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip for use against Israel."

However, Exxon Mobil-JP Morgan Chase, the dominant wing of U.S. capitalists — whom Obama strives to serve — keeps its eyes on the Saudi grand prize. New York Times scribe and CFR member David Sanger explained: "The Europeans, and some of Mr. Obama's political opponents at home, sense a lack of commitment. Inside the White House, the opposite argument is made — that after a bruising decade of misadventures, the United States is preserving American power for the moments when truly vital interests need to be protected." (NY Times, 4/24)

In 1980, following Exxon's ouster from oil-rich Iran, Democrat U.S. president Jimmy Carter declared access to Persian Gulf oil and gas as being a supreme U.S. "vital interest," to be defended or regained "by military force."

In his April 6 Senate testimony, CFR president Haass clarified the main wing's focus on gearing up for conflict throughout the entire Gulf and with North Korea and China: "Far more important than Libya for U.S. interests in the region are Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, and Iran. The United States also needs to reserve resources for other parts of the world (the Korean Peninsula comes to mind), for possible wars of necessity, for military modernization central to our [U.S. rulers'] position in the Pacific." Even as they hold oil profits and control of supplies above all else, U.S. rulers' power has limits.

The only thing holding Obama back from putting GI boots on Libyan soil, or attacking Syria, is not moral scruples, but his ruling-class masters' need for larger wars. Haass named Syria only in the context of a general Gulf land invasion by U.S. forces.

Obama-McCain-Rockefeller Imperialists 'Protect' Libyan Workers By Bombing Them

War criminal and major strategist Anthony Cordesman, part of the Rockefeller-funded Center for Strategic and International Studies after decades at the Pentagon said: "France, Britain, the U.S. and other participating members of

the [NATO] Coalition need to shift to the kind of bombing campaign that targets and hunts down Qaddafi's military and security forces....Qaddafi, his extended family, and his key supporters need to be targeted for their attacks on Libyan civilians, even if they are colocated in civilian areas....This kind of operation cannot be 'surgical' — if 'surgical' now means minimizing bloodshed." (CSIS website, 4/20)

Obama's bosses intend to "protect" Libyan workers from Qaddafi by blowing them to bits. Cordesman wrote on the eve of a visit to Libyan rebels by John McCain, whom he advises. McCain's trip had two related goals: boosting U.S. imperialist interventionism and discrediting isolationist GOP Tea Partiers, who obstruct the Rockefeller-led rulers' agenda.

Big Oil and Qaddafi Hedge Their Bets, Value Profits over Workers' Lives

Qaddafi is still holding on despite the imperialists' willingness to launch more intense air strikes — including U.S. predator drones. The Libyan dictator is hedging his bets, possibly hoping to make a deal with his enemies, with whom he's been making deals for decades.

Exxon & Co.'s owners know that air raids (unless nuclear ones, which don't seem worth it here) seldom turn the tide, as proven in Vietnam. So, with Joint Chiefs of Staff boss Mike Mullen talking of a stalemate in Libya, U.S. rulers, allied imperialists and Big Oil are also hedging their bets there. As Businessweek magazine reported weeks into the "allied" campaign (4/14), "Most foreign companies are not taking sides. That appears to be particularly true of the U.S. companies, among them Marathon Oil, ConocoPhillips and Hess."

Oil Bosses Plan An October Meeting with Qaddafi

Exxon, British Shell and BP more brazenly remain number-one sponsors of Qaddafi's National Oil Company's scheduled October 2011 investor conference in Tripoli. And even as NATO bombs rain down on his compound, the equally-opportunistic, profit-hungry Qaddafi entices Western firms: "Only 25% of Libya's surface territory [has been] explored to date." (oilandgaslibya.com)

Some see in the latest revolts a promise of liberation. Such potential may very well exist whenever masses risk their livelihoods and lives to mobilize against the rulers. But without a class-conscious, revolutionary outlook and a working-class army led by a working-class party to fight for it, more profit wars and exploitation are inevitable. The "Arab Spring" is a signal to keep rebuilding the international communist movement led by PLP.

All this means communists and our militant supporters must intensify the spread of our internationalist line, in every mass organization to which we belong — as is happening in shops and unions, among GI's, in schools and colleges, community groups and churches. From Colombia to Palestine, Mexico to Haiti, Pakistan to El Salvador, the U.S. to Portugal, we must expose capitalism's inherent exploitation and lead class struggle against it until communist-led revolutionary forces can bury capitalism and establish a society based on workers' rule for workers' needs. ☪

OUR FIGHT

★ **Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.**

★ **Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

★ **Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

★ **While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

★ **Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.**

★ **Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.**

★ **Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.**

★ **Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.**

★ **Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!**

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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NO FREE SPEECH FOR RACISTS!

Black and White Workers in NJ Back PLers' Anti-Nazi Protest



TRENTON, NJ, April 16 — The Nazis of the National Socialist Movement celebrated Hitler's birthday in Trenton and Progressive Labor Party was there to protest their celebration. New Jersey Governor Christie continually prattles on about not having enough money for schools, health care, or any of the other services that the working class needs. However, he had the funds to protect the Nazis with SWAT, attack dogs, armored personnel carriers, helicopters and other elements of the state apparatus. This is a clear slap in the face to the mostly black working class of Trenton.

PLP changed tactics on the ground after surveying the area in which the state would permit us to protest. The KKKops had set up a metal detector and a cage and were not allowing any signs or bullhorns. They wanted to set us up in an isolated area, many blocks away from the working class, and with a canal to our backs.

This was too dangerous a scenario due to the fact that we would be in the cage with the anarchists and the New Black Panther Party, whose beliefs are just as racist and destructive as the Nazis. We would not have been able to get to the Nazis who were demonstrating their "freedom of speech" to push hate and genocide, protected by the KKKops. But there was a big chance that the black nationalists would have attacked us for our belief in internationalism and multi-racial unity.

