

NYC rallies for a ceasefire in Gaza and Palestinian liberation

written by Struggle - La Lucha
January 20, 2025



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Jan. 16 — Cold weather didn't stop a thousand people from coming to New York City's Times Square tonight to demand an end to the genocide in Gaza. The bold

action was called by the Shut It Down 4 Palestine Coalition.

Speakers emphasized that it was the courageous resistance by the people of Palestine, Lebanon, and Yemen that forced Netanyahu and Biden to agree to a ceasefire. Among those who spoke were those from The People's Forum; Nodutdol for Korean Community Development; PAL-Al Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

The billions that Biden spent killing Palestinians go right back into the pocket of the warmakers. "Even the jet fuel used by the planes bombing Gaza is shipped daily from Texas by the Valero Corporation," said Bill Dores of PAL-Awda.

People marched north from Times Square before coming down Fifth Avenue. Everywhere, drivers and truckers honked their horns in support. Palestine will be free!

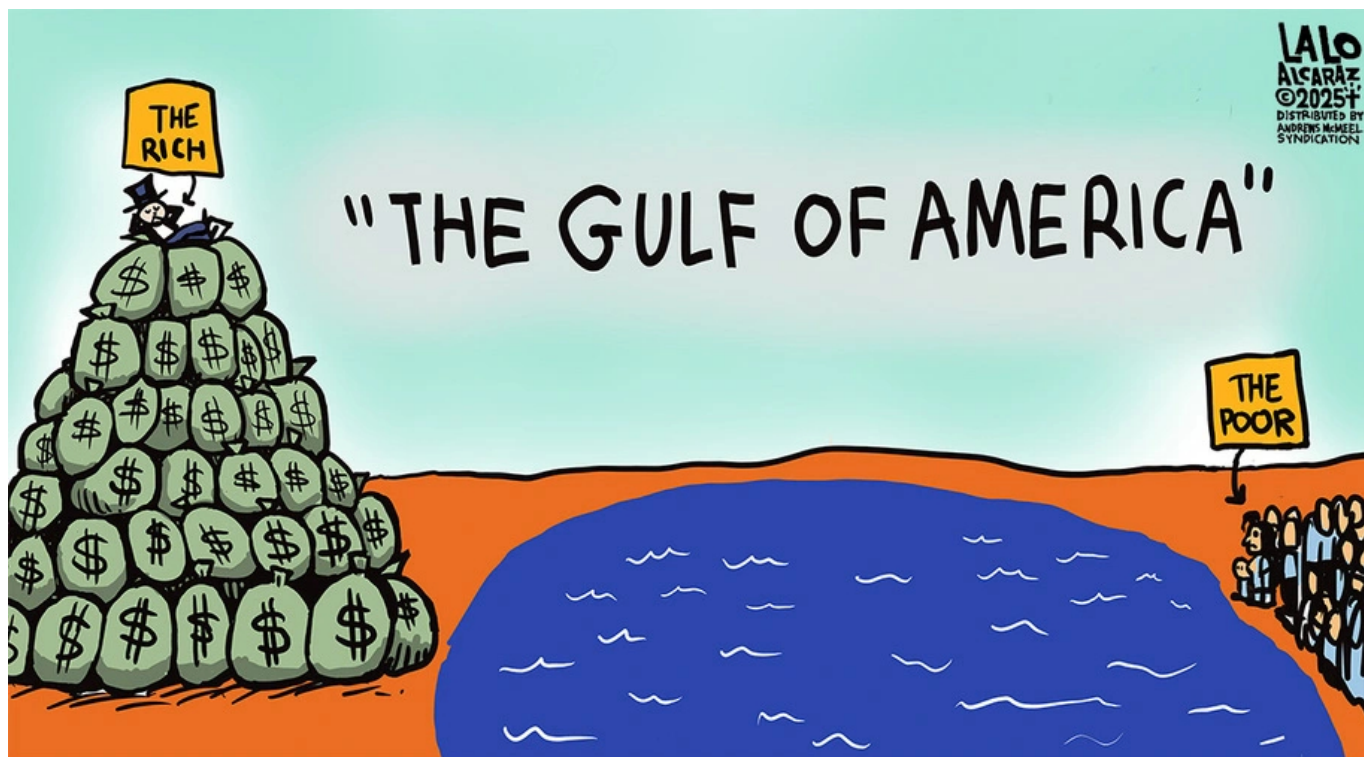


Oligarchy already rules: Top 0.1%

gained \$6 trillion under Biden

written by Struggle - La Lucha

January 20, 2025



On Jan. 15, President Joe Biden gave his farewell address from the Oval Office. In a speech packed with self-congratulation and lofty claims about his four years in office, Biden made one striking admission.

“I want to warn the country of some things that give me great concern,” Biden said. “And that’s the dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultra-wealthy people. Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power, and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms.”

