

Los Angeles: Cuba in Africa film showing, Sept. 24

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 21, 2023



CUBA IN AFRICA

A documentary by Negash Abdurahman

The dramatic untold story of 420,000 Cubans – soldiers and teachers, doctors and nurses – who GAVE EVERYTHING to end colonial rule and apartheid in Southern Africa.

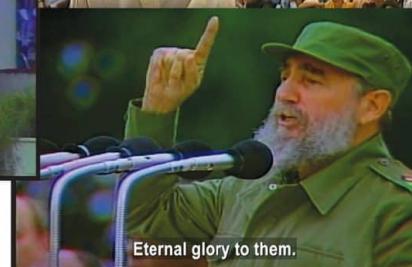
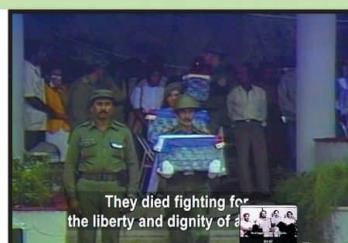
Cuba in Africa is told primarily through the moving stories of Cuban survivors of the Angolan campaign, from soldiers to teachers to medical personnel to government officials. Through almost 100 hours of vivid eye-witness testimonies, combined and rare contextual material unearthed from Cuban film archives, including excerpts from Castro's speeches outlining his "internationalist" foreign policy and Mandela's heartfelt expression of gratitude to Cuba.

Director Negash Abdurahman
will be available via zoom to answer questions and discuss the film.



SUNDAY
September 24

2 pm **Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice**
5278 W Pico Blvd, Los Angeles



Sponsored by:
Let Cuba Live Coalition
and Black Alliance for Peace

Labor donated

Cuba in Africa: A documentary by Negash Abdurahman

Sunday, Sept. 24 - 2:00 p.m.

Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, 5278 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles

Sponsored by Let Cuba Live Coalition and Black Alliance for Peace

“Cuba in Africa” is the dramatic untold story of 420,000 Cubans - soldiers and teachers, doctors and nurses - who gave everything to end colonial rule and apartheid in Southern Africa.

Director Negash Abdurahman will be available via zoom to answer questions and discuss the film.

Hear about our campaign to get Cuba #OffTheList of state sponsors of terrorism and to break the U.S. blockade of that island country. Find out how you can get involved!



Cuba's President Díaz-Canel at United Nations: "A new and fairer global contract is urgently needed"

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 21, 2023

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez said that "a new and fairer global contract is urgently needed." He spoke on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, an organization of which Cuba holds the pro tempore presidency in 2023.

He referred to the results of the recently held Summit of Heads of State and Government of the G77 and China in Havana, where member countries approved a political declaration advocating changes in the international financial architecture in a way that allows all countries to advance more justly on the path to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda.

The voice of the South, diverse peoples with common problems, has been heard from Havana, said Díaz-Canel, noting that more than 100 representatives of the 134 countries that make up the G77 and China "demanded changes that can no longer be postponed in the unjust, irrational and abusive international economic order, which has deepened year after year the enormous inequalities between a minority of highly developed nations and a majority that fails to overcome the euphemism of developing nations."

"We are not asking for handouts or begging for favors. We are calling for a profound transformation of the current international financial architecture because it is deeply unjust, anachronistic and dysfunctional."

“Cuba is the country that has endured unilateral coercive measures for the longest time.

We were not the first, and we are not the last. The pressures to isolate sovereign states today also affect Venezuela, Nicaragua...”.

He referred to the words of the UN Secretary-General when he stated in Havana that the G77 was founded 60 years ago to remedy centuries of injustice and neglect and that in today’s turbulent world, these nations are entangled in a tangle of world crises, where poverty is increasing, and hunger is growing.

The Group of 77 was united -the Cuban leader said- by the need to change what has not been resolved and the condition of main victims of the current multidimensional global crisis and the current abusive unequal exchange, of the technological scientific gap and the degradation of the environment.

“But we have also been united, for more than half a century, by the inescapable challenge and determination to transform the prevailing international order, which, in addition to being exclusive and irrational, is unsustainable for the planet and unviable for the well-being of all”.

The countries represented in the G77 and China are where 80% of the planet’s population lives, and “not only have we faced the challenge of development, but also the responsibility to modify the structures that marginalize us from global progress and turn many countries of the South into laboratories of renewed forms of domination,” said Díaz-Canel before the plenary of the General Assembly, which is holding its 78th session.

“A new and fairer global contract is urgently needed,” the Cuban president stressed.

He warned that, at the current pace, countries will fail to achieve any of the 17 SDGs, and more than half of the 169 targets agreed in 2015 will be missed. “The

outlook is discouraging,” he said.

“In the midst of the 21st century, it offends the human condition that nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger on a planet that produces enough to feed everyone,” he stressed. “Or that in the age of knowledge and the accelerated development of new information and communications technologies, more than 760 million people, two-thirds of them women, do not know how to read or write.”

He said that “the efforts of developing countries are not enough to implement the 2030 Agenda.

He stressed that these efforts must be backed up by concrete actions in terms of market access, financing with fair and preferential conditions, technology transfer, and North-South cooperation.

“We are not asking for handouts or begging for favors,” said Díaz-Canel, and insisted that the G77 demands rights and will continue to demand a profound transformation of the current international financial architecture “because it is deeply unjust, anachronistic, and dysfunctional.”

Díaz-Canel pointed out that today’s prevailing financial architecture was designed to profit from the reserves of the South, perpetuate a system of domination that increases underdevelopment, and reproduces a model of modern colonialism.

“We need and demand financial institutions in which our countries have real decision-making capacity and access to financing.

