

# Struggle ☐ La Lucha PDF - July 4, 2022

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 4, 2022

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# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA for Socialism / por el Socialismo

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## Supreme Court Coup Demolishes Rights: Mass resistance can stop them!

By Melinda Butterfield

On June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court by 6 to 3 overturned the right to abortion established almost 50 years ago in the Roe v. Wade decision. Over half the states had abortion bans ready to enact or will soon.

Based on the precedent set by this ruling, the court also threw into doubt the future of same-sex marriage, bodily autonomy for trans, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people, the right to contraception, and the right to love who you want, free of laws banning queer and interracial relationships.

The theft of a fundamental, popular right from women and other people who can become pregnant – more than half the population – garnered the most attention. But in the last two weeks of June the court unleashed an avalanche of reactionary decisions repealing the rights of workers and oppressed people:

- Police are no longer required to inform suspects of their Miranda rights against self-incrimination;
- Two major blows against the separation of church and state, allowing government funding for religious schools and school staff to lead prayer in public schools;
- Undermined the sovereignty of Indigenous nations established in treaties with the U.S. government;
- Severely limited federal agencies' authority to regulate corporate polluters, effectively gutting the federal government's ability to mount any response to climate change;
- In a "shadow docket" case, the court upheld the right of right-wing state governments to gerrymander voting districts to minimize Black and Brown voters;
- Additional rulings supporting police brutality, limiting the rights of prisoners to challenge

their convictions and immigrants to challenge their detention; and more.

The coup enacted by the unelected, appointed-for-life Supreme Court is sweeping. It is no exaggeration to say these decisions taken together have completely upended the social and political landscape of everyday life in the U.S. Each ruling was crafted to have a domino effect which will have consequences we cannot fully know at this time.

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'Abortion bans = war on the poor': Baltimore Pride March, June 25.

SLL PHOTO: ANDRE POWELL

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## Queer Liberation Marchers vow to fight back

By Struggle-La Lucha  
New York bureau

On Pride Sunday, June 26, many thousands flooded the streets of lower Manhattan for the 4th annual Queer Liberation March. The theme of this year's march was "For Trans and BIPOC Freedom, Reproductive Justice and Bodily Autonomy." Coming just two days after the reactionary Supreme Court ruling overturning the right to abortion, the marchers were angry and determined to smash the mounting attacks on queer peoples' and all peoples' rights.

Contingents celebrated the legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion against police repression that launched the modern lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer and two-spirit movement, remembered the lives of trans women of color stolen by violence; and demanded liberation for Palestine.

Supporters of the Socialist Unity Party carried a banner that read "Stonewall still means fight back!" and signs that said "Abolish the Supreme Court" and "Nazis and TERFs say get back, we say fight back!" Activists who distributed hundreds of copies of Struggle-La Lucha newspaper reported an enthusiastic response from the mostly young marchers.

The QLM was established in 2019 on the 50th anniversary of Stonewall as an alternative to the traditional New York City Pride Parade: "No cops, no corporations, no bullshit."



SLL PHOTO: BILL DORES

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# Supreme Court coup demolishes

# rights: Mass resistance can stop them!

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
July 4, 2022

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- Additional rulings supporting police brutality, limiting the rights of prisoners to challenge their convictions and immigrants to challenge their detention; and more. (Read a complete breakdown [on this Twitter thread](#).)

The coup enacted by the [unelected, appointed-for-life Supreme Court](#) is sweeping. It is no exaggeration to say these decisions taken together have completely upended the social and political landscape of everyday life in the U.S. Each ruling was crafted to have a domino effect which will have consequences we cannot fully know at this time.

Already the court has announced plans for further attacks. Its next docket will include a case arguing that states should have control over the results of federal elections, which could allow state governments to decide the 2024 presidential election. Another that threatens to gut the Indian Child Welfare Act that put an end to the official policy of kidnapping Indigenous children and putting them up for adoption.

## **Big money campaign**

The Supreme Court coup moves in tandem with legislation and executive orders by far-right state governments aimed at Black voting rights, immigrants, trans people and the rest of the LGBTQ2S community, reproductive freedom, freedom of information and the ability of teachers to share any scrap of truth about real U.S. history.