Instead of entering the KKKop's pens, we chose to rally on a busy corner a few blocks away, where workers and their families were waiting for buses and shopping. While we picketed in front of a Bank Of America branch, the black workers on the corners surrounding us joined in with chants, and several, disregarding the very cold rain, joined our protest. Instead of giving in to the bosses by marching into their cages, PLP decided to stay where the workers were and distributed hundreds of CHALLENGES that were quickly read by workers driving and walking by. We brought communist consciousness to the workers in a way that we would not have been able to do trapped in the official protest area.

It was inspiring to see black workers join us instead of the black nationalists in the New Black Panther Party. Workers had the opportunity to do so, as the Black Panthers rallied across the street from us for a few minutes before marching to where the bosses wanted us to rally. Watching them posturing and then almost getting run over and endangering one of the families with them as they tried to cross the street highlighted the difference between PL's mass line versus their elitist line.

Despite the cold rain and the state's intimidation, PLP made an impact on Trenton's working class. One young black worker in particular enthusiastically took our chant "The only solution, is communist revolution," then picked up some CHALLENGES, walked across the street and helped to distribute the paper in spite of the cold downpour.

PLP is correct when we say "no free speech for racists" because the bosses need a fascist movement. The last time the Nazis were given free reign to organize, over 100 million men, women, and children died during World War II. The Red Army smashed the Nazis before, and we in PLP work hard to smash them again.✪



Marching to the Trenton's working-class community with communist vigor.

PLers, Workers, Students Force Nazis Out of Worcester, Mass.

WORCESTER, MA., February 23 — Members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) helped force the Nazis out of Worcester. The North East White Pride had been using the Worcester Library for their monthly meetings, violating Library policy about groups holding monthly meetings as distinct from educational events.

When anti-racist forces here recently found this out, we began to organize to stop the Nazis. Clark University students initiated this effort and PLP joined with them, calling for an anti-Nazi rally at the Library. Within hours of PLP's organizing efforts, the Library — at the Mayor's request — told the Nazis they couldn't meet there due to "public safety concerns." They did this in order to reduce the number of people at the anti-fascist rally but we still held it.

Over 60 people came — workers and students, Asian, black, Latino and white. We served notice to the bosses that Worcester would not become fertile ground for racist, sexist and fascist ideas and actions. We also sent a message to the Nazis that if they returned there would be strong opposition. We urged all workers, students and soldiers to unite and fight back against these fascist ideas and to build an egalitarian world.

Many people indicated their reasons for coming. One cited the war

at home and abroad and explained that we all have a stake in fighting this capitalist profit system, from Wisconsin to Worcester. He said the bosses use racism to divide us and we can't let that happen here. He connected conditions in Haiti to attacks on workers in the U.S.

The Nazi organizer lives in New Hampshire, about 90 miles from Worcester. One reason the Nazis chose to meet here is the City Council's vote favoring the Tea Party and its refusal to allow anti-racists to expose Arizona's racist anti-immigration Laws before that vote. Thus, the city councilors sent a message to the fascists that the Worcester government opposed any anti-racist actions. It was the only city in New England to back the Tea Party in this manner.

The city councilors consider themselves to be liberals. Yet not one came to the anti-Nazi rally. Politicians will never work in our class interest.

Capitalism is a system that allows racist groups like the Nazis, Minutemen and Tea Party to terrorize workers. Its laws, courts and cops serve and protect the rich. We fight for a communist world where the wealth will be shared and where we, the working-class, women and men of all backgrounds, will decide what's needed. Join us in this struggle!✪

'Unite the World!'

Please send me information of the Progressive Labor Party. This is the only party that can and will unite the world. Keep up the good work.

*letter from Worker
Trenton, NJ*



Beware of Bosses' School 'Reform' Schemes

Philly Rulers' Attack on Teachers Will Hit All Workers

PHILADELPHIA, April 20 — Workers across the country are being forced to supposedly "share" the sacrifices by giving up raises, benefits, pensions, and even their unions! There are some differences among the ruling class as to how the attack should be carried out (out-right smashing of unions as in Wisconsin vs. using the sellouts to "only" roll-back wages and benefits) but in the end, all of the ruling-class plans will be devastating to workers.

Here in Philly, the main brunt of the attack is on teachers. Teachers are being blamed for lousy test scores and the general deterioration of education. The offensive against teachers is more than "just another group of workers being singled out for punishment." They are a key part of the bosses' anti-communist arsenal. The schools both teach and reinforce all of the anti-worker lies that the ruling class wants the next generation of workers to learn: (1) anti-communism, the bosses' trump card in destroying worker fight-backs, (2) racism, the key to worker disunity, (3) individualism, the basic philosophy of capitalism, and (4) patriotism, loyalty to the ruling-class government.

While the bosses need the schools to miss-educate the working class, they can no longer afford the expense that requires. As a result, it is vital that teacher salaries, benefits, and pensions be drastically reduced. Here are some of the ways this is being done in Pennsylvania (and Philadelphia in particular):

- Privatizing "public" education by creating low-wage, non-union, for-profit charter schools.
- Passing laws that require teachers to teach for at least 10 years to receive a pension while also reducing the amount that teachers will receive for each year taught. The Pension "Reform" law

passed last September in Pennsylvania requires new teachers to teach for 50 years to receive a full pension!

- Making teaching as oppressive and distasteful as possible (by requiring teachers to do all kinds of extra duties) so that very few people would even consider teaching as a life-time job. In Philly, for those schools that have not been immediately turned into charter schools, the school board has created Promise Academies. These require a longer school day, Saturday school twice a month, and summer school. As of this writing, not enough teachers even want to sign up for this grueling program. In addition, how could a person with family responsibilities participate? Clearly, the Philadelphia School District wants young, low-salary people for these schools.

