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Atlanta's Black community demands

Justice for Rayshard Brooks!

By Arielle Robinson
 Atlanta

June 17 — Fired Atlanta cop Garrett Rolfe was charged today with 11 counts in the killing of Rayshard Brooks, including felony murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. APD cop Devin Bronsan, also at the scene, was charged with aggravated assault, among other offenses. After Rolfe shot Brooks in the back twice, neither cop provided “timely medical attention” to Brooks, as required by city policy. Instead Rolfe kicked Brooks as he lay on the ground and Bronsan stood on the dying man’s shoulder.

According to prosecutors, Bronsan is willing to testify against Rolfe. Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said this is the first time that has happened in 40 such cases of police violence

his office has handled. Protests that have swept through Atlanta since the murder have continued in Peoplestown, the Black working-class neighborhood where Brooks was killed, and at Centennial Olympic Park and other city locations.

June 13 — Amid existing protests in support of Black people murdered by police and white supremacists in Georgia and elsewhere, Atlanta protesters continue to brave the streets to fight for Rayshard Brooks — murdered by Atlanta police on Friday night, June 12.

Brooks, a 27-year-old Black man, fell asleep in his car that evening in the drive-through lane at a Wendy’s fast food restaurant. As customers drove around his car to get service, someone inside Wendy’s called the Atlanta Police Department.

APD cops Devin Bronsan and Garrett Rolfe arrived and started to arrest Brooks,



Demonstrators near I-75/85 in Atlanta to protest killer cop, June 13.

one drawing a Taser on him. After a short struggle, Brooks grabbed the Taser, supposedly firing at Rolfe as he ran. A Taser has a maximum range of about 10 feet. A typical police service gun like a Glock 22 has a maximum range of about 150 feet.

Rolfe fired his gun three times and wounded Brooks as he ran away. Brooks later died in surgery. His death was ruled a homicide on June 14 by the Fulton County Medical Examiner’s Office. The autopsy revealed that Rolfe shot Brooks twice in the back.

Rolfe has been fired from the APD and Bronsan was put on administrative duty.

In what many local organizers call a win after years of demands, APD Chief Erika Shields was forced to resign, despite her claim that this was her own decision.

Brooks was father to three children and stepfather to one teenager. According to family lawyers, Brooks was going to take his daughter skating that night for her eighth birthday, which was the next day.

Explosion of anger at injustice

Protests had already been organized in and around Atlanta for June 13 and 14 as a response to white supremacist murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and many more Black people throughout the U.S. For about three weeks, Atlanta and its suburbs have seen near-daily protests responding to these murders.

On Saturday evening, June 13, protesters came out in the hundreds near University

Continued on page 11

Stonewall means unite & fight back!



The reactionary rulers of the U.S. are attempting to discourage, divide and defeat poor, oppressed and working people in any way possible, at any possible opportunity.

Look at the psychological operations ploy tried by white supremacist Trump in setting his first 2020 campaign rally in Tulsa, Okla. — site of a horrendous 1921 white mob massacre of Black people — on Juneteenth, the traditional Black celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation.

editorial

In the middle of Pride Month, the Trump-Pence administration launched another brutal attack on LGBTQ2+ people. On June 12 the Department of Health and Human Services announced cancellation of all nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ2+ people for access to health care and health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

And the government deliberately trumpeted this news on the anniversary

Continued on page 14

Delbert Africa ¡Presente!

MOVE’s Minister of Defense Delbert Africa, 73, died from cancer on June 15 at home and surrounded by his family. Delbert was one of the MOVE 9, who all received life sentences following a racist Philadelphia police raid on the MOVE house and headquarters in 1978.

Delbert spent 42 years in prison after an outrageously biased trial in which he was charged with the death of a police officer. Delbert Africa was convicted despite the widely believed charge that he was shot by police during their assault on the house. Delbert Africa was finally released this Jan. 18.

Pam Africa, MOVE’s Minister of Confrontation, said, “Delbert will be remembered as a freedom



fighter, an activist. An uncompromising, revolutionary freedom fighter who fought for the lives of all. When he came out [of prison], that’s how he came out. As strong as he was, mentally.”

— Report: Betsey Piette; WW Photo: Joe Piette

• Gov’t, Klan & the state	4
• New hearing for Rodney Reed	4
• Free Jalil, Mutulu!	5
• CeCe McDonald & right to self-defense	5



COVID-19 CRISIS

- Bronx epidemic 3
- Rise in domestic violence 3

WORKERS’ STRUGGLES 6

ANTI-RACIST REBELLION

- Mumia Abu-Jamal: ‘World on fire’ 2
- YOUTH: an emerging force 7
- Cops off campus protests 8
- Ona MOVE in Philly 8
- In Texas streets 8-9
- Eyewitness: Seattle’s CHAZ 10
- Why cops can’t be reformed 11
- Labor vs. police 12
- Remove ALL Confederate symbols! 13
- EDITORIAL Juneteenth & the uprising 14
- 1921 Tulsa massacre 14
- Revolutionary organizing 15

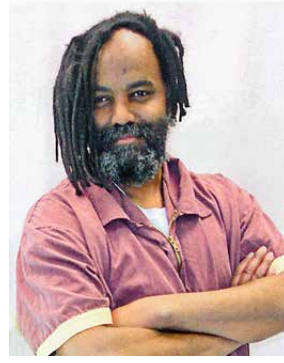
The world on fire

By Mumia Abu Jamal

Transcribed from a June 7 audio column posted on prisonradio.org.

Guess what? The world is on fire! I don't mean environmental degradation or global warming; no, although that too is true. I refer to protests, not just all across the United States but all around the world. Protests from London to Paris; from Berlin to Nairobi; from Toledo, Ohio, to Tokyo, Japan. Protests in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and against police aggression and racism. Protests stemming from the cruel brutality that led to the slow-motion killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn. The solidarity from Sydney, Australia, stems in part

from the long-standing discontent from the dark Aborigines, the Indigenous communities in Australia and New South Wales, who like Black folk in America, have suffered from generations of state repression. For example, in the recent murder of David Dungay, an Aborigine, who like his brothers and sisters in America, his last words were "I can't breathe," as they choked him to death. And how have the cops responded to this challenge? With tantrums. With attacks on protesters, male or female. A 75-year-old white man who was pushed to the ground as they stepped over his fallen and bleeding body. America is on fire and the world has caught the blaze. From incarcerated nation, I am Mumia Abu-Jamal. □



this week

◆ In the U.S.

- Justice for Rayshard Brooks! 1
- Delbert Africa iPresente!. 1
- COVID-19's impact on the Bronx. 3
- Domestic violence during the pandemic. 3
- The govt, the Klan, cops and prisons. 4
- Black Lives Matter in Bastrop, Texas 4
- CeCe McDonald: the right to self-defense. 5
- Fre Jalil Muntaqim, Dr. Mutulu Shakur 5
- Workers face a social pandemic. 6
- Stop exploiting J-1 cultural workers 6
- Multinational unity wins battle at Harvard 6
- YOUTH are the emerging vital force 7
- Students, workers say: 'Cops off our campus!' 8
- Communities denounce police terror 8
- 'We marched against the system' in Austin 8
- Dallas-Fort Worth pushes back racism. 9
- Campaign to end the Oakland School Police 9
- Black Lives Matter in Alpine, Texas. 9
- 60,000-strong anti-racist march in Seattle 10
- CHAZ Seattle: Imagining a police-free future 10
- Why the police cannot be reformed. 11
- Learning from history: Labor vs. police 12
- Raleigh protests demand justice 12
- Conflict arises over renaming military bases 13
- The 1921 Tulsa massacre: 'ethnic cleansing'. 14
- Organizing for revolutionary power 15

◆ Around the world

- Mumia: The world on fire 11
- One step closer to freedom for Ana Belen Montes. 12
- Wang Dingguo ipresente! 12
- France: masses charge racist police murder. 13
- Toppling a mass murderer 13

◆ Editorial

- Stonewall means unite & fight back! 1
- Celebrating Juneteenth during an uprising 14

◆ Noticias en Español

- ¿Tropas USA contra manifestantes? 16
- Morales habla: 'Áñez se aferra al poder' 16

Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org



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Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt
Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes
Prisoners Page Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly
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Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Sue Davis, S. Hedgecoke
Contributing Editors: LeiLani Dowell, G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Teresa Gutierrez, Joshua Hanks, Makasi Motema, Gloria Rubac
Mundo Obrero: Teresa Gutierrez, Carlos Vargas
Supporter Program: Coordinator Sue Davis

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Support the Marxist voice for LGBTQ2+ rights



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN.

Pride march in New York City, 2019.

Ever since the Stonewall Rebellion erupted June 28, 1969, Workers World has covered the global struggle to end homophobia and all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and gender-nonconforming communities.

WW has consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, WW ran a series of articles that led to publication of "The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal" in 1976. Then in 1993, we published "The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View." Read it at www.workers.org/books.

Then in the 1990s, WW Managing Editor and globally recognized transgender leader Leslie Feinberg wrote a series of 25 articles later published in pamphlet form as "Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba." They were followed by the series "Lavender & Red" about socialism and the LGBTQ2+ struggle. In 2012 Feinberg wrote in defense of African American transgender woman CeCe McDonald, who was charged with manslaughter after defending herself from a racist, bigoted attack.

WW helps to build mass struggles, like what's going on now in the streets from coast to coast. This righteous outpouring of rage and protest over the racist cop murder of George Floyd comes as the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacts Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples.

Please help us get out the word. For a donation of at least \$75 a year — or \$100, or \$300 or much more if you're able — members receive a year's subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks 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 online to donate each month.

We're grateful for your help in building Workers World — sign up today!

To Patreon subscribers:

We want to give you an update on the status of Workers World newspaper. Our print edition has been temporarily suspended during the COVID-19 crisis for health and safety reasons. But we intend to begin physical distribution again soon.

In the meantime, we are committed to providing revolutionary socialist and abolitionist news and analysis to all our family behind bars. We are currently working on sending print copies of the PDF version of Workers World to our subscribers. Please send us a message if you have a friend or loved one whom you would like to receive a subscription.

During this period of global uprising, everything is changing. Our ability to make abolition a reality is closer now than ever before in our lifetime. We thank you for your continued support of the Prisoner Subscription Program and of Workers World Party. In order to build a workers' world, we must tear down the walls!

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
boston@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org
Salt Lake City
801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

Atlanta
PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org
West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

Austin
austin@workers.org

Cleveland
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Pensacola, Fla.
pensacola@workers.org

Bay Area
P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Dallas
dallas@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

The Bronx is burning again

COVID-19's impact on most underserved borough

By Lucy Cruz
Bronx, N.Y.

As of June 13, there were 7.87 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide and 432,500 deaths. The U.S. still has the highest number of cases and deaths of any country, with 2.14 million cases and over 117,000 deaths — and the numbers are climbing. The 22 states which began to ease their shutdowns are experiencing an increase in new cases. Now some state governments are delaying opening up their economies.

In New York City, the epicenter of the pandemic in the U.S., over 214,000 people have been sickened with the virus, and more than 21,500 residents died. In the Bronx, the hardest hit borough, 46,535 people have contracted the disease and 4,591 of them died. The illness has disproportionately affected African-American, Latinx, Asian and elderly populations and people with disabilities.

COVID-19 continues to rage on as an international pandemic months after the initial outbreak in Wuhan, China. Never to be outdone, the U.S. now has the most virus cases worldwide, with a staggering death toll of over 100,000 people. This is despite the U.S. hoarding the lion's share of the world's resources. (New York Times, May 24)

The failure of the U.S. health care-industrial complex in handling this crisis cannot be understated, as the system is primarily geared to generating profits over saving human lives. That has led to equipment and personnel shortages throughout the country.

Unsurprisingly, impoverished Black and

Brown people have borne the most severe consequences of the epidemic, starved of resources and high-quality health care. Even in New York City, the financial heart of U.S. imperialism, Black and Brown communities have been hit the hardest.

Specifically, the situation in the Bronx is dire, as the borough is the COVID-19 capital of New York state. (Washington Post, April 21) Today the Bronx is burning, recalling the time when the South Bronx was in flames in the late 1970s when skylines were dominated by burned-out buildings and gray smoke.

The Bronx: by the numbers

The Bronx has been ravaged by COVID-19, with 3,107 cases per 100,000 people as of May 26. The death rate stands at 245 per 100,000 people, the highest rate in New York City. Adults over 74 have been hit especially hard, with 1,942 deaths per 100,000. (tinyurl.com/y93og79s) It's no surprise that the Bronx is taking the brunt of the burden as the borough is routinely ranked last in well-being and income compared to any area of the U.S.

The South and West Bronx make up the 15th Congressional District of New York, which ranks as not only the poorest district in New York state, but the poorest district in the U.S. In 2017, the median household income was estimated at \$28,042, while its population was 97 percent people of color, reported Amanda Luz Henning Santiago on Dec. 15, 2019. (tinyurl.com/yckhnwm2)

The correlation is no coincidence, but serves as evidence of the oppression of low-income Black and Brown people. It's no wonder that the most underserved community in the country is serving as COVID-19's most efficient petri dish.

#Not62: The Bronx still last

The Bronx overall has an estimated median household income of \$30,483, placing it last among all of New York's 62 counties. On the other hand, the Bronx takes first place for several chronic illnesses, including asthma, obesity, diabetes and hypertension. Paradoxically, the Bronx's largest industry is health care and social services with 146,062 employees as of 2018, according to Data USA. (tinyurl.com/y8xbsuxj)

Despite the size of the Bronx health care workforce, health outcomes for Bronx residents are not improving, and social programs do little to offset the material conditions of these workers' lives. However, there have been some efforts to change this situation, such as the #NOT62 Campaign launched in 2016.

The NYC Health Department explained it on March 16, 2016: "The #NOT62 Campaign was launched last year by the Bronx Borough President's Office, Montefiore Health System, the Institute for Family Health and the NYC Health Department to improve strategic health outcomes for Bronx residents by 2020, by bringing together stakeholders from across multiple sectors within City government, the business community, health care providers and community-based/faith-based organizations to address the determinants of health." (tinyurl.com/y7s2fgws)

The campaign mainly carried out public outreach and health education in the Bronx's most affected areas. As the data show, as of 2020, the campaign has unfortunately not achieved its desired result. While initiatives like this are certainly a step in the right direction, most are doomed to fail as the problems they

are trying to rectify are systemic in this racist, capitalist society.

Material conditions for working-class "Bronxites" will not change until the systems of oppression put into place by the capitalist class are completely dismantled, and the workers can directly manage their community resources for the betterment of all.

Bronxites fight back

However, many Bronx residents refuse to roll over as the coronavirus continues to spread, letting their voices ring out through their protective face masks. The Bronx health care workforce, in particular, has been protesting their poor working conditions as hospitals run out of personal protective equipment and are flooded with new patients.

One demonstration by nurses and other medical professionals took place on March 28 at Jacobi Medical Center. Holding signs with slogans reading, "Will work for PPE," they voiced their refusal to work without proper protection after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ordered them to reuse their masks.

The New York State Nurses Association held another rally there April 17, protesting a change in the hospital's paid sick leave policy, which required staff to obtain a doctor's note if they were out sick. And this in the midst of a pandemic! Health care workers led a demonstration and candlelight vigil for workers lost to COVID-19 outside Lincoln Hospital, painting a clear picture of the harrowing conditions that many Bronxites face today. (Guardian, April 15)

These are essential workers, risking life and limb on the front lines to provide for

Continued on page 4

Domestic violence

'The epidemic within the pandemic'

By Sue Davis

"My husband won't let me leave the house" has become an all-too-familiar cry for help since the mandatory lockdown was instituted in early March — not just in the United States, but all over the world.

Domestic violence has become a stealth epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. So much so that the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres issued a call the week of April 6 for governments to address domestic violence as a key part of their pandemic response.

Anita Bhatia, a deputy executive director of U.N. Women, told Time magazine, "The very technique we are using to protect people from the virus can perversely impact victims of domestic violence." While social distancing and isolation are absolutely essential, she added, they "provide an opportunity for abusers to unleash more violence." (March 18)

According to the World Health Organization, 1 out of 3 women in the world experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, making it "the most widespread, but the least reported, human rights abuses." The WHO notes that while women make up the majority of victims, LGBTQ+ people also face elevated rates. But during times of crises, like wars and natural disasters, the risk of gender-based violence escalates.