The states’ legislative offensive produces the cases that allow the Supreme Court to strike down people’s rights.

Another component is the growing violence of fascist gangs – from the ballooning budgets of official police stormtroopers to the Buffalo, New York, mass shooting of African Americans to the widespread attacks on Pride events by the Proud Boys, Patriot Front and other armed fascist gangs.

This highly coordinated and richly funded campaign amounts to a counter-revolution against the gains won by the blood and sacrifice of generations of workers and oppressed peoples, from the Civil Rights Movement to the women's movement, the LGBTQ2S movement, the labor movement and beyond.

More attacks are promised, including an attempt to enact a nationwide abortion ban if Republicans take control of Congress next year.

### **Hollow U.S. democracy crumbles**

The institutions of U.S. capitalism have always been a source of hollow promises for poor and working people – at best, capable of granting crumbs that are always in danger of being swept away.

But now those institutions, including the Democratic Party, have proven themselves completely unable to defend even the most basic rights of the people and functions of bourgeois democracy. Each day, they bow and scrape to the far-right onslaught of the ruling class.

The Democrats cling to the trappings of power by carrying out the capitalists' demands for more war, sanctions and funds for killer cops, while ignoring the desperate pleas of the communities who voted for them and whom they claim to represent.

The Supreme Court dropped reactionary decision after reactionary decision against the backdrop of Democratic-led [Congressional hearings](#) about Donald Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. But with each day that passes, it becomes

clearer that the hearings are a show meant to give the appearance that the Democrats are actually doing something - even while they ignore the disaster unfolding around them NOW.

Biden and the Democratic leadership in Congress have much power to push back against the Supreme Court on abortion rights. But the president has already signaled that he's thrown in the towel, [trotting out his Health Secretary to claim](#) there is no "magic bullet" to save abortion access - despite Biden and the Democrats having the power to declare a national health emergency, abolish the filibuster and much more. We must not let them off the hook!

Democrats are opportunistically using the Supreme Court's attack on abortion rights to raise money and promote voting as the solution. But reliance on voting for Democrats and abandoning the independent struggle is what got people's movements into this mess.

As was clear to anyone attending anti-court protests or Pride events in recent days, people are fed up with the Democrats' lies and are opening their eyes to the reality that this party serves the rich and powerful, not the people. Revolutionaries must provide the masses with an alternative.

### **We need a political fightback!**

High-tech, "liberal," "socially conscious" companies like Starbucks, Amazon, Tesla, Netflix, Facebook, Google, etc., are turning more and more in the direction of the ultra-right as workers fight for their rights and decent working conditions.

Heroic organizing drives from below at Amazon and Starbucks have inspired workers at many other non-union companies to begin their own fight for union rights. This work is absolutely essential to the fight against the ultra-right coup. It must continue and grow.

But by itself it is not enough. The struggle for union rights and economic demands has to be accompanied by a national, political fightback movement – independent of the capitalist parties – with clear demands and goals.

We must not only fight to push back the attacks on democratic rights, but struggle for political power and new forms of governance that invest power in the people, not the banks, corporate monopolies and landlords.

First of all, the undemocratic institutions rooted in slavery – the Supreme Court and Electoral College – must be abolished.

We must raise demands that address the most urgent life-and-death needs of millions, like a rollback on food and fuel prices, an end to rent-gouging, a minimum wage of \$25 or more, and wage increases that keep up with inflation.

The fightback must be international in scope, building solidarity with the people of the world struggling to throw off U.S. imperialism's military, economic and political domination.

It must be a movement led by the working class, oppressed communities, the poor and disenfranchised, whose very ability to exist often now hangs by the slenderest thread.

We must build a movement toward socialism to defeat the capitalists' movement toward fascism.



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# After Roe: From rage to revolution

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 4, 2022

As the parent of two young African American women, I'm outraged that their futures have been put in jeopardy by the attack on reproductive rights and civil rights.

As a trans woman, I'm outraged that my very right to exist, obtain medical treatment and participate in society is threatened by armed fascist gangs and capitalist politicians alike.

No doubt you are outraged as well.

Let your rage radicalize you. But more, let it revolutionize you.

