

COVID-19 facts to counter the U.S. anti-China campaign

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 20, 2020



A medical brigade from eastern China left Wuhan April 8 after helping to beat back the pandemic.

The U.S. campaign of slander against China regarding its response to the coronavirus can't be seen only as electoral damage control for Donald Trump, nor should it be interpreted only as friction between two economic rivals with billions of

dollars at stake.

Not that those aren't factors. But, even with its historic concessions to the global capitalist economy, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party showcases the superiority of socialist planning in the fight against the coronavirus and points toward a future where private ownership can be eliminated.

The anti-China propaganda, along with Trump's trade war and growing Pentagon threats toward China, are all part of the global class struggle.

The danger for the U.S. ruling class is that literally millions of young people in the U.S. are already fed up with the capitalist agenda of racism, war and gaping inequality, and since the election campaign of Bernie Sanders the fear of uttering the word "socialism" seems to have evaporated.

Exposing the lies about China is an important part of building a fightback movement against rampant U.S. capitalism and imperialism.

China did not conceal anything about the outbreak.

On Dec. 31, 2019, China complied with International Health Regulations — the United Nations' system of monitoring potential epidemics — and notified the World Health Organization (WHO) that there were 27 cases of a mysterious pneumonia-like illness in Wuhan. Nothing was known yet about its ability to spread pre-symptomatically or from humans to humans.

On Jan. 12, Chinese scientists shared the virus's genome via the internet. It was the fastest this was ever accomplished.

On Jan. 22, President Xi Jinping spoke personally with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron about the outbreak. Ma Xiwei, the head of China's National Health Commission, spoke with U.S. Secretary of Health

and Human Services Alex Azar on Jan. 27, and senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi spoke directly with China's most rabid accuser - Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

In fact, according to a recent timeline [published by China to refute the slanders](#) being spread by the U.S., China briefed the U.S. on coronavirus epidemic prevention on Feb. 3 for the 30th time!

The novel coronavirus was not manufactured.

Scientists from Scripps Research Institute published the results of a study in the journal [Nature Medicine](#) on March 17. It is the most widely cited information on the origin of the virus that causes COVID-19. "Our analyses clearly show that SARS-CoV-2 is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus," they wrote.

They point to two pieces of evidence that they consider conclusive:

First, the virus's ability to attach itself to human cells so successfully indicates it happened through natural selection — not human engineering. And second, the molecular structure resembles viruses found in bats and pangolins more closely than it resembles any of the six other identified coronaviruses that infect humans.

"These two features of the virus ... rule out laboratory manipulation as a potential origin for SARS-CoV-2," concluded Kristian Anderson of Scripps.

There was no accident at the lab in Wuhan that "leaked" the virus.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) is one of about 50 high-security labs that study infectious microbes in the world. At this particular lab, they study coronavirus samples taken from bats. After the genome of SARS-CoV-2 was shared with the rest of the world by China, lab scientist Shi Zhengli compared the DNA to every virus sample at the lab. All of the samples there were of viruses from previous outbreaks

— too dissimilar to be the cause of COVID-19.

Viral samples at the WIV lab are handled with strict protocols, as they are in all Biosafety Level 4 laboratories. Some samples are chemically deactivated for study and all samples are frozen in liquid nitrogen and then kept in a freezer set to minus 80 degrees Celsius. All technicians wear double sets of personal protective equipment (PPE).

There have been accidents that resulted in shutdowns of similar laboratories. One such shutdown occurred at a U.S. lab at Fort Detrick, Md., in August 2019. But none have occurred at the WIV lab.

China acted to correct Wuhan authorities for the reprimand of Dr Li Wenliang.

Dr Li, an ophthalmologist who worked at Wuhan Central Hospital, noticed a number of cases of a pneumonia-like illness that presented similarities with the deadly SARS virus. He shared his observation with colleagues on an internal email network. On Dec. 31, Wuhan police reprimanded him for “spreading false information.”

News of the incident spread across social media. When central leaders in Beijing learned of it, they, in turn, reprimanded the authorities in Wuhan. The mayor of Wuhan and police officials apologized publicly.

Sadly, Dr Li died from COVID-19 in February. But, Li was not a “whistleblower.” The efforts to learn about COVID-19 and prevent a health catastrophe were underway in China before Dec. 31. In fact, that is the same day that the first notice to the WHO took place.

In the U.S., millions have lost their livelihoods overnight. The deadly virus has hit oppressed communities — where deep poverty blocks access to health care — the hardest. The racist prison system is now a massive network of death traps. Seniors

trapped in nursing homes run for profit are dying in startling numbers.

This disaster can't be assigned just to Trump or to the Republican Party. The blame belongs on the doorstep of capitalism. The diversion created by slanders against China has to be exposed.