“A recapitulation of multilateral and development banks is urgently needed to radically improve their lending conditions and meet the financial needs of the South,” he said.

The G77 countries have had to allocate \$379 billion of their reserves to defend their

currencies by 2022, almost double the amount of new special drawing rights allocated to them by the IMF, he said, and he considered it necessary to rationalize, review and change the role of credit rating agencies.

"It is also imperative to establish criteria that go beyond GDP to define developing countries' access to concessional financing and appropriate technical cooperation," he added.

"While the richest countries fail to fulfill their commitment to allocate at least 0.7% of their national GDP to official development aid, the nations of the South have to spend 14% of their income to pay interest associated with foreign debt."

The Cuban president stressed that the G77 reiterates its call to public, multilateral and private creditors to refinance the debt through credit guarantees, lower interest rates and longer maturities.

"We insist on the implementation of a multilateral mechanism for the renegotiation of sovereign debt, with the effective participation of the countries of the South, which will allow a fair, balanced and development-oriented treatment".

The president denounced onerous credits and cited that most G77 countries are obliged to allocate more to debt servicing than to investments in health or education. "What sustainable development can be achieved with such a noose around our necks?" he asked, calling on creditors to refinance the debt on terms that do not stifle the progress of nations.

On the effects of climate change on developing nations, Díaz-Canel recalled that they are the main victims, while industrialized countries, "voracious predators of resources and the environment", evade their responsibilities and fail to fulfill their commitments.

"With a view to COP28, the G77 countries will prioritize the global stocktaking

exercise, the operationalization of the loss and damage fund, the definition of the framework for the adaptation objective and the establishment of a new climate finance target, in full compliance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities," he said.

He informed that the G77 is convening a summit of leaders from the South, to be held on December 2 in the context of COP28, in Dubai. "It will be a space to articulate the positions of our group at the highest level in the context of climate negotiations."

He added that for the G77 it is a priority task to change once and for all the paradigms of science, technology and innovation that are limited to the environments and perspectives of the North, depriving the international scientific community of considerable intellectual capital.

"The successful summit in Havana launched an urgent call to integrate science, technology and innovation around the unrenounceable goal of sustainable development (...) We urge richer nations and international organizations to participate in cooperation projects," he said when commenting on the initiatives presented during the conclave held on September 15 and 16 in the Cuban capital.

The Cuban president also criticized the imposition of unilateral punitive measures, "practices of powerful States to try to subdue sovereign States".

He also recalled that Cuba is the country that has endured unilateral coercive measures for the longest time.

"I cannot pass through this world platform without denouncing, once again, that for 60 years Cuba has been suffering a suffocating economic blockade, designed to depress its income and standard of living, cause continuous shortages of food, medicines and other basic supplies and restrict its development potential," said

Díaz-Canel.

He denounced that pressures to isolate and weaken economies also affect nations such as Venezuela and Nicaragua, and that before and after they have been the prelude to invasions and overthrows of uncomfortable governments in the Middle East.

"We reject the unilateral punitive measures imposed on countries such as Zimbabwe, Syria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran, among many others whose peoples suffer the negative impact of these."

On the policy of economic coercion and maximum pressure applied by the U.S. government against Cuba, in violation of international law and the UN Charter, he emphasized that "there is not a single measure or action by Cuba to harm the United States, to damage its economic sector, its commercial activity or its social fabric.

"There is no act by Cuba that threatens the independence of the United States or its national security, that undermines its sovereign rights, interferes in its internal affairs or affects the welfare of its people. The U.S. conduct is absolutely unilateral and unjustified".

He also criticized the internal destabilization plans against Cuba promoted from Washington and Florida, as well as the unjustified inclusion of the country on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

"Despite the hostility of your government, we will continue to build bridges with the people of the United States, as we do with all the peoples of the world," he said.

"Cuba will not relent in its efforts to boost the creative potential, influence and leadership of the G77," he assured while commenting on the country's intention to present its candidacy to the UN Human Rights Council for an upcoming term. "Our group has much to contribute to multilateralism, stability, justice and rationality that

the world requires today."

Here is the link to [Diaz Canel's speech at the UN](#) with simultaneous translation into English:

Source: [Cubadebate](#) translation [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



Let Cuba Live: Take a stand and get Cuba off the SSOT list

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 21, 2023

Los Angeles, Sept. 14 — The multinational and multi-generational Let Cuba Live delegation that showed up on the steps of City Hall today was a dynamic and powerful group of activists calling on the L.A. City Council and Mayor Karen Bass to pass a resolution and take a stand against the inclusion of Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list.

Krishna Daly of Black Alliance for Peace and Let Cuba Live led the delegation to meet with L.A. City Counselor Eunisses Hernandez and deliver letters to other councilors and Mayor Karen Bass. Daly spoke with urgency of the painful and difficult conditions that face the Cuban people and medical community:

"It's not just that they don't have aspirin, they can't do necessary surgery — they don't have anesthesia and other crucial medical supplies, and they can't get them because of the SSOT designation."

Pastor Kelvin Sauls of IFCO/Pastors for Peace & Sanctuary of Hope (SOH) related his history in South Africa. "The U.S. sustained the apartheid system, a system that made the great majority of people feel like pariahs in their homeland. This is the same thing that the U.S. blockade and SSOT designation does to the people of Cuba."

Nathaniel Peterson, a youth who participated in the SOH trip to Cuba, saw the impact of the U.S. blockade with his own eyes. He and the other youth on the delegation delivered medical and stationery supplies to medical centers and Prensa Latina.

