

# Australia's fires fueled by capitalist exploitation

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 13, 2020



Charmaine Sellings, right, leads an all-Indigenous women's firefighting brigade.

There just is no way to describe what is happening in Australia. The fifteen million acres that are engulfed in flames are an area bigger than Switzerland. Even in Sydney, the capital city, air quality has been from 10 to 17 times the level

considered hazardous and the skies are intermittently blood red from the glow of nearby fires, and black with dangerous smoke.

Firefighters up and down the eastern coast of this driest continent on Earth report walls of fire 100 meters tall. “Fire tornadoes” have flipped over fire trucks. Persistently rotating updrafts caused by the heat that precedes the arrival of actual flames have caused supercell storms, the most severe category of thunderstorms.

Dozens of people have died and somewhere between 500 million and 1 billion animals may have perished. Many smaller species will vanish completely. Thousands have evacuated. At one point, four thousand people in Victoria made their way to the relative safety of beaches with fire closing in on them, waiting for rescue.

The perilous situation has hit many First Nation communities even harder because of government neglect. In many cases, only their own efforts have saved lives and homes.

The village of Lake Tyers, in Eastern Victoria, has only a small water tank on a pickup truck. The isolated peninsula is home to 200 residents and has one access road. An all-Indigenous women’s firefighting brigade whose members are part of the council of their self-governing community are the firefighting team.

Charmaine Sellings leads the brigade and in an interview with the organization Now to Love said: “Just one crack of lightning on a stormy day could be disastrous. ... We are in extreme conditions. Our dams are empty and it’s not a good situation. The crew will work around the clock. We hope for a quiet summer, but we fear the worst.”

The Guardian reports that in Ulladulla on the south coast the fires had burned all the way to the sand by early December. Just a few miles north of there is a protected area called Murramarang — the site of archaeological finds that hold “the stories of

12,000 years of Yuin occupation in layers of stone tools, spear points, fish bones and oyster shells," according to an essay published in the *Guardian* by Lorena Allam, an Indigenous writer. No one knows yet how much of these treasured artifacts will have survived.

The administration of Prime Minister Scott Morrison is packed with energy industry-friendly, climate deniers – it's been reported that over \$29 billion annually is handed over to fossil fuel companies. Australia is the 4th largest coal producer in the world and the owners of coal and other sectors of the energy industry have government officials in their back pocket. Billionaire Rupert Murdoch's major newspaper, "The Australian," is doing its part by constantly assigning the blame for the fires to arsonists.

Australia is a junior partner of the U.S. and Western European imperialist countries with a large modern military. In 2018, it became the second largest purchaser of military equipment in the world behind Saudi Arabia. But in the early weeks of the crisis, as fires ripped through the country, the military was idle. Only after weeks of raging fire and at least a month left of the fire season-as intense criticism mounted-did Morrison finally call out naval ships to carry out evacuations from southeast coastal villages.

Still the crisis is far from over. When the fires are extinguished and the smoke has cleared in Australia, the billionaire owners of the mines that deplete precious water resources, the agribusiness that burns forests to make way for profitable crops, the right-wing media that downplay climate change, and the bought-and-paid-for politicians will face a reckoning.



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# **Know your enemy: What is imperialism?**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 13, 2020



The word “imperialism” is used a lot by people in the progressive and revolutionary movement. What does it mean?

Some people think imperialism is just a cuss word that radicals use to put down rotten government policies. But it's more than that.

Imperialism is rooted in a particular economic system, capitalism, and benefits a particular class, which Marxists call the bourgeoisie or ruling class. The bourgeoisie is the super-wealthy class of corporate owners, bankers and big landlords.

Progressives know that the United States acts in an imperialist way. The U.S. government, which represents the ruling class, imposes its will on other countries by economic, political and military means.

But imperialism is not a government policy put forth by one administration or political party. It's the economic system underlying all U.S. government policies, liberal or conservative, Democratic or Republican.

Most people are taught that imperialism simply means a big country bullying a small country. Sometimes that's true, but it's not a complete definition. In the wrong hands, this seemingly common-sense definition can be dangerously misleading.

The U.S. government often accuses other governments of "imperialist" behavior. Washington takes advantage of the common, but incomplete, idea of bigger country vs. smaller country to turn public opinion against socialist and progressive nationalist countries trying to maintain their independence.

