

Baltimore: Celebrate Rev. Annie Chambers' 80th birthday, Aug. 21

written by Struggle - La Lucha
August 16, 2021



Special Invitation to Celebrate Reverend Annie Chamber's 80th Birthday

Saturday, August 21, 5 pm to 8 pm

At Calvert Street Park, N. Calvert Street and E. 22nd Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

This will be an outdoor event but please wear a mask and social distance

Share amazing food, music and a special oral history of Rev Chambers life
We will be announcing exciting performances very shortly.

At Rev Chambers insistence this will be a fundraiser for a special project of the Peoples Power Assembly. To learn more about this project click [here](#).

You can donate any time before, during or after this celebration. Please consider an \$80 contribution to mark the almost 80 years of activism and service by Chambers.

Of course, whatever you can contribute is deeply appreciated. Whether it is more or less. And come to this event, regardless of whether you can contribute at all.

If you can contribute: Venmo@solidaritycenter, PayPal https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=66U3G8YMX57ZQ or write checks to Solidarity Center, earmarked Rev Chambers, and mail to 703 E. 37th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218.



LAPD explosion in South Central: Community demands justice

written by Struggle - La Lucha
August 16, 2021

On June 30, residents of South Central Los Angeles were shaken by a thunderous boom like an aerial bombardment. Area residents are used to the sound of helicopters and police sirens, simulating a war zone. But this was even more intense. It was an explosion set off by the LAPD Bomb Squad.

Ignoring all safety protocols, the Bomb Squad decided to explode 42 pounds of fireworks confiscated from a home in a residential neighborhood. They did this during the day while people were in their homes and out walking. The explosion destroyed some homes on 27th Street and injured residents.

According to Comites de Resistencia, a Union del Barrio-initiated organization dedicated to community self-defense and empowerment in South Central LA: "The explosion is linked to two deaths, dozens of injuries, psychological trauma and millions of dollars worth of damage to homes, cars and local businesses. Many residents have lost days of work and many were even fired due to missing days because of the explosion. Over 20 families had to be relocated because their homes were badly damaged. They are currently being housed by the city in a hotel in Downtown LA but they are being denied access to the swimming pool, gym and other facilities at the hotel."

Six weeks have gone by since the bombing and the city has yet to fix the residents' homes. Despite the families' demand, the city has also not released the names of the cops who made the decision to detonate the explosives.

Needless to say, this would not have occurred in an affluent or predominantly white neighborhood. It occurred in a predominantly Latinx neighborhood.

These attacks on working people—especially Black and Brown working people—occur on a daily basis. There is a daily diet of police murder and terror in our communities; a daily diet of intimidation and lack of essential health care, especially now, during the COVID-19 crisis. Working people—disproportionately workers of color—are forced

to work under dangerous conditions with little protection from the contagion. All of this is justified by systemic racism. It is an attempt to dehumanize oppressed peoples and justify even more heinous attacks. Police murder is said to be an unfortunate but necessary evil in Black and Brown communities, no matter how many children are gunned down by assassins with a badge.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

And this month of August reminds us of another heinous act with racist rationalizations, a bombing of a much bigger magnitude: the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945.

At least 200,000 people, including thousands of children, were killed by the bombs dropped on these cities. Even decades later people died from radiation-caused illnesses, and its effects are still felt.

The racist ruling class promotes the argument that those children and civilians in Japan were not as worthy of life as white people, or U.S. soldiers representing the interests of the ruling class. In the same way, the life of a cop is deemed far more important than the life of a Black child, whose killing is justified by law if a cop says they felt the least bit threatened.

This is why solidarity is so essential, especially from those who are not the immediate victims of imperialist aggression, whether the aggression be international or domestic (like the bombing carried out by the LAPD). It was the solidarity and community organization made possible by the Comites de Resistencia that forced some LA politicians to pay attention. Now they are feeling the pressure of the community and a growing movement demanding assistance for the victims of the LAPD's racist carelessness.

