



# ICE raids are union busting

## Workers' rights under attack

By Sharon Black

Aug. 8 — While the El Paso, Texas, community was still in mourning, deeply shaken and suffering from the racist mass murder, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched the largest single-state raid in U.S. history in Mississippi on seven poultry processing plants. Six hundred and eighty workers were rounded up and arrested.

This raid was timed to come on the first day of the school year, so that many children had to walk home, only to find their loved ones, their mothers and fathers, missing.

What is key for all workers to understand is that this raid was calculated payback for workers organizing, and it was aimed at the heart of the movement to unionize the South, which has historically been a cheap source of labor.

Two of the chicken processing plants operated by Koch Foods are organized by United Food and Commercial Workers Union. This same company recently paid out a \$3.75 million settlement as a result of a class action suit that charged Koch Foods with sexual harassment, discrimination based on national origin and race, and retaliation against Latinx workers.

The lawsuit, filed by workers at the Morton plant, said that supervisors touched and/or made sexually suggestive comments to Latinx women workers, hit workers and charged money for normal everyday work activities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration charged Koch Foods \$88,000 in penalties for safety violations that resulted in severe injuries at the Mississippi plant.

Koch Foods also exploited Black farmers in Mississippi. See the ProPublica article: The shadow of slavery, sharecropping and Jim Crow has left black farmers in an especially precarious position.

Peco Foods is another company that runs five Mississippi plants. Three — in Canton, Bay Springs and Sebastopol — were targeted by ICE agents.

Workers at the Peco Foods Sebastopol and Canton plants had filed safety complaints, which resulted in OSHA penalties. Peco settled a \$9,550 penalty in 2015 and then was investigated five more times. Workers suffered amputations and fractures.

Peco was also charged with violating the Fair Labor Standards Act by requiring workers to perform 'off the clock' work and denying overtime.

It took unbelievable courage for workers to stand up to these brutal conditions and the ICE raid was aimed at breaking their will and determination.

UFCW spokesperson Abraham White said: "Workers across this country are too scared to stand up

## 'Mississippi Goddam'



for their rights and to report wage theft, dangerous work conditions, and other workplace issues. We must act now to end this dangerous climate of fear."

Meatpacking still remains one of the most dangerous jobs, which has gotten worse with speedups introduced through increased automation. It's hard to describe the work environment to anyone who has never worked inside a food processing plant. Temperatures are cold or freezing depending on what is being produced; water and animal fat frequently make floors slippery and dangerous. Workers risk amputations and machine related injuries that leave lifetime scars.

Koch Foods hires about 13,000 workers in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee. The company headquarters is in Park Ridge, Ill. It supplies chicken to Walmart, Burger King, Kroger and Aldi markets.

The writer is a former UFCW food processing plant worker.

## ONLINE

### New Cold War vs China

The conflict between imperialist capitalism, headed by Washington, Wall Street and the Pentagon, and the Chinese socialist economic system, which has state-owned industry at its core and planned economic guidance, is becoming much sharper, and imperialism is growing more openly hostile.

U.S. imperialism's long-standing effort to overthrow socialism in China, Chinese capitalism notwithstanding, has been concealed beneath sugary bourgeois phrases about so-called "common interests" and "economic collaboration." But this kind of talk is coming to an end.

Report by Fred Goldstein at <https://tinyurl.com/NewColdWarAgainstChina>

### Behind the anti-China protests in Hong Kong

Class divisions have deepened dramatically in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's geographic proximity to mainland China has enabled its growth as a center for finance capital and a leader in global shipping. Hong Kong has among the highest percentage of billionaires in the world.

But the working class has sunk deeper into poverty with the elderly and children enduring the worst poverty rates.

Separating Hong Kong from China has been a focus of an imperialist campaign since the 1997 repatriation.

Report by Scott Scheffer at <https://tinyurl.com/anti-China-protests>

### Venceremos Brigade — 50 years of solidarity

The 50th Venceremos Brigade to Cuba departed from Bayamo, capital of Granma Province, Aug. 8, on a sunny, warm, humid morning. Thus began the final week of the three-week celebration of the first International Solidarity Brigade with the Cuban Revolution half a century ago.

Report by Cheryl LaBash at [tinyurl.com/VBrigade](https://tinyurl.com/VBrigade)

### Why Hiroshima and Nagasaki were incinerated

Was killing hundreds of thousands of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atom bombs a military necessity? Dwight Eisenhower didn't think so. General Curtis LeMay told a Sept. 20, 1945, news conference, "The atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all."