For example, when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, George Bush the First called the Iraqi government imperialist. Bush neglected to mention that Iraq was responding to provocations from the U.S.-controlled Kuwaiti monarchy, which was stealing Iraqi oil.

He didn't explain how Kuwait had been arbitrarily carved off from Iraq under British colonial rule, or how the Iraqi people made a revolution in 1958 to be independent of U.S./British domination.

### **Imperialism = monopoly capitalism**

Not every capitalist country is imperialist. In fact, most of the world's people live in poor, underdeveloped capitalist countries like Iraq that are exploited by the imperialist powers of the United States, Canada, Western Europe, Australia and Japan.

Capitalism developed first and reached its most advanced stage in those countries. Imperialism exists by keeping the rest of the world enslaved and dependent on its institutions, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

V.I. Lenin, the Russian revolutionary leader of the early 20th century, gave a complete, scientific definition of imperialism in his 1916 booklet, ["Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism."](#)

He wrote: "If it were necessary to give the briefest definition of imperialism, we should have to say that imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism."

Using economic statistics and historical facts, Lenin showed how capitalism's early, free-market phase led to the creation of giant industrial and banking monopolies.

Cutthroat competition constantly bankrupted businesses. More successful rivals gobbled these businesses up, until four, three, two or even a single monopoly dominated whole industries.

This process of concentration into monopolies continues today on a much bigger scale. Now giant monopolies absorb other giant monopolies. Some recent examples are AT&T's absorption of Time Warner, Amazon's gobbling up of Whole Foods or Facebook and Google's buyout of multiple big apps and websites. The merger of Walt Disney and Twentieth Century Fox, ExxonMobil, DaimlerChrysler and JP Morgan Chase — the list goes on and on.

## **Banks dominate**

As industrial monopolies grew, so did their hunger for profits. They fought monopolies from the other imperialist powers for the right to dominate poorer countries.

Rather than just exporting goods to these underdeveloped countries, the monopolies

started to export capital — that is, they built factories, hired local labor and began to produce goods at much lower cost and higher profit than in their “home” countries.

Bosses tossed extra crumbs to some workers in the imperialist countries to keep class peace at home, while promoting racism and national chauvinism to stop workers from uniting across borders.

The big banks came to dominate the expansion process. Banks control the flow of money to the monopolies. Their representatives sit on the boards of most big industrial corporations and exert decisive influence over business decisions.

Lenin said these five characteristics define imperialism, or monopoly capitalism:

“1) the concentration of production and capital has developed to such a high stage that it has created monopolies which play a decisive role in economic life;

“2) the merging of bank capital with industrial capital, and the creation, on the basis of this ‘finance capital,’ of a financial oligarchy;

“3) the export of capital as distinguished from the export of commodities acquires exceptional importance;

“4) the formation of international monopolist capitalist combines which share the world among themselves;

“5) the territorial division of the whole world among the biggest capitalist powers is completed.”

## **Epoch of war and revolution**

This territorial division of the world among the imperialists inevitably leads to war.

As the fortunes of each imperialist country rise or fall, those with the most power

want to expand the proportion of the globe they control. Those whose grip is weakening hold on for dear life.

Rather than eliminating competition, monopoly capitalism raises it to a higher and deadlier level.

Sometimes the imperialists fight each other directly. That was the case during World War I, when Lenin wrote his booklet on imperialism, and World War II.

At other times, they fight for domination through local proxies, like the U.S./German rivalry that tore apart Yugoslavia. But both imperialist powers united to destroy the Milosevic regime when it resisted their plans.

Finally, there are the wars of conquest fought to control strategic countries like Afghanistan, or against governments and popular movements that resist imperialist domination, like Iraq, Libya or Syria.

Sanctions are another form of war and often a prelude to military intervention, like those imposed by the U.S. today against Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia and Zimbabwe, to name a few.

But just as inevitably, the concentration of wealth and political power into fewer hands leads to rebellions and revolutions. Imperialism contains within itself the seeds of its own demise.

### **Social production vs. private ownership**

By expanding capitalist production all over the globe, imperialism has created a huge working class with nothing to lose and everything to gain by fighting for power.