Biden cited Dwight Eisenhower’s 1961 farewell address, in which he warned about

the dangers of the “military-industrial complex.”

After World War II, Eisenhower was the chief architect of the military-industrial complex. However, more than a decade later, he warned, “In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.”

Biden said, “Six decades later, I’m equally concerned about the potential rise of a tech-industrial complex that could pose real dangers for our country.”

Biden spoke as though this oligarchy were merely “taking shape,” when in fact, it’s already a harsh reality for working people — one that has been decades in the making and upheld by both major parties. And, as Biden knows, the oligarchy is not just the tech-industrial complex.

Capitalism is not democratic. The U.S. is a capitalist republic but not a democracy. As Aristotle explained, democracy means the rule of the poor. Rule by the rich is an oligarchy. Aristotle says the real difference between oligarchy and democracy is whether the wealthy or the poor rule.

The settler war of independence from the British colonizers was led by men of wealth — merchants, bankers, and plantation owners. The Constitution set some democratic rights (limited to men only; none for women, Indigenous peoples, or enslaved people), but the Constitution did not establish a democracy. The House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Presidency are all set up to ensure control by wealth. Put simply, money rules. What’s taken place over the last decades is that it has become more and more concentrated.

The reality of an entrenched oligarchy

Biden’s remarks ignored his administration’s role in further consolidating the power

of a tiny billionaire class.

The very richest are among the biggest winners from President Joe Biden's time in office, the [Seattle Times](#) reports, despite his farewell address warning.

"The 100 wealthiest Americans got more than \$1.5 trillion richer in the past four years, with tech tycoons including Elon Musk, Larry Ellison and Mark Zuckerberg leading the way, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The top 0.1% gained more than \$6 trillion, Federal Reserve estimates through September show."

Bidenomics meant the rich were getting richer. The top U.S. billionaires did far better than everyone else.

The Seattle Times adds:

"The 100 largest fortunes combined now exceed \$4 trillion — more than the collective net worth of the poorest half of Americans, spread over 66.5 million households. The share of U.S. wealth owned by the top 0.1%, at nearly 14%, is now at its highest point in Fed estimates dating back to the 1980s."

Biden leaves office talking about an oligarchy that his policies, together with those of the Democratic and Republican parties, have promoted to protect corporate profits and drive down wages, hitting the working class hardest. When adjusted for inflation, average weekly wages are now less than when Biden came into office.

A president who served corporate interests

While the warning about the threats of the oligarchy and the tech-industrial complex is true, Biden has never done anything other than promote that oligarchy. His administration and the entire political establishment support the economic system — capitalism — that feeds the Wall Street and Big Tech oligarchy.

Donald Trump, along with Biden and many others, represents a capitalist oligarchy that has been concentrating wealth for decades. We have seen how billionaires and mega-millionaires — Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Peter Thiel, and Larry Ellison, among them — use their economic power to undermine labor rights, squeeze wages, promote racism and sexism, attack trans rights, and reshape society in their interests. Their alliances and political maneuvers are not abstract threats; they have immediate consequences.

The path forward

Biden's farewell address may seem to acknowledge a grim truth, but words alone won't protect rights or improve wages and conditions. From Amazon to Tesla, from Silicon Valley to Wall Street, the ultra-rich have grown wealthier and more aggressive.

We, the working class majority, need to fight back against these forces. Our solidarity, ability to organize, and determination to defend and expand workers' rights are potentially far more powerful than all the concentrated wealth of the oligarchy. We cannot rely on hollow speeches or empty promises from any politician. The only way to address this "dangerous concentration of power" is through our collective action — on the picket line and in the streets.

Stand united. Fight for what's rightfully ours. Together, we can build a socialist future that serves the many, not just the wealthy few.



Louisiana Gov. Landry kidnaps unhoused people ahead of Super Bowl

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\$16 million spent to intern unhoused people could give them all apartments

Jan. 15, New Orleans – Before daylight on January 15, Gov. Jeff Landry took the next step in taking over New Orleans. On Landry’s commands, armed state police rounded up unhoused people who had been camping close to the French Quarter and the Superdome, which is hosting the profitable Super Bowl on Feb. 9. Personal items, IDs, medicine, medical and social service records were destroyed. At least 1 arrest was made.

Bypassing the city government, Landry bussed unhoused people to a “transitional” warehouse shelter that had been set up in an industrial area. The mainly Black residents of the nearby neighborhood were not informed or consulted at all. The

shelter — which is surrounded by a barbed wire fence — had no heat, showers, beds, or eye-level windows. One unhoused hospitality worker called it an internment camp.

According to the NOHHARM collective, the governor gave a contract months ago to a company called Workforce Group to set up the so-called shelter. Workforce is owned by a private equity firm, Bernhard Capital Partners, a major donor to Landry's campaign funds. This cruel pre-dawn raid was done with less than 48 hours notice.