One study showed that after Hurricane Harvey in 2017, domestic violence soared in Houston. "The stressors of being out of

work, being at home, losing everything — that spiked our violence," reported Chau Nguyen, the chief public strategies officer for the Houston Area Women's Center. "You're going to see it more and more." (CNN, April 4)

A research report by a consortium which includes Johns Hopkins University concludes there could be 31 million new cases of domestic violence globally if coronavirus lockdowns continue for six more months. (www.unfpa.org)

Surge of domestic violence cases in U.S.

After the first coronavirus death was reported at the end of February and non-essential businesses began to close in mid-March, reports of domestic violence began to increase in cities around the country.

Of 22 law enforcement agencies that responded to NBC News' request for data, 18 said they saw a rise in March. For example, Houston reported 300 more calls, about a 20 percent increase, while Charlotte-Mecklenburg, N.C., had 517 additional calls compared to last year, an 18 percent jump.

One of the first states to pay attention to that surge was New York. Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office announced that the number of cases grew 18 percent from February to March, after New York's "Pause" order went into effect. It went up 30 percent in April compared to last year. (ABCNews, May 28)

Cuomo's office launched a task force at the end of May to find "innovative

solutions to this crisis." Headed by Melissa DeRosa, his secretary and leader of the New York State Council on Women and Girls, the task force is charged with developing recommendations "to help women who are stuck in dangerous situations."

How abusers use COVID-19 to assert power and control

In early April the National Domestic Violence Hotline noted that it had received more than 2,300 calls since mid-March in which COVID-19 was cited as a reason for abuse. Violent partners were leveraging it "to further isolate, coerce or increase fear in the relationship," reported Katie Ray-Jones, CEO of the NDVH.

"Abuse is about power and control," the hotline summarizes. Isolation is the primary technique abusers use to assert power and control over their partner and children. Sheltering-at-home and widespread job loss mean the entire family is trapped in limited space with limited finances. Such conditions only create a pressure cooker of uncertainty, which triggers abusers. They respond to this "perfect storm" with more beatings and psychological torture.

The NDVH cites ways COVID-19 is used to increase control. Abusers withhold necessary things like hand sanitizer or disinfectants. They use misinformation to frighten or prevent survivors from seeking medical attention if they have symptoms, like hyping the risk of

becoming infected in an emergency room.

Abusers may stress that it's not safe to use public transportation as a way to keep survivors away from family or their children or grandchildren. One woman reported her abuser threatened to throw her into the street so she would become infected. Another abuser beat a survivor because he was sure she was trying to infect him.

The hotline advises survivors to do three things: to create a safety plan to remain safe in the relationship, to leave or what to do after leaving; to practice self-care for health and wellness; and to reach out for help by maintaining social connections online or over the phone.

Meanwhile, the struggle for all women and gender-nonconforming people to have safe, healthy, happy and fulfilled lives continues. The coronavirus is forcing all the inequalities and injustices in capitalist society to the surface, like deadly racism, which has disproportionately taken the lives of so many Black and Brown people. Only by tearing down patriarchy, all forms of hatred and bigotry, and class society will we achieve the freedom we need to flourish and thrive under socialism.

Survivors are encouraged to contact the NDVH at 800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522.





The govt, the Klan, cops and prisons

By Ted Kelly

The following talk was given by Ted Kelly of Philadelphia during a May 16 webinar sponsored by the Prisoner Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party.

I'll begin by quoting two different passages. The first is from Workers World Party founder Sam Marcy's book, "The Klan and the Government: Foes or Allies?"

"The far more important problem is the reciprocal relations between the capitalist government and the Klan. More often than not, the former is made to appear rather hostile to the Klan. The public impression conveyed is that the government is forced under the law (the First or 'Free Speech' Amendment to the Constitution) to defend and secure the Klan's rights.

"In reality, however, the capitalist government has covertly encouraged and promoted the Klan over many decades. It is often completely overlooked in current discussions and in the press and media reports that the durability of the Klan rests on solid long-term bonds to the state, and that the two share a common political ideology, for the most part.

"When the ruling class had the opportunity to wipe out the Klan more than a century ago, it failed to do so. The Northern industrialists and bankers were more interested in reaching a compromise with the ex-slave owners than with the newly freed slaves.

"The U.S. government capitulated to the Southern planters and ex-slave owners after the period of Reconstruction when it withdrew federal troops from the South without establishing an independent citizens' militia composed of the Black people and poor whites.

"It also left them politically defenseless and deprived the Black population

of economic power by failing to grant the newly emancipated people the land which they had tilled for centuries.

"The violence against the Black people which had begun on a minimal scale during Reconstruction began to take a tremendous toll after the U.S. government finally withdrew its troops. It was in this period that lynchings, the most barbarous form of counterrevolutionary terror, became the hallmark of the reactionary attempt to keep the Black people in semi-bondage. As many as 5,000 lynchings took place between the 1880s and 1951."

The reason I start by quoting Sam Marcy on the history between the Klan and the U.S. government is because it is out of this history that police forces in the United States were formed. To not merely collaborate with the Ku Klux Klan, but to establish alongside them a formerly deputized violent gang to supplant them.

The second short passage I'm going to read is from Mumia Abu-Jamal, "Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?" where he describes the police:

"They are servants, if at all, of the political structures of which they are a part, not of the people. They are servants, if at all, of the state. They serve the interests of capital, of the wealthy, of those who run this system from their bank vaults and corporate offices.

"They do not serve the poor, the powerless, nor the un-influential.

"They never have.

"They are an armed force organized to protect the interests of the established and those who own capital. The history of labor in this country is splattered by the blood of trade unionists who were beaten, shot, and crushed to the earth for striking against the trusts, combinations, and mega-corporations of capital. Who did the beating? The shooting? The crushing? The cops, who served the interests of a state that declared,

as did the U.S. Supreme Court, that unions were 'criminal conspiracies.'"

In all capitalist states and sites of colonial occupation, police units were armed gangs set up to protect the property of the rich while smashing any nascent organized working-class power. Private police forces like the Pinkerton agents provoked, spied on and killed working-class organizers.

Likewise, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was born as a political police force to track and subvert anti-capitalist activities. They arrest and they assassinate and they incarcerate — from the early 20th-century labor organizers to the Black Panthers, to the MOVE Organization, to the supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, until today with the assassinations of Ferguson, Mo., organizers and the jailing of those who resist police attacks, like Ramsey Orta. The Indigenous water protectors who organized against the Dakota Access Pipeline — Dion Ortiz, James White, Little Feather, Rattler and Red Fawn — are now hounded and threatened with felony charges by the state.

This is all to say that this is the function of police and therefore the function of prisons in this country.

As Fermin Morales, a Puerto Rican activist and ally of WWP Philadelphia, said in a speech on May Day, poor and oppressed workers are given a choice: "You can fight to survive, doing whatever you need to do to make money, and you will end up in prison if you step outside those bounds; or you fight for your nation as a Puerto Rican and you can end up in prison for the reason of fighting for political power."

Just down the street from where Morales was speaking was a federal penitentiary. And across the street from that is the African American History Museum. She said, "If you learn too much in that

museum, you will end up across the street in that prison." That is the function of prisons in this country.

White supremacy is one of the fundamental pillars upon which capitalism is founded and supports itself. Prisons and police are the state's most violent tools of racist oppression. We cannot abolish capitalism without abolishing police and abolishing prisons. For this reason, at the beginning of this new crisis, as capitalism reaches its dead end, we have relaunched the Prisoner Solidarity Committee of Workers World Party, 50 years after its inception, after the uprisings at Attica and Auburn.

Prisoners and incarcerated workers represent one of the most oppressed sectors of our class, and they cannot be ignored. They face unprecedented threats against their livelihood and against their ability to politically organize. And that is one of the most important tasks the PSC of WWP is taking up.

We must tear down the walls if we are to build a Workers World. □

The Klan & the Government Foes or Allies?

By Sam Marcy

Examines the special relationship with the state that has allowed the Ku Klux Klan to exist for over a century despite its criminal history of lynchings, murders, and intimidation. Published in 1983.



Read it free at workers.org/marcy/klan/

Black Lives Matter in Bastrop, Texas

By Gloria Rubac

With the whole world exploding in support of the Black Lives Matter movement that is sweeping through large U.S. cities and small towns alike, Black Lives Matter may finally become a reality in Bastrop, Texas, for death row prisoner Rodney Reed.

In 1998 Reed was wrongfully sent to prison to await execution after a Bastrop County jury used DNA evidence to convict him of the rape and murder of Stacey Stites. Reed is African American and Stites was white. Because they were having a consensual affair when she was found dead in 1996, Reed's DNA was found in Stites' body.

In a dramatic decision last Nov. 18, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest criminal court in the state, indefinitely stayed Reed's scheduled Nov. 20 execution. The CCA ordered the trial court



Outside court hearing for Rodney Reed, February 2015.

to hear all the new evidence that has been discovered by Reed's attorneys with the Innocence Project in New York City.

A full two weeks have been set aside for the hearing, which will be held Sept. 14-25 in the Bastrop trial court.

On the lawn of the Bastrop County Courthouse where Reed was wrongfully convicted, there are two monuments honoring the confederacy. They were both defaced in early June. An obelisk monument that the Daughters of the Confederacy erected in 1910 had BLM painted on all four sides and "Free Rodney Reed" on two. A headstone honoring Joseph D. Sayers, a major in the Confederate Army, who became Texas's 22nd governor, was also christened with "BLM."

According to Reed's brother, Rodrick Reed, the Bastrop mayor called his family in to discuss the monuments before one of Reed's previous execution dates on March 5, 2015. "No action was ever taken to take down the monuments and that was the last conversation we had with the mayor," Reed's brother told Workers World.

Reed's case has received tremendous publicity, not only throughout Texas but from supporters countrywide. Television stars such as Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Phil have covered the case. Super-stars Kim Kardashian West and Rihanna have called on the governor to intervene and asked the courts to hear new evidence.

In Reed's original trial, the timeline of Stites' kidnapping and death was incorrectly presented. At the September hearing, Rodrick Reed has said, "We will have

nine world renown medical examiners who have done independent autopsies present evidence that will prove that there is no way that my brother could have committed this crime.

"Since all the publicity last fall and then the indefinite stay of execution, we now have hope. We are extremely optimistic. Everything is coming together, and as the whole world will be watching, evidence will prove Rodney's innocence. This is

The Bronx: COVID-19's impact

Continued from page 3

themselves and their families. Many do not have the luxury to work from home. Combating the pandemic is their everyday reality and burden. They deserve more than thoughts, prayers and pats on the back from the medical-industrial complex that considers them disposable. Many Bronx residents have nowhere to go in the event they fall ill, as their caretakers continue to get sick while in the service of others.

Facing the 'new normal' in the Bronx

Adversity is nothing new in the Bronx. The borough's residents carry on despite facing racist police terror and lacking high-quality food sources and accessible, adequate medical care. Masks serve as the new fitted Yankee cap. The usually bustling bodegas are a little less crowded.

COVID-19 continues to spread in some of the most vulnerable neighborhoods



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Rodney Reed in court, February 2015.

the beginning of the end and we expect the court to either grant a new trial or let Rodney go." □

in the borough — from the high-rises of River Park Towers in the Morris Heights neighborhood, recently described as "death towers" by a resident, to New York City Housing Authority buildings in the South Bronx. (NY Times, May 26) Public health education programs can only do so much when faced with a massive shortage of PPE and COVID testing kits.

There is no going back to before the outbreak. The dying capitalist machine continues to whirl on, consuming lives to generate as much profit as it can before it finally goes kaput. The only option that Bronx residents have is to move forward, inevitably toward socialism, the system in which the working class's humanity is valued.

Just as the fires of the 1970s led to the blooming of the hip-hop movement that soars from speakers internationally today, there is no doubt that the Bronx will survive this crisis. □

Black Trans Lives Matter!

CeCe McDonald: the right to self-defense

By Leslie Feinberg

This is the first part of an article published Dec. 7, 2012, in Workers World in the series of articles by Leslie Feinberg on the local, U.S. and international campaign to “Free CeCe!” Trans woman McDonald was charged with murder for defending herself and friends when attacked by a white supremacist mob in 2011 in Minneapolis. In June 2012, Feinberg committed civil disobedience and was arrested for spray-painting “Free CeCe!” on the walls and pillars of the Hennepin County Courthouse where McDonald was to be sentenced. Sent to prison, CeCe McDonald served a much reduced penalty because of the powerful campaign for her freedom. She was finally freed on Jan. 13, 2014.

At certain moments in history, the struggle of individuals to survive and organize against fascist attacks, police and prison terror sharply reveals the societal relationship of forces — between oppressor and oppressed, exploiter and exploited. These battles inspire unity and action that help shape and define political eras — like the demands to free the Scottsboro Brothers, Lolita Lebron, Leonard Peltier, George Jackson, Joan Little, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The struggle to “Free CeCe!” is sparking a growing, broad united front against white supremacy and anti-trans violence. CeCe McDonald’s courage and consciousness, and the tireless and tenacious solidarity work by supporters in Minneapolis and the region — led by those who are oppressed — has widened and deepened the demand to “Free CeCe!” in cities across the U.S. and around the world.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. and internationally now know more facts about the attack on CeCe McDonald than the judge and prosecutor allowed a jury to know during her trial.

CeCe McDonald and her friends were assaulted in Minneapolis on June 5, 2011, by a group that announced its ideology as racist and fascist in words and action. The attackers shouted white-supremacist Klan language, transmisogynist epithets and a slur against same-sex love.

CeCe replied that “her crew would not tolerate hate speech.”

One of the attackers then assaulted CeCe McDonald with a weapon — smashing her in the face with a bar glass that deeply punctured her cheek.

In the fight that ensued, one of the attackers died. He

had a swastika tattoo.

CeCe McDonald was the only person arrested by the police that night. McDonald has been punished ever since as the “aggressor” for defending her life and the lives of her friends — and surviving. Police, sheriffs, jailers, prosecutor, judge and prison administration have arrested her, locked her up and held her in solitary confinement for long periods.

Stop the war on trans women of color!

It is no metaphor to say that there is a war against trans women of color in the U.S. — on the streets and in the prisons.

Here are the names of some of those who lost their lives to antitrans lynchings in cities across the U.S. in 2012:

Brandy Martell. Paige Clay. Kyra Kruz. Deoni Jones. Tracy Johnson. Tyrell Jackson. Rosita Hidalgo. Coko Williams. Kendall Hampton. Tiffany Gooden. Dee Dee Pearson. Githe Goines. Brenting Dolliole. Janette Tovar. Cassidy Vickers.

When a trans person is murdered, often police and monopoly media don’t investigate or report the deaths. Killers, largely unsought, walk free. Therefore little is known about any possible links between these murders or any connections the killers had/have with neofascist groups, police or military.

CeCe McDonald fought and survived a group fascist attack. She is hailed as a hero — a femme hera — in many communities in the U.S. and around the world.

The continued punishment of CeCe McDonald by police, prosecutor, judge and prison warden is a green light to neofascists — on the streets and in schools, police precincts, prisons and detention centers.

This reporter was told by a survivor of the attack on CeCe McDonald and her friends that harassment and threats by white supremacists continued on the streets of South Minneapolis after the June 5 assault.

Now CeCe McDonald is in a struggle to defend her life in a prison cell, where sadistic white supremacy and transmisogyny hold the key.

‘Cops and Klan work hand in hand’

Police and prison guard brutality against trans people also goes largely unreported by officials and monopoly media.

Journalist Marc Lamont Hill wrote in Ebony magazine: “According to studies, 38% of Black trans people

indicate that they have been harassed by the police. Even worse, 20% state that they have been physically or sexually assaulted by police.

“Given this pattern of criminalization and abuse ... it is no surprise that most victims of transgender violence (52%) do not report the crimes to law enforcement.”

Hill continued, “[T]rans individuals are subjected to prison sentences during which they will be labeled and treated as a gender rather than their own. Such a practice, if done to straight cissexual individuals, would clearly be understood and challenged as torture.” (ebony.com, June 11, 2012)

CeCe McDonald wrote from St. Cloud prison to those taking part in Trans Day of Remembrance 2012: “We need to not only celebrate for Trans Day of Remembrance, but also become self-aware and ready to put an end to our community being the focus of violence. Of course it is more than important to recognize and pay homage to our fallen, but we also need to put our feet down and start being real leaders and making this stand.

“And personally speaking, if it’s true that this is my personal journey as a leader, I want to lead my troops to victory. I can’t continue to say ‘how bad’ that another brother, sister, mother, father, partner, friend is gone from blind-hatred. From ignorance and discrimination.