- Using several "teacher-training" programs (such as Teach for America) in which college graduates get various benefits for two years of teaching in an urban or rural setting. Most of these "teachers" leave after finishing their two years, virtually ensuring a high turnover and low salaries.

The ruling class is still not fully unified as to how to deal with the educational system. On the one hand, they are still using the phony "to-get-a-good-job, you-need-to-get-a-good-education" slogan but the lack of "good" jobs is making this less and less useful. On the other hand, the bosses do need a lot of low-level functionaries (lawyers, accountants, scientists, politicians, etc.) to keep their system running so they can't simply abandon the schools. For our purposes, it is important that we not fall for any of their supposed "reform" schemes. It is also crucial that we expose the schools as one of the primary ways that the ruling class spreads anti-communism and racism. ☸

May Day 2011

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workers in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, as well as against workers in the United States. Reformists like Haiti's Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, or the FMLN in El Salvador have not served the working class. The FMLN, the current governing party, betrayed the guerilla army which waged a bloody civil war in the 1980s against fascist U.S.-backed death squads.

Despite all their talk, the reformers are servants to one or another group of capitalists. Elections are no way out. Fighting in the day-to-day class struggle, raising communist politics, and expanding CHALLENGE networks, the Progressive Labor Party is gradually building a revolutionary mass party that will lead the working class off of the reformist treadmill.

Dangers and Opportunities Amid Crisis and War

Following the October Revolution in Russia, the first victorious communist-led revolution, Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin wrote:

"Capitalism has grown into a world system of colonial oppression and of the financial strangulation of the overwhelming majority of the population of the world by a handful of 'advanced' countries. And this 'booty' is shared between two or three powerful world plunderers armed to the teeth, who draw the whole world into their war over the division of their booty... Imperialism is the eve of social revolution of the working class. This has been confirmed since 1917 on a world-wide scale." (Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, Preface to the French and German editions, 1920)

World War I ended with the victory of the Bolsheviks, who built the first workers' state, the Soviet Union. Twenty years later, the Soviet-led international working class smashed the Nazi war of annihilation in World War II, which was followed in 1949 by the victory of the Chinese revolution over U.S. backed Chinese fascists.

Both world wars began as imperialist wars costing tens of millions of lives, but they ended in class wars for revolution that inflamed revolutionary upsurges and class struggles around the world. The Progressive Labor Party was born out of these struggles, learning from the fatal political errors and reversals of the old communist movement, which fought for socialism. It carried capitalist baggage, leading back to a full-blown profit system.

The rival imperialist bosses in the U.S., Europe, Russia and China will inevitably clash again in world war — but PLP raises the red banners of working-class internationalism to win millions of workers, students, and soldiers to our Party, that can turn the looming imperialist World War III into a revolutionary war for communism.

On May 1st, workers around the world celebrate the working class' only real holiday — May Day. A long march is ahead, but joining the Progressive Labor Party means building a mass fighting party in over 20 countries and counting, to free our class from the nightmare of capitalism. JOIN US! ☸

France: Bosses' Divisive Strategy Victimizes Hard-Hat Strikers



Striking Eiffage workers. Sign reads "On Strike"

PARIS, April 15 — Construction workers here have won an illusionary "victory" against Eiffage Construction and Eiffage Public Works, two subsidiaries of the country's third-largest construction company. A two-week strike brought an overall 2% wage "increase," which is no increase at all given a 2% inflation rate over the past year, which meant a wage-cut for those workers awarded a 1.7% hike.

The strike froze work on a score of construction sites in Paris and on the 282-million-euro (US \$385 million) Great Stadium in Lille. It came within legally-mandated annual wage negotiations.

"It's the first time that a strike has gone on this long against this company, which makes fat profits but never gives anything to its workers," said a union spokesman.

The workers had been demanding an 85-euro (US \$115) across-the-board hike, averaging to a 3% increase. (An across-the-board pay hike narrows the gap between the highest- and lowest-paid workers, whereas a flat percentage raise widens the gap. Unions here generally demand across-the-board increases.)

Eiffage is the third-biggest construction company in France and the fifth-biggest in Europe. The company's Public Works subsidiary employs 22,000 workers worldwide. The company made a 232-million euro (US \$315 million) profit last year. Company chairman Jean-François Roverato is paid

over 133,000 euros (US \$189,000) a month.

The strike ended in stages, with the bosses punishing the workers who held out the longest. Thus, Paris workers won a 2.5% raise when they ended their strike on April 11. Construction workers in Lille returned on April 13 and got a 2% raise. The Eiffage Public Works workers in Lille held out until today, the 15th, and so obtained an across-the-board 30-euro (US \$40) raise for those making less than 1,765 euros (US \$2,400) a month and 1.7% for those making more.

Thus, the company's manipulations generate bad feelings and competition among the various groups of workers. It hopes this divide-and-conquer strategy will bring it victory in the next round of wage negotiations, scheduled for September 2011.

While the company promotes a law-of-the-jungle race to the bottom, it carefully protects itself from competition from rival capitalists. The French government is the largest single shareholder in Eiffage, owning 20% of company shares through the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) created by President Nicolas Sarkozy in 2008. This Fund protects strategic French companies against hostile takeovers by foreign capitalists. Such is the hypocrisy of the French ruling class, creating divisions within the working class but uniting against foreign capitalists.

This strike showed once again that workers are fighting giant monopolies and the latter's government, protecting a financial oligarchy. The choice that global capitalism puts before the working class — given that unions work within this system — is either "put yourself at the mercy of capital and sink lower and lower" or "adopt a new weapon." This weapon is the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party. We need to build the PLP whose aim is to destroy a system that offers such phony "victories" and erect one that is run by and for the working class, in which workers collectively reap all the value that our labor creates. ☸



Striking Eiffage workers outside company branch headquarters in Lille.