Xi Jinping: Fighting COVID-19 through solidarity and cooperation

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 20, 2020

Statement by H.E. Xi Jinping

President of the People's Republic of China

At Virtual Event of Opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly

Beijing, May 18, 2020

Fighting COVID-19 Through Solidarity and Cooperation

Building a Global Community of Health for All

President of the World Health Assembly,
Director General of the World Health Organization,
Dear Delegates,

To begin with, I wish to say that it is of significant importance for this World Health Assembly to be held at such a critical moment as the human race battles this novel coronavirus.

What we are facing is the most serious global public health emergency since the end of World War II. Catching the world by surprise, COVID-19 has hit over 210 countries and regions, affected more than seven billion people around the world and claimed over 300,000 precious lives. I mourn for every life lost and express condolences to the bereaved families.

The history of human civilization is one of fighting diseases and tiding over disasters. The virus does not respect borders. Nor is race or nationality relevant in the face of the disease. Confronted by the ravages of COVID-19, the international community has not flinched. The people of all countries have tackled the virus head on. Around the world, people have looked out for each other and pulled together as one. With love and compassion, we have forged extraordinary synergy in the fight against COVID-19.

In China, after making painstaking efforts and enormous sacrifice, we have turned the tide on the virus and protected the life and health of our people. All along, we have acted with openness, transparency and responsibility. We have provided information to WHO and relevant countries in a most timely fashion. We have released the genome sequence at the earliest possible time. We have shared control and treatment experience with the world without reservation. We have done everything in our power to support and assist countries in need.

Mr. President,

Even as we meet, the virus is still raging, and more must be done to bring it under control. To this end, I want to make the following proposals:

First, we must do everything we can for COVID-19 control and treatment.

This is a most urgent task. We must always put the people first, for nothing in the world is more precious than people's lives. We need to deploy medical expertise and critical supplies to places where they are needed the most. We need to take strong steps in such key areas as prevention, quarantine, detection, treatment and tracing. We need to move as fast as we can to curb the global spread of the virus and do our best to stem cross-border transmission. We need to step up information sharing, exchange experience and best practice, and pursue international cooperation on testing methods, clinical treatment, and vaccine and medicine research and development. We also need to continue supporting global research by scientists on the source and transmission routes of the virus.

Second, the World Health Organization should lead the global response.

Under the leadership of Dr. Tedros, WHO has made a major contribution in leading and advancing the global response to COVID-19. Its good work is applauded by the international community. At this crucial juncture, to support WHO is to support international cooperation and the battle for saving lives as well. China calls on the international community to increase political and financial support for WHO so as to mobilize resources worldwide to defeat the virus.

Third, we must provide greater support for Africa. Developing countries, African countries in particular, have weaker public health systems. Helping them build capacity must be our top priority in COVID-19 response. The world needs to provide more material, technological and personnel support for African countries. China has sent a tremendous amount of medical supplies and assistance to over 50 African countries and the African Union. Five Chinese medical expert teams have also been sent to the African continent. In total, in the past seven decades, over 200

million people in Africa have received care and treatment from Chinese medical teams. At present, 46 resident Chinese medical teams are in Africa helping with COVID-19 containment efforts locally.

Fourth, we must strengthen global governance in the area of public health.

We human beings will eventually prevail over the coronavirus. Yet this may not be the last time a major health emergency comes knocking at our door. In view of the weaknesses and deficiencies exposed by COVID-19, we need to improve the governance system for public health security. We need to respond more quickly to public health emergencies and establish global and regional reserve centers of anti-epidemic supplies. China supports the idea of a comprehensive review of the global response to COVID-19 after it is brought under control to sum up experience and address deficiencies. This work should be based on science and professionalism, led by WHO and conducted in an objective and impartial manner.

Fifth, we must restore economic and social development. While working on an ongoing basis to contain the virus, countries where conditions permit may reopen businesses and schools in an orderly fashion in observance of WHO's professional recommendations. In the meantime, international macroeconomic policy coordination should be stepped up and the global industrial and supply chains be kept stable and unclogged if we are to restore growth to the world economy.

Sixth, we must strengthen international cooperation. Mankind is a community with a shared future. Solidarity and cooperation is our most powerful weapon for defeating the virus. This is the key lesson the world has learned from fighting HIV/AIDS, Ebola, avian influenza, influenza A (H1N1) and other major epidemics. And solidarity and cooperation is a sure way through which we, the people of the world, can defeat this novel coronavirus.

Mr. President,

China stands for the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind. China takes it as its responsibility to ensure not just the life and health of its own citizens, but also global public health. For the sake of boosting international cooperation against COVID-19, I would like to announce the following:

- China will provide US\$2 billion over two years to help with COVID-19 response and with economic and social development in affected countries, especially developing countries.
- China will work with the U.N. to set up a global humanitarian response depot and hub in China, ensure the operation of anti-epidemic supply chains and foster “green corridors” for fast-track transportation and customs clearance.
- China will establish a cooperation mechanism for its hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals and accelerate the building of the Africa CDC headquarters to help the continent ramp up its disease preparedness and control capacity.
- COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good. This will be China’s contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.
- China will work with other G20 members to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the poorest countries. China is also ready to work with the international community to bolster support for the hardest-hit countries under the greatest strain of debt service, so that they could tide over the current difficulties.