Imperialism has made production profoundly social. That means thousands of

workers, often from dozens of countries, are involved in the production, distribution and exchange of a single product or service.

Yet the fruits of this collective labor are robbed from the workers. The bosses, who own the factories, stores, etc., take it for themselves in the form of profit. Wages paid to the workers often don't cover the basic necessities of life. Others just get by, while millions go jobless.

But as Lenin pointed out, the monopolies are ripe for the workers to take over and run themselves — to create social ownership in harmony with social production.

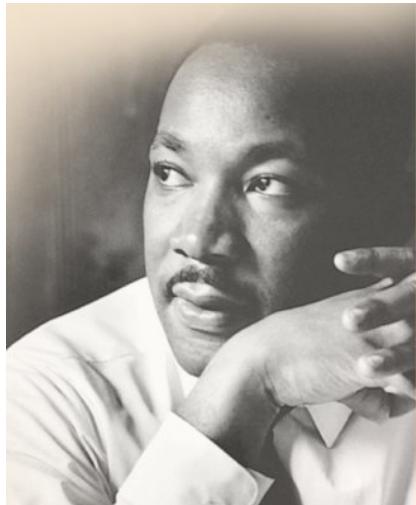
Ultimately, that's how imperialism can be defeated: by targeting the diseased economic system, not just its political symptoms.

It's not enough to change a government policy or the party in power. The whole system must be overturned and replaced by one that puts people's needs first.



# Stop war on Iran. Baltimore march to Washington, D.C., Jan. 18

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 13, 2020



[Add your organization as an endorser here](#)

Reclaim and honor Rev. Dr. King Jr. by resisting war and racism

A call to action on the Dr. King Jr. birthday week

**STOP WAR ON IRAN**

**BALTIMORE MARCH TO WASHINGTON D.C.: Jan 18**

Money for jobs, education, health care & people's needs

In 1967 on April 4, Rev. Dr. King Jr., passionately spoke out against the Vietnam war. He exclaimed that the bombs in Vietnam also exploded at home in our decaying cities.

These words are just as true today. Donald Trump and the trillion dollar oil and fracking businesses stand to profit from a war on Iran and Iraq while the people of the world suffer.

In Baltimore, we remember Trump's hateful racism in describing our city and attacking Congressman Cummings. His insults hurled at our city are comparable to his attempts to demonize the people of Iran and Iraq to justify war for oil profits.

This is the same white supremacist ideology that justifies the assassination of foreign officials of color and the nearly one million Iraqi children killed by U.S. war. These are war crimes. We will not be fooled by those who would dismiss the humanity of our international family.

If war is to be declared in our name, let it be a war on racism, police terror, low wages, homelessness and poverty. End anti-immigrant violence, sexism and LGBTQ2S bigotry. Close the detention camps.

## **FEED THE PEOPLE, NOT THE PENTAGON**

- This April 700,000 people will lose food stamps; millions will get fewer benefits. In Baltimore, 22.2% of people, many of them children, go to bed hungry. The loss of food stamps (SNAP benefits) will mean that many small grocery stores will have to close their doors. But not the Pentagon! This year the military got a \$130 billion increase. In addition, social security disability will be cut.

## **EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE**

- The children of Baltimore, DC and everywhere need clean lead-free drinking water, more and better paid teachers, books and decent schools. Redirect the billions for war to save our youth and pay for free universal health care

for all.

## **LOW WAGES & WORKERS RIGHTS**

- Close to half of the workers in the U.S. are poor! 53 million workers between the ages of 18 to 64 — 44% of all workers — qualify as low-wage. This amounts to a median income of \$18,000 per year. Amazon and Walmart refuse to respect workers rights to unionize. Amazon even threatened to fire workers who spoke out against climate change.

## **PENTAGON, THE WORLD'S BIGGEST POLLUTER, SHUT IT DOWN**

- Indigenous people courageously protected the Amazon rainforest from fires and destruction. Now Australia is engulfed in flames threatening the existence of an entire continent and killing millions of animals. Jakarta, Indonesia home to 30 million people is literally sinking, destroyed by flood waters. The capitalist climate crisis threatens the entire planet. The Pentagon with it's 800+ military bases and endless wars is one of the world's biggest polluters.