The police terror on our Black and Brown communities serves a purpose, and that is

to keep down the inevitable fightback against this oppressive system that sacrifices our lives and livelihoods for the profits of the rich. But our struggle for social justice, just like the struggle intensifying here in LA, will not be shut down.

On Aug. 16, the families affected by the explosion will protest in front of City Hall and will deliver a letter with the following demands to Mayor Eric Garcetti. Union del Barrio and the Comites de Resistencia are assisting the community with this action. Other participating organizations include the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the Socialist Unity Party.

The families are demanding the following:

1. Fix our homes NOW!
2. Give us the names of the LAPD officers who gave the order to detonate the explosives in our neighborhood!
3. Immediate financial assistance for everyone who was affected!
4. We want full access to all hotel facilities at the hotel in Downtown LA where we are being housed temporarily. We don't want to be treated like 2nd class citizens!
5. We want a written guarantee from the city of Los Angeles that the city will continue to pay for our housing until the city repairs our homes and it is safe for us to return.



Aug. 17: Cuba in the present hour

written by Struggle - La Lucha

August 16, 2021

Casa de las Américas, the Union of Journalists of Cuba, the Union of Writers no and Artists of Cuba, the National Association of Economists and Accountants of Cuba, the Network in Defense of Humanity, the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Center and Resumen Latinoamericano are pleased to invite you to the Panel Discussion "CUBA IN THE PRESENT HOUR", a day of reflection and dialogue on the challenges faced by the Cuban Revolution in the present circumstances. The title is an explicit quote from the unforgettable Cintio Vitier on the eve of the centenary of his birth: "Martí in Cuba's present hour" is the title of that memorable essay that he published in 1994, at another very difficult time for our homeland.

The following topics will be addressed: the strengthening of the blockade, COVID-19 pandemic management, economic measures taken, the deployment of subversive plans, the protests of July 11th and 12th, the campaigns against Cuba in the media and social networks, the role of Cuban civil society, culture and communication, community work in vulnerable neighborhoods and social inclusion policies.

The discussion will feature Cuban speakers and speakers from other countries from

Latin America, the Caribbean and the world. It will take place on August 17th, 24th and 31st, between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm (Cuba, UTC/GMT - 5). It will be held virtually through the Jitsi Meet platform and simultaneous interpretation in English will be provided.

After the intervention of each panelist, there will be an open conversation with the online public.

Anyone who wishes to follow the conversation can do so through the YouTube channels and Facebook pages of the institutions and organizations hosting the event as well as through other pages and channels from solidary friends of Cuba. The YouTube channel “Cuba in the present hour” has been created as a repository for the contributions made to the discussion.

The first session (August 17th), entitled “Trending Topic #Cuba: what happened?”, will be dedicated to explaining the events that occurred during the so-called “riots”, their background, causes and instigators of the politico-communicational operation against the Cuban Revolution.

Panelists:

☐ Rosa Miriam Elizalde (Cuba), 1st Vice President of the Union of Journalists of Cuba
☐ Pedro Santander Molina (Chile), professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso

☐ José Ernesto Nováez (Cuba), coordinator of the Cuban Chapter of the Network in Defense of Humanity

☐ Helen Yaffe (UK), Professor at the University of Glasgow

☐ Txema Sánchez (Spain), communicator of TECs “Tertulias en Cuarentena” and member of the Network in Defense of Humanity.

Moderator:

☐ Jaime Gómez Triana (Cuba), Vice President of the Casa de las Américas



Broadcast in English on

The People's



Forum YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqAZYwLbEMA>

<https://youtu.be/oqAZYwLbEMA>



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Get PDF here

<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2021/08/page/3/>



Extreme weather & capitalism: DEADLY

By Scott Scheffer

Climate scientists around the world are alarmed by a triple climate-change-related crisis that hit the western U.S. and Canada in June and July.

Normally climatologists are careful in their assessment of extreme weather events, under pressure from energy industry profiteers and anti-science climate change deniers. They go to great pains to avoid being accused of exaggeration, and rarely (really never) point to climate change as the cause of specific freakish weather events.

The severity of what has happened in June and July has pushed past many of their carefully calculated projections. The fingerprints of capitalist-induced global warming are all over the crime scene.