To conclude, I call on all of us to come together and work as one. Let’s make concerted efforts to protect the life and health of people in all countries. Let’s work together to safeguard planet Earth, our common home. Let’s work together to build a global community of health for all!

I thank you.



New York cops practice viral profiling

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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It is widely reported that New York City police are exploiting social distancing rules, meant to protect people from the coronavirus, to practice brutal “racial profiling.”

[The Brooklyn Paper](#) reported on May 12 that “New Yorkers of color made up 93 percent of COVID-19 related arrests in the city since mid-March, according to newly released Police Department data.

“Between March 16 and May 10, cops made 125 arrests citywide that were in some way related to the novel coronavirus — and 116 were people of color, according to a May 12 release.”

Borough	Total Arrests	People of color arrested
The Bronx	46	46
Brooklyn	39	36
Queens	22	19
Manhattan	17	15
Staten Island	1	0

On May 11, some 50 people marched from Foley Square to New York Police Department headquarters at One Police Plaza in Manhattan to protest the bias. Anthony Beckford, president of the Brooklyn chapter of Black Lives Matter and a local City Council candidate, tweeted: “This does not happen to white people who violate social distancing. They are using the pandemic as a weapon for further brutality.”

News reports on local TV and videos on social media show police using the pandemic rules as an excuse to conduct “stop and frisk” assaults, enforcing their violent authority. The videos show police placing Black and Brown people in grapple holds, forcing them to the ground and kneeling on their necks while striking them in the head.

One [widely shared video](#) shows four cops wrestle a woman to the ground and handcuff her in a Brooklyn subway station while her small child looks on. The police claimed that she was arrested for not wearing her mask correctly.

Another clip shows a member of the NYPD punching a man in the face during an arrest in Brooklyn on May 3, before threatening bystanders with a baton for not wearing masks. Three police tackled and arrested 21-year-old Stephon Scott. One of the cops strikes Scott in the head as the detainee lays pinned to the ground, before

taking out his baton and threatening to arrest another man for failing to wear a mask — despite the fact that the cop's own mask does not cover his nose, and one of his fellow officers is not wearing a facial covering at all.

"City Hall and the NYPD need to seriously reconsider social distancing enforcement that leads to escalations involving the use of tasers and violent assaults," Tina Luongo of the Legal Aid Society said. "What is equally disturbing is that some of these officers — who were ostensibly enforcing social distancing laws — were in violation of those very same laws themselves by not wearing protective masks, endangering the lives of all New Yorkers around them."

"The arrests of black and Hispanic residents, several of them filmed and posted online, occurred on the same balmy days that other photographs circulated showing police officers handing out masks to mostly white visitors at parks in [Lower Manhattan](#), [Williamsburg](#) and [Long Island City](#)," noted a report in the [New York Times](#).



Socialism and dignity: The right to a funeral

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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No millionaire has ever been executed in the United States. Hardly any rich people have been buried in New York City's Potter's Field. Over a million poor people are interred there on Hart Island off the Bronx.

Photographer George Steinmetz used a drone to [document the mass burials](#) of people who've died of the coronavirus. Police responded by detaining Steinmetz and seizing his drone.

Those who can't afford a funeral have their bodies dumped in trenches 15 feet wide and 8 feet deep. The gravediggers are prisoners from Rikers Island who, if they die in jail, will probably be buried there too.

Capitalism doesn't offer any respect for working and poor people, even in death. Everything is for sale, including last rites.

As the activist organization [Picture The Homeless](#) describes Potter's Field, it "is not the only insult the poor face ... but it's the final insult."

People who are killed being struck by trains, subways or buses — or die in them — get buried on Hart Island if no one claims their bodies. PTH co-founder Lewis Haggins, who passed away on the subway on Dec. 23, 2003, was buried on Hart Island.

When PTH members tried to go to Haggins' grave site, they were forbidden to do so. Only relatives could visit. Authorities claimed it was a "security issue" since

prisoners bury bodies.

The Civil Rights Committee of PTH had to wage a struggle just to say farewell. They won the right for people to pay their respects, to lay a flower, at the place where a friend or a stranger was buried.

Remember this whenever the capitalist media attack a socialist country for allegedly violating “human rights.”

Robbing Black bodies

New Jersey Assemblymember Benjie Wimberly has [proposed a \\$20 million fund](#) to subsidize funerals in the Garden State. New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson has suggested a [similar local fund](#).

Currently, New York City’s Human Resource Administration offers up to \$900 as a subsidy towards a funeral service. That’s often not enough.

Families can have as little as 48 hours to claim their loved ones’ bodies [under New York State law](#). Medical schools get first dibs on unclaimed remains. Mortuary schools get the rest in order to train students in embalming.

For centuries, medical students have dissected bodies in order to learn anatomy. That’s necessary to train doctors.

This writer’s father willed his body to a medical school. That was a voluntary act, like people having their eyes donated to an eye bank after their death.