The warehouse is almost six miles from downtown and has no sidewalks. The nearest bus stop is a half-hour walk away, making it impossible for people to make their social service appointments, which sometimes take months to schedule. Meetings with agencies at the site will take place in tents. The temperature in New Orleans this week is dropping to 28 degrees Fahrenheit. Unhoused people with jobs at night would be shut out of their beds at 9:00 p.m.

The Super Bowl is an exclusive event, bringing billions in profits to New Orleans and national corporations. The city itself undertook 400 projects and, with the state, spent millions of tax-payer dollars in preparation. Meanwhile, a ticket is going for \$5,000 each. Luxury boxes (renovated with taxpayer money) are upwards of \$50,000.

NOHHARM exposed that “not counting cost for the Louisiana State Police...the warehouse carries a price tag of \$11.4 million for two months or \$16.2 million for three months, about \$80,000 per each of the 200 beds. With \$16.2 million, 200 unhoused people could get six years of rental assistance for a studio.” So why isn't that done? Because just like state prisons and immigrant prisons, there is a profit to be made by jailing people.

Landry wants to hide the massive cost-of-living crisis that has been forced on

Louisianans by the government. The state, with almost no resistance from New Orleans officials, has refused to allow the city to vote for rent control, wages, or any meaningful measure to stop soaring rents. Year after year the Louisiana legislature has refused to raise the \$7.25 per hour minimum wage. The racist governor wants to push out working-class, predominantly Black residents in order to make New Orleans a playground for the rich.

Landry's pre-dawn raid is part of a larger campaign to criminalize poor people and undermine working-class solidarity in order to cut food stamps, Medicaid, and other basic social services. The state has already cut thousands off of Medicaid and has reduced benefits for thousands more.

The state is creating more conditions of homelessness by giving insurance companies a free hand to raise insurance costs by three times or more, which raises rents and causes foreclosures. Every week, foreclosed properties are auctioned off to developers in New Orleans. The governor and state legislature are using the government as a transmission belt to funnel money away from us into the pockets of the capitalists.

We New Orleans workers have had a war declared on us by the billionaires. Thousands are a paycheck or rent payment away from homelessness. A third of children are in poverty and senior hunger is higher here than anywhere in the country. Rates of incarceration are among the highest in the world. We are not taken in by the governor, who is reducing taxes for the rich while maintaining the highest sales tax in the U.S., claiming this raid and kidnapping of unhoused people makes us safer.

We need to unite and fight to impose rent controls, raise wages, cut insurance rates, and protect and expand our SNAP and Medicaid benefits.



Declaration of the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity for Cuba

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From the ***International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity*** we salute the victory of the Revolutionary Government, the Cuban people and the international solidarity that fought tirelessly for four consecutive years for Cuba to be removed from the List of Supposedly Sponsoring Countries of Terrorism (SSOT List) where it should never have been.

The decision of the Biden administration, six days before the end of his term, with the official and express recognition in the White House presidential memorandum, acknowledges that Cuba does not sponsor terrorism.

The arbitrary inclusion in the unilateral and spurious List was political, within the framework of the multidimensional war imposed by the U.S. blockade, plus the 243

economic and financial sanctions, to strangle the Cuban economy and provoke an internal outbreak that would put an end to the achievements of the Revolution and impose a government subservient to Washington.

We reaffirm what Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel expressed on the social network X: “It is a decision in the right direction, although belatedly and with limited scope,” since “the blockade and most of the extreme measures that were put in place in 2017 to suffocate the Cuban economy and cause shortages to our people remain in place.”

The inclusion in the list of sponsors of terrorism “has had a high cost for the country and Cuban families.”

A very high cost that will never be forgotten by the Cuban people deprived of medicines and food by the criminal policy of the U.S., which on November 20 reaffirmed in a massive demonstration in Havana its rejection of the longest genocidal blockade in history, the demand to be taken off the List and its support for the Cuban Revolution.

As for International Solidarity we will continue working together with the Cuban people and government until we achieve the end of the blockade and the extraterritorial laws, we will continue advocating for peace and friendship between the peoples of the United States and Cuba, beyond the four years of the current government in power in the White House.

Sixty-six years of heroic and peaceful resistance is the clearest message to the outgoing and incoming administration.

Here is Cuba standing with its sovereign flag, before which the noble men and women of the world, the peoples who resist and struggle, bow down.

Long live Cuba, its Revolutionary Government and its heroic people.

Source: [Cuba en Resumen](#)



‘I’ve been to the mountaintop’: A call to action then and now

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On Jan. 11, members of the Baltimore community gathered at the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center for a screening of “At the River I Stand,” a film documenting the Memphis sanitation workers strike in 1968. The working class civil rights struggles intertwined in this strike drew Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Poor People’s Campaign to Memphis. Just two months later, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

Memphis sanitation workers at the time were predominantly Black, working long hours in dangerous conditions, compensated with wages so low that workers qualified for welfare. Working conditions are described in the film as a plantation mentality, with Black workers under-compensated while toiling in inhumane

conditions, all under the oversight of racist government officials and supervisors.