A severe drought in the western states of the U.S. that has been worsening for months has nearly drained Lake Mead in Nevada, Lake Oroville in California and other major reservoirs, threatening power generation for millions of people. A series of intense, widespread, sustained heat waves tortured a quarter of the U.S. as well as western Canada for weeks, taking the lives of hundreds of people.



The super-dry conditions in the region have caused 83 wildfires, including the Dixie Fire in Northern California and the Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon. They are two of the largest wildfires in history and are both still raging.

Mild Pacific Northwest goes wild

The Southwest U.S. is no stranger to deadly heat, but what is most unexpected is that this extreme heat has hit the Pacific Northwest, a region known for mild temperatures and damp weather.

Roads buckled in Seattle from the sweltering heat. For several days Portland, Ore., was the fourth-hottest place on earth. British Columbia suffered the highest death toll with more than 800 deaths between the end of June and middle of July — quadruple the average number of deaths.

The village of Lytton in British Columbia burned to the ground just as Paradise, Calif., did in 2018 — essentially nothing left but ashes and smoke.

In Canada's British Columbia province, and the U.S. states of Washington, Oregon and Northern California, the heat broke all-time temperature records, and then broke those records again, and then again.

Nevada and California's livability depends on a system of 1,500 human-made reservoirs, not only for drinking water and agriculture but for electricity from hydroelectric generators.

Engineers say that the water level in Lake Mead will be below the minimum water level needed to generate power to 1.3 million people in a matter of days. Lake Oroville will likely last until September, when it won't be able to supply electricity for another 800,000.

Normally, power companies buy power from nearby regions when needed. But constantly running air conditioning in a wide swath of the western U.S. during 2021 has diminished power surpluses that normally allow that to happen.

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Long Live Revolutionary George Jackson!

By Gloria Verdieu

"If I leave here alive, I'll leave nothing behind. They'll never count me among the broken men, but I can't say that I'm normal either. I've been hungry too long, I've gone angry too often, I've been lied to and insulted too many times. They've pushed me over the line from which there can be no retreat. I know that they will not be satisfied until they've pushed me out of existence altogether. I've been the victim of so many racist attacks that I could never relax again. ... I can still smile now, after ten years of blocking knife thrusts, and the pick handles of faceless sadistic pigs, of anticipating and reacting for ten years, seven of them in Solitary. I can still smile sometimes, but by the time this thing is over I may not be a nice person. And I just lit my seventy-seventh cigarette of this 21-hour day. I'm going to lay down for two or three hours, perhaps I'll sleep."

George Jackson –
"Soledad Brother:
The Prison Letters" April 1970

August 21, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of revolutionary George Jackson.

In 1960, 18-year-old Jackson was accused of stealing \$70 from a gas station in Los Angeles. His court-appointed lawyer advised him to plead guilty in exchange for a light sentence in the county

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Cuba's freedom and Assata Shakur's

By John Parker

For all of those saying that Cuba is not free, consider the freedom of our sister and former Black Panther Assata Shakur, who, like many other Black liberation fighters, was framed for murder in a blatantly racist and unfair trial.

Her freedom today would not be possible if not for the solidarity and principled leadership of the Cuban Communist Party and the revolutionary people who make up the great majority in Cuba. They gave our sister asylum.

If not for Cuba, Assata would instead be dead (the U.S. currently has

a \$2 million bounty on her head, dead or alive) or among the ranks of over 2 million incarcerated people in the U.S. The U.S. has the largest jailed population in the world; by far the largest in actual number and percentage of population, predominantly Black, Brown and other oppressed people.

So for those people who live in the U.S. and continue to lie about Cuba, we say enjoy your "freedom" and your ignorance and we'll enjoy wishing our free sister Assata a very happy belated birthday. (She was born on July 16.)

DEFEND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

- No intervention from Cuba to Haiti
- July 26th makes history
- Answering U.S. media lies and attacks on Cuba



Baltimore's victory for unemployed

- Save our homes!
- Reparations now!