Shields Green and John Anthony Copeland Jr. didn’t will their bodies to be cut up at Winchester Medical College. The Black freedom fighters captured at Harper’s Ferry were hanged on Dec. 16, 1859, two weeks after John Brown was executed.

The book “Medical Apartheid” by Harriet Washington tells how Black cemeteries

were given no respect by medical schools. Grave robbers and students would steal the bodies of African Americans. Some of the corpses were shipped to Northern medical schools in pickle barrels.

The first Indigenous mortuary science student at the Milwaukee Area Technical College explained why he wanted to become a mortician. He was sick of going to museums and seeing his ancestors in glass cases.

African bodies were put on display in European museums. The body of the South African woman [Sarah Baartman](#) was on display in a Paris museum until 1974. Her remains weren't returned to South Africa until 2002.

No dignity under capitalism

Milwaukee communist leader Albert Stergar would point out that the first working-class organizations were the “friendly societies.” During the Industrial Revolution in Britain, their members would pay a small regular contribution to ensure having a funeral.

These societies had 925,429 members by 1815. E.P. Thompson, in “The Making of the English Working Class,” wrote that this was the political culture which trained future labor leaders.

Slave masters tried to prevent funerals of enslaved Africans, fearing they could become organizing meetings for insurrections.

Funeral directors were often the most prosperous members of Black communities and served as political leaders, like the Ford family in Memphis. The family of Michigan Congressperson Charles C. Diggs Jr. owned a funeral home.

When Diggs was elected to the House of Representatives in 1954, there were only two other Black congresspeople. After the Soweto uprising in South Africa on June

16, 1976, Diggs vowed to use his congressional seniority to help overthrow the apartheid regime.

Charles Diggs was instead railroaded to prison on phony charges.

All the socialist countries are targeted by Trump, the Pentagon and Wall Street. For over 60 years, they've tried to strangle Cuba with an economic blockade.

This doesn't prevent Cuba from giving every person the dignity that capitalism can never offer. All Cubans are guaranteed a funeral.

Everyone deserves a homecoming. There will be no Potter's Fields after the socialist revolution.



Al-Quds Day 2020

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 20, 2020

Over 100 international organizations united for Palestine



#ALQUDSDAY2020 #FLYTHEFLAG

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OVER 100 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS UNITED FOR PALESTINE



Bosses bet on profits over workers' lives

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Fruit processing workers are on strike at 13 plants in Washington state's Yakima Valley. "Hoppers" — sanitation workers who do the dirtiest, most dangerous jobs — are on strike in New Orleans. Retail workers and baristas at Starbucks and other coffee chains are organizing against efforts to force them back to work in dangerous conditions. The Minnesota Nurses Association plans to march on the state capitol in St. Paul on May 20 to protest the continued lack of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE).

Members of the Oglala Lakota Indigenous nation have set up checkpoints to protect residents from infection since South Dakota's governor refuses to take public health measures. Armed Black and Latinx activists escorted a Black woman lawmaker, Sarah Anthony, safely to the Michigan Capitol after threats from gun-toting, pandemic-denying white supremacists. And at several other state capitols, health care workers in masks and scrubs have stood defiantly against similar fascist mobs.

This is a small sample of the heroic, defensive actions by workers and oppressed communities happening in cities, towns and rural areas as the reactionary, unscientific and profoundly dangerous “back to work” pressure grows. All of these struggles deserve whatever solidarity we can give.

Across the U.S., from the highest levels of power on Wall Street and the White House to the franchisee on the corner, bosses made a decisive shift in the first half of May toward forcing the reopening of the economy amidst the still-raging COVID-19 pandemic.

No conspiracy theories are required. This is the logic of capitalist exploitation, built into the system — bosses’ profits come from workers’ labor power; capital must expand or die.

'Not a crime at which it will scruple'

In his book “Capital,” Karl Marx quoted economist T.J. Dunning: “Capital eschews no profit, or very small profit, just as Nature was formerly said to abhor a vacuum. With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 percent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 percent certain will produce eagerness; 50 percent, positive audacity; 100 percent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 percent, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged.”

It was true in the 1800s, and it’s true now.

In mid-March, panic over looming mass deaths and what that could mean for the fate of the profit system caused the bosses and their flunkies in Washington and statehouses to institute partial, inadequate shutdown measures. This coincided with the long-impending crisis of capitalist overproduction, resulting in mass layoffs — [now officially at 33 million](#), but believed to be much higher, given the deficiencies of

state unemployment agencies.

The halting measures to slow the coronavirus exposed the utter inability of the system to provide even the basics of public health and security for the masses of people.

But once the shock passed and mass rebellion didn't immediately materialize, the illogic of the profit system quickly overrode the logic of protecting the lives of people. Almost immediately the bosses — egged on by Trump — clamored for an end to the safety measures.