After two garbage collectors, Echol Cole and Robert Walker, were crushed to death by a garbage compactor, 1,300 Black sanitation workers went on strike. Workers demanded recognition of their union, safer working conditions, and fair wages.

Members of the community engaged in a boycott and supported the strike, and a sit-in of sanitation workers and supporters pressured the City Council into voting to recognize the union and increase wages.



'I am a man'

However, Memphis Mayor Henry Loeb rejected this resolution. The strike and daily marches continued, and the now famous anti-racist slogan, "I am a man,"

developed.

In March, Mayor Loeb called for martial law and brought in 4,000 National Guard troops to patrol the streets after police escalated the non-violent protest into essentially a police riot. Dr. King Jr. returned on April 3 and delivered his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech to sanitation workers.

The next day, he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The sanitation workers strike concluded on April 16 when the City Council agreed to union recognition and increased wages for the sanitation workers.

Baltimore sanitation workers

Although the film depicts struggles that took place 57 years ago, the issues in the film are strikingly similar to issues faced today. Two sanitation workers in Baltimore City were killed in 2024 due to unsafe working conditions: Ronald Silver II died at work in August due to heatstroke and Timothy Cartwell was crushed to death by the garbage collection truck on which he worked in November.

Their deaths are directly connected to the gross negligence and inadequate working conditions of the Department of Public Works. Their deaths could have, and should have, been avoided with proper safety training and regulations to protect workers in extreme weather.

It is necessary for the Baltimore City Council to improve the safety conditions of workers. Much like the community in Memphis in 1968, the Baltimore community needs to rally around sanitation workers to pressure the Baltimore City Council to act.

As pointed out by community members who attended the film screening, Dr. King Jr. fought for worker power and against racism, not some broad ideal of “freedom” as often is asserted in the mainstream press. To honor his legacy, community members

in Baltimore can fight for material change for city workers.

Other issues in the film that are present today are the suppression of unions and the plantation mentality. Workers at Amazon and Starbucks are striking for fair wages and safer working conditions.

However, much like Mayor Loeb refused to negotiate these demands, leadership at these corporations refuse to work with unions to increase wages and improve worker safety.

Inmates fighting California wildfires

The plantation mentality plagues incarcerated workers, with inmates fighting wildfires in California. Inmates fighting fires face dangerous conditions while earning between \$5.80 and \$10.42 per day. This labor is only possible due to an exception in the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery: “except as punishment for crime.”

The struggle in Memphis for workers’ rights and civil rights never truly ended. Since that time, oppressed peoples and workers across the United States have fought the capitalist state to achieve basic human rights. As this struggle goes forward, we must remember the legacy of the Memphis sanitation workers and Dr. King’s fight against racism and capitalism.



Senate Democrats capitulate to racism on anti-immigrant bill

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Thirty-three Democratic Senators — led by Charles Schumer — voted on Dec. 9 to push along the anti-immigrant Laken Riley Act, virtually guaranteeing its eventual passage. This legislation will allow the deportation of immigrants, including children, who are merely charged — not convicted — of shoplifting and other minor offenses.

Whatever happened to the “presumption of innocence”? Weren’t we told in grade school that defendants in the United States were considered innocent until proven guilty?

The bill is demagogically named after Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student in Athens, Georgia, who was killed last year while jogging. José Antonio Ibarra, an immigrant from Venezuela, was convicted of killing Riley.

Bigots in Congress and on Fox News are cynically using this tragedy to smear

millions of immigrants as dangerous criminals. It's no different than saying if a Black, Latinx, Muslim, Jewish, or transgender person was guilty of a crime, then all of "them" should be punished.

Georgia politician Mike Collins sponsored this hate legislation in the House of Representatives. He had earlier introduced his self-named [RAZOR Act](#) to allow Texas to string concertina wire in the Rio Grande so migrant children and their families could be cut to shreds.

The [NAACP](#) has demanded Collins be investigated. He praised white fraternity students at the University of Mississippi who racially taunted and made ape-like gestures towards a Black woman who was protesting the genocide of Palestinians.

One of the loudest congressional backers of the Laken Riley Act is Collins' fellow Georgian, Marjorie Taylor Greene. This nutjob claimed that the 2018 California forest fires were caused by space lasers, including those allegedly manipulated by Jewish people.

Both Collins and Greene were silent when another jogger, the 25-year-old Black man Ahmaud Arbery, was murdered in 2020 while jogging near Brunswick, Georgia. The local district attorney advised that no arrests be made. It took people mobilizing in Georgia and across the country that Arbery's killers were brought to trial and convicted.