“I would have rather been punished for asserting myself than become another victim of hatred.”

CeCe McDonald’s assertion, and her self-defense, are historically rooted in the right — the necessity — to fight back against Nazi, Klan and other white supremacist, fascist terror.

All quotes from CeCe McDonald, along with more information on her case, can be found at supportcece.wordpress.com. Feinberg’s visual “how-to-organize manual” of the campaign for McDonald, “This Is What Solidarity Looks Like,” can be viewed at lesliefeinberg.net.



WW PHOTO: LESLIE FEINBERG.

CeCe McDonald and Leslie Feinberg, Hennepin County jail, Minneapolis, May 1, 2012.

Free Muntaqim, Mutulu and all U.S. political prisoners!

By Judy Greenspan

Two prisoner liberation movements in the U.S. have finally awakened people to the fact that there are political prisoners in the U.S. The first is the international outcry during COVID-19 letting the world know that people are being held in prisons, jails and detention centers without personal protective equipment, adequate social distancing and quality health care.

The second is the demand to free all aging, elderly and immunocompromised prisoners, including a large number of people who committed political actions on the streets decades ago and are dying inside U.S. prisons.

Jalil Muntaqim and Dr. Mutulu Shakur, both leaders of the Black Liberation struggle, are two such political prisoners, and they will die inside if they are not released immediately.

Jalil Muntaqim (aka Anthony Bottom) became active in the Black Panther Party as a teenager. In 1971, at the age of 19, he was arrested with several other Black activists and charged with the murder of two New York City police officers. The case came to be known as the New York 3, and Muntaqim, Herman Bell and Nuh Washington were convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life in the New York state prison system.

As with many cases involving Black political activists, the government — through its FBI — was front and center in launching a Cointelpro-like campaign dubbed “NewKill,” which served to discredit, frame and incarcerate leaders of the BPP and the Black Liberation Army.

Muntaqim, an elder who is widely respected both inside and outside prison, has been incarcerated for 49 years in New York state prisons. Lawyers and supporters have been working to get a compassionate release for Muntaqim, who has suffered from hypertension, respiratory problems and heart disease.

In late May, Muntaqim contracted COVID-19 and supporters have been working overtime to win his release. According to a recent article in the San Francisco Bay View newspaper, “Jalil Muntaqim’s release is a public health imperative.” (May 26)

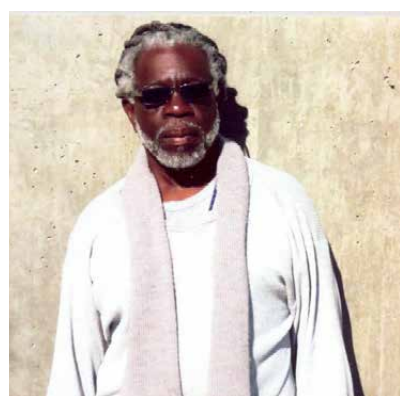
The article goes on to report that the majority of New York state’s 43,000 prisoners are Black and Latinx and that one-quarter of these prisoners are elderly and immunocompromised.

Dr. Shakur, freedom fighter

Similar to Muntaqim, Dr. Mutulu Shakur was a respected leader of the Black community and the movement for Black Liberation in New York City in the 1960s. He is also a well-known Doctor of Acupuncture who used acupuncture at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx to treat drug addiction and other medical problems. He is also the stepfather to the late, legendary hip-hop artist and activist Tupac Shakur.

Just like Muntaqim, Shakur was hounded and targeted by Cointelpro in the 1960s and 70s. He was later convicted of conspiracy charges relating to the escape and liberation of Assata Shakur, a member of BLA, and of the Brink’s robbery in upstate New York in 1981. He has served decades in federal prisons for his actions.

Shakur has been suffering from several chronic and serious health conditions like diabetes, glaucoma and hypertension, which led to a stroke several years ago. In 2019, after suffering for months with severe pain, he was finally diagnosed with advanced bone marrow cancer. He has developed cancerous lesions in his spine, ribs and pelvis.



Dr. Mutulu Shakur



Jalil Muntaqim

According to the online petition to the U.S. Parole Commission, “Dr. Shakur is 69 years old, and aging in prison after 34 years of incarceration. He needs treatment and recovery in humane conditions immediately. We fear for his survival and his life.” Shakur’s supporters had a week of action for his release involving petitions and social media earlier this year. (tinyurl.com/y8tr486e)

The lives of both political prisoners depend upon their immediate release from prison. Not only are prisons the epicenter of the coronavirus for the most vulnerable populations, but they are well-documented institutions of medical neglect and abuse. Both Muntaqim and Mutulu have ongoing campaigns for compassionate release and long overdue parole.

It is high time to return these brave and heroic fighters back to their family, friends and community. Free Jalil and Mutulu! Free them all!

For more information about both prisoners’ campaigns, contact the National Jericho Movement at tinyurl.com/ybh2apvw/.

Racism, lack of jobs

Workers face a social pandemic

By G. Dunkel

June 12—On June 5, President Donald Trump was over the moon with joy. The numbers were “stupendous,” “AMAZING” and “INCREDIBLE.” The Dow Jones stock index was up by 829 points, or 3.2 percent, so speculators who bet right made billions.

It didn’t last. June 11 saw a decline of 1,800 points.

The Department of Labor reports that more than 1.5 million U.S. workers filed for new state unemployment checks that week — bringing the total number of new claims to nearly 40 million since the crisis began.

In addition, some 700,000 workers who were self-employed or otherwise ineligible for state jobless benefits filed new claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, a federal aid program. However, the PUA is scheduled to sunset at the end of July, threatening a huge income loss for tens of millions of workers.

Back in May, nonfarm payrolls actually

rose by 2.5 million, when most predictions had estimated a job loss of anywhere from 3 million to 8 million. However, close to 19.5 million workers are still unemployed.

This hiring took place in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Millions of people in the streets were calling the brutal murder of a handcuffed Black man by a racist cop a social pandemic.

The official unemployment rate for May was 13.3 percent, a slight decline from April, but Black workers saw their jobless rate climb. A broader measure of the impact of unemployment, which better takes into account discouraged and part-time workers, is 21.2 percent — one out of every five U.S. workers is unemployed.

In the United States, most workers who lose their jobs also lose health insurance. The much-praised “social safety net” is in tatters.

Social consequences of unemployment

The capitalist class in the United States now wants to force unemployed workers

to take a job, any job, no matter how dangerous or low paid. This attack on workers’ incomes drags down the economy because workers won’t earn enough to buy the goods and services they would normally consume.

For those workers who should qualify for unemployment insurance (UI), the requirements vary. Income levels and time worked are usually prominent reasons given for not providing UI. Undocumented workers are barred from getting federal unemployment benefits. Even documented foreign nationals often have problems.

It can take weeks to open a UI claim. Most states have underfunded their systems and haven’t had the staff, computer capacity or phone lines to handle the COVID-19 surge that began in March.

Some jobless workers have waited 8 to 10 weeks to get the first payments on their unemployment claims. New York state supplies UI benefits on a cash card or direct deposit for workers who have a bank account that accepts such payments.

In New York City, the UI cash card can be fully used at only one KeyBank branch in lower Manhattan. People have sometimes had to travel for hours from all over the city and then wait in line for more hours to get the money to pay rent and buy food.

Since relaxing the stay-at-home requirements for restaurants and hospitality businesses like bars and cafés, employment in this sector of the economy — the one in which President Trump has his investments — has jumped by approximately 1.5 million workers. This might sound great, but employment in this sector is still only what it was in 1993.

Without workers producing surplus value in a functioning economy, the capitalist class loses a major source of the wealth they expropriate. The Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan organ of the U.S. Congress, estimates that from 2020 to 2030, unemployment will cost the U.S. economy \$15.7 trillion.

That spells increasing misery for millions of workers. □

Stop exploiting J-1 cultural workers

By Aleris Villegas and Lyn Neeley

Each year about 300,000 cultural exchange workers — students, scholars and professors sponsored by U.S. employers — enter the country as J-1 workers. The J-1 visa program promises job training for students, a way to share their culture, improve their English and explore life in the U.S.

Last year, however, a study by the International Labor Recruitment Working Group, a consortium of labor advocacy groups, including the AFL-CIO and the Southern Poverty Law Center, found that businesses are exploiting vulnerable J-1 visa holders. Companies like McDonald’s, Dunkin’ Donuts, Stop & Shop, Hershey’s and Disney are defying minimum wage laws and charging visa holders extra fees — sometimes in the thousands of dollars. “We think those fees can really plunge people into

debt and are a catalyst for trafficking and other labor abuses,” said Meredith Stewart, an author of the ILRWG study. (tinyurl.com/y9zsn9va)

The following statement was issued by Philippine J-1 workers: “The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted workers in the hospitality industry. This includes foreign hospitality workers on the J-1 visa, who have been terminated, indefinitely furloughed, or are experiencing significantly reduced hours. J-1 workers who have returned to the Philippines now find themselves deep in debt with no income to recover. The majority who remain in the U.S. are awaiting the uncertain possibility of returning to their worksites.”

Thousands of J-1 workers are being lured by false promises of “internship” and “training” programs within the hospitality industry only to find out that internship and training plans are not followed and no cultural exchange takes

place. Essentially, J-1 workers are being exploited as a profitable replacement for the domestic workforce. Employers avoid the costs of recruitment fees and travel expenses by hiring J-1 workers, who shoulder these expenses. Meanwhile recruiters and visa sponsors amass profits by charging them “program fees” of up to \$10,000.

J-1 workers have suffered exploitative conditions and are now without adequate income. They are buried deep in debt and isolated from their loved ones. Despite these circumstances, they continue to fight. In April, hundreds of Filipino J-1 workers from across the U.S. came together to form the J-1 Workers Network to collectively call for protection, transparency and accountability from the U.S. and Philippine governments, visa sponsors, host companies and recruitment agencies.

We are community members who



stand with the J-1 Workers Network in their demands for assistance and accountability. We, too, call on the U.S. and Philippine governments, visa sponsors, host companies and recruitment agencies to immediately respond to their urgent needs.

You can help by signing the petition Support J-1 Workers across the United States Demanding Assistance and Accountability at bit.ly/j1petition or become a supporter of the J-1 Network: bit.ly/J1CommunitySupport. For more information go to facebook.com/SupportJ1Workers/. □

Multinational unity wins another battle at Harvard

By Boston Workers World bureau

During the recent worldwide upsurge for justice, the Black and Brown workers’ fight to save their jobs — at the flagship bourgeois enterprise Harvard — led to the university’s first anti-racist action on June 9. A multi-union worker-organizing initiative drew close to 70 rank-and-file workers and community supporters to Harvard Yard, all taking a knee and raising a fist in a moment of silence and solidarity with the Black community.

They were mobilized by the stewards of the immigrant-led Service Employees

(SEIU) 32BJ custodians and security guards, UNITE HERE Local 26 dining hall workers, Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers (HUCTW/AFSCME) Local 3650 and Harvard Graduate Students (HGSU-UAW).

Harvard workers were outraged that, after relying on these immigrants of color to do essential and dangerous work throughout the pandemic, the university was going to try to cover its “shortfall” with a 60 percent purge of its mostly Black and Brown workforce. Harvard, with a \$40 billion endowment, wants to throw them away like used cleaning

supplies after a dirty job is done — as if they don’t matter. Many of them don’t even have peace of mind about whether they will still be in this country with their families come January.

The workers rallied to say they are not accepting the burden of making wealthy Harvard more wealthy. They will not go along with layoffs and furloughs at a time when workers, especially janitors, have had to sacrifice so much, and as the Black community, workers of color and immigrants are under attack.

Conscious of the optics, the administration released an email a few minutes before the noon rally, indicating that layoffs were on hold. However, the email also announced early retirement and voluntary temporary hours reduction programs — an ominous signal that layoffs will be threatened again if participation is insufficient. This is a near certainty as most workers will not find these offers in their interest.

The SEIU 32BJ stewards are also the Salvadoran workers with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) who led the national struggle for permanent, legal

residency for all im/migrants. Harvard TPS Coalition activists have stepped forward as the anti-racist leaders at Harvard because they face racism — Trump called the 13 Central American, Caribbean and African countries protected by the program “s---hole countries” as he terminated TPS and threw their lives into uncertainty with risk of deportation. But that has only unified these im/migrants in solidarity and love.

These workers know that anti-racist unity is needed for our class to win. Their action is an example for unions to follow: to destroy the perception that unions protect racists or have bread-and-butter tunnel vision and no interest in responding to the burning issues of the moment. Winning this latest battle against layoffs in the centuries-old class conflict between Harvard and its local working class — while others are winning concessions such as the right to display BLM slogans at work even at anti-union Starbucks — shows that anti-racist labor organizing is an effective strategy. □



Harvard University custodial staff take a knee.

WW PHOTO: GENEVIEVE LECHAT.

In the anti-police uprising in the class struggle

YOUTH are the emerging vital force



By Larry Holmes

Larry Holmes, WWP First Secretary, gave this speech, which has been slightly edited, on a Workers World Party webinar June 4 on “No to Martial Law! Defend the Uprising!”

What we’ve seen over the last week is the largest national uprising against the police and systemic police racism in U.S. history. That’s all the more extraordinary because it takes place during a pandemic, when we were supposed to stay home and be safe. But when there’s a struggle, it pushes the pandemic aside.

Uprising, pandemic and capitalist crisis

We’ve reached a critical bridge with this uprising against the police. It intersects with a number of other things. The pandemic — which has been so brutal on Black and Brown communities, but also the entire working class — intersects with the capitalist crisis and Depression-level unemployment.

It intersects with the growing political instability of the capitalist system and within the capitalist ruling class.

Along with that, there are enormous changes in the demographics and political makeup of the working class. The character of this rebellion is very different from other uprisings against the police. It is more multinational. It is not only Black and Brown, there are many people of all generations and all nationalities.

The capitalist crisis has forced a lot of people into the working class, including a lot of young people who have college degrees and graduate degrees. They were hoping to find a place in the petty bourgeoisie with some confidence and stability, but the crisis of global capitalism is pushing them into not only the working class but into the gig economy, into the lower rungs of the working class, with absolutely no security, no unionization, no health care. That is part of the radicalization, the anticapitalism and some of the antiracism.

Many of these young people do not yet see themselves as part of the working class. That’s where our job comes in. We must struggle to raise the class consciousness of this new, very dynamic sector of the working class.

Young workers are statistically the largest section of the working class, not only in this country, but worldwide. One of our obstacles is that the working-class

movement is not strong, in terms of numbers and organization, or progressive and revolutionary politics. If these new young members of the working class were more class conscious, the crisis would be altogether different.

Going forward, our job is to bring these new forces into the working-class movement, either through unions, and where that’s not possible into workers’ assemblies, workers’ councils, unemployment councils. And joining organizations like Workers World Party will promote the anti-imperialist, pro-working-class, anti-Democratic Party forces in the left. Those forces exist by the hundreds of thousands, by the millions.

Now is the time to open up a big struggle in the organized labor movement, while remembering they represent less than 10 percent of the workers. It makes it difficult to do this job if the labor movement, especially its leadership, is stuck in class collaboration tied to the Democratic Party. The next time there is a rebellion against the police, against systematic racist terror, there has to be a general strike.

Now anything is possible

For those who say it’s impossible because the workers’ movement is just not up to that, I say this rebellion that we’ve been witnessing over the past week, who the hell thought that was possible? A police station in Minneapolis was overtaken by thousands, the police ran, and they burnt the police station down. I don’t remember that happening in recent U.S. history.

What we thought was impossible before, the events of the past week are showing that it’s possible. If labor does not mobilize and solidarize itself, in a big way with this uprising against the police, it will help those neofascist forces who want to stop the class struggle and the struggle for socialism.

Right now, the revolutionary left is still marginalized, as is even the Sanders movement. We’re marginalized regarding our size and influence. This is unacceptable, comrades and friends. Especially now, this crisis is too great for us to remain marginalized.

If we remain marginalized, it means that Marxism, socialism class struggle, and class consciousness will also be marginalized. It means that the liberal bourgeoisie will ultimately take over the leadership — and they’re very good at that. They know what to say, the reverends know the speeches to give and how to take control. That’s what they’re paid for.

All of us who understand what I’m talking about — the importance of class consciousness, class orientation and swelling the numbers of our organized class and having revolutionary potential on our minds — need to step back, reassess this. Understand that this is not just episodic.

We must grasp the fact that this is not just one event; it’s part of a whole new phase of the global uprising of our class.