- Frito-Lay workers win strike
- Protest ICE in Louisiana
- Afghanistan
- China

inside

- Lost children, Indigenous resilience
- Land Back Campaign
- New Orleans Welfare Rights



- Extreme weather & capitalism: DEADLY
- Long Live Revolutionary George Jackson!
- Cuba's freedom and Assata Shakur's
- Caravan condemns residential school legacy, honors Indigenous resistance
- The 'Land Back' Campaign: Oklahoma is only a start
- Reparations must be paid!
- Baltimore's unemployed workers speak out
- Unemployed Workers Union wins court victory: 'We will continue to fight'
- Welfare Rights conference in New Orleans
- Save our homes — by any means necessary
- ICE releases migrants across Louisiana with no support
- Stop killing workers with heat!
- Frito-Lay workers win strike against 'suicide shifts'
- July 26th became a movement: The Cuban masses make history
- Defend the Cuban Revolution! No U.S. intervention from Cuba to Haiti
- Defending Cuba in New York City
- Answering U.S. media lies about Cuba
- Response to anti-Cuba attacks by 'socialist' group
- Haiti and Cuba—two great revolutions
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- Soberanía deportiva en PR



Aug. 21: NOLA Marches for the Caribbean! U.S. out of Cuba and Haiti!

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021 AT 6 PM EDT - 8 PM EDT
NOLA Marches for the Caribbean! U.S. out of Cuba and Haiti!
Congo Square

Freedom Road Socialist Organization - New Orleans
New Orleans Hospitality Workers Alliance
Socialist Unity Party

Join our march to demand a full stop to all US intervention in the Caribbean!

After promising to undo Trump's criminal sanctions on Cuba, Biden is only suffocating the country even more. The United States' devastating blockade is stopping Cubans from getting everything from remittances to basic medical supplies.

As we find out more about the assassination of Haitian President Moïse, we learn more and more about the United States' involvement. The last time a Haitian president got assassinated was in 1915- and the US used this as a pretext for two decades of invasion and occupation.

New Orleans is a Caribbean city, and our history is tied to both nations. Socialist Cuban doctors stood at ready to deliver medical aid to this city after Katrina (even though Bush refused). The Haitian Revolution inspired the 1811 slave revolt right here. Let's keep that fighting legacy alive!

We say:
Hands off Cuba!
Hands off Haiti!

Masks and social distancing REQUIRED



Stop killing workers with heat!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

August 16, 2021

There's nothing natural about the heat waves and massive forest fires scorching the earth. [Capitalist climate change](#) is unnatural.

Record high temperatures in the western United States and Canada are matched by temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in Siberia.

Yet millions of workers are forced to work in these dangerous conditions. Among them was [Oregon farmworker, Sebastian Francisco Perez](#), who collapsed and died on June 26, one day after his 38th birthday. He had been working in temperatures above 100 F.

Sebastian Perez came from the Guatemalan town of Ixcan to put food on our tables. Bigots want us to hate immigrants who are the majority of farmworkers.

California farmworkers have to work in 114-degree heat. The Golden State is one of only four states that have any regulations to protect workers from heatstroke. The other states are Minnesota, Washington and Oregon.

California requires bosses to provide workers with one quart of fresh water every hour. That didn't prevent [Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez from dying](#) in 95-degree heat in 2008. The 17-year-old was working on the grape harvest.

No heat safety regulations

Forty-six states don't have any regulations to protect workers from heat death and injury. Neither does the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

That's despite the Center for Disease Control's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health requesting OSHA to do so in 1975. That was 46 years and nine U.S. presidents ago.

Government figures show 815 workers dying from heat between 1992 and 2017. Over 70,000 were injured. The real numbers are far higher.

Construction workers accounted for [36% of these heat deaths](#), six times their percentage of the workforce. But it isn't just workers who work outside who can die.

Millions of warehouse workers also suffer from extreme heat. During a 2011 heat wave, Amazon workers at the Breinigsville distribution center near Allentown, Pa., were pushed to meet production quotas.