## **WAR BREEDS REPRESSION**

- Police departments across this country are militarized, increasing racism and repression. Globally the US is number one in mass incarceration. Yet the problems of drug addiction, despair and violence continue. Instead of investing in the community, Johns Hopkins has hired a private armed police force.

## **ONLY THE PEOPLE CAN STOP THE WAR!**

The people of Baltimore are Marching on the Dr. King Jr. weekend. We invite you to join us. If you cannot come to Baltimore, and we expect that many can't, please hold solidarity actions in your city, town, school or work place.

Now is the time to reclaim and honor Rev. Dr. King Jr. by resisting war and racism.

### **ENDORSE THE CALL**

Endorsers: Peoples Power Assembly; Rev. CD Witherspoon; Rev. Annie Chambers, Douglas Homes Community Leader; Youth Against War and Racism; Black Alliance for Peace, Baltimore; ICE Out of Baltimore; Prisoners Solidarity Committee; The Marlyn Barnes Family; Baltimore Peace Action; CODE Pink; Union del Barrio; Puerto Rican Alliance; Popular Resistance; Union of Progressive Iranians; UNAC, United National Antiwar Coalition; Harvard Boulevard Block Club of South Central Los Angeles; Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice; Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Peoples Alliance, Bay Area; Bail Out the People Movement, Wisconsin; Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha; Solidarity with Novorossiya & Antifascists in Ukraine; Stand with Okinawa NY; International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido; Struggle - La Lucha; Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA Province; Jennicet Gutierrez; Phil Wilayto, editor, The Virginia Defender; William Camarada, Comité de Solidaridad con Venezuela Alberto Lovera NYC; D19: Partido Libre USA Canada; Baltimore City Green Party; Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network; Familia: TQLM; Malaya Movement, Baltimore; San Diego County Central Committee of the Peace and Freedom Party of California; Communist Party of USA - Baltimore Club; U.S. Peace Council; Freedom Road Socialist Organization; Ujima People's Progress Party; New Orleans Workers Group (list in formation)

### **DONATE HERE**

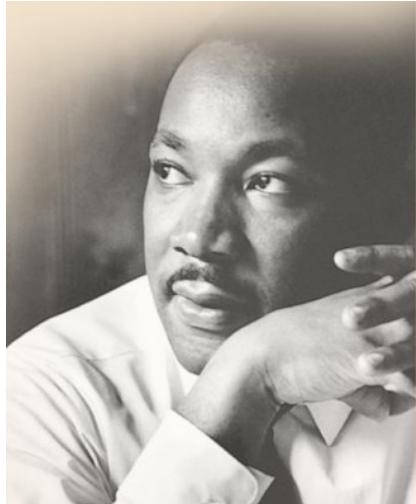
### **VOLUNTEER & SUPPORT HERE**



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# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March: Say No to War & Racism

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 13, 2020



Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM – 9:30 PM EST

N Charles Street & North Ave Y Knot Lot Baltimore MD 21218

A call to action on the Dr. King Jr. birthday week

**STOP WAR & SANCTIONS ON IRAN**

**BALTIMORE MARCH TO WASHINGTON D.C.: Jan 18 to 20th**

**Money for jobs, education, health care & people's needs**

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# Lenin: How to oppose an unjust war

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 13, 2020

The Leninist view of how to fight against imperialist war remains one of the most controversial and defining characteristics of the communist movement, because it means standing up to the capitalist class at the moment its fangs are bared.

Why do we think it's important to study what Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin wrote and did during World War I, over 100 years ago?

There are two good reasons. First, Lenin's Marxist analysis of war shows how capitalism in its highest stage, imperialism, has an insatiable thirst for new markets and bigger profits that drives it to war. That hasn't changed.

And second, Lenin successfully used this working-class understanding of war to help bring about the socialist revolution in Russia.

In the pamphlet ["Socialism and War,"](#) Lenin called the war that had just broken out in Europe "a war between the biggest slaveholders for the maintenance and consolidation of slavery."

Differentiating the communist position from the pacifists, who condemn all wars equally, Lenin said, “We understand that wars cannot be abolished until classes are abolished and socialism is created.”