Those of us who used to call ourselves the vanguard must act together in a principled way to make sure that our class gets ready to meet the tasks ahead of us. So that the road to revolution is not something far off in the distance that we don’t see. Our work brings it on the horizon.

All of us who understand the importance of class consciousness, class orientation and swelling the numbers of our organized class and having revolutionary potential on our minds — need to step back, reassess this. Understand that this is not just episodic. We must grasp the fact that this is not just one event; it’s part of a whole new phase of the global uprising of our class.

Moderator Judy Greenspan: Why does WWP call it a rebellion instead of a riot?

Larry: You know, none of us who live in neighborhoods are happy to see our favorite grocery store trashed. In many instances, you know, it may be Pakistanis or Palestinians or other people of color who own and run that store. I’m saying that we need to look at all of this in a larger political and historical context.

There’s so much pain and suffering and oppression that goes on day in, day out, year after year, generation after generation, century after century, it’s all pushed down. The news doesn’t cover it. You don’t see it on CNN or even MSNBC. And so when there’s the spark that lights the rebellion, like this 9-minute torturing and lynching of George Floyd, with people standing around watching and begging that the cop stop, when something like that sets off a rebellion, all of that pain, all of that suffering that has been quiet, that the bourgeoisie doesn’t address itself to, that the news doesn’t cover, it blows up.

And when it blows up, things get destroyed. Small stores, big stores, police stations, and people want to stay in the street; they want to shut it down. If the pandemic wasn’t on, they’d be stopping traffic. We appreciate the contributions of both Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, realizing that in the 60s, before they were cut down, neither of them made it to the age of 40. In many ways, they were youth, you know, and they were involved in a struggle of Black Liberation versus civil rights. They both made contributions, but it’s important to underscore Malcolm’s role.

Malcolm was strong on the question that we have the right to defend ourselves. Malcolm talked about how our people did not want to engage in struggle and violence to get attention. People just want to live their lives in peace, with love, and know that they have health care and a roof over their head and the things that they need to try to be happy.

Terrible things have to happen to people before they are pushed to the wall and say, “The hell with it.” Malcolm said, “As you sow, so shall you reap.” If you reap oppression and suffering and terror, you should not be surprised when Burn, Baby, Burn comes. The great writer James Baldwin almost 60 years ago wrote a famous book called “The Fire Next Time.” Some of us older people remember that, but the younger people study and they remember too, and it was a wonderful book. No one wrote prose as well as Baldwin. I’m sure most of us are familiar with it.

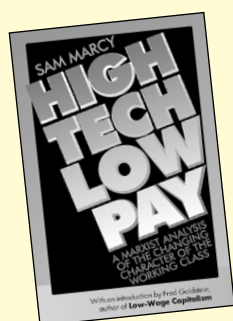
He was warning the capitalists, the white supremacist hierarchy, that the next time your cities are going to burn. I may not want it, it might not be what I want to do. But it’s a chemical, scientific, inevitable reaction. So you should not be surprised, and you should not blame it.

I believe that we should struggle very strongly against the liberals who say, “Well, it’s all about the violence and we have to separate them.” First of all, that gives the police and the military a justification. You can have cops out there saying, “Yeah, we don’t like what happened to George Floyd. But you know, we got to arrest those bad people and put them in prison by the thousands. So we can torture them and don’t even give them masks. So they might even get the pandemic.”

Which is an incredible and outrageous fear. I keep thinking about it. Some of those arrested have been in jail.

We have to have a revolutionary, contextual view of the inevitability of violence, of militancy, of whatever people feel they need to do. And where did they learn looting from? Wall Street loots! Day in, day out! All you have to do is live under this system and it’s hard not to want to loot. What am I going to get, a container of milk, maybe a couple of packages of meat or something like that, if you can, a radio or a computer or something you want to sell.

Look at all this unemployment. Look at all the young workers who are losing their jobs. I’ve heard interviews with those who have been arrested for so-called looting and stuff like that. What do you learn from a society that pretends to be democratic, wonderful, the best thing on Earth, but in fact is full of looting. It’s a looting criminal system. So look in the mirror, bourgeoisie, and blame your looting self. □

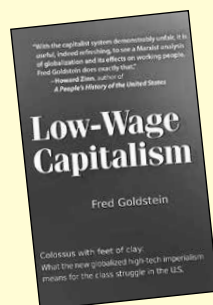


High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein, author of *Low Wage Capitalism*. Free download at workers.org/books

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Low-Wage Capitalism

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Capitalism at a Dead End

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

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to LowWageCapitalism.com



Students, workers say: 'Cops off our campus!'

By calvin deutschbein

Abolitionists are renewing their calls to abolish or at least defund campus police departments. This was first raised in Minneapolis, and now the demand is starting in Austin and Dallas, Texas. Campus police departments are rarely less viciously racist than city police and have less predictable behavior, but they are often better funded.

Campus cops have been in the spotlight in recent years. In Baltimore, site of some of the largest Black Lives Matter uprisings, student organizers staged a 35-day sit-in at Johns Hopkins University (#JHUsitin) opposing the formation of a private campus police force. It would operate as a de facto colonial force over neighborhoods surrounding the school and would coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport campus workers.

A Black queer student led the movement at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to topple Confederate monuments and abolish the police. It won the removal of that monument, and the student government voted to bar cops on campus in the spring of 2019.

Wildcat strikers in San Diego

Wildcat strikers at the University of California, San Diego mobilized to defund campus police throughout the UC system, as officers from their own and other agencies collaborated to surveil and beat striking instructors. This was eerily similar to events a few months earlier at UNC-CH.

A coalition of community groups, including the Graduate Student Union, the Hyde Park Tenants Union and Good Kids Mad City have organized for years against the University of Chicago Police Department. This is a force so violent and racist it stands out, even in a city under the CPD's punitive grasp.

Students and workers have both spearheaded struggles to free their campuses from police forces. Who can blame them? Police are dangerous enough on their own, but for

campus workers, a private police force that reports directly to their bosses creates an additional layer of oppression, not unlike that experienced by city workers.

Workers act: North Carolina, California, Chicago

From the #StrikeDownSam action by instructors at UNC-CH to #COLA4ALL strikers at UC Santa Cruz, to the Graduate Student Union at the University of Chicago, which provides nearly all the instruction on campus, workers have exercised their power against these injustices. They have experienced political violence in return.

But workers continue to struggle alongside students and community members. Even in the most reactionary locales, such as Alamance County, N.C., workers are taking direct action against the police. This county has a great tradition of Black and multiracial, anti-racist organizing. But it also has very strong, openly white-supremacist, repressive institutions.

Alamance County recently made national headlines for having the fastest growing coronavirus outbreak in the U.S. This was a few months after the county got major news coverage for being reinstated into ICE's 287(g) deportation program. That came after the Justice Department had banned it from the ICE program in 2012 for being too openly racist even by federal government standards!

Elon University is one of the largest private employers in Alamance County and is the only one with its own police department. It is a predominantly white country club, whose board of trustees heavily overlaps with members of the Trump administration. Many of them own some of the country's most exploitative businesses.

Just over a year ago, adjunct faculty members, whose labor the university exploits as its primary industry, voted by a large margin to unionize as Service Employees Southern Region Workers United Local 32 to protect themselves, their co-workers, students and the surrounding community. They wanted union protection for everyone exploited by the school.

Service Employees: 'Defund campus police!'

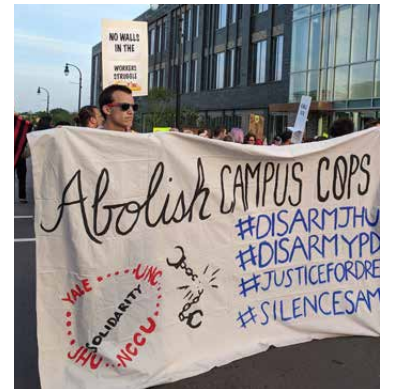
On June 12, the international body of the Service Employees' union called for defunding the campus police and for supporting all the demands in the platform of the Movement for Black Lives. Three days later, members of Local 32 pledged to redirect what they produce as workers — their research and educational capacities — to launch an abolitionist campaign targeting the campus, city and county law enforcement agencies.

This refocusing of the unionists' work came a few days after the latest in a series of hate crimes directed against Black and Jewish community members was once again met with silence by self-styled "public safety" departments. Meanwhile, in the midst of the school's shutdown caused by the viral pandemic, adjuncts were educating students directly without the university as the intermediary.

With classes suspended for the summer, and in-person classes likely suspended indefinitely, the union turned its work to answer renewed calls by Black feminist abolitionists to end the racist tradition of "AmeriKKKan" policing.

As at Elon, workers have mobilized around the country against campus police. This has been shown in sit-ins at police headquarters in Chicago and at demonstrations supporting urban uprisings in Baltimore and California.

Workers everywhere say: "Abolish campus police!" "Disarm the university!" "KKKops off KKKampus!" □



WW PHOTO: DURHAM WW BUREAU

deutschbein holding anti-campus-cop banner at Durham N.C. police headquarters.

35 years after MOVE bombing

Communities denounce police terror

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

A protest against Philadelphia Police Terror on June 13 drew around 1,500 demonstrators to the Osage Avenue site where Philadelphia police dropped a military-grade bomb on the MOVE organization on May 13, 1985. Eleven Black men, women and children were murdered after police and city officials ordered fire fighters to "let the fire burn." Police shot at MOVE members who tried to escape.

While remembering the MOVE victims, today's protest stood in solidarity with George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and countless other Black people murdered by various states' police in recent years, and with the growing movement to defund and abolish the police.

Mike Africa, whose parents, MOVE 9 members Mike Africa Sr. and Debbie Africa, spent over 40 years in prison, called out city officials who are currently offering

up apologies for prior blatant acts of racism, as if they were enough to stop the growing movement. "The politicians are dragging their feet as if nothing has happened. People want justice, and we want it now!" Africa said. "And we want Mumia free now!"

Following the rally, a spirited march made its way through predominantly Black neighborhoods in West Philadelphia. The response from community residents was electrifying. People came out on their porches to cheer and join in chants. Several joined the march.

At a closing rally at Malcolm X Park, speakers raised 13 demands from the radical Black organizing community in Philadelphia. Among the final speakers were high school students from the Philadelphia Student Union who demanded that "every single cop in schools must be out by the time schools reopen. The \$30 million used to keep police in schools should go to have safe learning environments. We want police abolition — not more reforms!"

Event organizers included the MOVE Organization,

BLM Philly, Philly for REAL Justice, Human Rights Coalition Philadelphia, Abolitionists Law Center, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Ubuntu Philadelphia and Mobilization4Mumia. □



June 13 march, Philadelphia.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Austin, Texas

'We marched against the system'

By Ananya Sabharwal and Isabella Ricks
Austin, Texas

On June 7, the Austin Justice Coalition, an activist-led organization founded by Chas Moore and oriented toward battling institutional racism, led a



Austin, June 7.

WW PHOTO: ANANYA SABHARWAL

protest spanning two miles from Huston-Tillotson University to the Texas State Capitol to expand awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement. Its goal is to defund the Austin Police Department.

While a few hundred people were expected, the sea of several thousand people surpassed everyone's expectations. The multinational crowd marched for Black lives in 90-degree heat. Masks hanging limply on people's lips, sweat trickling down anonymous faces, hoarse voices rang out, "BLACK LIVES MATTER."

More than the discomfort of the heat, more than APD's guns locked, loaded and aimed at us, more than the eyes of the Texas State Troopers, the message unified us all to rise up against the system, comfort be damned.

Brenda Ramos, the mother of Michael Ramos, an unarmed Black and Latinx

man murdered by the Austin Police Department in April while his hands were in the air, addressed the crowd in front of Huston-Tillotson, thanking them for caring about her son. Caravans of cars followed and supported us with water bottles, masks, sunscreen and snacks, while honking and raising fists in solidarity as we marched from the east side of I-35, historically a corridor of segregation, toward the Capitol.

People shouted out reminders to take care of ourselves and called out the names of Sandra Bland, Trayvon Martin, Mike Ramos, George Floyd and many others, demanding we remember their names and their stories. And that we remember each lived life of hope, of fear, of laughter, of sadness, of joy and of pain. Some urged the crowd on as it moved toward the state capitol; others gave impassioned speeches

in front of the locked gates of the Capitol and on the steps of the APD headquarters. One man told the crowd, his voice cracking with emotion, "We are fighting for my life!"

Folks from the Black revolutionary group 400+1 set up a tent under the overpass and carefully watched the collected group of protesters in front of APD headquarters. Members of 400+1 stepped into action when the APD arrested a houseless man for "fighting" and "not showing his ID." They immediately videotaped the encounter with the arresting officer and contacted 400+1's legal aid.

The swift camaraderie and solidarity among the crowd reverberated throughout downtown and united us all. We marched against the system. We marched as a reminder to the system that we will not and cannot be silenced. □

Decades of struggle

Dallas-Fort Worth pushes back racism

By Alex Colwell and Mark Herrera
Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas

June 2 — Throughout the U.S., people have been both very afraid and outraged by what is happening at this moment of crisis — whether it's the economic instability of capitalism that COVID-19 has exposed or the recent rise in police violence against Black lives. Then, on May 25, police killed George Floyd in Minneapolis, and later David McAtee in Louisville, Ky., and people were hit with a tidal wave of grief, sadness and righteous anger.

Here in Texas, there has been a massive pushback against injustice through protests and outright rebellion against the police state and acts of repression by the police. Dallas-Fort Worth has shown solidarity with those most affected in this struggle and been a hotspot for political action and outrage.

On Monday, June 1, protesters marched in response to the wrongful death of George Floyd and were met with opposition by the Dallas Police Department. The protest was dispersed by police officers for “violating a curfew” imposed by Police Chief Renee Hall. Although most protesters were not arrested, nearly 200 participants were temporarily detained and bused back to the group's original meeting place, a courthouse just outside the curfew zone. Three protesters were arrested close to the Dallas



Cops surround and arrest hundreds of Dallas protesters who marched onto the Hunt Hill Bridge while demonstrating against police brutality on June 1.

main police station for violating the curfew.

Police repression in DFW is ramping up in response to public outrage against racism and police brutality, as it becomes increasingly clear that the curfew was not imposed for the safety of the people of Dallas. Instead the curfew is designed to silence those who wish to speak out against unjust police violence.

This is not the first time the people of DFW have participated in public action against economic and social injustice, and it is far from the last. After the murder of Botham Jean by ex-Dallas cop Amber Guyger in September 2018,

people mobilized en masse to express their anger with the current racist state of affairs and demand justice for those who had been killed by police officers.

During the struggle against South African apartheid in the late 1980s, Black Dallas activists mobilized to oppose a day honoring that country then ruled by white supremacists. During the Civil Rights Movement, Black activists in Dallas fought hard for the desegregation of Fair Park and the Texas State Fair. One leader was Juanita Craft, a sponsor of the local NAACP Youth Chapter who led the State Fair protests in 1955.

The DFW area has been an important part of the political history of the struggle for social justice in the U.S. Now the multinational youth of Dallas-Fort Worth are becoming even more conscious and radicalized by the world struggles around them. Dallas-Fort Worth, a huge metropolitan area of 7.6 million people in 2019, is developing as a strong center of revolutionary ideas and a vital part of a revolutionary movement fighting to bring justice to workers and oppressed people around the globe.

Whenever there is oppression, the growing DFW movement can be counted on to show solidarity with those trapped under the heel of capitalist injustice. To the workers and marginalized people of Dallas-Fort Worth, Black lives do, and always will, matter. □

Close to victory

Campaign to end the Oakland School Police

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

June 14 — For nearly 10 years, the Black Organizing Project has been fighting to defund and dismantle the Oakland School Police Department.

Oakland is the only school district in Alameda County with its own police system.

After years of organizing, fueled by a massive wave of protest against police terrorism and murder, BOP and the entire Oakland community may finally win this campaign.

Activists have collected invaluable data about how Black and Brown students are disproportionately disciplined, suspended and expelled in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). There have been countless testimonials and protests at school board meetings, with no attention paid by board members and elected officials. Now, even the district superintendent is talking about how to transition to a school system without its own police department.

With everything moving quickly in the last week, BOP continues to organize

and orchestrate the final leg of their campaign, dubbed the “People's Plan for Police-Free Schools.”

BOP unveiled that plan for 2020 last fall in front of the school board and continued to collect data about the harmful impact of disciplinary policies and the use of the school police force inside the Oakland public schools.

Then the Oakland struggle was pushed center stage by rebellions protesting the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other victims of police terror.