Rulers' Fight Spawns Civil War in Ivory Coast

Imperialists' Priority: Oil, Minerals, Power — Not 'Democracy'

A battle has raged since the November 2010 elections between Laurent Gbagbo, the incumbent president of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) since 2000, and Alassane Ouattara, ostensible winner of the election. (Gbagbo claimed the voting, especially in the rebel-dominated North, was fraudulent.)

After hundred of deaths and a terrorized civilian population, the national military leadership — along with his "General of the Streets" who rallied youth to demonstrate for him — deserted Gbagbo. He was captured by Ouattara's forces after French troops mercilessly bombed his residence.

Western imperialists, including France, the U.S. and Britain, back Ouattara, claiming he won the election. Their support has nothing to do with democracy or elections. Rather, over the past two decades imperialist conflict has been steadily growing in Cote d'Ivoire.

Chinese, Russian Rulers Moving into French Bosses' 'Playground'

Côte d'Ivoire was once a playground for French imperialism. Now Chinese and Russian interests have been growing. In 1996, China opened an import/export bank to provide preferential loans to facilitate trade with the Côte d'Ivoire. In 1997, China boasted over \$100 million in trade with the African nation.

By 2000, there were 237 labor contracts involving Chinese companies there, totaling almost \$500 million worth of economic activity. In 2009, the China National Geological and Mining Corporation announced an investment of \$20 million, doubling the production of manganese from Ivoirian mines to 300,000 tons annually. China guaranteed purchase of all the mines' output.

Oil is also at issue. A battle is raging between the Chinese firm CNOOC and Exxon over deep-water oil reserves off the coast of neighboring Ghana. Substantial oil reserves off the coast of Côte d'Ivoire have also been discovered. Lukoil, the Russian oil company, pledged \$780 million to assist both Ghana and the Côte d'Ivoire in developing these potentially major oil resources. Meanwhile, soon after Gbagbo's election in 2000 he began cancelling contracts with French companies, replacing them with Chinese firms. He declared that China, unlike the French, provides reasonable, not exploitative, terms.

Imperialist Dogfight

To French, U.S. and British imperialism, penetration by their Chinese and Russian rivals is unacceptable. Ouattara appears a more reliable pawn. He was, after all, prime minister for several years under Ivoirian President Félix Houphouët-Boigny during a period of austerity mandated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He personally served imperialism for several years as IMF's deputy managing director.

Ouattara's IMF has been particularly vicious against less-developed countries, demanding privatization and austerity measures as a condition of any financial support. Ouattara is prepared to carry this out in Côte d'Ivoire. He will also be driven to increase the country's dependency on French and U.S. imperialists who currently backed him militarily.

Workers should shed no tears over Gbagbo's defeat, however. He generally supported French imperialism himself while playing off his French masters against the rising Chinese and Russian imperialists. His vicious racist attacks on immigrants from neighboring Burkina Faso built virulent, violent nationalism among the youth. Workers must

CORRECTION

The article in the April 27 CHALLENGE on the strike wave sweeping Algeria (page 5) incorrectly stated that the country's president had been ousted and forced to flee, which did not happen. All the strikes and protests described in the article did occur but the president is still in power, with the military pulling the strings. CHALLENGE regrets the error.



reject him, along with Ouattara, and become part of the international revolutionary communist movement in order to achieve real liberation from imperialism. That movement today lives in the Pro-

gressive Labor Party. We invite the Ivoirian working class to join us.☺

Côte d'Ivoire: The French Connection

At a superficial level, incoming ruler Ouattara was supported by the northern rebels from a relatively poor and largely Muslim area, while incumbent Gbagbo had support from youth in the largely Christian, somewhat better-off, southern region. French colonialists created this divide. They drew workers in Mali and Burkina Faso to work at slave wages on the cocoa and coffee plantations, creating a vulnerable, impoverished immigrant community.

Northern rebel forces organized against Gbagbo in 2000 and launched a civil war (some say with French military backing). In fact, in 2004, France destroyed the Ivoirian air force (several helicopters and fixed-wing planes), killing many civilians, supposedly in retaliation for the killing of nine French soldiers during the rebellion. Gbagbo delayed elections for five years due to this instability while retaining his strong ties to the French Socialist Party and began working with other imperialists as well.

Ouattara A More Reliable Pawn

Today's conflict is an extension of the previous civil war. But now France, Britain and the U.S. back Ouattara wholeheartedly to better defend their interests. Elections are never the real reason these butchers care about what happens politically in a country they dominate. (In 1956, U.S. president Eisenhower ignored the Vietnam elections which supported the unification of Vietnam under communist leadership and moved towards war, all to protect U.S. imperialist interests there.) So what's changed in Côte d'Ivoire impelling U.S. and French opposition to the Gbagbo Ivoirian regime?

France has been steadily losing its exclusive imperial monopoly there. After "independence" (really neo-colonialism) in 1960, Ivoirian President Félix Houphouët-Boigny was the reliable lap dog for France. So compliant was Houphouët-Boigny that the number of French elites moving to the Côte d'Ivoire after independence exceeded their presence when it was a straightforward colony (from 30,000 to 60,000)!

French 'Advisors' Dominated the Government

French "advisors" occupied all levels of government. Tax concessions and the right to expatriate profits brought substantial French investments. French bosses controlled all major contracts and investments. The neo-colonial Côte d'Ivoire was often called Africa's "economic miracle." with a 7%-10% annual rate of economic growth.

This growth, however, was dependent on the export of cocoa and coffee, primary products tying the Côte d'Ivoire to a volatile international market. In 1980, cocoa's price collapsed. The economy followed suit, with massive debt. By 1987 the country was bankrupt. The loyal French lackey Houphouët-Boigny did what all good lackeys do — attack the people with austerity and repression.