Instead of opening loading dock doors to help ventilate the facility, supervisors kept them locked because they were worried about theft. Employee health was less important.

Amazon instead [stationed ambulances outside with paramedics](#) who would whisk away workers who had collapsed from the heat.

Organize against death

There's nothing new about the rich driving workers to death in hot weather. Enslaved Africans had to work from "no see" in the morning to "no see" at night no matter what the weather was.

The reason why OSHA hasn't been allowed to issue any rules to protect workers from extreme heat is that it would cut into capitalists' profits. Treating Amazon workers humanely could cost Amazon big boss Jeff Bezos some of his \$200 billion stash. He might not be able to go on a space rocket again.

Even if the feds issued safety rules to protect workers from heat death and injury, who's going to enforce them? In 2019 there was only one full-time OSHA employee per 88,977 workers. Most workplaces [never see an OSHA inspector](#) for years.

Fox News wants us to get mad at anyone calling to defund the trigger-happy, club-swinging, choke-holding police. OSHA and other safety agencies have been defunded for years.

In 2016, New York City [cops issued 90,600 summons](#) to people for allegedly slaking their thirst with a cold beer or some other liquid refreshment. How about some "law and order" to keep capitalists from cooking workers to death?

Unions are what will really protect workers at Amazon and every business from injury and death. It's only unions that will prevent workers from being fired for refusing to work in dangerous conditions.

Working and poor people die from the heat off the job, too. At least 739 people died from a [1995 heat wave in Chicago](#).

Workers can die on the job just because they're not able to cool themselves during the night. Children and seniors are the greatest victims of heat waves like the one in Chicago.

With capitalism cooking the earth, air conditioning is more than ever a human right. Millions of families need free air conditioners and cheap electricity to operate them.

If the people are willing to fight for it, it can be won.



Long Live Revolutionary George Jackson!

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"If I leave here alive, I'll leave nothing behind. They'll never count me among the broken men, but I can't say that I'm normal either. I've been hungry too long, I've gone angry too often, I've been lied to and insulted too many times. They've pushed me over the line from which there can be no retreat. I know that they will not be satisfied until they've pushed me out of existence altogether. I've been the victim of so many racist attacks that I could never relax again. ... I can still smile now, after ten years of blocking knife thrusts, and the pick handles of faceless sadistic pigs, of anticipating and reacting for ten years, seven of them in Solitary.

I can still smile sometimes, but by the time this thing is over I may not be a nice person. And I just lit my seventy-seventh cigarette of this 21-hour day. I'm going to lay down for two or three hours, perhaps I'll sleep."

George Jackson – "Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters" April 1970

August 21, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of revolutionary George Jackson.

In 1960, 18-year-old Jackson was accused of stealing \$70 from a gas station in Los Angeles. His court-appointed lawyer advised him to plead guilty in exchange for a light sentence in the county jail. Jackson accepted the deal and agreed to confess and was thrown into the penitentiary, sentenced to one year to life. He would spend eleven years in jail; ten at Soledad Prison, seven in solitary confinement, aka Max Row.

Jackson writes about his prison experience in "Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters." In a letter to the editor he wrote, "I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels, and Mao when I entered prison and they redeemed me."

The introduction to "Soledad Brother" states: "Instead of succumbing to the dehumanization of prison existence, he transformed himself into the leading theoretician of the prison movement and a brilliant writer."

Jackson was murdered by a tower guard inside San Quentin Prison during an alleged escape attempt. "No Black person will ever believe that George Jackson died the way they tell us he did," wrote James Baldwin.

Jackson was a legendary figure throughout the prison system. He was a member of the Black Panther Party-People's Revolutionary Army, in charge of prison recruiting. And he was doing the most important thing that one can ever do, that is, "live life as

a revolutionary example,” because that cannot be killed.

Huey P. Newton said, “George Jackson was my hero. He set a standard for prisoners, political prisoners, for people. He was a strong man, without fear, determined, full of love, strength, and dedication to the people’s cause. He lived a life that we must praise.”