The real target was the Soviet Union as the Soviet Army and Mongolian, Korean and Chinese allies rolled through northeastern China and all of Korea.

Report by Stephen Millies at <https://tinyurl.com/NagasakiHiroshima>

Report by Lizz Toledo to the World Steering Committee of WIDF/FDIM Women's International Democratic Federation/Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres

# Status of women in the USA

Greetings comrades and friends, I bring you solidarity and love from Mujeres en Lucha and the Socialist Unity Party in the USA.

"The status and condition of women workers in the capitalist United States continues to be highly exploitative and dismal. While 46.9 percent of the U.S. total workforce consists of women, we still remain in the lowest paid jobs such as food service, clerical, factory and health care. In 2019, women still earn 79 cents for every dollar that men make.

"Nevertheless, women workers recently led the most dynamic union struggles, including the teachers' uprisings from West Virginia to Los Angeles. In this case, teachers, sometimes without traditional union backing, conducted strikes and refused to back down until they won.

"Fast food women workers at McDonald's restaurant chain challenged common on-the-job sexual harassment and assault by conducting a one-day strike in ten different cities. Most of the workers are poorly paid; they are primarily Black, Lat-



Lizz Toledo, with fist raised, at the WIDF/FDIM in Windhoek, Namibia.

inx and immigrant workers.

"Migrant East African women played a key leadership role in the July 15 strike of Amazon warehouse workers at the Shakopee, Minn., fulfillment center. Hibaq Mohamed, who is one of the leaders of the strike that took place during Amazon's Prime Day, was one of those women

who braved bosses, police and security guards to help lead a walkout over grueling production levels. She is just 26 years old," reports former Amazon worker Sharon.

"Many of our sisters are still facing oppression and are often ostracized by their family and commu-

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# Prison HQ padlocked to keep Mumia supporters out

By Andre Powell

On July 23, supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal from up and down the East Coast gathered at Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections headquarters in Mechanicsville, Pa., to deliver petitions to the department head requesting that they give Mumia the medical treatment he needs.

In her statement, Suzanne Ross of the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal detailed the current problems that have led to a loss of vision for Abu-Jamal. She attempted to persuade Capitol police to allow a three-person delegation into the headquarters. The group of supporters, including Pam Africa, had traveled from New York City, Philadelphia, Delaware and Baltimore.

Originally told they would be allowed in, the police later told the group that the department head was no longer in the building. They then refused to ask the second in command to come to the door to get the petitions, insisting instead that the

petitions had to be left with them.

The police went as far as padlocking the doors to prevent them from getting in, even though no one had even attempted to get past the four of them. As a result of the padlocked door, the police were forced to turn away both FedEx and a second delivery person effectively shutting down the building. Mumia supporters vowed to return with a larger group of supporters.

Pam Africa, representing the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, exclaimed that protesters will make sure that the secretary of corrections, John Wetzel, hears our demands. "We will go wherever he is at," she said.

Mumia Abu-Jamal has been in prison for over 37 years, framed for the death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. Jamal's real "crime" in the eyes of authorities was to be a journalist exposing po-



Supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal gathered at the Department of Corrections in Mechanicsville, Pa., to deliver petitions requesting that they give Mumia the medical treatment he needs.

lice brutality, and earlier as a teenager, a member of Philadelphia's Black Panther Party chapter.

He was saved from death row by a tremendous campaign of support for two decades that resulted in the death sentence being overturned. His guilty conviction, however, was allowed to stand and was converted to life in prison.

Efforts to get a new trial due to prosecutorial misconduct continue. His first trial was noted for the overwhelmingly racial bias of Judge Albert Sabo and prosecutor Joseph McGill.

Despite having been Philadelphia's district attorney during some of

Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeals, former Pennsylvania state Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille ruled against Abu-Jamal in subsequent court cases. Proper ethics rules should have called for Castille to recuse himself from those hearings. Mumia continues to maintain his innocence to this day.

Supporters around the world will continue to fight for proper medical treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal's vision just as they previously fought for treatment of his hepatitis C. Every fight that is won for Mumia's medical care is also a victory in the ongoing battle to force the state of Pennsylvania to provide proper medical care to all of its prisoners. [@](#)

# Maryland says ICE and camps have got to go

By Andre Powell

On two consecutive weekends, Maryland residents came out to say "No!" to another U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center.