To mock the Black Lives Matter movement, Greene wears a t-shirt emblazoned "Say Her Name: Laken Riley." Tens of thousands of people wore t-shirts saying, "Say Her Name: Breonna Taylor," in memory of the Black woman who was killed in 2020 by Louisville, Kentucky, police.

[Greene](#) hates the Black Lives Matter movement and compares it to the Ku Klux Klan.

Cowardly retreat before Trump

Last year, Senate Democrats stopped this legislation using the Senate's filibuster rule, which requires the approval of 60 senators before a bill can be voted on. But following Trump's narrow victory, the vast majority of Democratic senators are jumping on the anti-immigrant train.

Only eight Democrats and independent Bernie Sanders refused to go along.

Democratic Senators John Fetterman from Pennsylvania and Rubén Gallego from Arizona are among the sponsors of the Laken Riley Act.

These politicians are not only craven but also shortsighted. In a country of 340 million people, Trump won by less than 2.3 million votes. Just the drop-off in Democratic votes in California — 1.8 million — accounted for most of that.

Trump's nutty and dangerous cabinet picks are already provoking derision. So are his schemes to invade Greenland, Panama, Mexico, Canada, and maybe — with his sidekick Elon Musk — Mars.

The 33 Senate Democrats allowing this anti-immigrant bill to proceed are like those who supported the Iraq war over 20 years ago. Half of the Democratic Senators — including Joe Biden, Charles Schumer, John Kerry, and Hillary Clinton — voted for the 2002 resolution to allow George W. Bush to wage his bloody war.

Kerry's vote didn't do him any good when he ran for president in 2004. Neither did it help Clinton in 2016.

Echoes of Dred Scott

In its notorious 1857 Dred Scott decision, the U.S. Supreme Court declared Black people had no rights that white people need to respect. The Laken Riley Act tells

cops and judges that immigrants have no rights at all.

Any bigot with a badge will be able to racially profile someone who they think “looks funny” and claim they stole a candy bar. In some states, a person can be accused of shoplifting without even attempting to leave a store.

That’s what happened to Frank Wills, the Black security guard who caught Richard Nixon’s Watergate burglars on June 17, 1972. In 1979, Wills was accused of hiding a pair of sneakers in a bag. South Carolina authorities jailed the Watergate hero in revenge for helping to drive Nixon out of the White House.

The congressional steamroller to pass the Laken Riley Act goes hand-in-hand with Trump’s vow to take away citizenship from children born in the United States whose parents are immigrants.

Trump’s proposed action — which he promises to accomplish by

executive order — would repeal the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, overturning the Dred Scott decision. Along with the 13th and 15th amendments, it was written in the blood of hundreds of thousands of members of the Union Army and Navy who defeated the slave masters.

States rights vs. human rights

The [Laken Riley bill](#) would also allow state attorney generals to sue the federal government on immigration matters. It gives them the right to take the State Department to court if visas are issued to people from countries that don’t allow deportations from the United States.

This not only echoes Trump’s ban on immigrants from Muslim countries. It also recalls the old Confederate slogan of “states’ rights.” Immigration, like tariffs, was always a matter for the federal government.

Ronald Reagan began his 1980 presidential campaign by calling for “states’ rights” in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Reagan — who called the people of Watts, California, “mad dogs” — did so where the martyrs James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were murdered by the Mississippi Ku Klux Klan.

Any actions by state officials, like the corrupt homophobic and transphobic bigot Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, concerning immigration recalls the repudiated doctrine of “interposition.”

Segregationists claimed that state legislatures had the right to overturn U.S. Supreme Court decisions. That’s what the [Mississippi legislature did in 1956](#) by unanimously declaring invalid the Supreme Court’s Brown vs. Board decision that banned school segregation.

The decision of most Senate Democrats to turn their backs on immigrant rights shows that we have to organize ourselves. The demonstrations scheduled in Washington, D.C., and across the country against Trump’s inauguration are a good start.

The labor movement should call a new Solidarity Day against Trump. We need to continue to struggle to stop the genocide in Gaza and the war against poor people here in the United States.



ILWU Local 10 pensioner and labor activist Howard Keylor passes

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Howard Keylor, a longtime Local 10 member and longshore activist, died on October

5, 2024, shortly before his 99th birthday. In 1953, he started as a casual in the port of Stockton. He became a registered longshoreman in 1959 and transferred to Local 10 in 1970.

He strongly upheld ILWU's Ten Guiding Principles that state: "Labor solidarity means just that. Unions have to accept the fact that the solidarity of labor stands above all else, including even the so-called sanctity of the contract. We cannot adopt for ourselves the policies of union leaders who insist that because they have a contract, their members are compelled to perform work even behind a picket line. Every picket line must be respected as though it were our Own."