On June 10, Rosie Torres, District 5 School Board Director, in collaboration with BOP, presented the “George Floyd Resolution to Eliminate the Oakland School Police Department” during a virtual school board meeting.

Earlier that day, BOP held an extraordinary press conference and rally outside La Escuelita Elementary School, where the school board usually met before COVID-19 virtual meetings.

Over 100 people came to show support, including many Oakland teachers, members of the Oakland Education Association. Student members of BOP's organizing team also spoke out about the

need to abolish school police.

A 7-year-old girl, whose sister is an outgoing student representative on the board, said it plainly, “Why are cops getting paid more money than my teacher? Defund the school police now!”

BOP's plan was summarized in a multicolored flyer: “Police Do Not Equal Safety!” The plan includes divesting from school policing by eliminating the school police department; reorganizing campus safety under a Department of Equity; restructuring the role of security personnel to be that of mentors; reinvesting in mental and behavioral health staff; and establishing a Community Oversight Committee to review student and family complaints regarding law enforcement.

BOP's security plan does not include any reliance on the Oakland Police Department. When an elected official said the district doesn't need school police because they always have the Oakland Police Department, Jessica Black, BOP organizing director, replied that BOP does not want any police in the Oakland schools: “We want police-free schools!”

In a short solidarity statement, OEA representative Maurice Andre San-Chez



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Black Organizing Project banner, Oakland, Calif., June protests.

said that teachers support the BOP program and also do not want any police in the schools.

Since the George Floyd resolution has not yet been adopted by the school board, BOP plans 10 days of actions before the June 24 vote.

Then, hopefully, OUSD will join the many other districts that, under pressure from the mass movement in the streets, are renouncing collaboration with the police.

What's clear is that only continued pressure from courageous community organizations like BOP will ensure police-free schools, and the health, welfare and safety of Black and Brown students all over the country.

For more on BOP's campaign, check out facebook.com/BlackOrgProject. □

Black Lives Matter in Alpine, Texas

This protest march and rally, in the small town of Alpine, Texas, might have been a common scene in the tumultuous summer of 1968, but this was June 6, 2020. Not Dallas or Houston or San Antonio, but in Alpine. Hundreds mobilized in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and against the police murder of George Floyd and all forms of injustice, oppression, police brutality and racism all over the country.

Led by Sedia Woods, an African-American student at Alpine's Sul Ross State University, over 300 people, including the mayor and county judge, marched through town to the Brewster County Courthouse. Woods told the crowd gathered on the courthouse lawn, “For generations, African Americans have been fighting this fight. It is unfair that I am 22, have a whole life to live and I am ready to die for it. That's a problem.”

Alpine is not where one would expect a Black Lives Matter event. It is a town of only 8,000 people

located in far West Texas, in the remote Big Bend region of the state. Three and a half hours from El Paso and six hours west of San Antonio, it is located in Texas's largest county — Brewster County, named for a confederate colonel.

The town is about half white and half Latinx, with less than 1 percent African American. The university, with a multinational population of 2,000 students, is named for a confederate general. Nevertheless, people from all walks of life, ages and races, including many students, marched with a passion, determination and message that Black Lives Matter.

From small towns in the United States to the metropolitan areas, from the local governments to the leaders in Washington, our message is that racism and police brutality will no longer be tolerated. This is not 1968, it is 2020. All human beings are created equal!

— Report and photo by Oscar Cobos



Sedia Woods on bullhorn in Alpine, Texas, June 6. WW PHOTO: OSCAR COBOS

Seattle

60,000-strong march propels anti-racist movement

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

June 13 — Some 60,000 people, propelled by the ongoing global struggle against racist police repression, took part in Seattle's June 12 march and statewide general strike. The march, called and led by Black Lives Matter of Seattle and Martin Luther King County (BLMSKC), followed two weeks of protests and consciousness raising.

In cities and towns across Washington state, people held 38 marches and protest actions from north to south and east to west, according to BLMSKC. Labor contingents also marched.

The youthful and multinational June 12 mass march began in Seattle at 1 p.m., pushing through steady rain from Judkins Park to Jefferson Park in Seattle's multinational south end. With uniformed cops absent, solidarity bike brigades controlled traffic.

The march helped promote the general strike on June 12. The Boeing Company and Amazon, with tens of thousands of workers,

were forced to make accommodations for workers to take the day off. In one of the city's sections, West Seattle/White Center, 65 businesses closed down because of the strike. (The West Seattle Blog)

One action the march encouraged is the ongoing protest and organizing at Seattle's boarded-up East Police Precinct, which the cops were forced to evacuate on June 8.

Daily anti-racist protest at Seattle's East Police Precinct

Anti-racist demonstrations went on daily for 10 days in Seattle's East Police Precinct in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. The police were stuck in their fortress, apparently fearing some attack like the one on May 25 in Minneapolis when the police precinct burned down.

Police had to deploy in front of the precinct for most of the day, setting up barricades to block traffic. Many mass marches originated from or arrived at the barricaded precinct. Trapped inside the perimeter, the cops were forced to listen to the speeches and chanting of the demonstrators.

The police evacuated the precinct the night of June 8 with no place to go. Some public and private schools said that the East Precinct cops couldn't stay on their property.

Area becomes 'Autonomous Zone' organizing center

It's clear that the Seattle city government of Mayor Jenny Durkan took the move to evacuate to moderate the angry struggle of Seattle's oppressed working class. When police left, however, they left the barricades, which the activist community has rearranged as the perimeter of a six-block area around the precinct, which is now called the "Autonomous Zone."

This blocked-off area is now an organizing center, which has already drawn angry remarks from Trump, who attacked Mayor Durkan as he has done to any politicians who advocate even the mildest concessions to the movement.

Although she has drawn this attack from Trump, Durkan is a law-and-order politician who has represented the giant monopoly Amazon and its corporate empire based



Thousands march in Seattle, June 12.

in Seattle, itself notoriously racist, sexist and antilabor. Seattle police have a monster budget of \$350 billion. The Durkan regime has used police to lead sweeps and evict hundreds of homeless camps.

Durkan claims she marched in the Black Lives Matter march on June 12. Since up to half of the homeless are Black, it means the mayor is running a de facto ethnic cleansing campaign against Black people and others.

Openly pro-socialist City Councilperson Kshama Sawant led a march of thousands last week from the Capitol Hill barricades to occupy City Hall and demand Durkan's removal. □

CHAZ Seattle: Imagining a police-free future

By Joshua Hanks
Seattle

In the wake of George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police May 25, demonstrations, protests, marches, rallies and rebellions have spread across the U.S. This is now the largest display of civil unrest in decades, a true revolt against the racist police state that has occupied this stolen land for centuries. In every large city and innumerable small towns, anti-racist activists have organized a myriad of actions, night after night, with tens of thousands coming out onto the streets after months of pandemic lockdowns.

In Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, a gentrified artistic and cultural hub and the historic center of Seattle's LGBTQ2+ community, various groups and individuals have created a powerful response to racist police violence: an autonomous zone spread over six blocks and a city park, Cal Anderson Park at the zone's north end.

Protests in Capitol Hill began immediately after George Floyd's murder and have been ongoing. Police, unsurprisingly, responded with heavy-handed, violent tactics. A citywide curfew was declared, with anyone outside after curfew subject to arrest. Images emerged of a young child maced by Seattle police.

Residents in the neighborhood endured clouds of tear gas invading their apartments as the police deployed copious amounts in the streets of this densely populated area. (This writer, living in downtown Portland, Ore., also had the unfortunate experience of tear gas getting inside his apartment.) Constant noise from police loudspeakers, grenades and helicopters made life difficult for the residents, as well as police barricades and checkpoints that severely disrupted travel within, into and out of the area.

But on June 8, something changed. The police abandoned their East Police Precinct building located in Capitol Hill (some say they ran out of tear gas and other weapons), and activists and organizers, from communists and socialists to anarchists and other leftists, quickly secured the area to prevent police from regaining control. The East Police Precinct building is now under control of what is being called the "Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ)" or "Free Capitol Hill." The sign above the entrance to the former



Memorial to victims of police violence in front of building inside CHAZ. WW PHOTO: JOSHUA HANKS

police building now reads "Seattle People Department."

Police-free living

Organized by a loose, unofficial, decentralized collective of activists and organizers, CHAZ does not have a defined leadership or hard borders, but rather a system of collective responsibility and accountability, centered around the concepts of mutual aid and direct democracy. The organizers quickly erected tents where donated food and supplies are collected and distributed free based on need, not ability to pay. Dozens of tents provide everything from medical care to legal advice to literature, all for no charge.

Gardens were quickly planted, some reviving Indigenous agricultural practices such as "The Three Sisters" consisting of an ingenious, synergistic combination of corn, beans that grow up corn stalks, and squash that provide ground cover to suppress weeds. There's an area with a sound system set up for speakers and musicians. Outdoor film screenings take place nightly, featuring films with themes of anti-racism and social justice.

Corporate media has seized on the events in Capitol Hill, spinning wild tales that resemble nothing about the reality on the ground. Fox News used digitally altered photos of the autonomous zone that even the Seattle Times, a business-friendly newspaper, called out as fake. False stories of violence perpetrated by activists against residents, so-called "warlords" running the area, and extortion of local businesses have all made their way into the corporate media.

Trump called the activists and organizers of CHAZ "domestic terrorists" and excoriated Seattle's Democratic

Mayor Jenny Durkan and Washington's Democratic Governor Jay Inslee for not doing enough to crush the zone.

Yet when this writer visited CHAZ on June 13 with a delegation of Workers World Party members and friends from Portland, Ore., it quickly became very clear that this was not the bloody, terrorist dystopia concocted by the propagandists at Fox News. Far from it.

In reality the area was much calmer with the police gone, with no more noxious clouds of tear gas drifting through the streets and into people's homes. Gone were the constant grenade explosions and police loudspeakers barking threats. Pictures of Capitol Hill under heavy police repression resembled a dystopia, while CHAZ has the air of a summer block party with a social justice focus. A speaker who gave his name as "Richard" described it as "a party with a purpose."

People from all walks of life freely stroll about with their dogs and children in the now car-free streets, marvelling at the spectacular art that adorns the streets and facades of buildings, memorializing those murdered at the hands of police and listing demands for justice. Locally owned restaurants in the CHAZ, previously shuttered when the police occupied the neighborhood, were up, running and doing a brisk business. Tear gas has been replaced with soap bubbles floating through the air.

'More peaceful for a person of color'

In a June 1 article in *The Stranger*, a local Seattle paper, some of the zone's 200 permanent residents voiced their support for what's happening. A resident who preferred to remain anonymous had this to say: "Coming from a Latin American country where there's a lot of

police brutality, we thought moving here would be different. Having the police turn our neighborhood into a violent zone and seeing Black and Brown neighbors being attacked by the police was retraumatizing.

"Once the police left, things changed dramatically. We were not asked to stay home. Not asked to show our IDs to get into our apartment. We can approach protesters and ask questions about what's going on and get information. We've witnessed protesters going to businesses and making sure they're okay, communicating with them. As of right now, this seems more peaceful for a person of color living in Capitol Hill."

Another resident said, "There is more compassion and willingness to build better futures together than anything I've seen out of leadership in the White House in the last few years, and specifically out of Seattle's City Hall in the last two weeks."

There are barricades with volunteers standing guard on the streets along the zone's perimeter. (Cal Anderson Park does not have any barricades, though, and looks like a normal park.) Some conservatives say this shows the hypocrisy of leftists who denounce Trump's racist border wall, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Yet the nature and purpose of the barricades at CHAZ are far different from those on U.S. borders. Police and far-right individuals have a sordid record of intentionally plowing cars and trucks through crowds of anti-racist protesters, killing and injuring people, and the barricades help prevent that. They also allow volunteers to monitor who enters the zone in case police and white supremacists attempt to violently retake the area or cause harm.

The corporate media's biased, fact-challenged reporting on CHAZ should raise eyebrows for everyone who values truth and accuracy in journalism. It also raises questions about the quality and accuracy of reporting on countries the U.S. considers enemies, such as Cuba, Venezuela, China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Most people here have never visited those countries, and their views are shaped almost entirely by the corporate media, the CIA and the U.S. State Department, among others.

If these entities shamelessly lie about what's going on at home, at a place someone can visit for themselves, can the public really trust what they have to say

Continued on page 11

Why the police cannot be reformed

By Monica Moorehead

These edited remarks were made at a June 11 webinar sponsored by Workers World Party: "Why we must abolish the police."

What a historical, earth-shattering shift just three months has made! Who would have thought the main debate in the country and the world would be whether the police should be defunded, dismantled or even abolished, due to not one but two pandemics interconnecting with each other — resting on the ever-crumbing foundation of capitalism and its permanent crisis since 2008?

The COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated in early March, kept millions of people indoors, wearing masks and social distancing, while killing over 100,000. Now there is a grim estimate that another 100,000 people in the U.S could perish before September.

COVID exposed how capitalism was not able to meet people's most basic needs like health care, income, food, housing and more. Billions of dollars in emergency bailouts went to the corporations at the expense of the suffering and pain of the masses, including Black and other oppressed peoples who are dying at alarming numbers, disproportionate to whites in their overall representation in the population.

And then, only weeks later, came another pandemic — another terrible outbreak of racism, the May 25 public torture and lynching of George Floyd by cops in Minneapolis, sparking a rebellion that still continues. The country was already sitting on a potential powder keg with the vigilante lynchings of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Ga.; Breonna Taylor, shot eight times while sleeping in Louisville, Ky.; Tony McDade, a Black trans man in Tallahassee, Fla., and more.

Floyd's murder lit the fuse of the powder keg that exploded worldwide and uncovered the ongoing war that Black and other oppressed peoples have suffered from for decades — police terror.

The masses have been risking their health and the brutality of police to resist in the streets day and night — and say, "Enough is enough" about unpunished police lynchings.

'A grassroots groundswell rebellion that goes beyond reforms'

What makes this rebellion so unique is its multinational character, led by angry young people, which is changing the political landscape forever on a global scale. Every sector of society has been impacted with protests too numerous to mention.

However, this is more than a rebellion against police terror. It is also a rebellion against white supremacy. Look at the pro-slavery, pro-cop and pro-colonial monuments and statues that have been burnt, torn down, defaced or beheaded — monuments that glorified butchers from Christopher Columbus to Belgium's King Leopold to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo.

As someone whose roots are in the segregated South, this was so uplifting for me to see.

The 72-year-old NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing) — with deep roots in the white segregationist South — announced only yesterday a ban on Confederate flags at its events, unheard of three months ago.

When top Pentagon officials announced the possibility of removing Confederate generals' names from 10 military bases, Trump denounced that.

Not surprising since his base is composed of KKK members, neofascists and white supremacists — many of whom are cops or cop sympathizers, as we saw in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017. And Trump's first campaign rally was to be held in Tulsa, Okla., site of a racist white vigilante massacre of hundreds of Black people 99 years ago. Four years ago it was the scene of the police murder of Terence Crutcher. The white police officer was never charged.

You know that the ruling class's profits are threatened when they send out messages pledging to support "Black Lives Matter" — even the union-busting, trillion-dollar corporation Amazon! This ploy is all about trying to co-opt the mass movement.

Local, state and federal legislators are scrambling to come up with police bandaid "reforms" to try to quell the protests. But right now there is a grassroots groundswell that goes beyond reforms — reforms that will not fundamentally change the untenable relations between the police and the masses, especially communities of color.

Marx and Lenin analyzed how to abolish the police

From a Marxist perspective, the capitalist system depends on the police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as well as mass incarceration, the courts, prisons and biased laws, to maintain class dominance so billionaires can hold onto profits and to keep the masses powerless, defenseless and isolated.

Here's a quote from V.I. Lenin's "State and Revolution," written over a century ago, that still resonates today: "According to Marx, the state is an organ of class rule, an organ for the oppression of one class by another. The state is, therefore, by no means a power forced on society from without. Rather, it is a product of society at a certain stage of development; it is the admission that this society has become entangled in an insoluble contradiction with itself, that it has split into irreconcilable antagonisms which it is powerless to dispel.

"But in order that these antagonisms, these classes with conflicting economic interests, might not consume themselves and society in fruitless struggle, it became necessary to have a power, seemingly standing above society, that would alleviate the conflict and keep it within the bounds of 'order'; and this power, arisen out of society but placing itself above it, and alienating itself more and more from it,



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

May 30 protest, Union Square, New York City.

is the state."

This speaks to what is going on today, because not only the police, but the military are armed to the teeth, to repress the rebellion of the people who threaten fragile capitalist peace and stability for Wall Street bosses and bankers.