Members of Youth Against War and Racism, the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly, Migrante and many others held a news conference to announce the newly formed ICE Out Of Baltimore Campaign. They initiated the campaign after an article appeared in the Baltimore Sun papers revealing that ICE has advertised on a federal contracts forum seeking locations to build a detention center in Maryland that would house 600 to 800 men and women in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

There are currently three listed ICE detention centers already in the state of Maryland, located inside the Howard County Detention Center, in Frederick, Md., and on the eastern shore in Worcester County.

The Aug. 4 news conference was held on the grounds of the Howard County Detention Center in Jessup. Over a hundred people braved temperatures in the high 90s and represented folks from all over the central portion of the state, encompassing Baltimore city and county; Carroll, Howard and Prince George's counties; as well as the Washington, D.C., suburbs of Takoma Park in Montgomery County. The Howard County Detention Center houses approximately 149 people in the section reserved for ICE detainees.

Speakers at the press conference represented a well-rounded group of area activists from Youth Against War and Racism, the Peoples Power Assembly, Friends of Latin America, Migrante Youth, the Green Party, the Baltimore Poor People's Campaign, Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, and



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the Brown/Black Alliance for Liberation, among others.

Leslie Salgado of Friends of Latin America presented an excellent statement outlining the years of U.S. foreign policy that have created the conditions that are now resulting in a tremendous influx of migrant refugees seeking to escape from the economic and political terror of some Latin American countries.

Echoing similar sentiments, a representative of Migrante Youth of Washington, D.C., gave an extremely moving account of Filipinos who have come to the U.S. to flee repression of the Duterte dictatorship, only to end up being exploited and trafficked in substandard jobs in the hotel industry.

Linking the struggles between ICE detention camps and prisons in the U.S., Marilyn Barnes and her lawyer, Alec Summerfield of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, spoke of the Truth and Justice for Marilyn Barnes campaign. They are fighting a battle against the Harford County Maryland Sheriff's Department to get the

truth about her son's death while in their custody.

The death of this African-American man in his early twenties has been labled a suicide. The family disputes this since Barnes was due to be released in the morning. The Sheriff's Department has put up every roadblock and the Maryland State Medical Examiners Office will not release the autopsy report to the family.

The second activity was held a week later on Aug 11, again at the Howard County Detention Center. The rally called by Jews United For Justice numbered over 250 people. Both Jewish and non-Jewish participants came together in one strong voice demanding the portion of the detention center used by ICE be shut down.

The talks were interspersed with songs, prayers, and readings in Hebrew and English, as well as chants in Spanish. The organizers targeted the newly elected Howard County executive, Calvin Ball, the first African-American person elected to this position, demanding he show

ICE the door. ICE is paying Howard County over \$144,000 a year to house the detainees.

Amid chants of "Shut down ICE!" and "Every deportation is family separation!" nearly 30 of those in attendance sat down to block the driveway that leads to the part of the building that houses ICE detainees. The Howard County Police, however, decided not to arrest any of them.

At both the press conference and the rally, speakers addressed the plight of those caught up in the regulations of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) programs ended by Trump's executive order. Individual cases were raised, one of a cook at a local restaurant who was taken into ICE custody even though he has all his legal documents. Another youth spoke of his mother being taken into custody by ICE, in addition to how the new DACA regulations affect him and his brother differently with regards to potential deportations. Both adults are awaiting hearings at the Baltimore ICE Regional Office. [@](#)

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# Honoring our 'Ancestors Sustaining Resistance from 1619 to 2019'

By Gloria Verdieu

The Black August Organizing Committee has sponsored a Black August program for the last three years at San Diego's Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center.

This year is of particular significance because this is the 400th year anniversary since the arrival of the first captive, enslaved, African laborers to the English colony of Jamestown, Va. Jamestown is where "a society with slaves was transformed into a slave society," as stated in an article in *Struggle-La Lucha* newspaper written by professor Matsemela Odom of the San Diego Community College District, Black Studies Department.

Our theme for Black August 2019 was "Honoring our Ancestors Sustaining Resistance from 1619 to the Present."

After welcoming everyone to the Malcolm X Library, the present reporter began the program with a slide presentation that chronicles the history of oppression, struggle and resistance for African Americans, highlighting events in August beginning with the assassination of George L. Jackson.

Black August is directly linked to the memory of George Jackson and his teenaged brother, Jonathan Jackson. We emphasized that Black August was created by incarcerated Black people in order to commemorate the lives lost in the struggle for Black liberation.