Gbagbo, allied with the French Socialist Party (SP) and jailed briefly under Houphouët-Boigny, led popular opposition to this oppressive condition, launching the Ivoirian Popular Front. In 2000, he became president in an election that excluded all opponents (including Ouattara). His connections to the French SP paid off. Then-SP Prime Minister Lionel Jospin declared the election "legitimate" due to "special circumstances," and the French connection continued.

But economic conditions did not improve significantly. Gbagbo remained tied to imperialism. Opposition to Gbagbo grew, especially in the impoverished North, leading to civil war. Gbagbo declared that immigrants from Burkina Faso were enemies and revived the contention raised by Henri Konan Bédié (Houphouët-Boigny's successor in 1995) that Ouattara was a "Burkinabe" — born in Burkina Faso and not an Ivoirian (sounds like the Tea Party "birthers" challenging Obama's U.S. citizenship?).

The deadly mix of nationalism, racism, and imperialism has extinguished the "Ivoirian miracle." Only multi-national, multi-ethnic working-class revolution can create a communist miracle in West Africa.☺

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in concise letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses around the world.

Fascinating Exposé of Khrushchev's Lies

"Khrushchev Lied" by Grover Furr (Erythrós Press and Media, 2011) is a fascinating book. It exposes Khrushchev's speech to the 20th Party Congress of the "Communist" Party of the Soviet Union as a complete pack of lies. But it also shows that the claims Stalin was personally responsible for the "Great Purges" is a complete falsehood as well. It actually was a counter-revolutionary plot by many high-ranking Communist Party members. To cover up their schemes, the traitors executed loyal Party members and workers! They even killed off some of their own plotters to cover their trail. In fact, Khrushchev was heavily involved in these killings; Furr showed that it was Stalin who was instrumental in stopping them.

Furr does not investigate how so many traitors managed to get into such high positions (First Secretaries) in the Party organization. In addition, Furr shows that the counter-revolutionary activity went on essentially continuously from the "end" of the capitalist interventions in the 1920s, throughout the 1930s, and even during World War II. But, again, there is no discussion of how so much treachery was "allowed" to continue for so long. Given this information, it is a testament to Stalin, the Red Army, the partisans, and the Soviet working class that they were able to smash the Nazis so decisively.

Furr makes it clear that he is basing all of his investigation on primary sources. He strenuously avoids engaging in biased journalism, exactly what so many anti-communist authors do. In a final chapter dealing with Khrushchev's motives, Furr even refuses to take a definitive stand on why Khrushchev delivered such a fabricated speech.

Furr could have stated outright that Khrushchev explicitly declared that the Soviet Union was restoring capitalism. Khrushchev and his cronies had no idea how long it would take (35 more years for it to become "official" in 1991) and they continued to use Marxist rhetoric in their public declarations while systematically destroying every positive aspect for which many communists had fought and died.

Teachers should encourage their colleagues, especially history teachers, to read this book. It can be used quite well in a Study Group. There is a long appendix and I would suggest reading the relevant section in the appendix right after finishing the corresponding section in the main text. Having two bookmarks makes this easier.

Red Reader

Bosses' Strategic Plan: Jails, Not Hospitals

I attended another public hearing, one of an endless series, about the "possible" closing of Oak Forest Hospital in Chicago. The bosses slated Oak Forest and Provident Hospitals to be closed in the near future. These are two of only three public hospitals that still operate in Cook County. The bosses laid off most of the workers at Oak Forest & Provident. Before, Oak Forest took care of as many as 1,100 patients; now it is a shell that has 55 patients left. Provident had 200 beds; now only 25. It no longer accepts ambulances in its emergency room either.

In every public hearing, the workers and patients opposed the shuttering of these vital health facilities. However, the bosses — in the form of the mostly Democratic Cook County Board, and its Health Facilities Governing Board, chaired by the former CEO of Tupperware — have other plans. They are in the process of implementing a "strategic plan" that requires the county to save money instead of the lives of the working class.

The bosses justify their plans by stating that by closing hospitals, they will be able to provide better and more health care. If this sounds like nonsense, it's because it is. The "strategic plan" is a thinly-veiled racist assault on mostly black, Latino, Asian and white working-class patients of Oak Forest and Provident. This is class warfare: the bosses attack programs and resources that the working class heavily depends on.

The budget is used to suppress the workers. The largest item in the county budget is for jails (the largest in the U.S.). Its budget is \$405 mil-

lion, plus \$38 million for the Juvenile Detention Center. The budget for the hospitals and clinics is 30% less, \$313 million. The bosses' priority is to keep workers under control, and to protect their faltering system.

Why is Cook County risking the welfare of the workers that live here? The bosses cut back to pay for their endless oil wars. They are in a life-and-death battle with their imperialist competitors to gain more profits, cheap labor and expanding markets that capitalism relies on for its survival. In times of economic stagnation or depression, the bosses increase economic exploitation, cut back services and become more repressive. By doing so, they expose the true nature of their ruling-class dictatorship. It is PLP's mission to smash the dictatorship of the ruling class and establish a system run by the workers, for the workers.

The struggle to keep Oak Forest and Provident open will help win more workers to the Party and hasten capitalism's demise.

Chicago Hospital Worker

Fighting for the Youth in Bogotá

The greatest desire for some workers' families is for their children to become professionals, in other words to achieve an education similar to the capitalists' children. Families that have managed to successfully graduate some children not only lose them but even become personal enemies.

The bosses teach these youth individualism and take advantage of it to maintain control. They win some to become their collaborators in the class struggle. Such individuals then become the bosses' best ally in politics and government.

While the contrary phenomenon may occur, with some in the dominant class being influenced by our class and even become leaders in our struggles, this is less frequent and carries the danger of falling prey to capitalist ideology.