This quote explains succinctly why we say, "Abolish the police!" This is not about good cops and bad cops. The police cannot be reformed because, historically, there can be no reconciliation between them and the masses. The police are an armed force created not to protect and serve the people but to protect and serve the private property of the rich.

But this task of abolition cannot be completely and ultimately achieved unless the economic system the police and state "protects and serves" is also abolished. You can't carry out one abolition without the other.

Working-class power can change everything

Only the working class, the class that produces everything and owns nothing, can achieve this, with the guidance of a revolutionary program of united, organized revolutionary forces. At this juncture, a majority of the masses may say "Defund the police" because they want some relief from the pain they witness and experience on a daily basis. But even if the rebellion wins this concession, defunding the police is just the first important step forward.

The direct intervention of the masses goes through various phases, with spontaneity being only one phase. Another phase may be some necessary assessment of next steps to move forward, in order to sustain momentum, until ultimately there is a national independent, revolutionary, developed program for real socialism — and not the social democracy that the Democrats hope to steer the masses toward with Biden as their 2020 candidate.

Workers World Party is ready to play a vanguard role in this struggle. First, in being with the masses in solidarity with their transitional demands for community control. And at the same time, in bringing a down-to-earth Marxist program that exposes the root causes of white supremacy, the role of state terror and also shows how the fight against capitalism will break down barriers and build the class unity to meet all basic human needs.

From everything we have seen over the past three months and before, the masses are ready for real social change. They are ready for revolutionary change which is monumental. If those who are reading these words are also ready to make history, and you are looking for a revolutionary, socialist party that has been preparing for over 60 years for what we see today, please join our ranks with your ideas, energy and skills to make us stronger for our class, the movement and the struggle.

Black Lives Matter! Abolish the police and ICE! Smash white supremacy! Build a Workers World! □

CHAZ Seattle

Continued from page 10

about countries thousands of miles away that have resisted U.S. imperialism for decades?

It's impossible to know how long CHAZ will last. Police and the National Guard could swiftly and violently retake the area at any moment, although they will meet stiff opposition. But this spectacular experiment in autonomy and a police-free environment shows what is possible, and the lessons learned from it won't soon be forgotten. It has already inspired revolutionaries, workers and oppressed peoples around the world.

The torching of the police precinct building in Minneapolis just a few weeks ago showed the ruling class that the people are capable of destroying their institutions of repression, while CHAZ shows that the people are capable of constructing something entirely new. These two events represent a dialectical dance of revolutionary destruction and construction — of destroying the old system of racism and inequality and constructing a new society of justice and fairness. □

Justice for Rayshard Brooks!

Continued from page 1

and Pryor Avenues, where the Wendy's was located. Despite a show of force by police in riot gear, who formed a line to block the nearby interstate highway, protesters were able to charge the police line and run uphill to take I-75/85 around 9 p.m.

Protesters interlocked arms and were able to block both sides of traffic — 12 lanes — for hours until police arrived in SWAT gear and arrested 36 people.

Almost immediately after hearing that the APD had lynched another Black man, the community and protesters also surrounded the Wendy's where Brooks was murdered. At the same time demonstrators were taking over the superhighway, other protesters were setting fire to Wendy's, where the call was made that ended Brooks' life. By 10 p.m. it was engulfed in flames.

Later that night, some protesters made it to Zone 3 Precinct, the police station down the road from Wendy's. Protesters gathered outside the precinct demanding justice for Brooks until, past midnight, police threw tear gas and shot rubber bullets at the unarmed demonstrators.

On Sunday, June 14, the community came out again for Brooks. Hundreds of protesters returned to Wendy's and then began marching to the Zone 3 Precinct. Around 10 p.m. it was reported that over 100 cars had been parked in nearby roads, blocking police reinforcements from getting to the station. Late-night marches to downtown Atlanta were also taking place, as the righteously outraged set fires and the poor and oppressed — who have been robbed of the wealth their work has created — proceeded to redistribute goods from The Beacon, a gentrified shopping district.

The struggle will continue

The murder of Brooks by the APD generated feelings of sorrow and anger, unfortunately all too familiar to Atlanta organizers, the Black community and those who care and fight for Black lives in the city.

Anthony Hill, Kathryn Johnston, Jamarion Robinson, Oscar Cain, Alexia Christian and Nicholas Thomas — these are only a few of the Black people whom the APD has murdered throughout the years. In a less-reported murder of a Black

man, cops killed Lamin Sisay, a man from Gambia, right outside of Atlanta on May 29, only four days after the lynching of George Floyd.

Organizers continue the fight to get justice for these people.

Because of these murders and the brutality that define the APD, Atlanta activists have for years called for APD Chief Shields to resign. Shields is now gone, but the long-standing community demands of closing the city jail and funding the surrounding community — which faces great poverty as gentrifiers continue to flood Atlanta — have yet to be met.

More actions are planned in Atlanta to protest the murder of Brooks by the APD, with some occurring even as this article is being written. Organizers have made it clear they will not stop until there is justice for Brooks and all people murdered by the APD.

Their demands will eventually have to be met — because the Atlanta Black community will continue to struggle, as it has for hundreds of years.

Do not forget Rayshard Brooks! Fight for him and all Black lives! □

Learning from history

Labor vs. police

By Martha Grevatt

Led by oppressed youth, a working-class revolt has erupted, initially over the police lynching of George Floyd. It needs and deserves the unconditional solidarity of organized labor.



GM strikers battle police on Jan. 11, 1937.

Unfortunately, what top labor officials have delivered is something much less.

Consider a recent statement signed by New York City leaders of the Service Employees (SEIU), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, United Auto Workers, Communication Workers (CWA), Professional Staff Congress and the New York State Nurses Association. Overall, the statement is laudable. But these generally progressive union leaders felt compelled to include a caveat that “we do not, and never will, condone violence against police nor property.” (seiu32bj.org)

By separating out “violent” protesters from others who are “peaceful,” these unionists have fallen into a trap set by the capitalist media to divide the movement.

They admit that the so-called violence has been directed only at police and property. Repeatedly, it has been the police who initiated violence with their attacks on anti-racist demonstrators. But those who engaged in self-defense and inflicted damage on hated instruments of oppression — police buildings and vehicles — were the ones castigated as “violent.”

To fall for violence-baiting is to embark on a collision course with the long, militant history of organized labor. Since their inception in the late 19th century, U.S. unions have had to engage in class warfare — not always peaceful — with both the owners of private property and the police whose job is to defend it.

Flint 1937: Battle of Bulls’ Run

Anyone who has studied labor history is familiar with the famous Flint sit-down strike. For 44 days — Dec. 30, 1936, to Feb. 11, 1937 — General Motors workers occupied key company plants in Flint, Mich. They marched out of the plants triumphantly after GM agreed to recognize the United Auto Workers union.

Any illusions about police impartiality were shattered on Jan. 11, 1937. Until then the union’s Women’s Auxiliary had been able to deliver food to the strikers inside. But on that day, plant guards blocked the deliveries to GM’s Fisher Body Two plant. Flint police

began to surround the building.

Supporters picketing outside then swarmed the gate, while strikers inside forced the gate open. Police retaliated by firing tear gas and vomit-inducing gas (from GM’s private stockpile) into the

plant. A striker’s wife, Genora Johnson, took the microphone on the sound car and called on the women to charge through the police barricades — which they did.

The strikers inside turned on fire hoses and showered the cops with ice-cold water, along with a barrage of two-pound hinges. Outside, pickets overturned police cars. This became known as the “Battle of Bulls’ Run” because of how fast the police ran away.

Would today’s union leaders condemn this heroic action as “violence against police” or a crime against property?

Although the state suffered a defeat, police brutality continued against the union, not only in Flint but in Saginaw and Bay City. Police looked the other way while vigilantes terrorized union supporters in Anderson, Ind.

Donald Trump would have approved of the Indiana governor’s decision to declare martial law and ban public gatherings.

Police never a friend of labor

While the UAW’s battles with Flint’s police are well known, they were hardly unique.

In the 19th century police routinely attacked strikes. Unionists, falsely charged in killings of police, faced the gallows. The five Haymarket martyrs, now honored every year on May Day, were executed in 1887 for the death of a cop even though it was proved that they were not involved in it. The same fate befell 19 Pennsylvania mine union organizers between 1877 and 1879. The last two were hanged just minutes before a reprieve was issued by Pennsylvania’s governor.

Throughout labor history, one finds innumerable accounts of cops engaging in anti-union violence. Police viciously attacked unarmed pickets during the 1994 Staley strike in Decatur, Ill., as well as the 1995 Detroit newspaper strike, to name a few examples. They arrested and harassed UAW members during last year’s strike against GM.

These uniformed goons have been, and always will be, the enemy of the working class and oppressed. They will side with the bosses whenever we organize and strike.

It is time for organized labor to remember its history, break with phony police “unions” and defend the resistance in the streets. □

Raleigh protests demand justice

By calvin deutschbein

June 13 marked the beginning of the third week of protests in Raleigh, N.C., the state capital and home of the murderous Raleigh Police Department and more than 70 other law enforcement agencies. Different days have drawn different groups with varying goals, but not a day has gone by without hundreds of people turning out on the streets to support Black Liberation and oppose the police.

Protests have focused on contesting city sites glorifying white supremacy. From the moment protests began at 5 p.m. on May 30, hundreds of people immediately besieged the Wake County Detention Center. Others gathered around Confederate monuments in the state capital, the Raleigh Municipal Building, which holds the offices of the mayor and city council, and the governor’s mansion. They also went to many sites of



WW PHOTO: DURHAM WW BUREAU

police killings around the city.

On June 11, hundreds of demonstrators marched on the Central Prison in Raleigh during shift change. They blocked the exits for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd’s neck, killing him. On the day of this protest, Thomas Lane, former police officer who has been charged with aiding and abetting this horrific murder, was released from custody on bail. □



One step closer to freedom for Ana Belen Montes

By Jason Cohen

For close to 20 years Ana Belen Montes, a Puerto Rican woman, has been held hostage in a federal prison located in Fort Worth, Texas. Due to the hard work of dedicated activists an international movement in solidarity with Montes has forced the federal government to grant her early release in 2022.

To support Ana Belen Montes in her struggle to transition back into society, an amazing social media campaign has been launched by ProLibertad and La Mesa de Trabajo por Ana Belen Montes. The campaign consists of supporters taking a picture of themselves holding a sign with the rallying cry “Ana Belen Montes Is Ours! ¡Ana Belen Montes es Nuestra!”

This campaign is meant to help spread awareness about this prisoner of conscience and help raise money that will be needed once she is free. This is an amazing campaign that will help an anti-imperialist who dared to fight against the criminal ambitions of the United States.

So what did Ana Belen Montes do? During her tenure as an official in the Defense Intelligence Agency she learned about the numerous strategies the United States had been using to destabilize Cuba. Montes has something that is hardly found in most people who work in capitalist intelligence agencies — a conscience. She allegedly shared classified information about imperialist ventures with the Cuban government for 16 years

before she was incarcerated.

During her trial Montes stated: “I engaged in the activity that brought me before you because I obeyed my conscience rather than the law. I believe our government’s policy toward Cuba is cruel and unfair, profoundly un-neighborly, and I felt morally obligated to help the island defend itself from our efforts to impose our values and our political system on it.”

Montes was persecuted because she believed that the imperialist intrigues against the Cuban Revolution were criminal, and unlike the capitalist ruling class, she felt a fraternal bond with the Cuban people and with humanity as a whole.

It’s really heartening to see the work that ProLibertad and La Mesa have done in defense of Montes. They have struggled to educate the public about her case and have fully commandeered a campaign that will free her years before her original sentence would be completed, along with a nice fund that will ease her transition back to civilian life.

It is important to emphasize this because each political prisoner freed bolsters the movement to free the rest of our comrades who are wasting away in these concentration camps of the working class. In 2022, Ana will be free! May those fortresses of capital collapse under the weight of the workers struggle!

¡Ana Belen Montes es Nuestra!
¡Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!
¡Long Live Cuban-Puerto Rican Solidarity! □

Woman veteran of Long March

Wang Dingguo ¡presente!

By Lyn Neeley

Wang Dingguo, the oldest female veteran of the Chinese Red Army’s Long March, died at the age of 107 on June 9. (China Daily, June 11)

When Wang was 20 years old in 1933, she joined the Chinese Communist Party after running away from a five-year marriage she had been sold into.

The next year, she joined the Fourth Red Army Front and went on the Long March from October 1934 to October 1936. Red Army soldiers marched 6,000 miles through the rough Chinese countryside to combat the Kuomintang regime and flee Chiang Kai-shek’s Nationalist Party army. Wang was one of only 30 women among the 86,000 men on the Long March.

Wang fought in battles with Nationalist Party troops and endured freezing Chinese winter conditions that caused her to lose a toe to frostbite. She reflected on the Red Army forces marching at night: “The line of torches looked like a long dragon with flames. They lit up the winding roads. For me, I saw hope.” (tinyurl.com/y7a5bb9b)

Wang was part of a theatrical troupe designed to raise troop morale. The troupe marched ahead of the troops, then caught up with them after all had passed, marching the same route twice. (tinyurl.com/y7l5q5s4) She was



in charge of the troupe’s props and makeup, as well as serving as a fighter.

At the end of the march, Chinese communists set up a new base at Yan’an in the isolated mountains of northern Shaanxi. It was here, during the next 10 years, that the Chinese Party developed their constitution based on Marxism-Leninism and where they solidified the leadership of Mao Zedong.

In 1959, Wang became a member of the Supreme People’s Court, the highest court in mainland China. In 1964, she became a secretary in the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. She retired in 1993.

Wang Dingguo’s long militant life is a testament to the power and determination of the young communists who fought for and built what has become one of the most powerful and rapidly developing countries. □

Conflict arises over renaming military bases

By John Catalinotto

June 14 — The massive Black Lives Matter uprising has aroused demands that the U.S. Armed Forces rename the 10 military bases named for Confederate generals and ban the use of racist symbols — such as the Confederate battle flag.

For the second time in weeks, top military officers must confront the president. Earlier the Pentagon's highest generals and admirals denounced Trump's threat to use active-duty troops against anti-racist demonstrations. This time Trump said he would refuse to rename any military bases.

Both recent conflicts involving Pentagon officers vs. Trump reflect the innate class and racial contradiction within the U.S. military. The military recruits rank-and-file troops and non-commissioned officers from the working class, with high concentrations from oppressed communities.

With 17 percent of troops in all the forces African Americans, and an even greater concentration of Black Americans

and other people of color in the Army and Marines, the potential exists for massive dissension, disaffection and even revolt at a time when antiracism is at the top of the masses' agenda.

Since the movement among civilians has many active supporters among young white workers and students, the same may be true among members of the Armed Forces — given the pervasiveness of racist ideology of U.S. society.

No more acceptance of open racism

The top officers realize that the movement that arose after George Floyd's murder has made it impossible for the Armed Forces to continue to accept or stonewall decades of insulting racist treatment of its people of color members. Troops of color have had to tolerate the gut-wrenching pain of training and serving in bases named for racist, proslavery officers who committed treason by supporting secession in the 1861-65 Civil War.

Now the largest protest movement in U.S. history is saying, "No more." And the Pentagon officers, fearing a potential

movement inside the military that would have massive civilian support, are offering symbolic concessions to defuse any internal uprising.

The Army has 10 bases named after Confederate generals, including the major facilities of Fort Benning, Fort Bragg and Fort Hood. Confederate Army Gen. Henry L. Benning was a leader of Georgia's secessionist movement and an open advocate of preserving slavery. Gen. Braxton Bragg first fought the Seminole Nation in Florida and later the Union Army.

Today's movement is saying they all must go, along with the monuments to Confederate officers it's removing by hand, where city and state governments don't move quickly enough.

The righteous fury against all racist symbols has also impacted the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy.

In a June 5 ruling, the USMC said: "The Marine Corps shall remove the Confederate battle flag from all installation public spaces and work areas in order to support our core values, ensure unit cohesion and security and preserve good order and discipline." (CNN, June 5) And added in a Twitter comment: "The Confederate battle flag has all too often been co-opted by violent extremist and racist groups whose divisive beliefs have no place in our Corps."

The ruling names no specific date for this action nor any consequences if the rule is flouted. That is, there are no teeth in the rule — at least not yet.

The Navy's top admiral announced

June 9 that he will follow the example of the Marine Corps regarding removal of public displays of the Confederate battle flag.