He defined as just wars “civil wars, i.e., wars waged by an oppressed class against the oppressor class,” and wars of national liberation by oppressed countries.

“If tomorrow, Morocco were to declare war on France, India on England, Persia or China on [World War I era, pre-revolutionary] Russia, and so forth,” he wrote, “those would be ‘just,’ ‘defensive’ wars, irrespective of who attacked first; and every socialist would sympathize with the victory of the oppressed, dependent, unequal states against the oppressing, slave-owning, predatory ‘Great’ Powers.”

Communists “of the oppressor countries should recognize and champion the oppressed nation’s right to self-determination,” Lenin wrote. “The socialist of a ruling country who does not stand for that right is a chauvinist.”

### **Revolutionary defeatism**

“The defeat of one’s own capitalist government is the lesser evil in the struggle against the war,” he wrote. “A revolutionary class cannot but wish for the defeat of its government in a reactionary war, and cannot fail to see that the latter’s military reverses must facilitate its overthrow.”

Lenin’s thoroughly internationalist perspective is called revolutionary defeatism.

Instead of using the war as an excuse to pull back from the class struggle, Lenin and his co-thinkers argued that it was exactly the time to step up the struggle against capitalism.

It would be a hard road, especially during the first wave of patriotic propaganda. But as the war dragged on and the death and suffering mounted, more workers would

turn against the government and capitalism, he argued.

This is the origin of the famous communist slogan, “Turn the imperialist war into civil war.”

Some people misunderstand what Lenin meant by this. They think it means you have to show up at the very first demonstration against the war with signs reading “Turn the imperialist war into civil war.”

In fact, Lenin argues in his pamphlet that communists should give strong support to all manifestations for peace. This is often the first step by the workers, youths and others toward anti-war consciousness.

All five Bolshevik deputies in the Duma, or parliament, took a strong anti-war stand, and the Czar exiled them to hard labor in Siberia. Factory workers passed anti-war resolutions. Strikes and demonstrations were organized. Agitation was conducted in the army, and fraternization with enemy troops was encouraged.

Because of their correct analysis of the war and their determination to continue and deepen the class struggle, the Bolsheviks were ready when mass anger at the war boiled over. In February 1917, the Russian people rose up and overthrew the Czar. Several months later, after a new pro-capitalist government showed it would continue the war, Lenin and the Bolsheviks led a successful workers’ and peasants’ revolution for socialism under the banner of “Peace, Land, Bread.”

The new Soviet government’s first act was to call on all countries to end the World War and renounce all annexations and occupations. It guaranteed the right of self-determination for all the peoples and nations oppressed by Russian capitalism.



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# **Baltimore Jan. 8: Emergency Rally against Bombing of Iran!/Iraq!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 13, 2020



Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM EST

Howard Street & Martin Luther King Blvd.

Groups are calling for an Emergency Response in the event of U.S. escalation of the war on Iran & Iraq. If the Pentagon launches an attack we want to be in the streets as soon as possible.

We may have to protest as early as Wednesday, January 8th. If you have time meet us at the office 2011 N. Charles Street @ 12:30 pm to help make signs.

On [Facebook](#)



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# New Years greetings from No Pasarán Hamburg

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 13, 2020



To the comrades at Struggle-La Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido,

We were happy to receive your New Years greetings and reciprocate them wholeheartedly. We are united in our struggle, and we reaffirm our commitment to deepening international collaboration.

Throughout 2019, we mobilized and supported anti-imperialist initiatives within the imperialist beast of Europe. Most significantly, No Pasarán Hamburg and a coalition of like-minded organizations and individuals engaged in a solidarity campaign to

support the peoples of Venezuela, Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador, who have heroically stood up against waves of attempted U.S.-backed coups, neoliberal economic policies and austerity, and inhumane sanctions leading to the suffering and death of thousands.

No Pasarán Hamburg had the privilege to participate in two anti-imperialist conferences with representatives from Chile, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Palestine, Spain, Sudan, Ukraine, the United States, Turkey and Venezuela. All participating parties affirmed their commitment for increased cooperation in anti-imperialist actions and the necessity of demonstrating international solidarity to those oppressed peoples and nations suffering under the siege of U.S. and European imperialism.