Many bosses and state governments never shut down at all, claiming that forcing super exploited service workers to toil without proper PPE for low wages was "essential." Trump ordered meat processing plants to stay open as COVID-19 ravaged the mostly Black and Brown meatpackers — many of them the same migrants that Trump demonizes and terrorizes with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement gestapo.

Almost every day brings reports of [mass infection outbreaks](#) among food processing workers, like this incident reported by the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) on May 16, where Eastern Virginia "district officials said they were able to test 1,380 people over two days on May 8 and 9. That testing was extended to workers at Perdue Farms in Accomac and Tyson Foods in Temperanceville, which revealed a count of about 510 [infected workers] combined between the two companies. ... Only 85 of the 510 cases have been included in the Virginia Department of Health's data so far."

By mid-May, most states had eased or eliminated stay-at-home orders and other measures meant to limit the virus's spread — even in states where the rate of infection is escalating, and as reports grow of a co-morbid toxic shock condition among children who've been exposed to the virus.

“Texas sets record for most coronavirus fatalities in state as reopening gets underway,” [Newsweek](#) reported May 15. “Record number of COVID-19 cases reported Saturday in Wisconsin, with 502 infections,” said the [Appleton Post-Crescent](#) on May 16, days after the state’s Supreme Court struck down the governor’s extension of a stay-at-home order. The following day, the [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#) headlined: “Minnesota logs 699 new COVID-19 cases day before state relaxes stay-home rules. Minnesota to allow more businesses to open Monday.”

Celebrity capitalist [Elon Musk defied](#) California’s public health measures, ordering workers to report to work at his Tesla auto plant in Alameda County and daring officials to arrest him. They didn’t, of course; Tesla was reclassified as “essential” and its workers may now pay the price. [Amazon boss Jeff Bezos](#), on track to become the world’s first trillionaire thanks to the boost that the pandemic has given his profits, ordered all warehouse workers to report after May 1 or lose their benefits, and will end \$2 per hour hazard pay at the end of the month.

Rampant racism

New York and California, two epicenters of the pandemic, are moving to reopen. Even prior to the May 15 expiration of the statewide PAUSE order in New York, and long before New York City has met the state’s criteria to reopen, many “non-essential” businesses have reopened, without consequences.

At the same time, the New York Police Department’s enforcement of social distancing guidelines has been used almost exclusively against Black and Brown communities, including a Black mother and child who were [attacked by cops in the subway](#) for allegedly wearing their face masks “improperly.”

Despite posturing as the responsible alternative to Trump, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo [effectively ended the state eviction ban](#) while claiming to extend it through August. Cuomo refused to even consider a rent freeze, leaving people who lost jobs

and income on the hook for months of exorbitant rent.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, meanwhile, prohibited protests, siccing the cops on a social-distancing observant press conference by the [Reclaim Pride Coalition](#), which opposed the city's cosy relationship with anti-LGBTQ2S "charity" Samaritan's Purse. Both officials have ganged up on the homeless, driving people out of the subways while refusing to open up the city's multitude of empty apartments and hotel rooms to those in need of shelter.

The wealthiest capitalist country on earth could easily provide an income for the entire population, including health care, housing and food, for the duration of the pandemic crisis. It could ensure measures are implemented to protect front-line workers and for a safe return to work by everyone afterward, as China and other countries are doing. All it would require is a fraction of the money lavished on the Pentagon war machine and bailouts for Big Banks, Big Oil and Big Business generally.

Instead, COVID-19 is being allowed to run rampant, causing veritable genocide [on Navajo land](#). Black and Brown communities across the country, with the least access to health care and the most workers on the front lines, are being devastated, while people continue to be killed and brutalized by police and other white supremacists. The tide of racist attacks on Asian people is unstemmed as both Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden ramp up the war-mongering campaign against China.

Vast numbers of infections and deaths are still projected by federal agencies, as revealed in a report by the [New York Times on May 4](#), still on the scale that first caused the capitalist establishment to panic two months ago. Now the numbers may get worse due to the premature reopening, especially among the most vulnerable sections of the working class: seniors, the disabled, those with pre-existing health conditions, and communities plagued by poverty and racist discrimination.

Trump and Senate leaders have dismissed the warnings of their own health experts, including the congressional testimony of [Dr. Anthony Fauci](#) and [whistleblower Rick Bright](#), warning of a resurgence of the virus and the urgent need to prepare for a second wave of the pandemic, which could come as early as autumn.

A question of power

Make no mistake: The bosses are willing to sacrifice as many workers as it takes for them to keep turning a profit. Is it too late to turn the situation around?

It's a question of power. Which class has it?

Right now the capitalists, the boss class, feel themselves firmly in the saddle. The bosses will only take the safety of the workers and oppressed into account when they feel that their rule, and their profit-driven system, is threatened or could be challenged.

What's needed is a countervailing movement that challenges the bosses' ability to resume "business as usual" for fear of losing it all.

For that to happen, the workers — the class that makes the economy run, whose labor produces profits — have to expand their struggle. And the most conscious elements of the working class need to fight for a perspective that goes beyond defensive battles — to fight for socialism.