[Join the Socialist Unity Party](#) or another organization dedicated to fighting to end the capitalist system of oppression. We are stronger when we work together to build resistance. Together our work is more effective and far-reaching, and we have the confidence that comes with knowing that we have each other's backs.

The billionaires, the coup-makers in the Supreme Court and state houses, the police

and Pentagon overlords, and their Nazi agents have shown us their true faces. Their white supremacist, patriarchal, profiteering system is in deep crisis, and they will do ANYTHING to prevent workers from uniting and fighting back.

They no longer hesitate to strip people of their basic human rights and unleash murderous bigots against peaceful communities and individuals. We must teach them to fear the power of the working class again.

We must face this painful reality soberly, without illusions. But we can face it with the courage and confidence that comes from knowing that it is workers who make this society run. And together, united in defense of our rights, we can SHUT IT DOWN.

We outnumber them by the millions. Organized, with clear political goals, we can slam the door closed on the coup-makers and send the fascist scum fleeing.

We are not defeated. The battle has just begun. The first step toward victory is to recognize that each of us must do our part.

Strikes, occupations, civil disobedience, self-defense and other forms of organized resistance require time, efforts and resources to plan and organize. They require cooperation and coordination. We must begin today.



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## **CNH workers are fighting a giant**

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July 4, 2022

Since May 2, some 1,100 workers have been on strike against CNH Industrial in Racine, Wisconsin, and Burlington, Iowa. These members of the United Auto Workers are up against Italy's richest family, the Agnellis who control Fiat.

With sales last year of \$31 billion, CNH had profits of \$1.1 billion. But instead of genuine bargaining, the CEO of CNH, Scott Wine, has offered wage increases that are below the rate of inflation.

That's demanding a wage cut from the UAW members while Wine pulls down a \$9.2 million yearly salary. He also got a \$22 million signing bonus.

The letters CNH stand for "Case" and "New Holland." Both J.I. Case, based in Racine, and New Holland, which started out in New Holland, Pennsylvania, were some of the best-known makers of construction and farm equipment.

Corporate wheeling and dealing—which at times included J.I. Case being owned by Tenneco and Ford buying New Holland—finally resulted in CNH Industrial being formed in 2012. With headquarters in Britain, the Agnelli-controlled outfit has 67 factories around the world.

All this financial skullduggery hasn't been any good for workers. Case's now closed lakefront plant in Racine used to employ more than 3,000 workers. Its current plant in Mount Pleasant, near Racine, employs around 500.

While the ownership has changed, being anti-labor is part of CNH's DNA. J.I. Case President Leon Clausen tried to break UAW Local 180 during a 444-day strike that lasted from December 1945 until March 1947.

Clausen said that "when these men have been out long enough and their families get hungry enough, the strike will end." Seventy-five years later, CNH CEO Wine has hired strikebreakers to steal the jobs of the women and men on the picket lines.

But the strikers belonging to Local 807 in Burlington and Local 180 in Racine refuse to surrender despite having their medical and dental health insurance cut off.

CNH is also fighting workers at its tractor plant in Basildon, Britain. The British union Unite has a series of one-day strikes lasting until August to force the company to negotiate.

This writer remembers the president of UAW Local 180 writing a check to bail out

strikers during the 1977 Racine teachers' strike. That's the solidarity that the CNH strikers need today.

Both Locals 180 and 807 are collecting nonperishable food and personal items for the strikers and their families. Checks and gift cards can be mailed to the following addresses:

UAW Local 180  
3323 Kearney Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
(Please write checks to "UAW Local 180")

UAW Local 807  
P.O. Box 1094  
Burlington, Iowa 52601  
(Please write checks to "UAW Local 807")

Victory to the workers!

*The writer is a retired member of the American Train Dispatchers Association.*



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# **Los Angeles: Solidarity with South Korean workers**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 4, 2022

On June 25, a rally was held in solidarity with South Korean workers' struggle against the right-wing Moon Jae-in regime and the ongoing U.S. military occupation. John Parker, the socialist candidate for U.S. Senate in California who got more than 100,000 votes in June's primary, spoke about his recent visit to Donbass and compared the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine with the decades-long Pentagon occupation and division of the Korean peninsula.