The first Black August event

A large and passionate following had grown around Jackson’s prison writings. On the day of his Revolutionary Memorial Service, 200 Black Panthers in full uniform were inside St. Augustine’s Church in West Oakland, Calif., while 8,000 people listened outside. They were perched on rooftops, hanging from telephone poles and filling the streets. When George Jackson’s body was brought out, the people raised their fists in the air, chanting, “Long Live George Jackson.” This was the first Black August event.

Mumia Abu-Jamal wrote in August 2010: “The real deal is that the name George Jackson is not known to millions of young people in this country. His thoughts, his passions, his brilliance, his insights, his martyrdom in the struggle for Black people. All of this is largely unknown. This in spite of the fact that his books ‘Blood In My Eye’ and ‘Soledad Brother’ have sold more than half a million copies.

“The French writer and playwright Jean Genet called Jackson’s books ‘weapons in combat in the Black Freedom Struggle’ and that they remain. For why else, after 40 years after their publication are they banned from joints from coast to coast because it speaks to their continuing power to awaken, to inspire, to educate and to light a fire. So young people, my message is read George Jackson learn and pass it on. Don’t let his life, light, and sacrifice be forgotten.”

Black August 2021

Today, August 2021, young people are organizing Black August readings, learning about our fallen Heroes and Sheroes and studying history from an African perspective. They are embracing socialism, and other alternatives to capitalism while facing much resistance from the State. They are well aware of the consequences of following the path of truth and justice, but they are determined to move forward.

Huey P. Newton, George and Jonathan Jackson, James Baldwin and a host of Black Revolutionaries will be proud to learn of the resurgence in the fight to free all prisoners, Political Prisoners, and Prisoners of Conscience; to abolish the prison-industrial complex; to abolish the police. This movement goes beyond August, February, or June. This is a continuing struggle to educate ourselves throughout the year to better understand what we are fighting for.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers are using virtual platforms to discuss where we are and what strategies we can use to win our freedom. These recorded discussions address the issues that are relevant to oppressed people around the world and are set up to reach millions.

“Soledad Brother” was released in the fall of 1970, and was dedicated to George Jackson’s younger brother, Jonathan Peter Jackson. “Blood in My Eye” was completed in August 1971, about a week before Jackson was murdered by San Quentin prison guards. The most recent edition of “Soledad Brother” came out in 1994, with a forward by Jonathan Jackson, Jr., who is George Jackson’s nephew and Jonathan Jackson’s son.



A working class perspective on China's tech regulations

written by Struggle - La Lucha

August 16, 2021

Bourgeois pundits are alarmed by the Chinese government's latest regulatory changes. A Wall Street Journal headline is typical: "China's corporate crackdown is just getting started. Signs point to more tumult ahead."

The apocalyptic language may be warranted for certain wealthy investors. But what might these changes mean for the deeply intertwined working classes of China and the U.S.?

There's no indication of a radical change in direction in the official pronouncements, which say that the Communist Party of China (CPC) is leading the country's development and won't allow the billionaires to control the economy. The state can intervene to address problems like inequality and to prevent the economic chaos tolerated by capitalist leaders.

Recent changes are understandable if the socialist foundations of the economy remain intact. Socialist transition is still underway, though threatened from all sides.

Furthermore, China is integrated into the global capitalist economy, the crises of which are themselves exerting pressure on Chinese leaders to shore up the basic socialist framework. That's how China rebounded from the [2007-2009 financial crisis](#) and how it's tackling COVID-19.

Because U.S. and Chinese workers are on the same side of the global class barricades, in mortal combat with the capitalist class, we must oppose [Washington's maneuvers](#) to destroy China's socialist system. If the country's socialist foundations are undermined further, this will strengthen the hand of capitalists (particularly in the U.S.), and hurt the workers' struggle everywhere; consider, for example, China's critical partnerships with sanctioned countries like [Iran](#) and [Cuba](#).