A political struggle is needed to complement and elevate the many heroic local and industrywide battles being waged piecemeal across the country. Demands must be made on the federal government and the capitalist system as a whole, not just individual companies or localities. A return to "business as usual" will mean an end to unemployment compensation, rent freezes and other survival measures for the millions left jobless by the capitalist crisis.

Fight for guaranteed income, health care, housing and food for all — for as long as it takes to defeat the pandemic! Free, accessible vaccinations for all once a vaccine is available! End war and sanctions against other countries! Cooperate in the global fight against COVID-19!

Empty the prisons and detention camps! Community control of the police and pandemic emergency measures! Enforcement of social distancing and face coverings should be based on education and community engagement, not repression — and should not be thrown on the backs of low-paid retail workers [who now face violent attacks](#) for trying to enforce safety measures.

We can raise the demand for expropriation and workers' control of businesses that do not take necessary safety measures. If the bosses complain they can't afford it — then they should not be in business. The workers should take over the factories, stores, restaurants, delivery services and hospitals, and run them themselves. The bosses' bottom line must not be an excuse for profit-driven murder!



Malcolm X: A human rights activist moving towards socialism

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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If not for the COVID-19 pandemic, as we mark Malcolm X's 95th birthday on May 19, 2020, hundreds and thousands of people would be marching and rallying in the streets, shouting "Justice for Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor!" as we did in 2006 for Sean Bell; in 2009 for Oscar Grant; in 2012 for Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis, Ramarley Graham and Alan Blueford ;in 2013 for Mariam Carey; in 2014 for Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Dontre Hamilton and Laquan McDonald; in 2015 for Freddie Gray and Donald Dontay Ivy; in 2016 for Alfred Olango; in 2018 for Aleah Jenkins; in 2019 for Dennis Carolino and on and on.

We would have signs listing our demands: Justice For Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, Stop police brutality, Community control of the police and Jail killer cops.

Similar demands were made by Malcolm X in 1957, when he intervened at a police station in New York. Johnson X Hinton, a member of the Nation of Islam, had been brutally beaten and arrested by two cops. Word of the brutality spread quickly across Harlem. Furious residents flocked to the police station demanding justice.

Malcolm X mobilized the self-defense unit of the NOI, the Fruit of Islam, who positioned themselves to maintain order. Malcolm was shocked by Johnson X's injuries and demanded that he receive immediate medical attention. An ambulance arrived and a crowd of over 2,000 followed it to the hospital on foot.

Once he was satisfied that Hinton was being cared for, Malcolm stepped out of the hospital and with a wave of his hand, the crowd dispersed. Witnessing his control of

the crowd, a police inspector commented, "No man should have that kind of power." What he really meant was, "No Black man should have that kind of power."

Johnson X survived, but had to have multiple brain surgeries and live with a metal plate in his head. He filed suit against the New York Police Department. An all-white jury awarded him \$70,000, the largest police brutality settlement in New York City at that time.

Roots in the struggle

Malcolm Little was born on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Neb. In an interview, Malcolm's sister Ella Collins said, "When he was born we expected great things of Malcolm. I don't know if this influenced him, the fact that his family put him in a certain category."

His mother, Louise Norton Little, from the Caribbean country of Grenada, and his father, Earl Little, were outspoken supporters of Black nationalist Marcus Garvey. The family had eight children.

Earl Little's civil rights activism prompted death threats from a white supremacist organization called the Black Legion, forcing the family to relocate twice before Malcolm's fourth birthday. By age 13, Malcolm had seen his house burned down, been exposed to the violent death of his father by racists and seen the slow breakdown of his mother.

After spending years in foster homes, he went to live with his sister Ella Collins in Boston.

Asked by a teacher in the eighth grade what he wanted to be, Malcolm's reply was "a lawyer." This teacher had not studied the history of Black people, or he might have strongly encouraged Malcolm's ambition to become a lawyer.

As a teenager, Malcolm searched and examined the trends among his peers, which included the zoot suit and burning the scalp to approximate the appearance of a white man's hair.

In January 1946, Malcolm was arrested in Boston, charged with larceny, breaking and entering, and possession of firearms. That February, he began his prison sentence in Charlestown Prison. He started reading in the prison library.

Ella Collins said this about Malcolm's time in prison: "From a realistic point of view, I think all of the illusions that he may have adopted in his youth, from his environment, I think he lost it in prison. I think he really saw life for real. One of the most valuable assets that Malcolm did acquire in life, was courage."

In 1947, his conversion to the Nation of Islam began with the teachings of Elijah Muhammad. Malcolm was paroled in 1952 and received his "X" name from the NOI.

Malcolm X stood up for Black people when they were being beaten in the streets, publicly humiliated and killed. He understood that people living on the streets and in prisons had contributions to make. Like Mumia Abu-Jamal, he spoke for the jobless, the homeless and the voiceless.

Black unity

From 1953 to 1964, Malcolm X ascended as an NOI minister and successfully started new temples across the country. In early 1964, Malcolm X announced his split with the Nation of Islam.