In 2020, we will continue to participate and initiate campaigns to raise awareness of the crimes committed by the imperialist powers in the name of “freedom” and “justice” and to combat the relentless propaganda carried out by Western powers against the peoples of the so-called Global South, who are engaged in a bitter struggle to defend their right to self-determination.

Down with imperialism!

Freedom for all political prisoners!

Solidarity with the peoples of Cuba and Latin America, Syria, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the People’s Republic of China, the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, and Palestine!

In drafting this missive, we received word of the criminal assassination of Gen. Qassem Soleimani. We condemn the actions of the United States government and military and will participate in the worldwide protests against yet another act of criminal, imperialist aggression.

Unity & Struggle,

[No Pasarán Hamburg](#)

Germany



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## **Jan. 14: Protest Trump in Milwaukee!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 13, 2020



Hosted by [Coalition to March on the DNC](#)

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM CST

Red Arrow Park  
920 N Water St, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Donald Trump is coming to Milwaukee to hold a rally.

Join us for a mass protest and march against Trump's racist hate speech. Wisconsin will stand together to say hate has no home here!

We are asking people to show up and meet first at Donte Hamilton (Red Arrow)

Park beginning around 6pm. At roughly 6:15, we will be moving to our rally location where we will run through a list of speakers from various organizations. After we have finished with our speakers, we will be marching outside the UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena to let Trump and his allies on the inside know that we're there!

On [Facebook](#)



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## **Protests coast to coast demand: No war on Iran! U.S. out of Iraq!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 13, 2020

The vicious assassination-by-drone of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces deputy leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis on Jan. 2 was denounced by Iran, Iraq and people worldwide as an act of war. The murders, ordered by U.S. President Donald Trump, came two days after hundreds of Iraqi protesters besieged the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad in response to a Dec. 29 Pentagon missile attack on Iraqi Hezbollah members and civilians.

Trump and the Big Oil/fracking interests that dominate his administration have been gunning for war with Iran since Day One, first of all by pulling the U.S. out of the so-called Iran nuclear deal, an international agreement that Tehran hoped could shake off U.S.-imposed sanctions. Iran has provided major military, economic and political assistance to Syria in its struggle against U.S.-backed terrorists. Last year, Trump unleashed the Turkish dictatorship on eastern Syria while claiming control of Syria's oil fields on behalf of U.S. monopolies' profits.

In solidarity with the righteous protest at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the Answer Coalition and Code Pink Women for Peace and Popular Resistance called for a day of action on Saturday, Jan. 4. It was fortunate that they did, as it gave organizers across the country and the world an anchor for emergency actions in cities large and small when the U.S. escalated its undeclared war on Iran with the assassinations.

Dozens of national and local organizations, including Struggle-La Lucha newspaper and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido, joined in the emergency mobilization, and the number of cities holding actions on the weekend of Jan. 4-5 swelled to over 80. The days of action took on an international scope as well, with anti-war protests held from fire-ravaged Australia to snowy Canada.

At least a thousand people came out to fog-shrouded Times Square in **New York City** to loudly chant, "No justice! No peace! U.S. out of the Middle East!" and marched down Broadway to the Herald Square shopping district.

Speaking for Struggle-La Lucha, Bill Dores called to "bring all U.S. troops home now." He talked about Gen. Soleimani's role in leading the regional fight against ISIS and other ultraright, U.S.-linked forces that have ravaged Syria and other countries. Other speakers represented the Answer Coalition, the International Action Center, The People's Forum, Refuse Fascism, New York Boricua Resistance, BAYAN USA and the International League of Peoples' Struggle.

The weather was quite a contrast in **Los Angeles**, but there, too, a thousand people took to the streets to denounce Trump's provocation and U.S. war, sanctions and occupation.

"We find it really important for us to show solidarity for brothers and sisters in Iran and Iraq fighting for their sovereignty," said Viva Vargas of BAYAN Southern California. "We see the U.S. war machine also waging war in the Philippines. They have sent over \$193 million U.S. tax dollars to fund the killings, to fund the heightened oppression of all our progressive forces, the drones and bombs that cause the displacement of various Indigenous communities."