Howard was one of the last living ILWU members who fought in WW II. He was in the army in Okinawa when the U.S. dropped atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed a quarter of a million people, mainly civilians. It was those nuclear weapons of mass destruction that turned him against war and led him to become dedicated to fighting for the rights of oppressed people around the world. Born in rural Ohio, Howard attended a one-room country schoolhouse yet amazingly became a member of the scholarly National Honor Society. Living in Appalachia not far from the mines, Howard developed a strong sense of the need for solidarity and building working-class power.

In Stockton, with the support of his wife Evangelina, he committed himself to working with the legendary Filipino farm worker leader Larry Itliong in the 1948 asparagus strike. In ILWU Local 10, Howard was a member of the Militant Caucus, a class struggle group in longshore and warehouse, which organized solidarity actions protesting the shipment of military cargo to the junta in Chile in 1974 and in 1980 against the Salvadoran military dictatorship. The Militant Caucus organized a strike of undocumented ILWU Local 6 warehouse workers in Union City who had to defend against police attacks.

They also participated in protests against the Nazi rally at San Francisco City Hall in

1980 and supported the demonstration in 1984 to tear down the Confederate flag hanging in Civic Center Plaza, reported by the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper. Howard was also a member of the Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Transport Workers Solidarity Committee, whose members organized solidarity actions for Liverpool dockers in 1977 and the Charleston, South Carolina, longshore workers in 2000.

Brother Keylor was also active in the defense of Mumia Abu-Jamal. He suggested that Abu-Jamal's attorney use the famous labor case of Sacco and Vanzetti to defend Mumia. They were working-class activists who were convicted of murder in 1921 and eventually executed despite a massive campaign by labor activists across the country who proclaimed their innocence and noted their lack of fair trial.

In 1999, Howard participated in the Local 10 contingent, leading a march of 25,000 protesters through the streets of San Francisco chanting, "An Injury to One is an Injury to All," while all ILWU ports were shut down in support of Mumia.

The most significant action by Howard was the 1984 action against the Nedlloyd Kimberley, a ship from South Africa. While the apartheid regime was shooting down striking miners and arresting their leaders, Howard raised a motion at the Local 10 membership meeting to hit the

next ship that docked in San Francisco from South Africa. Leo Robinson, leader of the "Southern African Liberation Support Committee," amended it to strike the South African cargo only. It passed unanimously. The rest was history.

Nelson Mandela, on his world tour in 1990 at the Oakland Coliseum, commended Local 10 for being on the front lines in the Bay Area of the international struggle against apartheid. Last year, the dockworkers union in Durban, South Africa, represented by the Revolutionary Trade Union of South Africa (RETUSA), invited Local 10 to send a delegation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their strike that

led to a General Strike against apartheid. The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa and the Liverpool dockers have sent condolences to Howard's family, to Local 10, and to his comrades.

A memorial service will be held for Brother Keylor on January 25, 2025, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Local 10, 400 North Point Street, San Francisco in the Henry Schmidt Room.

-Jack Heyman, #8780
Local 10 Pensioner



PFLP on ceasefire agreement and ongoing zionist massacres

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Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine:

Gaza Resists the zionist Holocaust While Netanyahu Drowns in His Failures and Defeats

The brutal massacres committed by the zionist enemy in recent hours (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/71567>) across wide areas (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/71561>), resulting in the martyrdom of dozens of innocent civilians — most of them women and children — are a living testament to the ongoing zionist holocaust in Gaza, carried out with U.S. support and partnership.

The extensive zionist escalation (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/71567>) witnessed in the past hours reaffirms that this enemy knows only the language of blood and genocide. It reflects a blatant disregard for all humanitarian values and underscores, once again, the urgency of stopping this holocaust against our people and denying the occupation further cover to continue its crimes.

Amid this continued aggression, Palestinian resistance factions are intensifying their efforts to halt this aggression as soon as possible. War criminal Benjamin Netanyahu, mired in his failures and defeats, will ultimately find himself and his fascist government compelled to agree to a ceasefire (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/71612>) after their catastrophic failure to achieve any of their objectives (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/71528>) beyond inflicting death and destruction on unarmed civilians.

We reaffirm that the blood of the martyrs will not be spilled in vain, and the response will come through greater resilience, escalating resistance, and broadening its scope.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
Central Media Department
January 15, 2025

<https://t.me/PalestineResist/71613>



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January 20, 2025
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¡Puerto Rico No se Vende, se Defiende!

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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

Condemn the New Orleans assault No attack on immigrants U.S. history of exploiting tragedy

By Workers Voice Socialist Movement
in New Orleans, Louisiana

**Repression and anti-immigrant
scapegoating**

New Orleans, Jan. 1 – Our condolences go out to the families and friends of those killed and injured in the horrific attack in the French Quarter of New Orleans. We condemn it completely.