'Darwin's Armada' - Collectivity Trumps Individuality in Science

Evolutionary theory is tightly linked to the name "Charles Darwin." Often we're told of this individual man's great effort and intellect in constructing the theory. When one thinks of natural selection one thinks of Charles Darwin. He is even credited with the term "survival of the fittest," although the English sociologist Herbert Spencer coined it. (Darwin would've acknowledged very readily that the "fittest" are not always the ones who survive. He came to understand that chance, along with biological necessity, played an important role in evolutionary history.)

Darwin's Armada, by Iain McCalman, counters this common misconception by describing how, not surprisingly, a collective effort led to the development of this revolutionary theory. He certainly does not mention the work of everyone (for example, the unpaid labor of the wives and children of the principle characters is not noted), but he focuses on the collaboration of four men: Thomas Huxley, Charles Darwin, Alfred Russell Wallace and Joseph Hooker. McCalman spellbindingly describes how each risked their lives on separate voyages through southern oceans to collect animal specimens and went through life-threatening and mind-changing experiences.

When Darwin began his voyage on the H.M.S. Beagle in 1831, he, like most Victorian-era Englishmen, believed that each species come about from divine creation. This static, unchanging ideology was not only in line with Christian doctrine, but was an ideological hammer, used to convince masses of workers that their role in society, just like birds and the crawling creatures, was fixed. There was no sense in fighting to change society because this is how God wanted things to be.

But Darwin (like Marx, working about the same time) was not content with this explanation. On his journey he kept a meticulous journal and became disciplined in collecting birds, rocks, marine creatures, and fossils. He noticed that species he found on islands resembled species he had seen on the nearest mainland. He also noticed that living species he saw resembled fossil species he had

I work with five young CHALLENGE readers in an area the bourgeoisie has stigmatized as a "red-light district" in Bogotá, a section bathed in proletarian blood by death squads serving the bourgeoisie. Backed by the military, they engage in "social cleansing," murdering everyone who disagrees with the current exploitative system, including more than 300 youths for "disobeying the rules."

The current mayor, Samuel Moreno, utilized many of these killers in his election campaign, installing more security cameras and hiring more cops to impose a curfew for those under 18. Hundreds of adolescents were arrested.

Enduring this society of exploitation and political maneuvering, many of these youths have begun to disobey, but essentially remain passive. Our CHALLENGE readers are conscious fighters but many others pursue an idle existence, drowning in drugs, sexism and alcohol.

Without a clear revolutionary understanding, without unity of thought and action, all will continue this way until the capitalist crisis of war overwhelms them. We will not only not support any and all political gangsters but will intensify the system's contradictions and take destiny into our own hands, forging the communist future we need. We expose the hypocrisy of "Democracy" as a bosses' dictatorship, showing that the only alternative is communist revolution.

That's why we fight ceaselessly for the unity of soldiers, students and workers, led by communists, against the racist system attacking our class. Through this our anti-imperialist and communist ideas and actions will build an internationalist PLP. The rotten bosses' state may exist in different forms (monarchy, republic, fascist) but its criminal essence is always the same — the dictatorship of imperialism.

Comrade in Colombia

found.

While on his journey he read Charles Lyell's "Principles of Geology," and thus saw how everyday forces of wind, water, ice and sun shaped the earth's surface. Lyell's observations led him to conclude that change, rather than the unchanging certainty, must be the primary aspect of the planet's history. (Change as the fundamental aspect of the universe is the basis of dialectical thought.)

But Darwin needed help. While he was aboard the Beagle, Alfred Russell Wallace, was coming to the same conclusions while researching in the Indonesian Islands. In 1855 Wallace's Sarawak Law paper, not widely read, was the first British scientific paper to claim that animals had descended from a common ancestor. Meanwhile, Hooker, a botanist on the ship Erebus, puzzled over the same questions, finding resemblances between the Arctic regions and American plants.

In June 1858, Darwin received Wallace's paper "On the Tendency of Varieties to Depart from the Original Type." It mobilized Darwin and his friends to make known the main thesis as soon as possible. The notes were in raw form, having been a secret kept from the general public for years. Huxley seized an opportunity to apply for the reading of Wallace's paper with two of Darwin's at the Linnean Society (a scientific group) in July. Darwin's papers were hastily constructed, largely with Huxley's editing. Huxley became such a vocal advocate of evolutionary theory that he was nicknamed "Darwin's Bulldog."

Darwin's Armada clarifies what capitalist ideology attempts to shield from us at all times: behind every "Great Man" who "single-handedly" changed the world, there are legions of named and unnamed assistants, collaborators and comrades who made it possible. "Darwin" may be the name we remember, but the theory is not his alone.✪

May Day: PLP Leading Class Struggles Worldwide

continued from p.8

and a cholera epidemic probably brought to Haiti by UN troops; 2,600 MINUSTAH troops are supplied by Brazil. UN's indiscriminate shooting into the densely-populated Cité Soleil district of Port-au-Prince on July 6, 2005 was not denounced by Brazil's Lula da Silva or other phony "leftists" like Fidel Castro or Hugo Chavez. PLP members and friends also petitioned in support of students fighting the desperate situation of the Haitian public university system.

COLOMBIA — For years PLP has been winning support for revolutionary communism in spite of government- and landlord-sponsored fascist terror. PL'ers in a construction workers' union are building CHALLENGE networks among indigenous work-

ers. In search of work, these workers are forced from their native communities and frequently work without contracts. Using this union to connect with hundreds of workers, as well as organizing within other unions, PLP in Colombia continues the fight to unite urban workers, farm workers, and students.