John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Carlos Sirah of Black Alliance for Peace, Dave Clennon, an actor and member of SAG/AFTRA and Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace, and Maggie Vascassenno of Women in Struggle completed the delegation. The group visited Mayor Karen Bass' offices and dispersed with plans for the next round of meetings, applying pressure on the L.A. City Council, Mayor Bass, and the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.



National March to Protect Trans Youth - Oct. 7

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 21, 2023

NATIONAL MARCH



To Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Rights

Orange & Anderson (near City Hall)
Orlando ▶ Florida

SAT | OCT 7
12 NOON

Stop Racist Attacks on Our Communities

- ▶ Reverse DeSantis's bans on trans healthcare, restroom access, Black & Queer studies
- ▶ Stop censorship & attacks on civil liberties of teachers, students & libraries
- ▶ Hands off Pride!
- ▶ Free, legal, accessible abortions
- ▶ Demand Biden & Congress enforce civil rights coast to coast

- ▶ Expand Medicaid and SNAP
- ▶ Stop voter disenfranchisement
- ▶ Drop charges on the Tampa 5

Labor donated

Get involved!
Add your organization/name



LOCAL CONTACT:

Partial list of endorsers:
Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha; Queer Youth Assemble; PRISM, South Florida; Chritynne Lili Wrene Wood, 2023 San Diego Champion of Pride; Orlando Come Out with Pride; Center for Constitutional Rights; Equality Florida; Tampa Bay Community Action Committee; Real Name Campaign, NOLA; Pride At Work Eastern Massachusetts; The Queer Notion, Tampa; Transpired Media; Louisiana Women's Rights Action Committee; Red Berets for Queers; United American Indians of New England; Andre Powell, ret. delegate, Baltimore CLC, AFL-CIO*; Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly; Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Los Angeles; PFLAG Safety Harbor; Zebra Youth. *for ID only

Sign up at: ProtectTransKidsMarch.org

Why a March for Trans Youth in Florida?

In Florida and many other states, new laws are robbing trans youth and adults of gender-affirming healthcare. Pride events are threatened with cancellation, trans people and drag artists are being banned from public life. Teachers are forbidden to talk about LGBTQ+ lives and Black history. Children are forbidden to play sports or use the bathroom. These laws are accompanied by threats and violent acts by organized far-right groups.

We can't wait for the next election. People's lives are on the line now. Activists and organizations in Florida are fighting back, and we want to stand with them. That's why trans activists and allies from across the U.S. are calling for a National March in Florida to Protect Trans Youth and a Speakout for Trans Lives on Saturday, October 7 in Orlando, Florida.

Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida's state legislature are in the forefront of the attacks on trans lives. DeSantis recently signed laws banning trans people from using public restrooms, authorized kidnapping trans children across state lines, expanded the "Don't Say Gay" law and banned healthcare for all trans people. DeSantis also signed laws targeting abortion rights and immigrants.

These measures are part of a coordinated campaign by the rich taking place in state legislatures around the country and will come in even greater numbers next year unless we take action. Recent Supreme Court rulings against affirmative action, LGBTQ+ equality and abortion rights show that lower court actions are delaying tactics at best. Only the power of the people, mobilized in large numbers, can turn the tide.

How You Can Help

We ask you to join us to organize for October 7 as a first step toward building a new nationwide movement for the defense of civil rights and workers' rights, to stop the advance of fascism and white supremacy.

ENDORSE: [You can give your endorsement to me or fill out the form here.](#)

GET INVOLVED: We hold regular organizing Zoom calls. [Fill out the form here](#) and we'll invite you to the next call.

DONATE / HELP RAISE FUNDS for transportation: Although we expect most attendees to come from the South and the East Coast, there are people across the country who want to attend. Help us organize buses, car caravans or airfare from your area. [Donate here](#) or raise funds by holding a party, concert or other event.

SPREAD THE WORD: Include graphics and info about the Oct. 7 march on your social media, website and newsletter. Invite one of our organizers to speak at an upcoming meeting. [Print out our leaflets and distribute them at protests, events and community spaces.](#) Or create your own!



Louisiana protest: ‘AG Landry, you’re a crook! Kids deserve to read gay books!’

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 21, 2023

Sept. 15, Lafayette, Louisiana - This writer joined over 30 protesters against corrupt far-right gubernatorial candidate Jeff Landry. We gathered outside KLFY studios where the second gubernatorial debate was happening; Landry skipped the first one, claiming that debate hosts would not treat him fairly, and has generally skirted other interactions with his rival candidates.

The action was led by both cis and trans women. Participating organizations included Real Name Campaign NOLA, Reproductive Freedom Acadiana, Louisianahbrah, DSA Southwest Louisiana, and Socialist Unity Party.

Amanda Anderson, an organizer with Reproductive Freedom Acadiana, told the

crowd, “Although we have these fascist, bigoted, corrupt politicians imposing restrictions on us, our state is in fact composed of diverse people, like the people that showed up here today. ... We have the people, power, and persistence to protect and restore fundamental rights back to the people.”

Quest Riggs of Real Name Campaign said, “Do the majority of Louisianians want to oppress their neighbors? Hell no! Does Jeff Landry want to oppress the people of this state? Absolutely.”

We chanted, “AG Landry, you’re a crook! Kids deserve to read gay books!” When Landry came out, we got as close as we could, pummeling him with noise as he rushed to his vehicle and sped off. So long, janky Jeff! (Another popular slogan from the night.)

Anderson’s words about our diverse community ring true. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know activists of many ages and backgrounds from across the state. We even had dinner together after the action, strengthening the feeling of solidarity. We are prepared to fight against the far-right, capitalist onslaught.

Who is Jeff Landry?