We also call upon all people of conscience to be skeptical of the official FBI account. We especially warn against this attack being used as a pretext for the persecution of Middle Eastern people, Muslims, and immigrants, or to repress protests against Israeli genocide of Palestinians, or to justify martial law enforced by National Guard troops as requested by Governor Jeff Landry.

Bush admitted Iraq not responsible for WTC attack

We can see that the statements of Trump, Landry, local officials, and of the media and Congress represent yet another dangerous attempt to use a tragedy to carry out violence and harassment. Trump is already using this to carry out his vicious campaign of mass deportation, falsely suggesting that the alleged killer is an undocumented immigrant.

Today let us remember the words of Ryan Amundson, who lost family members on 9/11: "The loss of our family members has been used to justify war in Iraq, which has nothing to do with September 11. That's why we are here ... to say, not in my name, not in our name."

Continued on page 2

Gen Z has nowhere to go
The erosion of third spaces in the U.S.



'FUNDING TERROR ABROAD'

Stop the genocide in Palestine!
Arms Embargo Now!

Gaza under siege:
Kamal Adwan Hospital torched



The Panama Canal belongs to Panama!

Farewell to a revolutionary:
Rochester's Lydia Bayoneta

¡Rudy Pisani Presente!

¡Sally O'Brien Presente!

Lydia Bayoneta
confronting the KKK
at Houston Women's
Conference in 1977



Against fascism: Reclaiming **POPULISM**'s legacy for today's class struggle

The Wilmington Massacre



- Condemn the New Orleans assault: No attack on immigrants
- Outrage in New Orleans: 'Biden can't condemn terror while funding it abroad'
- Justice for Robert Brooks!
- The erosion of third spaces in the U.S.
- GAZA UNDER SIEGE: Kamal Adwan Hospital torched, patients and staff forced out
- A new year of struggle for Palestine in NYC
- Stop the genocide in Palestine! Arms embargo now!
- Never forget that thousands of Black workers died building the Panama Canal
- The Wilmington Massacre of 1898
- Farewell to a revolutionary: Rochester's Lydia Bayoneta
- Fernando González, President of ICAP: 'With Trump we can expect even more aggression'
- Rudy Pisani - A life well lived
- Sally O'Brien Solidarity between a Woman and an Island
- Sally O'Brien solidaridad entre una mujer y una Isla
- ¡Puerto Rico No se Vende, se Defiende!



Annexation redux: Trump's expansionist threats unmask longstanding policy

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In the past few weeks, we've seen a buzz in the corporate media about President-elect Donald Trump's inflammatory rhetoric on annexation.

As Trump approaches his second term in office, he has ramped up his talk about territorial expansion. His rhetoric has thus far targeted Canada, Mexico, Panama, and, most prominently, Greenland.

Trump undoubtedly represents a sector of the U.S. ruling class that believes in more overt and public U.S. domination of the Western Hemisphere. That said, it should be made clear that the U.S. ruling class has had its eyes and hands on all the places Trump targeted for decades.

Trump's language marks a bit of an increase in intensity, but the policies he talks about aren't exactly fresh objectives for the U.S. ruling class. Since the early 19th century, the United States has maintained a consistent policy of expanding its interests, whether it be economically, territorially, or militarily.

During the colonial period, the U.S. used a settler movement driven by [manifest destiny](#) propaganda to expand West into Indigenous and Mexican land. Eventually, the military backed that settler movement. Parasitic ruling class families, such as the Vanderbilts and the Rockefellers, followed the settler and military expansion with massive investments in the stolen land.

The wealth plundered from the manifest destiny period (colonization) allowed the U.S. to take steps toward becoming an imperial power. It is in this form, the imperialist form, that the U.S. has spread its fingers around the world. Donald Trump simply aims to maintain that policy. This rhetoric is a minor unmasking of reality. The history of Mexico, Canada, Panama, and Greenland bears out this point.

U.S. King in North America

After World War II, the U.S. asserted itself as the dominant imperialist power after the widespread destruction in Europe and East Asia. As part of its newfound hegemony, the U.S. began exercising increased economic and diplomatic power against its neighbors.

In many ways, Canada has been a territory of the U.S. for decades. The two countries' economies, particularly their [supply chains](#), are completely integrated. Billions of dollars in goods and services and hundreds of thousands of people cross the U.S.-Canadian border every year.

However, all this business is done on terms set by the United States through the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, now rebranded as the U.S.-Mexico-Canada

Agreement. On top of economic control, the United States military and diplomatic agendas are almost always matched by Canada.

The Canadian military joined the U.S. military in its wars on Korea, Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Afghanistan. In fact, the militaries work so closely that Canadian military brass floated the idea of [complete integration](#) into the U.S. military in 2017. Even in the current period, Canada has followed the United States' example, pumping [\\$9 billion](#) into NATO's war in Ukraine.