At a news conference in March 1964, Malcolm spoke on Black unity: "Whites can help us, but they can't join us. There can be no Black-white unity until there is first some Black unity. There can be no workers' solidarity until there is first some racial solidarity. We cannot think of uniting with others, until after we have first united among ourselves. We cannot think of being acceptable to others until we have first

proven acceptable to ourselves."

Malcolm X left the U.S. on his first extended trip abroad in April 1964. He visited Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco and Algeria. He made the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim seeks to complete, which entitled him to use the name El Hajj Malik El Shabazz.

He consolidated his relations with representatives of orthodox Islam, met with students, journalists, members of parliaments, ambassadors and government leaders, and never stopped talking about the race problem in the U.S. He encountered people of all races, and many fighters against all kinds of oppression. He spoke to whites as well as Blacks.

In one of Malcolm's letters from abroad — written in Ghana, which he called the fountainhead of Pan-Africanism — he said, "It is time for all African-Americans to become an integral part of the world's Pan-Africanists, and even though we might remain in America physically while fighting for the benefits the Constitution guarantees us, we must 'return' to Africa philosophically and culturally and develop a working unity in the framework of Pan-Africanism."

After his return to the U.S., on May 29, 1964, Malcolm spoke at a socialist forum in New York: "They say travel broadens your scope and recently I've had an opportunity to do a lot of it, in the Middle East and Africa. While I was traveling I noticed that in most of the countries that have recently emerged into independence, they have turned away from the so-called capitalistic system in the direction of socialism. So out of curiosity I can't resist the temptation to do a little investigating wherever that particular philosophy happens to be in existence or an attempt is being made to bring it into existence.

"All of the countries that are emerging today from under the shackles of colonialism are turning to socialism. I don't think it is an accident."

Fighting imperialism

On June 28, 1964, Malcolm announced the formation of the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), a nonreligious organization designed to fight all the negative political, economic and social conditions that exist in our neighborhoods.

Later in 1964, Malcolm traveled to the Middle East and Africa for five months. He attended the second meeting of the African Unity Summit conference in Cairo in July. He was the only North American allowed to attend and submitted a paper on the plight of the 20 million African Americans in the U.S.

Malcolm had lengthy conversations with Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Milton Obote of Uganda, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Sekou Toure of Guinea, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, all of whom offered him official positions in their governments.

He was one of the first African leaders to meet with the newly created Palestine Liberation Organization and was a pioneer of the Black-Palestinian solidarity that continued with the Black Panther Party and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Earlier, in 1960, he famously met Fidel Castro of Cuba at Harlem's Hotel Theresa.

Malcolm X spoke in Alabama on Feb. 3 and Feb. 4, 1965, before traveling to Britain and France from Feb. 6 to Feb. 13. He was detained in France and put on a plane back to London. He returned to the U.S. on Feb. 14 to find his home had been firebombed. But after making sure his family was safe, he went to speak in Detroit.

There he said: "Colonialism or imperialism, as the slave system of the West is called, is not something that is just confined to England or France or the United States. The interests in this country are in cahoots with the interests in France and the interests in Britain. It's one huge complex or combine, and it creates what's known not as the American power structure or the French power structure but an international power

structure.

"The newly awakened people all over the world pose a problem for what is known as Western interests, which is imperialism, colonialism, racism and all these other negative -isms or vulturistic -isms," Malcolm said.

He was assassinated just a week later, on Feb. 21, 1965.

A life of transformations

Malcolm never claimed to be socialist. But his life was full of transformations.

When he announced the formation of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, Malcolm stated that it had the same aim and objective as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), "to fight whoever gets in our way, to bring about the complete independence of people of African descent here in the Western Hemisphere and first here in the U.S., and bring out the freedom of these people by any means necessary."

Malcolm, who referred to himself as a human rights activist, was on the path to socialism. By reading or listening to his speeches, especially his last speeches after his trips abroad, we see that Malcolm was in search of the truth and solutions to the issues making life so miserable for Black people in this country and around the world.

Malcolm made it clear that the system that he was attacking was one based on greed, exploitation of one race by another and one class by another, and that it is our duty not just to analyze it but to change it.



Ho Chi Minh: The path which led me to Leninism

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 20, 2020

May 19, 2020, marks the 130th birthday of Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Vietnamese Revolution. This article recounting how he was won to socialism originally appeared in the Soviet journal “Problems of the East” in April 1960 to mark the 90th anniversary of V.I. Lenin’s birth.

After World War I, I made my living in Paris, now as a retoucher at a photographer's, now as painter of “Chinese antiquities” (made in France!). I would distribute leaflets denouncing the crimes committed by the French colonialists in Vietnam.

At that time, I supported the October Revolution [the 1917 Russian socialist revolution] only instinctively, not yet grasping all its historic importance. I loved and admired Lenin because he was a great patriot who liberated his compatriots; until then, I had read none of his books.