Landry is cut from the same cloth as Ron DeSantis of Florida and Greg Abbot of Texas, basing his campaign on targeting trans youth and other vulnerable groups. This is his only appeal since he has nothing to offer the state’s working class. He opposes raising Louisiana’s \$7.25 minimum wage and even says [there shouldn’t be a minimum wage](#).

This is the same man who sued to kick 700,000 Louisianians off Medicaid. Apparently, he doesn’t care whether we live or die. Considering the following [from The Gambit](#), we can sum up Landry’s attitude as “I got mine, screw you!”

“As Attorney General, Landry makes \$104,942.72 a year — nearly four times the average income for Louisianans. He also has significant sources of outside income. According to Landry’s financial disclosure forms — which only require ranges of income, rather than specific amounts — in 2022 he made between \$160,000 and \$414,000 from outside sources. Landry also reported investment holdings — all of which are held in his wife’s name — worth as much as \$2.4 million.”

As the state’s attorney general, he pushed for strict abortion bans. His office has come under fire - including in this debate - for attempting to track women seeking abortions out of state.

In close collaboration with the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project, a de facto anti-LGBTQ+ group similar to the misnamed Moms for Liberty, Landry has gone after library books. The group’s founder and Landry associate, Connie Nichols Phillips, cost taxpayers in her parish \$72,000 processing the 150 book challenges she submitted.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff’s Department has [issued a misdemeanor summons to Phillips](#), who appeared in a viral video assaulting a library supporter outside a parish council meeting.

Last year, it came to light that [Landry spent more than \\$420,000](#) from campaign donors on his own staffing company. The above are only a few of his ongoing scandals.



Starbucks Worker Solidarity Day of Action

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 21, 2023

Although over 350 Starbucks Coffee stores around the country have voted to unionize, the company's CEO and management have failed to come to the negotiating table to discuss workers' concerns. Starbucks Workers United called for support actions on Sept. 14 for the morning rush hour.

Pictured here is the customer support action team at the Perry Hall, Maryland, store. Support team members collected 80% of the requested signatures during the hour-long petitioning effort. Team members were able to talk to customers as they waited in the drive-thru line, which continuously wrapped around the building the entire hour. There were only 7 workers staffing not only the drive-thru line but also the walk-in customers.



Libya, devastated by U.S./NATO bombing, unprepared for extreme storm floods

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 21, 2023

Blame for the horrible flooding that [has killed nearly 20,000](#) people in the city of Derna, with many thousands still unaccounted for in northeastern Libya, belongs squarely on the doorstep of Western capitalism and the U.S. imperialist military menace. The 2011 U.S.-led NATO war on Libya left the country in a weakened, vulnerable state. This catastrophe, the latest deadly extreme weather event, points more clearly to the link between unbridled U.S. capitalism and militarism and the struggle to mitigate the global warming crisis.

The pursuit of energy profits has been the Pentagon's primary focus ever since the U.S. came out on top of the heap of imperialist powers at the end of World War II. The U.S. military and the various military alliances organized by the U.S. are huge

emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs.)

[A 2017 study by researchers at Brown University](#) reported that “U.S. military emissions were greater than the GHGs of entire industrialized countries, such as Sweden, Denmark, and Portugal, and also greater than all CO2 emissions from U.S. production of iron and steel.” The U.S. military fought and won the exclusion of military emissions from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol counting process. Now, when lists show the GHGs of various countries, the count is skewed in favor of the U.S.

The GHGs of the Pentagon – shocking and criminal as the statistics may indicate – are not the most significant part of the military’s role in worsening global warming. The Pentagon’s role as the enforcer of imperialist domination, the plunder of nations, and the poverty that is imposed have left the Global South in such a vulnerable state compared to the big capitalist powers of the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Australia.

The poverty of the Global South is not some natural event. It results from imperialist plunder and is maintained by the threat posed by the imperialist military.

Gaddafi led overthrow of U.S.-backed monarch

The catastrophe unfolding in Libya can’t be fully understood without considering the 2011 U.S.-led NATO assault. Muammar Gaddafi’s overthrow of U.S. ally King Idris in 1969 brought about a profound and positive transformation. Gaddafi took back much of the profit and control of the oil industry from Western companies, including British Petroleum, and took a share of foreign banks operating there.

Soon, housing, hospitals, and universities were being constructed, and life expectancy and literacy rates shot up. Education was free and mandatory for all – including, for the first time in modern Libyan history, women. Roads and other infrastructure were built.

Libya became a magnet for people throughout the region — Palestinian refugees and thousands of others seeking a better life migrated to Libya and were welcomed. Gaddafi also threw out the British and U.S. militaries and shut down their bases.

None of this was taken lightly by the imperialist powers. In 2011, they found their moment to strike, taking advantage of uprisings against Gaddafi during the “Arab Spring” that had spread throughout the region. The White House was initially silent but then openly backed arms shipments from Qatar and UAE to counter-revolutionaries.

Demonstrations soon became armed attacks against Gaddafi’s forces. The U.S.-armed counterrevolutionaries attacked Black Libyans in Tawergha and Black guest workers from Chad, Senegal, and other countries, lynching hundreds. The Obama/Clinton State Department didn’t object. When the Gaddafi forces successfully defended against the attacks, the U.S. organized a NATO assault that carried out nearly 10,000 airstrikes over seven months, about 46 every day for 222 days. Gaddafi was captured and murdered by the U.S.-supported reactionaries, and the vast improvements made in Libya have now been erased.

Critical response to capitalist climate change

The dams that collapsed last week were part of that wave of infrastructure improvements that had taken place in the 1970s. They didn’t exist during the long years of U.S.-backed King Idris’ reign. But Gaddafi had put engineers to work to protect people in northeastern Libya from frequent floods.

