The workers’ struggle has no borders

In the midst of the many important workers’ struggles we are waging, it is critical that May Day participants raise the banner of “U.S. Hands Off Venezuela” and demand an end to Washington’s war on the Venezuelan people. The danger of war is greater than ever! U.S. Vice President Mike Pence has told the United Nations Security Council that “all options are on the table,” which means not only sanctions, which are a form of war, but invasion, protection, and more.

A defeat for Venezuela would be a serious blow for workers’ struggles inside the U.S. and around the world. May Day is about solidarity — if the reactionaries succeed at dismembering the gains of the Bolivarian revolution, it will strengthen the billionaires who are robbing us right here at home. It will have a negative impact on the Cuban revolution and on all progressive people around the world.

We cannot forget the example that Venezuela has set for workers everywhere. (See the centerfold on the facts about Venezuela.) What is the real crime of the Bolivarian revolution? First and foremost, it is using their oil wealth to benefit the poor and, equally important, they are fighting for “workers’ power.”

Workers’ power! is that not what working people need and deserve, from the courageous striking teachers across America that have been treated with contempt and misogyny are not new, it is impossible under capitalism. Production is geared to making profits, and every other consideration is sacrificed to this underlying motive. Also, capitalist rivalries and the need for markets inevitably lead to war, which is the greatest destroyer and threatens the very foundations of life on this planet.

Socialism is an economic system that puts human needs and cooperation before profits, a system where workers can build genuine solidarity and work together to solve the problems we face daily.

Trump declared a war on socialism with his remarks that “the United States will never become a socialist country” during his State of the Union speech. This will likely be a theme in the upcoming 2020 elections. It is a challenge that we should not shy away from: capitalism and imperialism is the system of the bosses, bankers and ruling elite. Socialism is the system of the workers, the poor, the youth and all who are oppressed. Let’s fight for socialism!

End capitalism, fight for socialism

It is no secret to millions of workers around the globe — including right here in the U.S., particularly young people and especially those who have been subjected to imperialist wars and destruction, from Palestine to the Philippines — that capitalism is a dead-end system. Youth globally are protesting the fact that this profit-driven system is on the brink of literally destroying the planet, while migrants at the border are fleeing the worst possible repression.

Trump is capitalism’s ugly face. While white supremacy, hatred for migrants and immigrants, bigotry against LGBTQ+ people, sexism and misogyny are not new, it is undeniable that the division and violence being whipped up are a greater threat than ever.

Capitalism won’t deliver decent paying jobs, health care or education. It won’t limit its profits so the vast majority of the world’s people have dignity and a decent life. As the world economy becomes more complex, it becomes ever clearer that humanity must plan production to preserve jobs, food and housing, and to put an end to the ravages of climate change.

But overall planning is impossible under capitalism. Production is geared to making profits, and every other consideration is sacrificed to this underlying motive. Also, capitalist rivalries and the need for markets inevitably lead to war, which is the greatest destroyer and threatens the very foundations of life on this planet.

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The Chinese ambassador to Chile, Xu Bu, blasted U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo over recent accusations that Chinese investments are "corruptive, giving rise to terrorism, and eroding good governance."

Xu said that “Pompeo has lost his mind a long time ago.”

“The United States has not made substantial contributions to the economic development of Latin American countries but accuses China of its economic and trade cooperation with Latin America and its investment in Latin America,” he said.

Xu then referenced U.S. military, its military interventions and sanctions in Latin America.

"Historically, the United States has treated Latin America as its ‘backyard,’ imposing frequent military interventions or sanctions,” he said, adding that “there are numerous examples, including the relentless blockade imposed by the U.S. against Cuba for more than half a century, President Trump’s construction of a separation wall along the border between the U.S. and Mexico, and Washington’s support of the military assistance provided by the U.S. to Haiti and Central American countries.”

More at tinyurl.com/y6ijab6j

LATIN AMERICA 'Pompeo – lost his mind'
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GERMANY Amazon strike

Workers at four Amazon centers in Germany went on strike April 15, the latest action in a campaign for better pay and conditions.