The action was called by the Korean American Support Committee for the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, and supported by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Socialist Unity Party and ANSWER Coalition.





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# **Juneteenth and ILWU: All workers win when slavery ends!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 4, 2022

Holding signs and chanting “Black Lives Matter, honor Juneteenth as a workers’ holiday!”, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and several other organizations rallied at the waterfront in Seattle on Monday, June 20, the first workday after the June 19 commemoration.

Gabriel Prawl, a leader of the ILWU West Coast Juneteenth Commemoration, spoke at the rally. He is past president of ILWU Local 52 and president of the Seattle chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Prawl used the occasion to talk about the significance of the day:

“We get together on the 4th of July to celebrate liberation from British rule. But that was not the case for Black people. Sadly, they were not even recognized as humans in 1776 when this country declared its independence. Freedom was far from an

equally applied standard for everyone.

"Now after over 150 years, African Americans have a good reason to celebrate. Juneteenth is a yearly celebration of the liberation of enslaved Black people. Juneteenth is short for June 19th and a commemoration of the day in 1865 when General Gordon Granger led Union troops into the city of Galveston, Texas, to assume control of the state and free the enslaved Black people.

"Look around you, this is what the Union troops looked like.

"The big question here is, why should labor fight white supremacy? The answer is, because it's in our class interest. To not do so allows the ruling class and others to divide us, the working class, by race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion and so forth."

Prawl asked: "Can you have capitalism without racism? Africans were truthfully the bloody foundation of capitalism. The major commodities in the world were cotton, sugar and tobacco. This was the foundation of capitalism. It's perpetuated and exemplified through racism, exploitation and white privilege."

### **ILWU won by fighting racism**

Prawl told the story of the 1934 West Coast maritime strike, when the union won by fighting racism on the docks.

Union workers were engaged in collective bargaining, making coastwide demands to end working around the clock. They called for a six-hour work day.

The most revolutionary demand of all, said Prawl, was for the right for workers to control the hiring hall. "Before this we had what was called the shape-up," he said.

When the workers walked off the job, the bosses employed racist hiring practices to

break the strike and continue to generate profits. They used Black workers, who were denied jobs and union membership, to cross the picket line.

Labor leader Harry Bridges understood that the problem was racism. He reached out to Black labor leaders like C.L. Dellums, vice president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, organized by A. Philip Randolph.

Bridges appealed to Black religious leaders to be allowed to speak in their churches, where he promised that if the workers held back their labor in solidarity with the strikers, Black workers would be welcomed into the union when they won. Bridges kept his promise.

The unity of Black and white workers was the key to the strike's success. It became the guiding principle of the union.

Bridges stated that if only two longshore workers were left, one would be Black and the other would be white. The ILWU constitution opposes racism and all other forms of discrimination.

In 1943, Paul Robeson became an honorary member of the ILWU. In 1967, six months before he was assassinated, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. became an honorary member of ILWU Local 10.

The ILWU became one of the most socially conscious unions in the labor movement. It shut down all 29 ports on the West Coast after Dr. King was assassinated.

"I will never forget what happened in 2020 when the world witnessed the execution of George Floyd, the execution of Breonna Taylor and many other unarmed Black workers and community members," Prawl said.

On June 9, 2020, the day of George Floyd's funeral, the International Longshoremen's Association, the Teamsters and the ILWU put down their tools for 8

minutes and 56 seconds to honor George Floyd.

"After that a meeting was called. All ILWU local presidents in all 29 ports on the West Coast and two in Canada were present, including myself," Prawl said. "During the discussion there was a vote for all ILWU locals to take their monthly stop-work on Juneteenth 2020 to commemorate the end of slavery in America. This led to a strike against white supremacy, demonstrating the power of the working class.

"Juneteen 2022 fell on a Sunday. A press release dated June 14 stated that the ILWU, a proudly diverse union, honors the Juneteenth federal holiday and end of slavery in U.S. Some ILWU locals are opting to schedule their contractually allowed stop-work meeting to observe the federal holiday on Monday, June 20," Prawl said.

At the rally on June 20, Prawl closed his speech with a quote from A. Philip Randolph, who said: "Freedom is never granted. It is won. Justice is never given. It is extracted."