Storms originating in the Mediterranean were always a threat. But one of the effects of climate change — higher ocean temperatures — has intensified storms and, at the same time, slowed down their movement, sometimes sitting in place for days while dumping vast amounts of rain. Because crucial inspections and maintenance of the dams weren’t kept up after NATO’s murderous assault destroyed Gaddafi’s

revolution, the dams were no match for the 22-foot high rush of water that smashed through them and plowed a quarter of the city of Derna into the Mediterranean.

The UN and various groups of scientists have repeatedly warned that the world is not on track to meet even the modest goals set at the Paris Climate talks. The U.S. proxy war against Russia has led to a dramatic increase in GHGs being emitted and opened more projects to extract oil.

Critical international conferences called the Conference of the Parties occur each year. COP28 begins on November 30 in the United Arab Emirates. At the last conference in Copenhagen, an agreement for a “loss and damage fund” was forced on the Western capitalist powers as anger boiled over. The intention was to address the culpability of the U.S. and other capitalist giants in global warming and force them to provide funds for adaptation to those countries that have been so exploited by imperialism that they haven’t the funds to evacuate populations, build stronger infrastructure, or recover when agriculture or industry is damaged.

Of course, the fund hasn’t been put together yet, and it will be a point of contention at COP28. While they may not become part of the discussion in the United Arab Emirates, the slogans “Abolish the Pentagon” and “Down with U.S. imperialism” need to be popularized in the people’s movement to fight against global warming and fossil fuels.



When the auto workers went on strike in 1970: Revolutionary implications of the GM strike

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 21, 2023

The last major auto strike in the U.S. started on September 15, 1970, when 400,000 workers at 145 factories walked off the job at GM — then the largest corporation in the world — for 67 days.

First published September 30, 1970.

When a few dozen workers in a sweatshop first take fate in their hands and embark upon a strike, they have to go through a revolution in their own spirits; they have to take a chance on losing their livelihood altogether, especially if there has been no union in their shop before, and if they do not succeed in getting recognition from their boss.

That is why it is so hard to organize the workers even on the elemental level of joining together to prevent the heel of capital from grinding them down altogether, much less organizing to overthrow imperialism and establish socialism.

When workers lose even one hour's wages, it is often too much of a sacrifice. Those who are eternally in debt, eternally paying for the washing machine, the furniture, or the family automobile, hesitate to take off a day when they are really quite ill; how do they feel when they must face a strike of weeks and possibly several months' duration? Even when the worker is fully convinced of the necessity of a strike, his or her family is not necessarily convinced equally. And not many workers are equipped to answer the natural conservatism of the family that requires to be fed.

Then there are the workers who do not want to go on strike and must be prevailed upon to do it. They must be convinced — and life being what it is under capitalism, sometimes they must be convinced in a rather summary way.

This process is repeated every day somewhere in American industry — among the garment shops, novelty and toy producers, plastics factories, in the hospitals where more than a million "non-professionals" are hideously exploited both as to wages and conditions of work, in laundries, dry cleaning centers, many small parts producers; the list is endless.

But in the great scientifically organized aggregations of capital — basic steel, auto, rubber, basic chemicals, big electronic and electrical companies, trucking, and other transportation—the workers have been unionized for over a generation. They have some of the same problems of the sweatshop worker, but they now have more power and, therefore, more confidence.

Rupture of the status quo

Their strikes resemble the others in this respect: Every strike, large or small, is

potentially a revolutionary action. It is a rupture of the status quo in a way more profound than the actions of the most courageous and daring students against the police and the other instruments of imperialist oppression.

Whether the strike be in a sweatshop paying less than the general minimum of \$1.60 per hour or in a huge industrial plant like General Motors, where the workers make \$3.50 or more an hour and often make \$200 a week by working long days and/or coming in Saturday and Sunday, it means a sacrifice for the workers and their families.

[Note: Using the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) “inflation calculator,” these September 1970 figures are roughly equivalent to the following August 2023 wages: You would need at least \$12.53 per hour to match the buying power of the 1970 minimum wage of \$1.60. And at least \$27.41 an hour would be needed to match the \$3.50 hourly wage for unionized auto workers. Yet the federal minimum wage today is only \$7.25 per hour, and thousands of UAW workers in lower pay tiers at the Big Three automakers are making less than \$27 per hour. This shows how much our class has been thrown back in the last 53 years. — S.M.]

This sacrifice does not arise from idealism but from desperation. It is the result of a long choked-up anger at the conditions of their exploitation, often subconscious but nevertheless intractable and ultimately explosive.

Against one — against all!

It is revolutionary not because of its explosive character alone but because of its objective relationship to production and to the power of the ruling class.

The stopping of any part of American industry has some connection with all American industry. Just as any little street in any town in the United States is connected by other streets, roads, and highways to every other street in every city in

the whole country, so every big and little factory is connected by mortgages, stocks, bonds, interlocking directorates, bank control and a hundred other financial devices to every other factory.

A strike against any large corporation (and particularly in the case of GM, the biggest industrial corporation in the world) calls into question the power of the kings of finance who own it and also raises the question of the power of the workers who produce all the profits. It also raises the question of government intervention because of the importance of that industry to the whole economy.

GM is the government

After all, the government itself is run by those who run General Motors and the other great corporations. This means a strike in GM could provoke a crisis in government, especially because of the present weakness in the economy as a whole. The economic crisis can be further affected by the international crisis in the Far East and the Mideast — which is also the crisis of the corporations as well as their government — not to mention the immediate threat of expropriation of U.S. companies in parts of Latin America.