Labor union Verdi said workers at warehouses in Rheinberg, Werne, Bad Hesford and Kohnhagen had stopped work, with others potentially joining over the Easter holiday period.

Verdi has organized previous strikes at Amazon in Germany since 2013 to press demands for the retailer to raise pay for warehouse workers in accordance with collective bargaining agreements in Germany’s mail order and retail industry.

PALESTINE Prisoners’ hunger strike

Hundreds of Palestinian prisoners are taking part in a mass hunger strike in several Israeli prisons.

On April 8, 400 Palestinians launched an open-ended mass hunger strike with a long list of demands, including improved medical care and conditions, more family visits and access to outside telephones, among others.

Prisoners are also calling for an end to repressive measures imposed by the Israeli public security minister, Gilad Erdan, to worsen conditions for detained Palestinians and reduce their standard of living to “the minimum required,” including imposing water rations.

More at tinyurl.com/y5l8ovuq
AES's coal ash pollutes Puerto Rico

There are thousands of Amazon warehouse workers laboring under a roof of the logistics supply chain, making the power potential enormous. The “just-in-time” and “just-in-location” methods that now dominate the supply chain can give us the upper hand. While technology has created a global working class, it has also opened up the means to organize and communicate worker-to-worker on a worldwide basis.

That process is beginning. Amazon is unionized in many of the European countries, and workers’ strikes and struggles crossed borders in this past year. On Nov. 23, 2018, “Black Friday,” Amazon warehouse workers on strike and held protests in Germany, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom under the slogan of “We are not robots.” Amazon workers from Poland have organized with German workers. Following are modest proposals:

National Union Coordinating Council for Amazon Workers

There are many unions, which to their credit are looking at unionizing or representing Amazon workers, including the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, the Teamsters, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, the Service Employees International Union, the American Postal Workers Union and the Communication Workers of America. (There may be others that I have left off or some on this list who are not currently actively engaged.)

What’s needed is a “National Union Coordinating Council” that includes all interested unions and the AFL-CIO leadership. Sectoral interests have to be set aside so that those who are committed can share resources, build adequate funds, engage in public campaigns and work jointly both nationally and locally.

An organized Amazon could revitalize the labor movement and reverberate in all sectors, and no one union, whatever its size, can do it alone. Or it’s a big job for those of us who are community members and Amazon workers to convince the unions, but it’s an important challenge.

Organize ‘Workers & Community Unions’

While the traditional trade union movement remains an important tool for workers, we should look for every avenue possible to advance workers’ power.

The Somali workers demanding justice in Shakopee, Minn., outside of Minneapolis, are an exciting example. Through the Atwood Center, which represents East African workers, and with community support, they staged protests and successfully forced concessions from Amazon. The workers and the Center have led several protests and more recently, on March 10, 2019, a three-hour strike of workers in the stow department.

This was preceded by campaigns in Seattle, which set the stage for public pressure, most notably by Bernie Sanders, that led to Bezos’ announcement of raising wages to $15 an hour. Recently, widespread community protests in New York City against the building of a second Amazon headquarters forced Bezos to cancel the plans. Protests were aimed at making Amazon accountable to the community.

What are some of the concrete challenges in the Baltimore warehouse? Why would a community approach that is aimed at these workers be helpful, maybe more than any other at this point?

First, Amazon is largely a revolving door when it comes to workers; thousands of its workers are pressured, cycled back and forth between the seasonal and weekly work. You can ask almost any working-class family in Baltimore, and they have a relative or know someone who has worked at Amazon or is working there now.

This is a big job for those of us who are committed to the working class.

Unionization takes a lot of mistakes that we will all make, of that I’m sure, but there is no simple road to changing the world and no way to do it without the working class.

The series “Eyewitness Amazon” was written by Sharon Black, a former Amazon worker. The series began while the author was working but the conclusion was written after she was forced to resign as a result of several write-ups for failure to make production quotas in the “picker department.”

Amazon worker tells all

An Amazon worker shows the inside of this new development in capitalism’s exploitation of workers. Read her story and suggestions for tackling the giant. Series to be published in booklet.