CHICAGO — PLP led over 100 parents in an anti-racist, 43-day occupation of an empty public elementary school building at a segregated black and Latino school, with no library, slated for demolition for a soccer field for a wealthy private school. The comrades, Latina mothers of students there, smashed sexist stereotypes of Latina women by leading, fighting and defending the building, nicknamed "La Casita." Comrades around the city mobilized collections in their unions and maintained overnight guard duty. PLP healthcare workers from Cook County hospitals — organizing workers, patients and nurses against viciously racist "Hurricane Katrina-style" healthcare cutbacks — oversaw the health of the sit-downers. The occupation provided a small glimpse of workers' potential, with militant communist leadership, to smash capitalist-defined gender roles and establish a workers' state.

BANGLADESH — Translating PLP literature into Bengali, friends of PL in Bangladesh have distributed thousands of leaflets to garment workers in and around the industrial belt of the capital, Dhaka, following a strike of 20,000 garment workers in an industry of 3.5 million mainly female workers. Friends of PLP are fighting against the political leadership of the dead-end reformist

groups who are led by factory-owning liberal politicians and union misleaders. We also are organizing support for workers and farmers blocking rails and roads to stop construction of a U.S. and British-funded open-pit coal mine that will evict 50,000 workers from 23 indigenous groups and pollute the drinking water to 220,000 more.

PLP Convention: Fight for Communism!

PLP also held an historic International Convention in New York City last summer with over 500 members representing at least 17 countries. Through discussions, workshops, and reports from around the world, PLP reaffirmed its commitment to building a mass international Party of billions in the face of increasing fascism.

One young transit worker, giving a speech about lessons we can learn from the old international communist movement during the 1930s, summed up: "What did communists do when faced with capitalist attacks? They toughened up!" At the Summer Project leading up to the convention, the Party confronted a racist attack by a black youth on an undocumented Latino worker with a demonstration of multi-racial unity, selling thousands of CHALLENGEs at transit bus depots, hospitals, schools, a military base and in working-class neighborhoods.

The Progressive Labor Party has been and will be at the forefront of working-class struggles. We are a Party for the masses, and it is through this militancy of international working-class solidarity that we can hope to smash capitalism and build a communist world.☺



New York March against the budget cuts.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Key to survival is cooperation

NYT, 4/10 — Martin A. Nowak, the director of the Program for Evolutionary Dynamics at Harvard, has devoted a brilliant career to showing that Darwin, and particularly his followers, batted only two for three. Random mutation and natural selection have indeed been powerful motors for change in the natural world — the struggle for existence pitting the fit against the fitter in a hullabaloo of rivalry. But most of the great innovations of life on earth, Nowak argues, from genes to cells to societies, have been due to a third motor, and "master architect, of evolution: cooperation.

...In Nowak's view, figuring out how cooperation comes about and breaks down, as well as actively pursuing the "struggle for existence," is the key to our survival as a species.

Fix pie-chart, get bosses' dough

GW, 4/8 — ...A longtime professor of accounting at Baruch college — and a critic of misleading accounting practices — used to tell a joke about a chief executive interviewing prospective auditors and asking, "What is two plus two?" The winner... responded, "What number were you looking for?"

Why rulers grant small reforms

GW, 4/15 — ...In the relationship between rulers and ruled in Britain in the 19th and into the 20th centuries...the ruling elite in Britain bought its discontented masses with just enough reform to avoid revolution... "Reform that you may preserve."

More temp-work is biz strategy

NYT, 4/20 — ...Temporary employment [is] always a boom industry in Europe....The loosening of Germany's traditionally rigid labor market has been crucial in preventing at least some companies from shipping production abroad.

At the heart of the debate is the question of whether a temporary low-wage job is better than no job at all.

The rise of temporary labor has contributed to a plunge in German joblessness. The unemployment rate has fallen to just above 7 percent, or 3.2 million people, from nearly 12 percent in 2005, or almost 5 million people.

Temporary employment agencies have soaked up a large proportion of those jobless people.... Labor representatives, however, said that companies were using temporary workers to replace permanent employees and were systematically paying them less than permanent workers doing the same job....IG Metall...union plans to make temporary work an issue in nationwide contract talks next year.

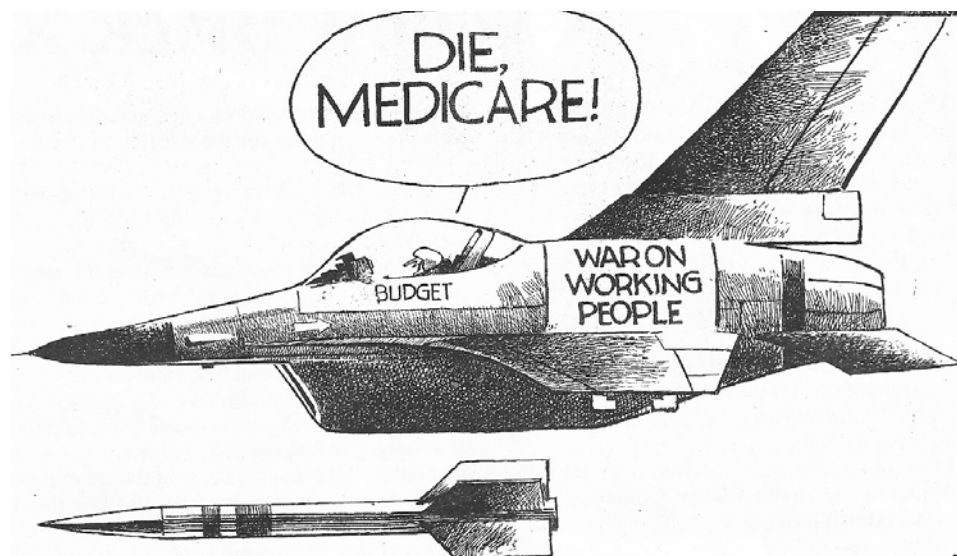
Proof of British savagery in Africa

GW, 4/15 — The full extent of British brutality during the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya 50 years ago has begun to emerge through government reports documenting "systematic" torture, starvation and even the burning alive of detainees.