The reason for my joining the French Socialist Party was that these “ladies and gentlemen” — as I called my comrades at that moment — had shown their sympathy towards me, towards the struggle of the oppressed peoples. But I understood neither what was a party, a trade union, nor what was socialism nor communism.

Heated discussions were then taking place in the branches of the Socialist Party, about the question whether the Socialist Party should remain in the Second International, should a Second-and-a-Half International be founded, or should the Socialist Party join Lenin’s Third International?

I attended the meetings regularly, twice or thrice a week, and attentively listened to the discussion. First, I could not understand thoroughly. Why were the discussions so heated? Either with the Second, Second-and-a-Half or Third International, the revolution could be waged. What was the use of arguing then? As for the First International, what had become of it?

What I wanted most to know — and this precisely was not debated in the meetings — was: which International sides with the peoples of colonial countries?

I raised this question — the most important in my opinion — in a meeting. Some comrades answered: It is the Third, not the Second International. And a comrade gave me Lenin’s [“Theses on the National and Colonial Questions”](#) published by l’Humanite to read.

There were political terms difficult to understand in this thesis. But by dint of reading it again and again, finally I could grasp the main part of it. What emotion, enthusiasm, clear-sightedness and confidence it instilled into me! I was overjoyed to tears. Though sitting alone in my room, I shouted out aloud as if addressing large crowds: “Dear martyrs, compatriots! This is what we need, this is the path to our liberation!”

After then, I had entire confidence in Lenin, in the Third International.

Formerly, during the meetings of the Party branch, I only listened to the discussion; I had a vague belief that all were logical, and could not differentiate as to who was right and who was wrong. But from then on, I also plunged into the debates and discussed with fervor.

Though I was still lacking French words to express all my thoughts, I smashed the allegations attacking Lenin and the Third International with no less vigor. My only argument was: "If you do not condemn colonialism, if you do not side with the colonial people, what kind of revolution are you waging?"

Not only did I take part in the meetings of my own Party branch, but I also went to other Party branches to lay down "my position." Now I must tell again that Comrades Marcel Cachin, Vaillant Couturier, Monmousseau and many others helped me to broaden my knowledge. Finally, at the Tours Congress, I voted with them for our joining the Third International.

At first, patriotism, not yet communism, led me to have confidence in Lenin, in the Third International. Step by step, along the struggle, by studying Marxism-Leninism parallel with participation in practical activities, I gradually came upon the fact that only socialism and communism can liberate the oppressed nations and the working people throughout the world from slavery.

There is a legend, in our country as well as in China, on the miraculous "Book of the Wise." When facing great difficulties, one opens it and finds a way out. Leninism is not only a miraculous "book of the wise," a compass for us Vietnamese revolutionaries and people: it is also the radiant sun illuminating our path to final victory, to socialism and communism.

Source: [Marxists Internet Archive](https://www.marxists.org/archive/)



Harlem, NYC: Malcolm X @ 95 Black Power Motorcade

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 20, 2020

Malcolm X @ 95

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 In Harlem

Between 1PM and 3PM

Black Power Motorcade



Fly it
Post it
Email it
#MalcolmAt95
 



And join Special Facebook Live Event!

Malcolm X Commemoration Committee

Organization of AfroAmerican Unity & Sons of Africa

**“MALCOLM X SPEAKS IN THE
21ST CENTURY”**

Beyond COVID-19 & Chickens Coming Home To Roost

7 to 9:30PM Go to:

The Malcolm X Commemoration Committee Facebook Page

Zayid Muhammad - Poet / Moderator

December 12th Movement / 718-398-1766 / D12M.com





New Orleans May 20: Solidarity with baristas picket line

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 20, 2020



Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM CDT

New Orleans

Come support Still Perkin baristas on Strike as we fight for paid sick leave, PPE, \$15 an hour hazard pay, and a written agreement to follow and enforce safety protocol and adherence to phase 1 safety guidelines.

Please wear masks and follow social distancing protocol. If you feel better not getting out of your car driving by and honking is encouraged!

Baristas were forced to take action to uphold emergency COVID 19 guidelines and to protect ourselves and our families.

Still Perkin' baristas have been called back to work during a pandemic. This was done with no explanation of any new health or safety protocol. We are worried for our safety, and the safety of our families and customers. We organized (It is our Right to do so) and presented our conditions of return to our bosses (Kathy Redmann & Mike Fontham).

On May 16th, we went on strike after the owners refused to implement paid sick leave, living wages, and a written guarantee to follow and enforce safety protocol during a pandemic.

We deserve higher wages for higher risk. We deserve to feel safe in our workplace.

Our struggle for safety and higher wages is a part of a larger struggle of workers in New Orleans. Hospitality workers across our city face abusive work conditions, lack of benefits, wide spread wage theft, and discrimination .

We stand in solidarity with striking New Orleans sanitation workers who are fighting for higher wages, hazard pay, and daily PPE. Support the hoppers! We workers have the power to demand better! Together we will win.

On [Facebook](#)