"Civil rights, labor rights, same fight. When I say workers, you say power! When I say union, you say power!" Prawl concluded.

On Juneteenth Gabrial Prawl said: This history is in the book

**'Mobilizing in Our Own Name, Million Worker March'**

by Clarence Thomas, retired secretary treasurer of ILWU local 10.

"The closer rank and file workers get to the public the more support the public will give to organized labor. Such close communication will make it apparent to those outside our ranks of labor that a community of interests lies between them. Every effort to split the ranks of labor and to split the public, the majority of whom are workers themselves, to keep workers from their organized brothers and sisters must fail."

[www.MillionWorkerMarch](http://www.MillionWorkerMarch)



**Mobilizing  
in OUR  
OWN  
NAME**

Million Worker March

An Anthology by Clarence Thomas





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# **Solidarity with Ecuador strike in Washington, D.C.**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 4, 2022



Ecuadorians and supporters demonstrated solidarity with the ongoing national strike at the Ecuadorian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on June 26. A banner in Spanish read, “No to poverty, unemployment, violence, Lasso” — referring to current president Guillermo Lasso who is facing impeachment.



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# What was behind Nixon's downfall?

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
July 4, 2022

Fifty years ago, the offices of the Democratic Party's National Committee were burglarized on June 17, 1972. The crime at the Watergate complex led to President Richard Nixon's resignation on Aug. 8, 1974.

The Watergate scandal's anniversary is occurring during the congressional hearings into Trump's attempted coup on Jan. 6, 2021. The fascist insurrection inside the Capitol, which was tolerated for hours by the Pentagon, was extremely dangerous.

However, there's no mention of Trump's June 1, 2020, coup attempt, one week after George Floyd was murdered. Trump led the Pentagon's high command and police to disperse an anti-racist protest across from the White House with clubs and tear gas. Trump wanted to declare martial law to crush the Black Lives Matter movement and send troops to shoot demonstrators across the United States.

And where was the investigation into the stolen 2000 presidential election? Five members of the U.S. Supreme Court upheld George W. Bush's election despite Bush

Junior getting 543,895 less votes than his Democratic opponent Al Gore.

John Bolton — who later became Trump’s national security advisor — led the “Brooks Brothers riot” that forced election officials in Miami-Dade county to stop counting ballots. (It was named the “Brooks Brothers riot” after the expensive clothing store because the Republican thugs were so well dressed.)

Trump is a far richer and stupider version of Nixon. Both scoundrels were corrupt and racist. Nixon had a greater opportunity to be a war criminal, with millions of victims in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The corporate media usually describes the Watergate scandal as a struggle to “defend democracy and the rule of law.” What democracy was there in the Black colony of Washington, D.C., where people couldn’t elect their own mayor until 1974?

The U.S. capital has more people than Vermont or Wyoming, and almost as many as Alaska or North Dakota. Yet D.C. is still denied statehood because two more Black senators would be elected.

Since the Watergate era, U.S. capitalism’s “rule of law” has [increased the number of prisoners five-fold](#). Over two million poor people are locked up, the majority of whom are Black, Indigenous or Latinx.

## **The plumbers**

Millions of people viewed the hearings of the Senate Watergate Committee in May 1973. They were appalled and sometimes amused by the partial revelation of Nixon’s crimes.

The White House “plumbers” were exposed. This gang of ex-FBI and maybe not so ex-CIA agents were supposed to stop the leaks of information about Nixon’s crimes. Its leader was long-time CIA operative E. Howard Hunt.

Before committing the Watergate burglary, the plumbers' target was former Pentagon analyst Daniel Ellsberg. He leaked the "Pentagon Papers" to the media, which exposed the lies U.S. presidents had told about the Vietnam War.

The Nixon Administration went to court trying to prevent the Washington Post and New York Times from publishing some of them. Ellsberg faced a long prison sentence, but his charges were dropped after the plumbers' burglary of his psychiatrist was discovered.

Fifty years later, Julian Assange is in a British jail facing extradition to the United States for exposing the truth about U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq.

None of the Watergate committee's seven U.S. senators were women. Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina was the committee's chair. The media's crush on the segregationist led to "Quotations from Chairman Sam" being published.