On the workers' side, a strike raises the question of the power of the exploited against their exploiters; the question of their will to withhold their work versus the strength of the bosses to maintain a commodity system while not producing commodities. It raises the question of solidarity within the ranks of the strikers and solidarity in the broader ranks of the whole working class. It is true, of course, that the workers ask "only" for an increased wage. It is true that the workers are by no means ready to overturn capitalist production relations when they go on strike for a raise in pay, even though the company is sometimes willing to murder them rather than yield this increase.

The workers expect to accomplish their aims entirely within the system as it is

presently constituted. This expectation is never wholly justified, however, since the workers' struggle is itself a challenge to the system.

When 345,000 workers demand even a nickel an hour more than the corporation is willing to pay, this is \$34.5 million a year. And the union is not asking for just a nickel more, but 24 cents more than GM has offered.

The revolutionary hunger

The better-paid American workers, Black as well as white, eat three meals a day, which is a good deal more than half the world gets. However, the motive force of revolution is not absolute hunger but almost always arises from the hunger to get what can be gotten and what the masses of people think their exploiters owe them.

This varies from country to country and from one historical period to another. The workers at General Motors are potentially just as revolutionary as any other group of workers or peasants in the world. They only need to get a fuller understanding of their own class position and to place the revolutionists within their ranks in the position of leadership. The future crisis of U.S. imperialism will do the rest.

Black people and the wheel of history

The question of the super-exploited, however, is related to the GM strike in a very intimate way, but a way that is only perceptible with an understanding of the history of U.S. Black liberation struggles. First, there are a very large number of Black people working for this company — sometimes whole plants are all Black, such as the GM foundry in Tonawanda, New York. [Note: This plant was shut down in 1984 — S.M.]

How did these Black workers get there and what is their strength against their present oppressor as compared to their strength under chattel slavery?

The 345,000 workers at GM are nearly twice the number of adult slaves in the whole state of North Carolina at the time of the Civil War. And the value of the entire cotton crop of the South was about \$200 million in 1860, while the 1969 sales of this one capitalist corporation, General Motors, were about \$24 billion—120 times as much as the whole South's product (if no allowance is made for the very great change in the dollar).

And that whole production has been entirely stopped by the workers — something the whole Union Army couldn't do to the Southern cotton crop in four years of the bloodiest war this country ever fought (in terms of U.S. lives lost).

Vehicle for Black vengeance

The chattel slaves of the South, in spite of constant attempts to rebel and occasional glorious insurrections like those of Nat Turner and the attempt of Denmark Vesey, could never get together to make a united push of their own and were compelled to settle for an unreliable alliance with Northern capital — an alliance whose fate is now only too well known.

The very nature of separated plantation life determined this, rather than the ability of slaves to fight. Thousands of plantations had less than a dozen slaves, and the means of communication and transportation were slow and completely controlled by the masters. It was impossible to unite for the nationwide insurrection that was necessary.

But General Motors has brought thousands of Black workers together under one roof, so to speak, and has thus helped them to organize against the same capitalist class that betrayed them after the Civil War. It has literally summoned the Black people from the Southern countryside by a hundred mechanical eliminators of farm labor and has done almost the same thing in the North. It has thus helped them to understand their own strength and to use it. This is no credit to General Motors,

which is merely a more efficient slave master than the plantation owners — at least a hundred times more efficient.

The bureaucratic barrier

There are, of course, great barriers to the revolution at General Motors, among them most prominently the bureaucratic leadership of the workers' union. The most glaring commentary on this leadership is the fact that in the 1930s, the really revolutionary organizing strikes of GM were conducted by seizing the plants and occupying them until the company gave in.

The workers were not as strong then as they are now. And hardly any Black people worked there at that time. Today, the workers are highly organized, and the Black workers are there in great numbers. Black workers in the auto industry have formed their own caucuses and, in Detroit, organized the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. They not only fight the racist bosses and union bureaucrats but are also militant in their demands for better working conditions and pay.

In the light of all this, the present strike seems rather tame. Yet, it has the potential of far surpassing the perspective of its bureaucratic leaders. The very fact that it happened at all is a testimony to that.

Generally speaking, the beginning of a strike is no time to begin criticizing the union bureaucracy, which has called it and is compelled to support it and even to extend it. But it is well worth noting that Ford and Chrysler practically dared the union to shut them down, too. (Partly because there was such an overproduction of autos last year.)

And, of course, union president Leonard Woodcock regarded that as a "provocation" and pretended not to listen. The UAW leadership has always taken the "one-at-a-time" line that they are playing off one company against the other because the

companies are “competitors” — concealing the fact that two or three big banks virtually own all of them.

Even if this were not so, however, it is often demoralizing to the workers to see others work while they are on the bricks, and for that reason alone, it is better to shut all the companies down together. But of course, the bureaucrats’ real fear is the fear of the workers’ own power and the possible confrontation with the forces that the labor-fakers themselves support — the combined corporations and their government — U.S. imperialism.

These are only some of the aspects of the GM strike — aspects which are true of most other big strikes — but they should be sufficient to show how deep is the need for the emergence of a revolutionary leadership among the rank-and-file GM workers and the U.S. working class.

Notes by Stephen Millies.



Battle with the Big 3 auto companies is on as UAW strikes all three in historic first

written by Struggle - La Lucha

September 21, 2023

September 15 — At midnight, United Auto Workers struck the Big Three companies — Ford, GM, and Stellantis — in what is being called a “Stand Up Strike.” Striking at all three companies simultaneously is a historic first for the auto workers union.

In a letter to union members and supporters, UAW President Shawn Fain announced,

“A few minutes ago, thousands of UAW members at Ford, GM, and Stellantis walked out, marking the beginning of [the Stand Up Strike](#).