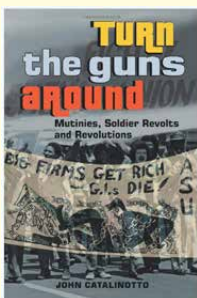
Symbols and struggle

The simple removal of racist symbols, which would mark a progressive advance, would still leave intact the basic reactionary nature of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Pentagon pretends its role is to defend freedom and democracy. Its real main task, however, is to impose the rule of U.S.-based banks and giant monopoly corporations on the people of the world — that's U.S. imperialism.

For the new movement now underway, however, whose aim is to smash not only the symbols of racism, but to eliminate structural racism in all its forms, these developments in the Armed Forces should send a signal. They provide an opening to support anti-racist movements within the Armed Forces and to support any individual service members who speak out or act against racism.

As this battle against racism in the Armed Forces develops, it brings people into struggle, open to new ideas, including the troops. Trump's racist orders mean a sharp conflict may occur. This struggle can provide an opportunity to explain the central reactionary role of the U.S. Armed Forces and to organize resistance, including among rank-and-file troops.

Catalinotto is author of "Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions."



Turn the Guns Around

by John Catalinotto

Draftees and enlistees — eighteen-year-olds from the South Bronx, factory workers from Buffalo, miners' sons from Kentucky, unemployed youth from Watts — hate the military and the Vietnam War. They throw a wrench into the Pentagon's war machine, becoming leaders of the anti-war movement and organizing a union in the conscript military to battle war, racism and their officers.

Available at major online booksellers.

France

Massive mobilization charges racist police murder

By G. Dunkel

Ever since Adama Traoré, a person from the West African country of Mali living in a northern suburb of Paris, died in 2016 while being questioned by three members of the French national police, the coalition The Truth About Adama Traoré has been campaigning to expose this as a significant example of the racist violence that French cops dispense.

While French cops don't kill many people compared to cops in Brazil or the U.S. — the 10 to 15 on average a year is nowhere near the over 1,000 killed in the U.S. — they have beaten, maimed and blinded hundreds in recent years. The extent of French police brutality has been well documented in lawsuits filed by Yellow Vest protesters.

Authorities issued the final autopsy report on Adama Traoré's death as May ended. The coalition then called for demonstrations on June 2 in Paris, Marseille, Lille, Lyon and Bordeaux.

The coalition expected about 1,000 people to turn out. But the protest on June 2 followed the news of the brutal killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the beginning of mass demonstrations in the U.S. According to the cops over 20,000 people came out — the coalition estimates 60,000. Many placards and banners were expressions of solidarity — George/Adama, the same fight (in French). Protesters also purposely carried signs in English, such as "#Black Lives Matter" to make their solidarity clear to the world.

All who have been demanding system changes — youth from suburban neighborhoods (French suburbs are filled with poor and working-class Black and Arab communities) came out side by side with cultural and sports personalities, Yellow Vest protesters and climate activists — and stood in front of the Paris courthouse to make their anger over police violence heard. White workers with steady jobs, who, according to the major daily newspaper Le Monde, are beginning to see the "relevance of this struggle," also joined.

Assa Traoré, the older sister of Adama, speaking



Paris protest, June 12.

for the coalition, said that "the system in France was the same as the system in the United States" and both have to be overturned. According to the coalition, the huge turnout was the result of four years of struggle over the death of Adama and decades of struggle against racism in France.

And indeed their voices were heard.

The next week Christophe Castaner, the minister of interior who is in charge of the police throughout the country, went on television to announce that cop chokeholds were forbidden and cops caught engaging in racist violence would be severely punished.

At the next demonstration the Adama Traoré coalition called, a slightly smaller response in Paris was still militant. The people came out despite warnings from the cops that large assemblies were forbidden because of the danger of contamination from the coronavirus.

At the start of the Paris march, a group of right-wing "white rights" activists dropped a banner from an apartment house. People living in the apartments ripped the banner down, while marchers below chanted, "We despise fascists!" The whole scene was covered on French Television's national news.

Major solidarity actions supporting the anti-racist movement in the United States also took place in England, Scotland, Germany, Spain and Italy. □

Toppling a mass murderer

By Deirdre Griswold

It seems that in Britain, similar to here in the U.S., the ruling class has made sure to sing the praises of those who have committed the worst crimes against humanity in their "service" to the empire.

And, as here, the truth about them is finally seeing the light of day.

One such figure was Edward Colston, a wealthy English merchant and Member of Parliament who died in 1681. For years a statue paying tribute to Colston as a great "philanthropist" looked out over the harbor at Bristol on the English Channel.

How did Colston amass enough wealth to give a little away and become a "philanthropist"?

Businessman Colston was head of the Royal African Company. This very profitable venture shipped about 100,000 captured women and men from West Africa to the Americas and the Caribbean.

About 20,000 of them, stuffed into stinking holds aboard ship, died during the voyages of disease and dehydration. Their bodies, branded on the chest with the company's initials, RAC, were unceremoniously thrown into the ocean.

Those who survived the sea voyage were then sold into slavery, mostly in the southern part of what has become the United States, but was at that time an English colony.

Colston's wealth, dripping with the blood and suffering of so many victims, went on to pay for his seat as a Tory member of Parliament and change his image from mass murderer to benevolent businessman. Hence the statue.

Until this June 7, when it was toppled off its base and rolled into the water by an enthusiastic and angry crowd shouting, "Black Lives Matter!"

How many more statues are there that need to be toppled in imperialist countries that to this very day oppress and exploit hundreds of millions of people all over the world?

Even more to the point, how soon will these symbolic acts be followed by the kind of mass movement that can actually topple the profit-driven economic system that produces the Edward Colstons of today? □

Celebrating Juneteenth during an uprising

On Juneteenth, commemorated on June 19, African Americans mark the anniversary of the day in 1865 when union troops arrived in Galveston Island to inform the enslaved people in Texas that the heinous system of slavery had ended. The delayed announcement forced an estimated 250,000 African descendants to languish under the lash for almost three more years after the Emancipation Proclamation became law on Jan. 1, 1863.

While Texas was the last southern state to legally recognize the Proclamation, it was the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday in 1979. Currently, 47 states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday, but Congress has not made it a federal holiday. However, the current mass rebellion — going into its third week as of June 15 — may force its passage.

A lot has happened between 1865 and today for African Americans such as: Black Reconstruction, Jim Crow lynchings, segregation and other forms of racist oppression.

Sparked by reaction to the racist police lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, the uprising against police terror and the white supremacy it rests upon has moved consciousness to the left among the

U.S. population at almost warp speed. Police brutality in all forms — but especially the murders of Black people — has been put on trial. And so has racism in general, past and present.

Confederate statues and proslavery symbols have been taken down, torn down or banned from Richmond, Va. — infamous for its Confederate Row statues including Robert E. Lee — to New Orleans, from Birmingham, Ala., to Memphis, Tenn. Confederate flags have been banned from NASCAR's stock car racing events, thanks to the courageous Black driver, Bubba Wallace, who raised this demand.

Black college football players at big schools like Iowa State University and Clemson State University in South Carolina say they feel more empowered to speak out due to the countrywide protests and to expose the racism they face from their white coaches. Some Clemson football players, Black and white, led a campus march of thousands on June 13 to demand slaveowner John C. Calhoun's name be removed from the school's Honors College. They won the demand.

Nike, the National Football League, Twitter and other corporations are giving their workers Juneteenth off with

pay. Some of these same corporations have "pledged" to hire more Black workers and to donate millions of dollars to community organizations. Massive grassroots pressure won these concessions from the profit-driven CEOs — it did not come from the goodness of their hearts.

Trump attempted to defame the legacy of Juneteenth and to minimize the 1921 Tulsa, Okla., white supremacist massacre of the neighborhood called "Black Wall Street" by holding an ultra-right-wing campaign rally on June 19 in that city. Yielding to heavy criticism, he postponed the rally for one day. We can expect righteous anti-Trump protests in Tulsa and other U.S. cities.

This uprising, now three weeks old, has emboldened and drawn the masses of all ages and nationalities into the streets to defend Black Lives Matter and put neo-fascist Trump and his CEO cohorts on the defensive. Millions of people here and worldwide will come to appreciate the historic role of Juneteenth in the ongoing struggle for social justice and equality for African Americans. And millions of workers and the oppressed across the globe will begin to grasp this struggle's essential role in uniting the working class to fight to end the exploitation of all working and oppressed peoples. □

Stonewall means unite & fight back!

Continued from page 1

of the 2016 Pulse Massacre in Orlando, Fla. Forty-nine people were killed there on June 12, 2016, at an LGBTQ2+ nightclub — mostly young queer people of color, 90 percent Latinx.

The HHS order gave bigots the go-ahead to deny queer, gender non-conforming and trans people access to a doctor's appointment, a COVID-19 test, abortion and reproductive services, the emergency room and health insurance.

The timing of the HHS order was cynically designed to be demoralizing. There's no doubt that in the middle of a global pandemic, this decision means more LGBTQ2+ people will die. Already more than 50 percent of queer people experience some form of health care discrimination; one in five trans people are without health coverage simply because of their trans identity. (tinyurl.com/yb4t4a6x)

Tia Sherée Gaynor, a University of Cincinnati political science professor, emphasized that for Black trans people being denied health care: "It's layers of oppression — it's transphobia on top of racism on top of economic oppression." (npr.org, June 12)

SCOTUS unexpectedly upholds discrimination protections

In a surprise June 15 ruling, the conservative-majority U.S. Supreme Court appears to have contradicted Trump's attack. SCOTUS held that existing federal law forbids job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and transgender status — a major victory for LGBTQ2+ activists who've fought for that for decades.

The victory was wrung out of this capitalist state only because the masses are in tremendous, angry, rebellious motion against multiple oppressions — with brilliant participation and leadership from LGBTQ2+ people of color. Such a concession has happened before; the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that granted the right to abortion was also forced by a mass movement out of a conservative SCOTUS.

But the ruling class strategy of divide-and-conquer continues. It was revealed in another ruling the same day as the victory: SCOTUS rejected a hearing for cases that challenged immunity for police officers. One key demand of the Black Lives Matter movement is an end to cops being protected from prosecution for their brutal and murderous actions.

Two rulings, one yes, one no — designed to drive a wedge between those joined in this massive movement.

Yet we know that when we fight together, we win! This Pride Month we are in the middle of a historic struggle full of hope and fightback against bigotry — an unprecedented multinational, multigendered mass uprising against racism and police repression. In the U.S. — from Los Angeles to Pensacola, Fla., to New York City — LGBTQ2+ people are part of this uprising and are linking the struggles shared by many communities of oppressed people.

The roots of Pride Month are in rebellion — the Black Cat Tavern, Compton's Cafeteria and Stonewall Bar uprisings of the 1960s when queer people, led by trans women of color, fought for liberation.

Members of STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), combatants at Stonewall, issued a 1970 manifesto that foretold the demands now shouted in 2020. STAR demanded an end to homophobia, racism, incarceration, police harassment and job discrimination, and said: "All oppressed people should have free education, health care, clothing, food, transportation, and

housing."

The manifesto ended: "We want a revolutionary peoples' government, where transvestites, street people, women, homosexuals, Puerto Ricans, [Indigenous people], and all oppressed people are free, and not fucked over by this government who treat us like the scum of the earth and kills us off like flies, one by one, and throws us into jail to rot. This government who spends millions of dollars to go to the moon, and lets the poor Americans starve to death." (zagria.blogspot.com)

With the U.S. uprisings against the lynching of George Floyd by cops, millions around the globe have come out into the streets — together in solidarity for the liberation of oppressed people and workers everywhere.

In the early 1970s, YAWF — Youth Against War & Fascism, a Workers World Party mass unit — carried a huge banner: "Stonewall Means Fight Back!"

Yes, this is how the struggle is won: To fight for each other's liberation as if it were our own — because that solidarity will bring liberation for us all.

Stonewall still means fight back. Smash oppression! Fight for socialism!! □

U.S. 'ethnic cleansing' The 1921 Tulsa massacre

By Monica Moorehead

Since Trump announced that his first campaign rally would be in Tulsa, Okla., on June 19, there has been renewed interest in the 1921 racist Tulsa massacre that targeted "Black Wall Street." The rally has since been rescheduled for June 20. Decades later, Tulsa has continued its white supremacist legacy with the lynching of Terence Crutcher, an unarmed 40-year-old Black motorist gunned down on Sept. 16, 2016, by a white Tulsa police officer, who was not charged with murder. On June 4, two 13-year-old Black youth were arrested for "jaywalking" by white police officers. Their body cameras show the police choking a youth as they tried to put him in handcuffs while he is yelling, "I can't breathe and call my mama."

This article first appeared in the June 10, 1999, issue of *WW* during the U.S. bombing of Yugoslavia.

The main argument for the U.S./NATO bombing of Yugoslavia supplied by President Bill Clinton, the Pentagon generals and the big-business media is the alleged "ethnic cleansing" of Albanians in Kosovo. This can only be stopped if the United States and NATO intervene, say NBC, CBS and ABC.

NBC, of course, is owned by one of the biggest



Survivors of Tulsa, Okla., massacre.

Pentagon contractors, General Electric.

But the U.S. government has never cared about the plight of any oppressed grouping. Its policy is to pit one oppressed group against the other to secure its brutal class rule.

A specific incident in U.S. history that exposes the hypocritical nature of the racist, imperialist U.S. government — and is rarely talked about — took place in Tulsa, Okla., in 1921.

Before the righteous rebellions of the oppressed Black masses in Watts, Newark, Detroit and elsewhere in the late 1960s, there was the "Tulsa Race Riot of 1921."

Never heard of it? A lot of people have not.

Investigations begun in 1997 concluded that this "riot" could more appropriately be described as a massacre.

Mass graves of at least 300 Black victims of racist violence have been uncovered, according to the Tulsa Race Riot Commission.

The official report had stated that 36 people died. Yet many historians now say that more Black people were killed in Tulsa than in any other recorded "riot" in U.S. history. Excavations of the grave site will begin this summer.

Racist & economic roots

What was the root cause of this terrible massacre?

Millions of Black people were forced to leave the South at the turn of the 20th century to escape the savage lynchings, wretched poverty and other remnants of slavery. Thousands of Black people migrated to Tulsa.

Oil had been discovered throughout the Southwest, a region once known as "Indian Territory" that had been a part of Mexico. Glenn Pool, 14 miles from Tulsa, became known as the "richest small oilfield in the world." By 1907, Oklahoma had become the center of the country's oil production, producing 300,000 barrels a day.

Black Tulsans were trying to take advantage of this economic boom by establishing their own businesses in the Greenwood area.

Tulsa was an extremely segregated city. Black people were forced to live on the north side of town. Whites

Continued on page 15

Organizing for revolutionary power

By Makasi Motema

When the Third Precinct burned, the world trembled. The sacking of the Minneapolis police station by unarmed demonstrators last week was an unprecedented act of resistance. Never in living memory have the masses of oppressed people in the U.S. struck such a devastating blow against the ruling class and their police guard dogs.

This rebellion, which began in Minneapolis following the horrific murder of George Floyd and quickly spread across the country, has taken the battle to the doorstep of the state's oppressing army. The masses have made clear who their enemy is; they have struck righteously at the police and the corporate powers whom they serve. They have resisted police violence with collective strength and retaken the products of their labor from the outposts of capital where stolen profits were so long hoarded.

The character of the rebellion is clear to all who look. Its focus on the brutality of racist policing shows that it is Black led. The masses of non-Black people of color and white demonstrators who surged forth to join the uprising shows that the movement is multinational. And the total defiance of the demonstrators toward police and corporations shows that the movement is solidly anticapitalist.

These are the makings of a revolutionary uprising. In the U.S., any successful revolutionary movement must be anticapitalist and it must understand the defining role that the oppression of Black people has played in our history and in capitalist wealth production. All those elements have fallen into place during the current rebellion.

Whether or not this movement will succeed is not a matter of fate. The outcome will not be determined by luck or chance. Nor is it in the hands of the ruling class. With the deterioration of the capitalist state, the U.S. lacks the power to crush a movement of sufficient strength. There is only one question which will determine whether or not this movement makes the decisive transition from rebellion to revolution: Will revolutionary socialists rise to the challenge of organizing the masses?

The primary responsibility of revolutionary socialists during a national uprising is to immerse themselves in the masses, to engage in deep organizing, to develop the organizational spine which allows the movement to weather the trials of state repression. Spontaneous uprisings have a short lifespan. Only an organized revolution can defeat the capitalist ruling class.