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By Sharon Black, former Amazon worker

There are few things that illustrate the ethical bankruptcy of capitalism as much as the destruction of someone’s amassed wealth. Bezos is the richest person in the world, raking in $236 million a minute, a net worth of $533 billion. His world empire is built on the backs of a brutally exploited workforce, wrested from the communities in which Amazon operates.

To make matters worse, giants like Walmart, FedEx and Amazon seem to be doing business with the private sector. More and more, giant corporations are organizing working-class workers. If autoworkers could organize with German workers, if a community in Detroit, auto bosses threaten autoworkers. If autoworkers could organize, more would be forced to resign as a result of several write-ups for failure to make production quotas in the “picker department.”

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Four die at Pine Ridge reservation

Continued from page 1

as “Rez Cross” — was in high gear, and other places have also been dev-

In the midst of the flooding crisis,

On April 11, British police dragged

while campaigning for president,

In the U.S., corporations do not want

Yulín Cruz, referenced the situation

PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

In the U.S., corporations do not want

The energy corporations have di-

The charges listed in the extradi-

fuels directly link to the flooding,

frightened back. In Canada, the U.S.

While the corporate media and

Meanwhile, Assange is being

In the midst of the flooding crisis,

that Assange was in custody, the U.S. Justice Department unsealed

In the U.S., corporations do not want

co-operate to build the movement in the U.S.

First Amendment right of jour-

The energy corporations have di-

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La verdad sobre el petróleo y la guerra de Trump contra VENEZUELA

El Presidente Maduro fue elegido por la mayoría del pueblo venezolano. Recibió más de 6.2 millones de votos, un porcentaje más alto del total de votantes elegibles que los que votaron por Donald Trump.

Maduro es conductor unionado de bus

La revolución Bolivariana subió el pago mínimo como también subió el nivel de vida de los pobres y la clase trabajadora de Venezuela.

El pago mínimo en los EE.UU no ha subido de $7.25 desde el 24 de julio de 2009. Trump cerró el gobierno porque no le aprobaron el dinero para el muro, agitando así el racismo y dividiéndonos. Amenazó con quitar cupones de alimentos y viviendas para personas mayores y pobres, y puso en peligro el bienestar de más de 800,000 trabajadores federales.

¿Quiénes han salido a las calles por el presidente Maduro?
La mayoría son de clase trabajadora, negros, e indígenas

¿Quiénes han salido a las calles por el presidente elegido por los Estados Unidos, Juan Guaidó? En su mayoría los venezolanos más acomodados de la clase media y ricos.

Trump es un empresario billonario

Trump fue elegido por el colegio electoral, un artefacto de la era de la esclavitud. El no ganó la mayoría del voto. Mas bien, el recibió 3 millones de votos menos que Clinton.

Estos son sólo algunos de los hechos! Lo que todos deben de saber es que los imperialistas de los EE.UU, los grandes banqueros y empresarios, han estado librando una guerra encubierta y no tan encubierta contra Venezuela, que ha incluido sanciones económicas impuestas por los Estados Unidos que cuestan a Venezuela 30 millones de dólares por día, protestas callejeras violentas, incluyendo el intento de asesinato del presidente Maduro, mentiras por la prensa, la incautación ilegal de activos petroleros y mucho más.

Bajo toda esta presión, la revolución bolivariana ha seguido en pie. Esto hace que la sugerencia de una agresión militar abierta (una guerra) sea muy peligrosa. Una guerra que como el estúpido muro de Trump nos costaría billones y mucho más importante nos llevaría a la muerte y destrucción de innumerables personas inocentes.

Sources: BBC, CBSnews, WorldAtlas and TeleSUR
Get the Facts on Big Oil and Trump’s War on VENEZUELA

President Maduro was elected by the majority of the Venezuelan people. He received over 6.2 million votes, a higher percentage of the total eligible voters than Donald Trump.

Maduro was a union bus driver

The Bolivarian revolution raised the minimum wage along with raising the living standards of Venezuela’s poor and working class.