### **Money for food, not war**

"The people are facing major cuts to food stamps and disability benefits," declared Lee Patterson of the **Baltimore** Peoples Power Assembly. "In April, Trump plans to drop 700,000 people from the SNAP food program and millions more will have their benefits reduced. Here in Baltimore city, over 22 percent of people already go to bed facing hunger.

"But who's not facing cuts? The Pentagon, that's who!" Patterson said. "Both the Republicans and Democrats in Congress voted to give the war machine a \$130-billion increase this year to wage more racist wars and spread more pollution with its 800 bases around the world."

Dozens of protesters lined a major thoroughfare in downtown Baltimore. They covered a whole block, holding signs and banners in protest of the Trump regime's latest acts of war targeting Iran, Iraq and Syria. "No bombs! No war! We need health care for the poor!" they chanted.

Among the groups participating were the Socialist Unity Party, Baltimore Peace Action, Youth Against War & Racism, Women in Black and the Communist Party

USA-Baltimore.

Winter chill didn't stop an impressive turnout against war in **Minneapolis**. As Meredith Aby-Keirstead of the Anti-War Committee told Struggle-La Lucha, "We had over 700 people come out to say no to continued war in Iraq and a new war in Iran. Some people came from as far away as North Dakota.

"It was impressive to see so many people fired up to protest when the mainstream media have been beating the drums of war for days, assuring all of us that this was a legitimate attack and not an assassination," she added.

In **San Diego**, a spontaneous march followed a rally that featured speakers from Anakbayan San Diego, Unión del Barrio, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the Democratic Socialists of America and the Peace & Freedom Party. "We marched up several blocks and onto the I-5 Freeway overpass, where we hung the lead banner over a railing, making it visible to passing motorists," said Carl Muhammad of the Socialist Unity Party. "We received a lot of support from the motorists passing below."

A demonstration in **Detroit's** Campus Martius Park, organized by the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI), swelled to hundreds before marching. Representatives of Al Awda, the Palestine Right of Return Coalition, traveled from Cleveland to attend. Other speakers represented Geopolitics Alert and the Communist Workers League.

Palestinian American Congressperson Rashida Tlaib also spoke, condemning Trump's act of war in violation of the War Powers Act. "Congress should have been consulted," Tlaib said. "More importantly, we want to emphasize, there are more people out here that want peace, that do not support war."

### **New faces join the struggle**

Everywhere organizers and police alike were surprised at the strong turnout after many years of small anti-war actions. Activists noted many new faces, especially young people, who came out to their first protests to say “No war on Iran.”

In **St. Louis**, 150 protesters marched through downtown and held a “Rally Against War With Iran” at the Thomas F. Eagleton Federal Courthouse. Local media reported that “Anti-war protesters swarmed downtown **Iowa City**” at an event organized by Veterans for Peace. Speakers exposed the fact that the U.S. has already spent tens of billions of dollars on “endless wars” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Anti-war protesters clashed with right-wing goons in **Pittsburgh** and **Boise**. One hundred demonstrators in **Atlanta** chanted, “Trump says more war! We say no more!” declaring that the government needs to focus on helping people struggle against homelessness and exorbitant hospital bills, not more war in the Middle East.

Hadi Jawad, executive director of the **Dallas** Peace and Justice Center, reminded a local protest there that “we opposed the Iraq War back in 2003. We opposed the war in the early ’90s during Iraq One. We also opposed the bombing of Iraq in the 1980s. This is the freaking fifth decade — the fifth decade — of bombing the people of Iraq. Not only did we destroy Iraq, but the fires that we set in Iraq inflamed the entire Middle East.”

Activists erupted in chants of “Never again!”

More than fifty people participated in an anti-war protest in **Norfolk, Va.**, reported jubilant activist John Long. “We caught the cops by surprise and took Granby Street!”

Up to 1,000 marched on the Trump Towers in **Chicago**, while even larger numbers—perhaps up to 2,000—took to the streets of **San Francisco** and **Washington, D.C.**, where they rallied outside the White House.

One hundred people came out to march and rally in **New Orleans**. “We in the New Orleans Workers Group called the demonstration in solidarity with Iranians, Iraqis and others attacked by U.S. imperialism,” Gregory Williamson told SLL. “I was impressed by the broad agreement that imperialist war is bad for the people of the world, including workers here. The crowd was made up of many races, nationalities and age groups.” The Peoples Defense League of South Louisiana and the Democratic Socialists of America were among the groups that came out.