Insights from a capitalist

Ray Dalio chairs the world's largest hedge fund, Bridgewater Associates, and has operated in China for 36 years. His view is guarded and sober. [He said:](#) "The [Chinese] state runs capitalism to serve the interests of most people and ... policymakers won't let the sensitivities of those in the capital markets and rich capitalists stand in the way of doing what they believe is best for the most people of the country. Rather, those in the capital markets and capitalists have to understand their subordinate places in the system or they will suffer the consequences of their mistakes. For example, they need to not mistake their having riches for having power for determining how things will go."

He's offering advice to concerned investors. But more to the point, his observation lines up with what the CPC says it's doing, that is, trying to build a more prosperous and equal society.

Social problems prompt policy changes

The foundations of socialism were laid in the Mao period, through various development campaigns — based on politically conscious mass mobilization — and consolidated by the Cultural Revolution. Since 1981, Chinese socialism has brought 853 million people out of poverty. Nevertheless, integration into the global capitalist economy has generated social problems such as rising inequality, jeopardizing all revolutionary gains. Workers' struggles have prompted the new regulations, particularly in three important areas:

Gig economy

Globally, the gig economy has emerged as a model for corporations seeking to avoid unions and paying for benefits. As elsewhere, Chinese workers have been impacted.

In March, the CPC-affiliated All-China Federation of Trade Unions proposed new protections for the country's 200 million gig workers, while announcing a gig worker unionization drive.

In July, the State Administration for Market Regulation and other administrative departments announced new rules for food delivery app companies like Meituan and Alibaba's Ele.me., requiring the platforms to provide insurance, guarantee riders' income above minimum pay and relax delivery deadlines.

Private tutoring

New regulations on the \$120 billion private tutoring industry can be seen in a similar light. Now, all organizations offering tutoring on the core school curriculum must register as nonprofits. New licenses will not be issued. In 2016, more than 75% of students ages 6-18 were receiving these services. The regulations are meant to help financially burdened families, while lowering student stress by prohibiting tutoring on weekends and school holidays.

From cryptocurrency to state-run e-currency

The Communist Party of China decided decades ago to allow some capitalism to function as a stimulus to its economic development. But the party's control over the basic underpinnings of the economy including the financial banking system has allowed development to proceed for the most part in a planned socialist way. Crucially, state control of finance is also a pillar of China's sovereignty, to be contrasted, for example, with the subordinate status of Greece, which the EU forced to accept devastating austerity measures.

But, again, there are tremendous pressures on China to privatize its financial system. This comes from its own bourgeoisie as well as from without.

The rise of cryptocurrencies has undermined state control, promoting dangerous speculation, tax evasion and money laundering. The National Internet Finance Association of China, the China Banking Association and the Payment and Clearing Association of China, issued a joint statement, saying cryptocurrencies are "seriously infringing on the safety of people's property and disrupting the normal economic and financial order." Hence the new rules prohibiting banks and payment firms from offering cryptocurrency services. The Ministry of Public Security has also increased efforts to stop money laundering.

Meanwhile, China is leading the way in digital currency. The Central Bank launched the electronic yuan in four cities as part of a pilot program in 2020. The electronic Yuan is legal tender, with the same standing as paper money. Since 2020, testing has expanded in many areas, the hope being that the electronic currency will give the government better control over the financial system.



Cuba keeps achieving the impossible thanks to Fidel's legacy

written by Struggle - La Lucha

August 16, 2021

In 1969, Cuba achieved the impossible: the manufacture of the first micro-computer prototype on record in the Third World, the CID-201. That device, which did 25,000 sums per second and had a capacity of 4 kilowords -equal to 1024 words-, was a small step forward for science on the island.

Fidel (1926-2016) was the dreamer behind the creation of that minuscule creature — the rest of the machines used at the time were huge. Despite its technological limitations, it was mass-produced and used in companies, schools, and universities.

The idea arose during a visit to the University of Havana by Erwin Roy John, a pioneer in neurosciences in the U.S. During a long conversation with the eminent scientist, the Cuban leader's anxiousness about the possibility of Cuba building its computer was noted on several occasions.

Roy John insisted that this would not be possible in Cuba for one reason that still rumbles: the U.S. blockade against the island. This policy applied almost immediately after the triumph of the Revolution in 1959 preventing Cubans from acquiring the necessary components to launch the project.