Boxes of previously undisclosed documents... have been unearthed....They record the methods employed to defeat the rebellion and government awareness of abuses....The Foreign Office insists that...constitutional precedents...block the survivors' quest for compensation.

Medical free market is fairy tale

NYT, 4/19 — To the editor: David Brooks writes that Representative Paul D. Ryan "believes that health care costs will not be brought under control until consumers take responsibility for their decisions and providers have market-based incentives to reduce prices."



I'd like to know exactly how this works. Do we ask for formal quotes for the total costs of surgery for acute appendicitis or for hospitalization for a heart attacks or pneumonia? Do we shop for the cheapest doctor in town to insert stents in our coronary arteries?...How can anyone know, in advance of actually having an illness, what the insurance company will decide to pay, given the vague, confusing language always used to describe benefits? And this is how the average [person] is supposed to reduce medical and insurance costs on his or her own?

Egypt: Army is now the dictator

NYT, 4/12 — ...An Egyptian blogger was sentenced Monday to three years in prison for criticizing the military.... "This ruling is a warning to all journalists, bloggers and human rights activists in Egypt that the punishment for criticizing the army is a sentence in a military prison."

...His blog...argued that little changed when Mubarak was removed from power. "The revolution until how has succeeded in getting rid of the dictator, but the dictatorship is still there.".... "Even though the army pretended more than once to have sided with the the revolution, the imprisonment and torture of activists continued exactly in the same way that used to happen before the revolution..."

In the last two months, the military has brought hundreds of civilians before its tribunals, including scores of protestors.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

May Day: PLP Leading Class Struggles Worldwide



Jewish and Palestinian youth defy racist cops.



Workers, patients, youth unite in Chicago to fight racist hospital cuts — murder the Nazi way.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — PLP comrades and friends active in the struggle for housing for workers infected with HIV/AIDS surrounded and seized unused government land. Braving the threat of police attacks, they built a tent city to call out the city's bogus promises for affordable working-class housing. PL members argued that while land seizures like this are invaluable to raise militant class struggle, only seizing state power through armed revolution will ever guarantee decent housing for the working class. In the U.S. capital, 3% of the total population is infected with HIV, on par with Uganda. For black men, it is more than double at 7%. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, a 1% rate of infection constitutes a "generalized and severe epidemic."

PALESTINE — PLP has been organizing for multi-racial, Arab-Jewish unity among heavily exploited and primarily female daycare workers. They have been fighting for political leadership from misleaders in the "Workers' Power" union federation, and against the Israeli Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Comrades and CHALLENGE readers won back the jobs of subcontracted black Ethi-

PAKISTAN — PL'ers played a lead role in organizing mass distribution of clothes, food, medicine, kitchen utensils, and international working-class solidarity following the flooding of the Indus River last July. The flood killed 2,300 farm workers, displaced 24 million more, and destroyed 2.3 million houses and 4,655 villages. Similar to the bosses'

earthquake relief fiasco in Haiti, the Pakistani government, the UN, and boss-funded NGOs lined their own pockets with donated relief money. PLP also played a key role in organizing protests across Pakistan to expose the flimsy World Bank-funded dams, and ultimately the capitalist system, as responsible for the scale of death and destruction, while unmanned U.S. military "drones" continue their Nazi V-2 rocket-style slaughter from the sky.



Students, professors battle CUNY bosses' tuition hike.

NEW YORK CITY and NEW JERSEY — PLP teachers and PLP students organized picket lines, walkouts, and mass meetings with students, parents, teachers and workers. They fought against the Department of Education's racist budget cuts of schools and programs serving mainly black and Latino students while U.S. imperialists were spending trillions of dollars on the genocide of workers in the Middle East. Through these struggles the Party continues expanding its numbers of CHALLENGE networks, study groups, new members and friends.

MEXICO — PL'ers and CHALLENGE readers in Mexico organized in defiance of boss-hired thugs. CHALLENGE shattered the bosses' atmosphere of passivity among the workers by showing how 120,000 families face a major flood risk in 12 districts east of Valle de Este, from an artificial channel the bosses

claimed was safe. As a result, a local media campaign against PLP. In Mexico City, PLP expanded its presence in the 17,000-member Mexican Union of Electricians (SME), elevating both the fight against mass privatizations and the fight for unity with militant farm workers in the Atenco region. As well as organizing under intense fascist police repression amongst teachers and students in Oaxaca, PLP clubs held communist schools for new comrades hailing from across Mexico and nearby Central American countries.

HAITI — PLP supported a coalition of teacher, parent and student organizations who are fighting for free universal public schooling, and protesting the assassinations of teacher Jean Filbert Louis and professor Janil Louis-Juste. Coordinating with CHALLENGE, comrades and friends organized solidarity and petition campaigns against these assassinations, part of a UN MINUSTAH-backed terror campaign against students and teachers. All this was amidst more than 70% unemployment

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Rally backs rebellion in Haiti against U.S./UN oppressors.

opian-Jewish cleaning workers after an anti-racist struggle at a university in Rehovot. They organized against the fascist demolition of the Palestinian-Bedoin village of Al-Araqib for a wealthy Jews-only gated community. They marched with the red flag. CHALLENGE and Hebrew translations of PL literature in Tel-Aviv followed the Israeli massacre on a Turkish supply ship headed to Gaza, and in East Jerusalem against a racist land grab of rich Jewish settlers in the Silurian neighborhood.

Brooklyn, N.Y. — John Jay H.S. students, parents, teachers fight bosses' racist re-segregation of schools.



Brooklyn, N.Y. — John Jay H.S. students, parents, teachers fight bosses' racist re-segregation of schools.



Garment workers in Bangladesh defy pay-cuts.

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