Ervin had tried to block the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act that repealed the viciously racist 1924 immigration act. "I don't know of any contributions that Ethiopia has made to the making of America," [said the senator](#), in trying to limit immigration to white people from Western Europe. In 1970, Ervin joined the filibuster that attempted to stop extending the Voting Rights Act.

Another committee member was Georgia Senator Herman Talmadge. Like Ervin, Talmadge had voted against both the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Many believe his daddy, former Georgia Gov. Eugene Talmadge, [had four Black people lynched](#) in 1946 to win reelection. Talmadge's father also set up a concentration camp for workers during the 1934 textile strike. ("Testing the New Deal: The General Textile Strike of 1934 in the American South" by Janet Irons.)

## **Making the dollar world money**

Both Ervin and Talmadge were white supremacists. So what was their beef with Nixon?

Behind Nixon's fall was a crisis of U.S. imperialism. Its dirty war against Vietnam and Laos was lost. At tremendous cost, the Soviet Union was able to achieve nuclear parity with the U.S.

The billionaires had selected Nixon to clean up the mess. But the long slide of U.S. economic dominance versus its European and Japanese capitalist rivals continued.

From producing half of the world's industrial goods in 1945, the U.S. now makes just a sixth. U.S. corporations, however, have \$6 trillion in foreign investments, which includes factories around the globe.

Black people were in revolt, with 200 cities on fire following Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968. Nixon's presidential campaign called for "law and order," an undisguised call for a racist crack-down. Nixon promised to fire Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Nixon's vice-presidential running mate Spiro T. Agnew's specialty was making crude, bigoted remarks. Agnew was appealing to the followers of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, who was running for president as a virtual Klansman.

Nixon and the FBI targeted the Black Panther Party for extermination. At least 25 Panthers were murdered, including Fred Hampton and Mark Clark on Dec. 4, 1969. The FBI's COINTELPRO program sought to wreck all progressive movements and organizations.

It was much harder to get rid of the corporations' dependence on Black labor. Black workers were key to winning the 1970 postal workers strike that Nixon tried to break with federal troops.

On July 24, 1973, two Black workers — Larry Carter and Issac Shorter — turned off the power at Chrysler's Jefferson Avenue assembly plant in Detroit. The result was the first big sitdown strike in 36 years.

Fifty years ago, a quarter of U.S. auto and steel workers were Black. They helped lead a [record number of 6,074 strikes](#) in 1974.

This strike wave followed the expiration of Nixon's wage and price controls, which were imposed in 1971. His simultaneous abolition of the gold standard made the U.S. paper dollar world money.

This was Nixon's greatest gift to Wall Street. It allows the U.S. to roll up huge trade deficits every year.

The cheap shoes, clothing and other consumer goods bought by a working class that's only 10% unionized has allowed capitalists to keep wages low. Instead of buying U.S. goods with dollars, capitalist regimes abroad hold [\\$7.55 trillion in U.S. government debt](#). This helps finance the huge Pentagon war budget.

## **Southern textile strategy**

Nixon squeaked by the Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey in 1968. Among the reasons given for Nixon's victory was its celebrated "Southern strategy."

This was the deliberate appeal to racist voters in the South, as well as bigots in the rest of the country. Of the 22 U.S. senators from 11 states that made up the slave owners' confederacy, 18 are currently Republicans.

In 1968, however, this political formula could be better described as a "Southern textile strategy." South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond's machine threw its support to Nixon because of the specific needs of textile capital.

Thurmond's ally — the union-busting textile baron Roger Milliken — became Nixon's finance chairman. Milliken was no mint julep-drinking southern aristocrat. He came from an old Yankee capitalist family whose fortune began by [making Union Army uniforms](#) during the U.S. civil war.

Milliken took the family fortune south though his company's headquarters remained for years in New York City. The South was the textile industry's salvation from unionism. By 1961, 89% of U.S. textiles were made in the region.

After workers in his Darlington, South Carolina, mill voted to join the Textile Workers Union in 1956, Milliken shut the plant down rather than negotiate a contract. This was completely illegal, but Milliken's lawyers dragged out proceedings for years before paying damages.

Key to keeping unions out of the textile belt was refusing to hire Black workers. When Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeill and David Richmond began their sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Feb. 1, 1960, just 3.3% of textile workers were Black.