No increase in the U.S. minimum wage of $7.25 since July 24, 2009. Trump shut down the government over a wall to whip up racism and divide us. He threatened food stamps, housing for seniors and the poor, and endangered the well being of 800,000+ federal workers.

Who are in the streets for Maduro? Mostly working class Venezuelans the majority who are Black, Brown, and Indigenous.

Who are in the streets for the U.S. hand-picked (self-appointed) president, Juan Guaido? Well-heeled, mostly better off middle class and wealthy Venezuelans.

Trump was elected through the electoral college, an artifact from the era of slavery. He did not win the majority votes, in fact, he received 3 million less votes than Clinton.

U.S. bosses & billionaires want to control and profit from these resources with no concern for workers and poor people either in Venezuela or the United States.

These are just a few of the facts! What everyone should know is that U.S. imperialists, the big bankers and business owners, have been waging a covert and not so covert war against Venezuela which has included U.S. imposed economic sanctions costing Venezuela 30 million dollars per day, violent street protests including the attempted assassination of President Maduro, media lies, the illegal seizure of oil assets and much more.

Under all of this pressure, the Bolivarian revolution has continued to stand. This makes the suggestion of open military aggression (a war) very dangerous. A war that just like Trump’s stupid wall will cost us billions and more importantly will lead to the death and destruction of countless working class lives.
Understanding gov’t overturns in North Africa: What is imperialism’s role?

By John Parker and Greg Butterfield

In early April, longstanding govern-ments were toppled by protest movements and military coups in the North African countries of Algeria and Sudan. The contradictions of these governments are now being explicitly linked to the larger questions like: What is Washington’s role? Do these changes benefit the oppressed workers of the region, or shift the balance of power further in favor of the U.S. and other imperialist countries? Is there an increased danger of Western intervention, military or otherwise? Asking these questions does not deny a people’s right to self-determination, but it must be determined if these protests are a reflection of that pursuit or an attempt by bour-geois forces at denying self-determi-nation in favor of imperialism.

A second Arab Spring? Corporate media, including the Washington Post, have asked if the protests in Sudan and Algeria herald the beginning of a second “Arab Spring.” But the events commonly grouped under that term were very contradictory.

In Egypt and Tunisia, the Arab Spring described genuine popular uprisings against regimes aligned with global imperialism and the Israeli settler state. But in both Algeria and Sudan, the same sloganed served as a cover for counterrevolutionary, pro-imperialist movements, in which Washington and Moscow also had interests in overthrowing governments resistant to U.S. domination.

It is not clear that when the Post, the New York Times, the Guardian, CNN and their like wish for a new Arab Spring, it is the latter version they have in mind. Even as events unfold in Sudan and Algeria, a war between rival armies to dominate Libya’s capital, Tripoli, is intensifying — nearly eight years since NATO’s destruction of the country’s central government. The U.S. now has three military bases in Libya.

There are many examples of so-called “color revolutions” — from Yugoslavia in 2000 to Ukraine in 2013, to the ongoing counterrevolutionary attempts in Venezuela today — in which anti-people forces, aided by the U.S., promote uprisings by popular or anti-imperialist groups under that term were very contradictory.

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Imperialist war by other means

By John Parker

Kwame Nkrumah warned that neocolonialism was the most devastating legacy of imperialism.

Nkrumah, the first prime minister and president of Ghana, led that country’s independence from Brit-
ain. He and the African independence movement in general in the late 1950s and 1960s analyzed the nature of neocolonialism’s use of neo-
colonialism to express this relatively new form of exploitation in Africa.

Looking at the endless U.S. wars, from Afghanistan to Syria and now threatening Zimbabwe, Nkrumah’s warnings seem obvious. What is not so obvious is the devastation caused by sanctions — war by other means.

U.S. sanctions are being rapidly fired at various targets by the Trump administration, in both expanded and expanding sanctions from the Obama administration. On April 17, National Security Advisor John Bolton announced new U.S. sanctions against Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua with racist disregard for diplomacy or re-
spect for sovereignty and independence of those countries as “the three stooges of socialism and communism.”