At the rally, Gavrielle Gemma, a leader of the national movement against the first Gulf War in 1990-1991, said, “We cannot stop imperialist war unless we organize the workers to be against it. We cannot be afraid to say that we are for the workers, that it is the bosses who are for war, and this is a rich white man’s war that doesn’t benefit the workers of any nationality.”

From **New Haven, Conn.**—where Norm Clement denounced the assassination of Soleimani as “an act of war and a war crime”—to Sascer Park in Southern California’s **Orange County**, and everywhere inbetween, a new movement is taking shape for the hard fight to stop Trump’s war against Iran — and shut down U.S. imperialism everywhere!

*Jefferson Azevedo, David Card, Cheryl LaBash and Carl Muhammad contributed to this report.*



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# **International Call to Solidarity, Jan. 7-12: All Eyes on Wet'suwet'en**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
January 13, 2020



Hosted by [Wet'suwet'en Access Point on Gidimt'en Territory](#) and [Unist'ot'en Camp](#)

All Eyes on Wet'suwet'en:  
International Call for Week of Solidarity!

TUES JAN 7, 2020 (anniversary of RCMP-CGL raid)  
till SUN JAN 12, 2020

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We call for solidarity actions from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities worldwide who uphold Indigenous sovereignty and recognize the urgency of stopping resource extraction projects that threaten the lives of future generations.

SEVEN SOLIDARITY ACTIONS:

- MONTREAL on Sun Jan 12: Fundraiser  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/restoring-sovereignty-somatics-for-boundary-repair-online-tickets-85685769443>
- ROCHESTER, NY on Sat Jan 11:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1502629836568193/>
- TORONTO on Tues Jan 7: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2235129013457777/>
- VANCOUVER on Wed Jan 8:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/104196628948733/>
- VANCOUVER on Sat Jan 11:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2503683759899313/>
- VICTORIA on Tues Jan 7: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1823715671269318/>
- VICTORIA on Sat Jan 11: <https://www.facebook.com/events/544890622907015/>

ORGANIZE ONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND EMAIL US at [yintahaccess@gmail.com](mailto:yintahaccess@gmail.com). List will be updated daily.

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Unceded and sovereign Wet'suwet'en land is under attack. On December 31, 2019, BC Supreme Court Justice Marguerite Church granted an injunction against members of the Wet'suwet'en nation who have been stewarding and protecting our traditional territories from the destruction of multiple pipelines, including Coastal GasLink's (CGL) liquified natural gas (LNG) pipeline. Hereditary Chiefs of all five Wet'suwet'en clans have rejected Church's decision, which criminalizes Anuk 'nu'at'en (Wet'suwet'en law), and have issued and enforced an eviction of CGL's workers from the territory. The last CGL contractor was escorted out by Wet'suwet'en Chiefs on Saturday, January 4, 2020.

We watched communities across Canada and worldwide rise up with us in January 2019 when the RCMP violently raided our territories and criminalized us for upholding our responsibilities towards our land. Our strength to act today comes from the knowledge that our allies across Canada and around the world will again rise up with us, as they did for Oka, Gustafsen Lake, and Elsipogtog, shutting down rail lines, ports, and industrial infrastructure and pressuring elected government officials to abide by UNDRIP. The state needs to stop violently supporting those members of the 1% who are stealing our resources and condemning our children to a world rendered uninhabitable by climate change. Light your sacred fires and come to our aid as the RCMP prepares again to enact colonial violence against Wet'suwet'en people.

We ask that all actions taken in solidarity are conducted peacefully and according to the laws of the Indigenous nation(s) of that land.

For more information:

\* Wet'suwet'en Supporter Toolkit:

<http://unistoten.camp/supporter toolkit2020/?fbclid=IwAR1HjIW4IsEofzS5ZVkYnFeLOl3m-Txgo0xLlhanhtVzjtHcRKbFGOkiw8w>

\* Donate to Unist'ot'en:

<https://unistoten.camp/support-us/donate/>

\* Donate to Gidimt'en

<https://www.yintahaccess.com/becomeadonor>