By 1978, Black workers "held a quarter of all production jobs in the Southern textile industry." ("Hiring the Black Worker: The Racial Integration of the Southern Textile Industry, 1960-1980" by Timothy J. Minchin)

Nixon couldn't stop this change, even though one of his first presidential acts was refusing to enforce anti-discrimination provisions in military contracts held by three big textile outfits. Nor could Nixon, under trade agreements, stop the growing amount of textile imports.

## **Family Assistance Plan**

Roger Milliken and Strom Thurmond didn't like these developments. Neither did the other reactionary members of Congress from the textile belt that stretched from

southern Virginia through the Carolinas to Georgia and Alabama.

Thurmond was the living symbol of the lynch rope. As a judge he sentenced four people to South Carolina's electric chair, all of whom were Black.

Among those electrocuted was Sam Osborne, a Black teenaged sharecropper who shot his armed and drunken white landlord in self-defense. The Second Amendment was never meant for oppressed people.

In 1948 Thurmond ran as the presidential candidate of the segregationist States Rights' Democratic Party. Twenty years later he was instrumental in putting Nixon in the White House.

With the Voting Rights Act passed and more Black workers being hired in Southern factories, the Thumonds wanted Black people to leave. With many Northern cities becoming close to a majority Black, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller wanted Black people driven back south.

"They flooded into the big Northern cities," was how the billionaire described Black and Puerto Rican people in testimony to the Senate Finance Committee. Rockefeller also lamented that those of "European origin" were leaving the cities to go to the suburbs.

This was the racist background to Nixon's Family Assistance Plan. FAP was the brainchild of Nixon advisor and future Senator Patrick Moynihan. In 1965, Moynihan wrote a notorious report for the U.S. Department of Labor blaming Black poverty on Black women.

FAP payments would be set above the miserable benefits in Southern states. But they would be far below the Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments in New York, Wisconsin, Oregon and other Northern states where the labor movement was stronger.

FAP supporters believed that if welfare benefits were raised in the South, but lowered in the North, Black migration would cease. This lie was the excuse for Wisconsin's state legislature to cancel a winter coat allowance for poor families. It was really factory owners like Wisconsin foundry owner William Grede, a founder of the John Birch Society, who summoned Black labor north.

The National Welfare Rights Organization, under the leadership of Dr. George Wiley, fought FAP. NWRO activist Lucille Berrien and Rev. James Groppi led a takeover of Wisconsin's state capitol in Madison to demand winter coats for the poor.

But it was right-wingers centered in the South, like Strom Thurmond, who torpedoed FAP. This amounted to a dangerous split in Nixon's coalition.

### **The Pentagon vs Nixon**

The generals and admirals also came to distrust Nixon. Since World War II, the military-industrial complex has been the biggest factor in U.S. politics.

No questions were asked when Lincoln fired General McClellan twice during the U.S. Civil War. During the Korean War, Truman had to fly to the middle of the Pacific Ocean to get permission from the other generals to sack General Douglas MacArthur.

It was the military that stopped Senator Joe McCarthy, not liberals like television broadcaster Edward R. Murrow. When McCarthy insulted General Ralph Zwicker during a Senate committee hearing, it was time for Joe to go.

Interestingly, the army secretary at the time was Robert T. Stevens. He was past and future CEO of J.P. Stevens, then the second biggest textile manufacturer.

Like the Milliken clan, the Stevens family was an old Yankee family that took their textile mills south to get away from unions. None of the media asked what

Stevens—a recipient of lush military contracts—was doing as army secretary.

During the presidential campaign, Nixon won votes by saying he had a plan to bring U.S. troops home from Vietnam. Once in the White House, Nixon escalated the dirty war by invading Cambodia.

Never forget that Nixon could have signed the same peace agreement in 1969 that he finally did in 1973. Millions of lives could have been saved in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, as well as 20,000 fewer GIs coming home in boxes.

Despite the massive bombing and Kissinger's barely disguised threats at the Paris Peace Talks to use nuclear weapons, Vietnam refused to surrender. At the same time, Nixon and Kissinger were working overtime to further the split in the socialist camp between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

Nixon's recognition of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal parity with the U.S. was recognizing what already existed. That doesn't mean the Pentagon appreciated it nor the arms treaties that were signed.