- UAW members at GM Wentzville Assembly, Local 2250 in Region 4 are ON STRIKE.
- UAW members at Stellantis Toledo Assembly Complex, Local 12 in Region 2B are ON STRIKE.
- UAW members at Ford Michigan Assembly Plant - Final Assembly and Paint, Local 900 in Region 1A are ON STRIKE.

“This fight is our generation’s defining moment. Not just at the Big Three, but across the entire working class.”

UAW President Fain immediately left the bargaining table to join the 3,000-plus workers at the Michigan Ford Assembly Plant. Altogether, 13,000 workers are on

strike: 3,300 at Ford in Michigan; 3,600 at GM at Wentzville, Missouri; and 5,800 at Stellantis at the Toledo Jeep complex in Ohio.

The “stand up strikes” are targeted strikes which auto industry expert Jeff Schuster from GlobalData described, “One engine or transmission location per company might be enough to shut down nearly three-quarters of the U.S. assembly plants. Two plants per company, you can pretty much idle North America.”

The advantage for the union is it saves on the strike funds, giving the workers an edge in holding on longer and keeping the companies questioning where the next strike will occur.

The CEOs are ratcheting up their anti-union rhetoric, which seems to be failing — a recent CNN poll proclaims that 75% of the public side with the workers.

In a recent interview with CNN’s Jake Tapper, UAW President Shawn Fain responded to the company’s claims that a workers’ strike would drive up car prices: “In the last four years, the price of cars went up 30%. [Automakers] CEO pay went up 40%. No one said a word. No one had any complaints about that, but God forbid the workers ask for their fair share,”

Fain proclaimed, “It’s not [that] we’ll wreck the economy. We’ll wreck their economy, the economy that only works for the billionaire class and not the working class.”

The question on everyone’s minds is, will this strike and the “summer of strikes” be a historic turning point for workers, ending the long period of givebacks and retreats?

Tonight, auto workers and their supporters will converge in downtown Detroit.

For details on demands, see: [Class struggle is back! 150,000 auto workers poised to](#)

[strike](#)



'For All of Mankind' and other lies

written by Struggle - La Lucha
September 21, 2023



The Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 landed on the moon on August 23. It is now the fourth country to reach the moon's surface.

The data it will communicate to the scientific community is part of the crucial information relevant to our survival on Earth.

China, the first country to reach the moon's dark side, has used the data from its satellites to make a discovery about the plasma ocean surrounding the Earth, the magnetosphere. The plasmasphere researchers have found that material in the magnetosphere protects our planet from solar storms and other high-energy particles.

That information could give us a tool to fight climate change.

China's discovery is built on data collected by the Soviet's Luna 2, the first

spacecraft on the moon in 1959, which verified the existence of the plasmasphere.

This is part of the knowledge used by over 160 countries working with China to shed more light on the matter. The world's largest "artificial sun" project holds promise as a potential future energy source.

China is also set to launch in 2028 (two years ahead of time) the [Solar Power project](#) in space that will send energy back to Earth.

Many other scientific leaps relevant to the survival of our species, including vaccines, are coming from the socialist countries.

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses." — Malcolm X

The funny thing is that the TV series "For All Mankind" barely mentions socialist China and leaves out India.

This award-winning Apple TV+ series depicts an "alternate history" set in the 1970s that is intent on showing that U.S. imperialism is the only way forward. The TV series also uses diversity, which should be a good thing, but it is unfortunately used to hide U.S. imperialism's war crimes, like Vietnam.

The "alternate history" portrays the U.S. as an underdog victim of the Soviet Union - a communist country that will do anything to shape an authoritarian world devoid of freedom.

The series threads in true events and people to make it look more like a

documentary showing the truth about space and the role of the Soviet Union vs. the U.S.

While the U.S. is presented as a place where people have the freedom to seize opportunities (even if they go against the leadership), the Soviet Union is presented as a place where the slightest differences with leadership would land one in a labor camp of hard work and torture.

Actually, neither China — with a population four times larger than the U.S. — nor Russia has a prison population nearing the two million prisoners in the U.S., the actual (not alternate history) largest population of prisoners in the world.

Regarding torture, the type of torture used by the U.S. in Abu Ghraib, in Iraq, is alive and well in U.S. prisons today, such as at [Pendleton Correction Facility](#) in Indiana. And the war crimes tortures of prisoners in the U.S.-occupied Guantanamo, Cuba, continue.

The real history of the Vietnam War

Like Captain America, the honorable character committed to freedom and justice, Ed Baldwin, portrays the real Air Force pilot, General Thomas Stafford. The fictional Baldwin has adopted a Vietnamese child who is saved and brought to freedom despite the implied Vietnamese military assault attacking civilians at the end of the Vietnam War. Although Ed Baldwin served during the U.S. war on Vietnam, he was not stationed there. And neither was the real Stafford. However, the fictional Baldwin believes his friends serving in Vietnam are protecting the U.S. and the children of Vietnam.

No mention is made in the series about the more than 3 million killed by the U.S. war on Vietnam. Around 20 million gallons of the chemical weapon Agent Orange were sprayed throughout by the U.S. military from 1961 to 1971. According to the

Vietnam Red Cross, an estimated 400,000 people were killed or maimed, and 500,000 children were born with birth defects due to Agent Orange.

Here's where diversity is used to make us forget about the racist war crimes. The series shows that in the U.S., despite not having the first women in space, NASA is where women, including Black women, take leading roles; not only in NASA, they are commanding ships in space before the 1990s.

Danielle, the Black woman commanding the U.S. ship to Mars, must rescue the incompetent Soviet Cosmonauts in their ship that "copied U.S. technology," which explodes due to the stupidity of the Soviet commander.

Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkora

That fiction again hits a wall of truth since Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova reached space long before the women in the TV series got into space. Tereshkova was the first woman in space in 1963 and is part of the initial 5-women team of cosmonauts.

Sally Ride, the first woman from the U.S. in space, got there in 1983. And the series put a woman in the Chief of the Astronaut Office. That didn't happen until 2009.

Regarding incompetence and the theft of technology, it was the Soviet Union that landed the first spacecraft on the moon in 1959, with numerous ships following to continue scientific research.

The Soviet Union also launched the first human into space in 1961. Yuri Gagarin's flight beat the aptly-named U.S. competing space program MISS (Man in Space Sooner).

These misses pushed the U.S. to begin a space race that made a priority of maintaining their show of capitalist superiority over socialism. The Apollo 11 mission

to the moon was based on a rocket designed by [Wernher Von Braun](#), a senior advisor to the Apollo project. During World War II, rocket scientist Wernher Von Braun (a Nazi Party member) had designed and built the V-2 rocket for Hitler that launched more than 3,000 missiles, while as many as 20,000 concentration camp prisoners died assembling the weapons.

The fictional Ed Baldwin defended Von Braun, and Von Braun said that working for Hitler was the “cost of progress.”

The person Baldwin portrays, Thomas Stafford, didn’t mention the contradiction of fighting for freedom with a Nazi. He did admit that the cooperation with the Soviet Union was productive, and, instead of accusing the Soviets of stealing technology, he said the Apollo space program studied and learned from the Soviet space program, though the Soyuz rocket was very different and used another propellant.



The interviews in [Aerojet Rocketdyne](#) and [Spaceflight Insider](#) also spoke about the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project in 1975, which was the cooperative endeavor meant to ease the tension of the Cold War.

This was Stafford’s fourth and final flight, a mission to meet up with the Soviets in space.

Danielle, the African American character in the series who played the role of commander on the International Space Station, was another example of the alternate history. No woman from the U.S. went to space until 1983 - Sally Ride.

And it took until 1992 before an African American woman entered space - Mae Carol Jemison, 17 years after the initial International Space Station mission.

In 1982, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Y. Savitskaya and her two crewmates marked the first time a space station hosted a mixed-gender crew.

Unlike the portrait of women in space presented by the series, the Soviet Union broke records with the representation of women and also put the first woman from Britain and the first woman from France aboard the Soviet space station Mir.

From rockets to stealth attack aircraft

In 1975, Stafford commanded the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project and shook hands with cosmonauts in space; in 1977, he took assignment as the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development, and Acquisition. Although Stafford praised the cooperation with the Soviets and said the ISS helped to maintain peace — his new job was a reversal of those words. He led the design of stealth technology, producing the F-117A stealth attack aircraft, the advanced stealth strategic B-2 bomber, directly threatening the Soviet Union and China.

This stealth technology was used in [the invasion of Panama](#) in 1989, then with B2 bombers slaughtering Libyans in the [U.S.-led NATO bombing in 2011](#) and during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq.

[Frontline](#) quotes from “Gulf War Air Power Survey Summary Report” by Thomas A. Keaney and Eliot A. Cohen: “F-117 and cruise missiles, these two platforms carried out all attacks against downtown Baghdad; the F-117 operated at night in a heavily populated city. ... Both were aircraft of a kind that only a super-power could have, and both could deliver destruction with no advanced warning ...

“Even without the flexibility of other aircraft, however, these platforms were able to set the terms for air operations over Iraq and to bring the reality of the war home to

the residents of Baghdad."

Did the Captain America-like character of Ed Baldwin, portraying the supposedly honorable and principled Thomas P. Stafford, ever send a laser-guided missile into a shelter where only civilian women and children resided?

The real-life Stafford did not fly the F-117A, but he led the design of the stealth attack aircraft that did. An F-117A stealth fighter launched two laser-guided [missiles](#) on February 13, 1991, in an attack on the al Amiriyah shelter, which resulted in the deaths of more than 400 Iraqi civilians.

This writer was part of a delegation in 1992 led by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, getting a closer look at the real-life nightmares of U.S. imperialism. The walls of the thick concrete shelter were entered like butter by the missiles. The first laser-guided missile prevented the escape from the shelter; the second missile left nothing but shadows in the shape of the victims on the walls. This writer remembers the dark shadow in the shape of a woman carrying her baby. The many pictures of children matching the location of the victims were placed on the walls so people would not forget the evil of U.S. imperialism.

In Stafford's interviews, like the Apple TV series, he forgets how his technology was used and never offers any apology. You can imagine him repeating the words of Von Braun: "Progress has a cost." Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright admitted to an interviewer on "60 Minutes" that she thought the cost of 500,000 children killed by the U.S. sanctions on Iraq was "worth it" (fascists define progress as the continuation of U.S. imperialist wars and its theft of self-determination and resources).

Ironically, one of the three creators of the "For All Mankind" series is Ben Nedivi. First, he should have less tolerance for injustice given that he was born in Tel Aviv and has a first-hand view of Israeli's apartheid terror against Palestinians. And his

grandfather was a Holocaust survivor. Why would the country that defeated the Nazi government of Germany — the Soviet Union — be portrayed in a false, stereotypical picture of the Cold War, especially since the Soviet Red Army liberated the Nazis' biggest concentration camp at Auschwitz and freed the greatest number of Holocaust survivors in the extermination camps?

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 — the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by the Red Army — as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The UN writes that it is worrying about the rise of neo-Nazi organizations and wants to use this commemoration to develop educational programs to prevent future genocide.

Justifying the collaboration with Nazis and the ongoing U.S. war crimes does the opposite. It looks like this TV series, in the interest of U.S. imperialism, was designed to sabotage progress at the cost of humanity.