"The scientist proposed to the Chief of the Revolution a more modest and realistic plan: to produce calculators," commented Dr. Jose Miyar Barruecos, alias Chomi, the revolutionary doctor, former Rector of the University of Havana, and Fidel's secretary for over four decades.

This suggestion did not discourage Fidel, who secretly motivated a group of engineers from the then University City Jose Antonio Echeverria (CUJAE) to achieve the impossible.

The project's engineers Luis Carrasco and Orlando Ramos traveled to Europe and Japan to purchase the components of the device that the commercial fence prevented them from importing.

Carrasco and Ramos gave shape and form to the CID-201 in just a few months. In 1970, engineer Rafael Valls developed software to allow a person to play endgame chess with the microcomputer. There were kings, rooks, bishops, and some pawns.

On April 18 of that year, the Chief of the Revolution confronted the CID-201. He spent over an hour battling with the machine and, as Fidel never accepted defeat, he only left it alone when he gave it checkmate, Chomi recounted.

With the CID-201, Cuba was ahead of the region in the technological world. Fidel overcame "the poor situation" in which the Latin American countries found themselves in amidst the information and Internet boom the rest of the world was experiencing.

"That brilliant world of knowledge and image exchange is still strange and forbidden

to our countries," the leader said in 1999 when the island had already created dozens of scientific centers, a minicomputer factory, and the Computer Palaces.

Twenty years later, his words still hold true. The Internet has an owner, the United States, and Washington uses it as a weapon of hate against the island.

This week, the U.S. State Department claimed once again that Cuba denies its citizens access to information and launched an amendment calling for "free access to the Internet in Cuba" through a fund to facilitate this "open and uncensored" service.

Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister Bruno Rodriguez condemned the new aggression, "which contributes to the lucrative business of the political-subversive machinery in Florida. The blockade is the fundamental obstacle to the Cuban people's free and sovereign access to the Internet."

In this scenario, Cuba will continue to achieve the impossible, as the young engineers of the CID-201 did in 1969. We will be independent, which does not mean only having a flag, an anthem, or a symbol. We are accustomed to working around the blockade to achieve our accomplishments. If it intensifies we will work harder.

"Independence relies on development, on technology, on science in today's world. We will move towards that goal," said Fidel, who would have been 95 years old today.

Source: [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



LAPD explosion in South Central: Affected families demand justice, Aug. 16

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2021 AT 7:30 PM EDT

PROTEST! LAPD Explosion in South Central LA: Affected families demand JUSTICE!
Los Angeles City Hall

The families that were affected by the LAPD fireworks explosion are organizing themselves and they need your support! It has been six weeks since the blast and the city of LA has STILL not fixed their homes or given them the names of the LAPD officers who made the decision to detonate the explosives. They are having this protest to demand the following:

- 1) Fix our homes NOW!
- 2) Give us the names of the LAPD officers who gave the order to detonate the explosives in our neighborhood!
- 3) Immediate financial assistance for everyone who was affected!
- 4) We want full access to all hotel facilities at the hotel in Downtown LA where we

are being housed temporarily. We don't want to be treated like 2nd class citizens!

5) We want a written guarantee from the city of Los Angeles that the city will continue to pay for our housing until the city repairs our homes and it is safe for us to return.

The residents that were affected by the explosion will protest in front of City Hall and will then deliver a letter with these demands to Mayor Eric Garcetti. Union del Barrio and the Comites de Resistencia are assisting the community with this action.

BACKGROUND: On June 30th, the LAPD/Bomb Squad made the decision to endanger the lives of thousands of people when they detonated over 42 pounds of explosives on 27th Street in South Central LA. The explosion is linked to two deaths, dozens of injuries, psychological trauma and millions of dollars worth of damage to homes, cars and local businesses. Many residents have lost days of work and many were even fired due to missing days because of the explosion. Over 20 families had to be relocated because their homes were badly damaged. They are currently being housed by the city in a hotel in Downtown LA but they are being denied access to the swimming pool, gym and other facilities at the hotel.