At the same time, much of the military-industrial complex wanted to pull troops out of Vietnam faster. Congressional warhawk Melvin Laird, who became Nixon's secretary of defense, pushed for a quicker exit.

Laird and the military brass didn't care how many children were being burned alive by napalm. They wanted to get out because they were losing control of their troops.

Hundreds of officers were killed—"fragged" —by GIs, usually by grenade. By 1971, mutinies like the one at Firebase Pace became front-page news. The anti-war, anti-racist American Servicemen's Union recruited thousands of members.

The unstoppable drive for Black liberation had arrived inside the military machine and was influencing some white GIs as well. White GIs blew up Camp McCoy in

Wisconsin in 1970 to stop the training of National Guard troops to shoot Black people. A rebellion against racism on the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk broke out on Oct. 13, 1972.

### **Spies turn on Nixon**

Millions of people protested Nixon's invasion of Cambodia in 1970. Nixon provoked the killing of students at Jackson State and Kent State universities by calling anti-war demonstrators "bums."

In response to this revolt, the White House held a secret meeting on June 5, 1970, to discuss a police-state plan devised by White House staffer Tom Huston. The [super-sized COINTELPRO program](#) aimed to unite the FBI, CIA and other spy agencies to smash all progressive movements.

Even though FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was slated to chair the new outfit, he disliked it because it took away the FBI's monopoly on crushing political dissent.

People were shocked when the Huston plan was partially exposed during the Senate Watergate hearings. The 2001 Patriot Act implemented some of it.

Hoover's distrust of the Huston plan was another sign that parts of the deep state had differences with Nixon. The prized secret informant for Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward was FBI Deputy Director Mark Felt.

The Watergate burglary happened over four months before the 1972 presidential election. This crime wasn't allowed to interfere with Nixon's landslide victory.

Once the peace agreement with Vietnam was signed, however, the dam broke. On March 21, 1972, James McCord Jr. — who led the Watergate burglary crew — wrote from jail to Judge John Sirica that the White House was behind the break-in.

Longtime CIA agent McCord never thought his gang would be discovered by the \$2-an-hour security guard Frank Wills. McCord had cleaned up the room at New York's Hotel Pennsylvania where U.S. Army anthrax expert Frank Olson may have been thrown to his death in 1953.

While McCord spent just four months in jail, the Black man Frank Wills—the real hero of Watergate—could hardly get any more jobs and died in poverty.

McCord wasn't the only deep state player who helped bring down Nixon. Bob Woodward himself was a Naval intelligence officer before becoming a reporter.

And it was the former Air Force Col. Alexander Butterfield that revealed the White House tapes, the Watergate scandal's "smoking gun."

### **A continuing crisis**

Richard Nixon was the only U.S. president that didn't preside over a single state or federal execution. Both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration were established under "Tricky Dick."

Despite mobilizing the army, Nixon couldn't stop postal workers from winning their strike. The 1970 strike against General Motors won United Auto Workers members retirement after 30 years and 95% of their pay during layoffs.

Nixon didn't want to be known for any of these things. His cabinet was the last one that didn't have anyone who was a woman or a person of color.

But what was Nixon to do when 29.1% of workers belonged to unions in 1970, as compared to 10.3% in 2021?

It was the military that played a key role in dumping Nixon. But the crisis continued under the new president, Gerald Ford. Ford's vice-president was Nelson Rockefeller,

from the world's first billionaire family that founded Big Oil.

A Vietnamese tank rammed through the gate of the former U.S. embassy in South Vietnam on April 30, 1975. Vietnam had won. In November of that year, the Angolan people with Cuban assistance threw back the invasion of the U.S.-backed South African apartheid regime.

Ford was shot at twice, once by "Squeaky" Fromme, a known follower of Charles Manson. How did the Secret Service let that happen?

There's no stability under capitalist rule. The U.S. Supreme Court's elimination of reproductive rights is a huge crisis both for the people and the ruling class.

Nixon was an enemy of the people. So is Trump and his Supreme Court. Only by organizing the power of the people can we stop these attacks.