Before that, on April 5, the U.S. De-
partment of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control announced additional sanctions targeting the oil sector of the Venezuelan econo-

my for the “violation” by shipping companies supplying Venezuelan oil to the Cuba. The sanctions also target 34 entities and individuals identified as helping Cuba evade U.S. sanctions.

The imperialism and sanctions claim that they are trying to stop the humanitar-
ian aid sent to the Venezuela by the governments of Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro. However, extreme poverty was reduced by 50 percent in 10 years after the election of Hugo Chávez in 1998, and infant mortality rates decreased by 27 percent.

The bottom line is that sanctions are an integral part of the declared and undeclared wars of U.S. imper-

ialism, passed from one administration to the next — whether Dem-
ocratic or Republican.

Their purpose is to bring about poverty, illness, starvation and des-

peration, targeting the people to weaken resistance to economic and military occupation of their lands.

Zimbabwe: punishing land reform

The horror of sanctions continues with the Trump administration’s extension of sanctions on Zim-
babwe, announced March 4. Why? Be-
cause apparently Zimbabwe is an “unusual and extraordinary threat.”

Zimbabwe’s economy has been sabotaged by U.S. and British sanc-
tions since 2001, to punish its gov-
ernment for acknowledging the will of the people to take back land stolen by the minority white population that previously benefited from decades of colonialism and apartheid rule. The Zimbabwean Democratic and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA), a bi-
 partisan bill supported by Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden, attempted to cut off international loans and insti-
ute other economic sanctions.

In African Arguments, November 2018, Tendai Murisa and Shantha Bhatia write that since the land seizures, the landscape in Zim-
babwe has dramatically changed. Instead of 6,000 commercial farm-
ers, there are 3.5 million small-scale fam-
eries. Despite the fact that the U.S. imposed sanctions against Zimbabwe, there are an estimated 200,000 new small-scale farmers.

The concept is “everybody in, no
body out.” And that’s what they’ve been working on. That kind of unity has been the key to the Cuban Revolution being able to withstand the tremendous hardships imposed by the U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade.

It’s something that’s not easy to do, especially here in the U.S., where official, organized racism en-
volves itself with their differences with others. It’s okay to have differences. But we need to find what we agree on and fight for that, instead of recognizing a priority. Every issue that’s been raised here is everyone’s issue.

To a large extent, I think that’s what Nkrumah means by “freedom.” Talking about it, figuring it out and moving forward with that idea that we’re going to find what we can agree on and fight for it. And that what we can’t agree on, we’ll wait and deal with that another day.

On to building a revolutionary working-class country where the most oppressed are the leaders!
IHOP insults African American diners – then calls in the police!

We're asking people, if they're in the Atlanta area, help pack the courthouse on April 24th to support Renardo Lewis.

Justice for Renardo Lewis

IHOP ABOLISH RACIST POLICE!

Excerpts from the #Justice4Renardo interview on Struggle-La Lucha Radio. We're afraid, you know, like this is not my spouse. And it's because of that strength and that power that the rest of the community has been willing to come out and stand for her and stand for Renardo.

SLL: I wondered what you all thought people can do in regards to that.

Lizz Toledo: Well, we're asking people, number one, to call the DA's office and demand that he be released and that all charges be dropped. We're also asking people to call the local IHOP in Marietta and tell them to drop all charges and for them to call the DA and to ask the DA to drop all charges. Renardo has been in jail going on two weeks without work, without income.

SLL: He's in jail, and I understand there's no bond been set, and they plan on keeping him there until April 22nd.

Lubreeze Lewis: Well his court date is April 24th. And they have not given him a bond, because of the charges that he has. They said they're felony charges, so they have not given him a bond again trying to assassinate his character basically.

SLL: How do people get the number for the DA, and to watch the video and things like that? Is there a place, a website or somewhere folks can go to see that?

Lizz Toledo: Yeah, people can go to the Atlanta People's Power Assembly on Facebook at @tpeoplespower. We have the video posted there. We have the information regarding who to call the DA's office to demand that he be released and that all charges be dropped. Renardo has been in jail since April 22nd.

SLL: And what's the support? We really appreciate it.

Lizz Toledo: We're hoping people can do in regards to that.

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