The Performance Annex was decorated with posters honoring Black freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for freedom and justice for future generations: George Jackson, political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, exiled political prisoner Assata Shakur, and photos of people killed by the police in San Diego. Books about Black liberation movements were also on display. Our intent was to spark the interest of all who came to the library and encourage people to read more to learn more about the history of our ongoing struggle, especially in this current racist climate.

The first presenter was Dr. Adisa A. Alkebulan of San Diego State University's Department of African Studies. He spoke on 400 plus years

## San Diego Commemorates Black August



Dr. Mychal Odom speaks at San Diego's Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center on August 11. SLL PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

of struggle from the first African to arrive in the Americas to the present. He began his talk asserting, "[The beginning] is not about 1619 or the Jamestown Colony."

Dr. Adisa asked if anyone had visited Ft. Mose, Fla. He explained that the first free African settlement to legally exist was at Ft. Mose. He pointed out that the first Africans who came to the New World did not come as slaves, as in Jamestown in 1619, but on ships with Spanish conquistadors and adelantados [governors] in the mid 1500s. Dr. Adisa had this to say about the first Africans to arrive in Jamestown: "The first Africans in Jamestown arrived as captives and later became indentured servants."

After a powerful poem presented by Sylvia Telafaro entitled "Reparations," the next speaker was Dr. Mychal Odom, who spoke about honoring our ancestors' sustaining struggle. Dr. Odom explained that many Africans gained freedom, land and status in the early years of the Virginia Colony.

One prime example that has been cited by historians is the story of Anthony Johnson, a native of Angola, who had likely been previously enslaved in the Caribbean. His story exposed the contradictions of early colonial society. Johnson was eventually manumitted, and he then acquired land, wealth and owned an indentured labor force of his own. Johnson struggled against white power, including efforts by a white neighbor to use the courts to steal his property. By the end of his years, Johnson and his family had their

"relative equality" revoked. Deemed foreigners and not citizens in Virginia, they were exiled to Maryland.

After Dr. Odom's presentation, there was a short break to allow for everyone to help themselves to a spread of homemade food donated by community members who support the programs at the Malcolm X Library as we transitioned to the subject of political prisoners and our next group of speakers from the many grassroots.

First, there was a video clip of former political prisoner Sekou Odinga, who came to the Malcolm X Library in February of 2016 with a message: "Support political prisoners and free them all." Next was a slide presentation on political prisoners, encouraging everyone to see the faces and names of those prisoners who have been in prison for 30, 40 or 50 years. The reader of this report can find out more about them by visiting [thejerichomovement.com/prisoners](http://thejerichomovement.com/prisoners).

The next set of presenters, all of whom work in local organizing, spoke on issues affecting our communities now. Laila Aziz, a community activist, spoke about "participatory defense," prison advocacy and the amazing work her group is doing, supporting and advocating for families in crisis in San Diego. Aziz made references to many of the political prisoners in the slide presentation — echoing Odinga by saying we need to support political prisoners, many of them in solitary confinement. She spoke of the struggle of Ruchell Magee, co-defendant of Angela Davis, who has been in prison for 56 years.

Carl Muhammad of the Committee



Against Police Brutality spoke about the Erasing Police Violence Forum that CAPB is organizing and the importance of establishing a community-elected police review board. Author and community activist Curtis Howard spoke about life after incarceration and about breaking the myths associated with prison life.

The last speaker, not listed on the program, was Tasha Williamson, candidate for mayor of San Diego. Williamson took the floor to remind people that they have a choice. She is calling for police accountability. Williamson said that one of the first things she will do when elected mayor is to fire the current police chief. Williamson is a people's candidate who promises to open up this government and make sure everybody counts.

The program was lengthy and, unfortunately, there was no time left for questions, comments or discussion. But each attendee received a pamphlet containing several articles reprinted from an international socialist publication, *Struggle-La Lucha*, whose website can be found online. There was no charge for the pamphlet, only a request that people use it to help raise the political consciousness of family, friends and neighbors.

Black August 2019 was co-sponsored by The Black August Organizing Committee and the Committee Against Police Brutality. This program was supported by the Friends of the Malcolm X Library, who contributed to the delicious food and the Black August books, quotes and images in the display at the library's entrance.