Two tasks for revolutionaries

The role of revolutionary socialists during any rebellion is to provide political education and political organization. Political education is vital for helping the masses process the traumatic societal changes that take place during a revolution. Through the explanation of revolutionary theory and history, the masses will be able to contextualize the current conflict. This context is intentionally suppressed by the ruling class, and

revolutionaries have to be committed to going among the masses and diligently providing the necessary political education.

Revolutionary theory and history also provide a model and a path to victory, giving the working class the confidence they can succeed. Despair and defeatism are the most dangerous threats during an uprising, and they can only be warded off by political education.

It is also critical for revolutionaries to organize the people into political bodies which practice proletarian democracy and democratic centralism. The history of socialist revolutions is the history of political base building. The working class must be organized into Workers' Assemblies — highly structured political bodies that stand in opposition to the capitalist system. What the ruling class fears most is working-class communities banding together to determine their own destiny. In Russia, China, Korea, Cuba and Vietnam, the assemblies and councils of the working class were the engines which drove socialist revolution. This powerful revolutionary engine must be brought to the U.S.

Only when the masses are organized can true proletarian democracy be achieved. Only then can the Workers' Assemblies of the masses provide the needed counterbalance against the capitalist dictatorship of the U.S. Such working-class organization will need to be organized under the principles of democratic centralism in order for all nationalities and special oppressions to be represented, and for those diverse views to be synthesized into united revolutionary action.

The ruling class will use any divisions among the working class to undermine and destroy the uprising. With a grasp of revolutionary theory, and practicing democratic centralism, revolutionary socialists can assist the masses in navigating their internal contradictions. Organization is the only means of preventing the division and disintegration that so often occurs in diverse multinational movements under attack from capitalism.

Political organization also strengthens the masses and enables them to endure state violence. Spontaneous groups of demonstrators can be easily dispersed. A disciplined mass of demonstrators is much more powerful. Organization allows for the physical manifestation of political power as the masses move in one unstoppable unit on the streets.

Be decisive, be strategic

In times of calm, there is no greater error than failing to deliberate. In times of chaos, there is no greater error than failing to act. During an uprising, revolutionaries must not be slow to move. Rapidly changing conditions require speed and decisive action. When the enemy brings to bear all its enormous resources against the movement, vacillation on the part of revolutionaries means death — hesitation means defeat. Revolutionary socialists must spring into action now.

Revolutionaries must also ensure that their action, no matter how rapid, is in strict accordance with a clear



strategy. Diffuse and dispersed action squanders the energy of revolutionaries and hampers unified action. Without a clear strategy, revolutionaries, and the movement at large, cannot seize opportunities as they emerge, exploit divisions within the ruling class or effectively respond to setbacks.

Do not abandon the people

The people who are most in need of political organization are the most oppressed. Decade after decade, Black people have had their movements and organizations smashed by the bosses, the police and the federal government. The capitalist ruling class has made the destruction of Black political organizations — whether they be radical groups like the Black Panthers or within the mainstream union movement — their first priority. Revolutionary socialists who claim to stand in solidarity with the Black working class must labor diligently to organize oppressed communities. You cannot claim to support Black lives if you don't organize Black people to withstand deadly state repression. If you stand on the sidelines during an uprising and shout your support, you are only encouraging other people to go out and die. "Defending the people" means organizing the people.

This also means organizing the unorganized. For decades, the U.S. left has been primarily concerned with mobilizing other activists — the most politically conscious members of the working class. Revolutionary socialists must dig their roots far deeper into the working class. A true mass movement must be composed of the masses. It is more difficult to organize those who have never participated in political action — and also more necessary. During a time of national upheaval, revolutionaries do not have the privilege of shirking their duty to organize.

Organize, struggle, win

Revolutionary socialists must move immediately to immerse themselves in the working class. The people are already in motion, and they will gravitate to those who are committed to helping them build working-class power. Organize the people around the struggle — both national and local. Develop Workers' Assemblies to facilitate the people's struggle against police violence, bosses and landlords.

This is the only way to win, the only path to victory, the only road to socialism. □

The 1921 Tulsa massacre

Continued from page 14

lived in the southern part. Black people were prohibited from doing business with whites.

The educator Booker T. Washington characterized the Greenwood section as the "Negro's Wall Street." Racists referred to Greenwood as "Little Africa."

The people of Greenwood were attempting to carry out their own brand of post-Civil War Reconstruction.

Greenwood included a Black newspaper, two doctors, a Black labor union, three grocery stores and barbers. Three-quarters of the Black children attended the lone Black school. Tulsa had the second-lowest Black illiteracy rate of any county in Oklahoma.

Many other Black people were forced to work in the white areas as domestics or shining shoes. This was a testament to the fact that whites still dominated the overall economy.

The white political establishment attempted to whip up hostility against the organizing efforts of the Industrial Workers of the World and against Jewish people. The predominantly white police force forged a relationship with the Ku Klux Klan and other white vigilantes.

Reminiscent of apartheid

On May 30, 1921, Dick Rowland, a young Black shoeshine man, was falsely accused of accosting a white woman

in an elevator shaft. He was arrested immediately.

The next day the Tulsa Tribune ran an editorial entitled "To Lynch a Negro Tonight."

A white mob numbering 2,000 gathered outside the jail in an attempt to lynch Rowland. A heroic group of 50 to 75 armed Black men, dressed in their World War I Army fatigues, confronted the racists. As a white man tried to physically disarm a Black man, a shot was fired. The Black men fired back in self-defense. But they were overwhelmed by the armed mob of racists.

For the next several days, gangs of armed whites went into the Greenwood section setting fire to homes and businesses and shooting every Black person in sight. Dr. A.C. Jackson, one of the top surgeons in the country, was murdered after surrendering himself to a group of whites. The racists also went into their own white neighborhoods searching for Black domestic workers.

The Chicago Defender reported that Black neighborhoods in Tulsa were bombed from the air by a private plane equipped with dynamite. Other reports said the police had commandeered private planes to fly over the area. This is the first report in history of airplanes being used to drop explosives.

On June 1, some 6,000 Black Tulsans, including children, were rounded up and imprisoned by the racists. Reminiscent of apartheid South Africa, Black people who were not imprisoned or interned were forced to

carry green badges saying "Police Protection."

In the meantime, whites were given a free reign to continue their looting and rampage of Greenwood without interference from the police or the National Guard.

Once the internment was over, a thousand Black Tulsans were dislocated and forced to spend the winter in tents and board shacks. The city was not legally obligated to restore the houses and businesses of Greenwood.

Not one white person was ever arrested for taking part in this racist attack. The young white woman whom Rowland supposedly attacked never pressed any charges against him. He was eventually released from jail.

The truth about the Tulsa massacre should be publicly exposed. And the U.S. government should be made to pay reparations to the Black people of Tulsa and to all the living descendants of slaves.

And not only should the United States immediately stop its bombing of Yugoslavia — but the United States and NATO should be held responsible for paying reparations to the Yugoslav masses.

Some material for this article was taken from "Death in a Promised Land: The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921" by Scott Ellsworth (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982).



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.

¿Tropas USA contra manifestantes estadounidenses?

Por John Catalinotto

Traducción: redroja.net

5 de junio – Hace cuatro días, la Casa Blanca pidió al ejército estadounidense que se desplegara por las ciudades norteamericanas para “dominar” las calles. A lo largo de los tres días siguientes, dos antiguos integrantes de la Junta de Jefes del Estado Mayor conjunto de los ejércitos (JCS) se pronunciaron en contra de este despliegue. También lo hicieron el antiguo y el actual secretario de defensa de Trump, este último a sabiendas de que probablemente lo despedirían.

En reacción a la amenaza de Trump, al menos tres organizaciones de veteranos militares anti-guerra pidieron a los miembros del servicio de las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos y de la Guardia Nacional que se negaran a desplegarse contra los manifestantes que se oponían al racismo.

Aunque el presidente dejara de profesar sus habituales amenazas y se hayan retirado algunas tropas de la Guardia Nacional y federales, todavía pueden ser éstas utilizadas contra la población civil. El conflicto dentro del aparato militar por la amenaza de Trump plantea dos preguntas clave: ¿De dónde viene esta oposición? ¿Qué significa la reticencia de los generales para el movimiento antirracista?

Respondiendo a la primera pregunta: Los generales y almirantes temen que el uso de la fuerza militar contra la comunidad afroamericana y sus aliados pueda destruir la cohesión que existe en las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. El Pentágono ha construido en los últimos 45 años, desde la debacle de Vietnam, un ejército profesional – es decir, no conscripto. El uso de tropas – en un 40 por ciento o más, gente de color – contra la población civil podría destruir su moral y tener un efecto boomerang contra los jefes.

La reticencia de los generales apunta

a la posibilidad de que el movimiento llegue a los soldados rasos. Debilitar la moral de las Fuerzas Armadas de EE.UU. significa debilitar el control mundial de los monopolios y bancos de EE.UU. Esto sería un paso adelante para la gente de los EE.UU. y del mundo.

Disidencia desde arriba

El Secretario de Defensa Mark Esper, del que se rumoreaba que ya estaba a punto de salir, contradujo abiertamente a Trump el 4 de junio. “La opción de utilizar las fuerzas de servicio activo en el papel de mantenimiento del orden sólo debe utilizarse como último recurso”, dijo, “y esto sólo en las situaciones más urgentes y graves. No estamos en ninguna de esas situaciones ahora. No apoyo la invocación de la Ley de Insurrección” de 1807. (CNN)

Esper, normalmente un incondicional de Trump, no hablaría así si no fuera bajo la presión de la jerarquía militar para detener el uso de las tropas estadounidenses en las ciudades. Los oficiales superiores retirados, que hablan más libremente sobre cuestiones políticas que los oficiales en activo, dieron más pruebas de ello. Entre ellos, los ex presidentes de la JCS, el Almirante Mike Mullen (jubilado) y el General Martin Dempsey (jubilado), así como al ex Secretario de Defensa James Mattis, todos los cuales arremetieron contra Trump.

Nadie debe desdeñar los motivos de estos oficiales militares. Han pasado sus vidas sirviendo a los intereses del militarismo y del imperialismo de EE.UU. Han mandado a las tropas en guerras ilegales y ocupaciones contra Yugoslavia, Irak, Afganistán y Siria y han amenazado a Irán y Venezuela. Esta vez creen que las órdenes de Trump, de desplegar tropas federales contra los manifestantes antirracistas, amenazan a sus militares.

Resistencia desde abajo

La organización de Veteranos contra la Guerra About Face (Veterans Against

the War) ha hecho circular una petición dirigida a los miembros de la Guardia Nacional que dice: “Les pedimos que defiendan las vidas de los negros y se retiren. Sabemos las consecuencias que puede tener la desobediencia a las órdenes. Muchos de nosotros nos hemos enfrentado a ellas.” El 4 de junio, unos 700 veteranos habían firmado esta llamada para negarse a cumplir con “su deber”. (fuente : tinyurl.com/y9xkxnc)

Veteranos por la Paz, otra de esas organizaciones, distribuyó una declaración en la que pedía a “todos los dirigentes militares y al personal que se negaran a desplegarse. Nosotros, como veteranos, conocemos las terribles consecuencias de participar en acciones moralmente equivocadas contra comunidades de otros países. Ahora es el momento de negarse a participar en órdenes que son injustas.” (fuente : veteransforpeace.org)

La organización Courage to Resist “actualmente está ayudando a miembros de la Guardia Nacional que se resistieron a las órdenes de Trump de atacar violentamente a la gente que protestaba pacífica y legalmente por las calles de Washington, contra la injusticia racial”.

Un miembro de la Guardia, que se resiste a las órdenes de Trump, en principio esperaba unirse a las misiones médicas de asistencia en desastres naturales. En relación con la situación actual, dice: “No puedo hacerlo. Incluso me siento mal al mirar mi uniforme y verme implicado en esto, sobre todo después de que una unidad de la Guardia Nacional le disparara a ese hombre que era dueño de esa tienda de barbacoas” en Louisville, Kentucky. (fuente: couragetoresist.org)

Cómo actúan los manifestantes

Nadie puede predecir con certeza cómo reaccionarán los soldados disciplinados a las órdenes del presidente. Que haya disensión en la cúpula y que ya haya resistencia por parte de miembros individuales de las fuerzas armadas es una señal

de que la resistencia es posible, incluso dentro de un ejército “profesional” no conscripto.

Consideremos al líder revolucionario africano, Amílcar Cabral, cuando se enfrentó a un desafío similar. Cabral fue el jefe de la organización que dirigió la guerra de liberación contra el colonialismo portugués en Guinea-Bissau y Cabo Verde.

En 1963, a pesar de sus enormes tareas en la construcción de un movimiento guerrillero y el gobierno de algunas partes de su país, Cabral se tomó su tiempo para escribir un llamamiento a los soldados y oficiales reclutas portugueses que estaban ocupando Guinea-Bissau.

Su mensaje, minuciosamente explicado, se puede resumir así: 1) Las tropas portuguesas que siguen luchando contra los africanos en interés de las corporaciones imperialistas no pueden esperar salir nunca con vida de África. (2) Aquellos que deserten o resistan obtendrán todo el apoyo y protección del movimiento de liberación.

Fueron necesarios otros 11 años de lucha, pero los militares portugueses, cansados de la guerra, finalmente se rebelaron contra el gobierno fascista de Portugal, derrocándolo y poniendo fin a las guerras contra las colonias africanas de Angola, Mozambique y Guinea-Bissau.

Aunque es difícil predecir lo que sucederá en EE.UU., los acontecimientos de las últimas semanas muestran que nada es imposible. Un movimiento que alienta y defiende a los soldados que resisten y apela a las tropas, incluso cuando las desafía, puede marcar la diferencia.

Catalinotto es autor de “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions”, Foro de Visión Mundial, 2017. El apéndice del libro contiene una traducción al inglés del llamamiento de Cabral de 1963 a las tropas portuguesas.

Morales habla: ‘Áñez se aferra al poder’

Por Resumen Latinoamericano

Según concluyó una investigación independiente, el informe hecho por la misión de observación electoral de la OEA a las elecciones del 20 de octubre de 2019 en Bolivia, y que sirvió a la oposición para generar un golpe de Estado contra el presidente Evo Morales, tenía serias deficiencias.

El estudio elaborado por expertos con base en un minucioso examen de los datos de la elección boliviana, y que fue publicado el domingo en *The New York Times*, sugiere que el análisis inicial de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), que planteó dudas sobre un presunto fraude electoral, fue defectuoso. (*Cuba Debate*, 8 de junio)

15 de junio de 2020 – El depuesto presidente de Bolivia Evo Morales, denuncia ante la comunidad internacional que el gobierno de facto pretende impedir la

realización de elecciones.

Diferentes candidatos a la Presidencia de Bolivia han cuestionado a la autoproclamada presidenta de Bolivia, Jeanine Áñez, por no promulgar la ley que aplaza las elecciones hasta el 6 de septiembre y solicitar un informe médico y epidemiológico para justificar la fecha de los comicios.

A las críticas se ha sumado el exmandatario quien, mediante un mensaje en su cuenta de Twitter, ha denunciado que la dictadora Áñez pretende perpetuarse en el poder tras su negativa a promulgar la ley que viabiliza las elecciones generales.

“Alertamos a la comunidad internacional sobre las intenciones del gobierno de facto de impedir la realización de elecciones, profundizando la crisis política e impidiendo que las bolivianas y los bolivianos ejerzan sus derechos”, ha escrito este sábado el líder indígena.

En ese mismo sentido, el candidato a la Presidencia por el Movimiento Al

Socialismo (MAS), Luis Arce, también ha reprochado la decisión de Áñez. “Al no promulgar la ley (...) confirma que es un gobierno de facto que utiliza la pandemia como excusa para vulnerar derechos”, ha asegurado.

Las elecciones estaban convocadas para el pasado 3 de mayo, pero el órgano electoral las pospuso sin fecha cuando a finales de marzo el gobierno interino declaró emergencia sanitaria por el coronavirus, que ha dejado 559 fallecidos y 16.929 contagiados en el país andino de unos 11 millones de habitantes.

Los comicios están pendientes desde que se anularon los de octubre del año



Evo Morales, depuesto presidente de Bolivia.

pasado entre denuncias de fraude a favor de Morales, que fue proclamado vencedor para un cuarto mandato seguido, antes de denunciar que fue forzado a dejar el poder por un golpe de Estado en medio de presiones de militares y policías, entre otras, para negarle una nueva victoria y derrocarlo. □