For as much influence the U.S. has exercised in Canada, it pales in comparison to the ravages of imperialism enacted upon Mexico and its people. U.S. dominance over Mexico began with the theft of over 55% of Mexico's territory in 1848, not including Texas. At the end of its provoked war against Mexico, the U.S. asserted horrendous terms on Mexico through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

In the 20th century, Mexico was held hostage by U.S. corporations that operated maquiladoras in the northern provinces and paid no taxes to the Mexican government. These same mega corporations scuttle any attempt in Mexico to empower workers or maintain Mexico's resources for the Mexican people.

As bad as NAFTA was for Canada, it was far worse for Mexico. NAFTA completely eliminated Mexican tariffs on imported U.S. goods, allowing U.S. corporations to flood Mexico with consumer goods.

In terms of security and foreign policy, the Mexican government has long been forced to adhere to U.S. provocations against other Latin American countries. Further, the U.S. has forced Mexico to spend billions on a futile "war on drugs." U.S. imperialism has used the leverage of foreign aid money and IMF loans as a trump card over any potential Mexican attempts to nationalize its resources or assert independence from the U.S.

All this is to say, Trump's rhetoric isn't a new escalation against neighbors and allies. It is simply the U.S. ruling class demanding more in tribute payments from countries that it already dominates.

Panama intervention: nothing new

The government of Panama has long been forced to serve U.S. interests regarding the administration and control of the Panama Canal. After the initial construction of the canal finished in 1903, the Panamanian government at the time, under severe diplomatic pressure, signed a treaty giving control of the Panama Canal to the U.S. in perpetuity. The U.S. exercised complete control of the Panama Canal Zone until 1979, when President Jimmy Carter signed a treaty transferring control of the Canal to Panama.

At the time, the entire right-wing establishment condemned Carter's move and has condemned his decision to this day. Just 12 years later, the U.S. [invaded Panama](#) to reassert its influence. The U.S. military murdered thousands of people and left tens of thousands homeless. However, its goals were achieved, and it has maintained a strong presence in Panama to this very day.

Greenland: rhetoric vs. reality

2019 was the first time Donald Trump raised a possible annexation or purchase of Greenland. However, this was not the first time the U.S. had discussed the possibility of acquiring Greenland from Denmark.

Greenland has long been a target of interest for the U.S. imperialists. The U.S. government has attempted to acquire Greenland four times: in 1867, 1910, 1946, and 2019. Although the imperialists' reasons for desiring Greenland have changed since its first proposal in 1867, they have always revolved around capitalist economic interests and control of the Western Hemisphere.

It is important to note that Trump's rants about Greenland should not be viewed as a violation of Denmark's sovereignty but as a violation of the already colonized people of Greenland. The vast majority of Greenland's population are Inuit, not Danish. Denmark violated the Inuit peoples' right to self-determination when it seized Greenland. The United States' desire to control Greenland is about its own interests, not a conflict with Denmark, which is considered the most pro-U.S. member of the European Union.

In the mid-19th century, the U.S. feared an attack from a stronger European country; thus, it sought Greenland as a potential strategic point of naval defense. In 1910, Greenland was a pawn in the United States' attempt to take control of the lucrative "Danish West Indies." Eventually, the U.S. was successful and purchased what is now called the "U.S. Virgin Islands" in 1917.

Nonetheless, the U.S. never gave up on Greenland. In 1946, the U.S. military was behind another major push to purchase Greenland. This proposal came after five years of U.S. military rule in Greenland during World War II. The U.S. military invaded Greenland after Denmark fell to Nazi Germany in 1941, stating that it aimed to protect Greenland from German aggression. In reality, the U.S. reason for invading in 1941 was the same as its reason for the purchase proposal in 1946: to establish a strong U.S.-led NATO jump-off point for an attack against the Soviet Union.

Even though the U.S. never formally acquired Greenland, it has maintained a significant military presence there since 1951. So, why is Trump focused on Greenland now? Well, some of the reasons are the same as they always have been. Greenland serves as a strategic military point against Russia for naval and air forces. However, the ruling class' interest in Greenland goes far beyond military dominance. Greenland has two massive deposits of [rare earth elements](#) that are used to enhance various types of [electronics](#), ranging from military equipment to domestic

telecommunications.

For decades, the U.S. has depended on China to import rare earth elements. Considering the escalating trade war against China, this is no longer acceptable. Trump wants to ensure access to Greenland's minerals and deny Chinese investment in those same minerals. The complete annexation of Greenland would undoubtedly achieve that end to some extent. However, Trump doesn't need to invade or purchase Greenland to achieve this.

It is far more likely that Trump is using this rhetoric to leverage a deal with Denmark that ensures the U.S. mining industry's access to Greenland's rare earth minerals and that China will be cut out completely. Nonetheless, the result is the same: the U.S. imperialists tightening their already strong grip on the Western hemisphere economically and strategically.