See "From the Terrible Transformation to the Creation of the Negro: A Black Socialist Analysis of the First Century of Slavery in North America" by Matsemela Odom at <https://tinyurl.com/1619part2>

## George Jackson killed Aug. 21, 1971

George Jackson was killed by prison guards on August 21, 1971.

At age 18, Jackson was convicted on dubious evidence of a gas station robbery of \$70. Based on prior arrests, Jackson was sentenced to between one year and life in prison and shipped off to California's notorious San Quentin prison. He was never released from prison for the rest of his life.

During his first years at San Quentin State Prison, Jackson became involved in revolutionary activity.

In 1966, Jackson met and befriended W.L. Nolen who introduced him to Marxist ideology. In speaking of his ideological transformation, Jackson remarked "I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels, and Mao when I en-

tered prison and they redeemed me."

Jackson was appointed "field marshal" by the Oakland chapter of the Black Panther Party.

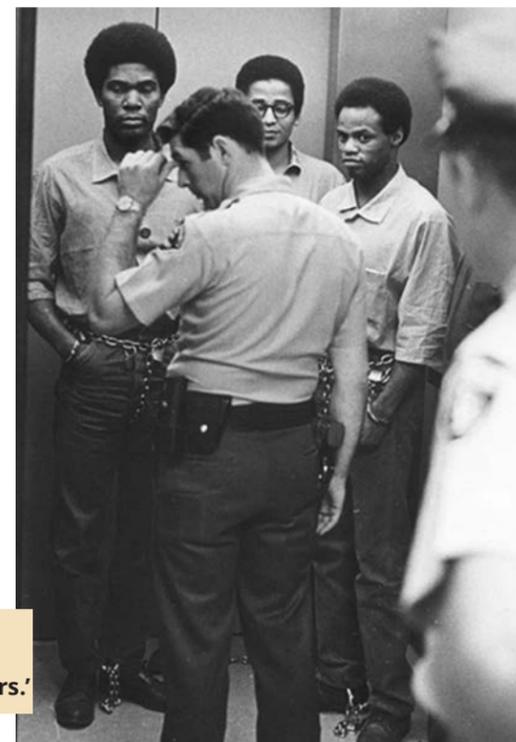
On January 13, 1970, Nolen and two other Black prisoners were attacked by the "Aryan Brotherhood" and then killed by a corrections officer at Soledad prison. Three days after the killings were ruled justifiable homicide, a guard named John V. Mills was killed. Despite a lack of evidence, Jackson and two other prisoners — Fleeta Drumgo and John Wesley Clutchette — were charged.

Together, the three became known as the "Soledad Brothers."

On August 21, 1971, Jackson was shot and killed by guards at San Quentin Prison. 📍



John Wesley Clutchette, George Jackson and Fleeta Drumgo, the 'Soledad Brothers.'



# Trump, racism and capitalism

By Fred Goldstein

Aug. 4 — Let there be no mistake about it. Donald Trump has the blood of all the killed and wounded in the mass shootings of the past week on his hands, from Gilroy, Calif., to El Paso, Texas, to Dayton, Ohio.

And let there be no mistake about it that Trump speaks the mind of the ruling class. On Aug. 10, less than a week after the racist mass shootings, millionaires and billionaires travelled to the Hamptons on New York's Long Island to give him \$12 million in one night at a gala celebration.

His racism, his misogyny, his bigotry, openly spouted from his guttermouth, are part of a deliberate strategy to mobilize the like-minded racists, bigots and male chauvinists to come out and vote for him in 2020.

There is mounting mass anger and outrage at the killings which followed his attacks on Representative Elijah Cummings and the city of Baltimore, as well as his racist rants against four women-of-color representatives, and his relentless references to a so-called "invasion" of immigrants seeking asylum from Washington's right-wing regimes in Central America.

Trump's racist language was clearly mimicked in the language of the El Paso killer, who issued a document declaring that "this attack is a response to the Hispanic invasion of Texas." Research shows that the Trump campaign issued over 2,200 Facebook ads with the same formulation, "invasion of immigrants."

Trump was forced to go to the teleprompter and issue a wooden, hypocritical, brief statement criticizing white supremacy and hatred. This is like a thief crying "stop thief." But Trump is still a white supremacist to his core. No anti-racist teleprompter declarations will change him one iota from the hardened racist that he is.

## Not just Trump

Racism has a long and bloody history in the U.S. Some say that U.S. fascism flies on the wings of racism. Since the first Spanish settlers arrived in the Southeast in the 16th century and then the English and Dutch in New England in the beginning of the 17th century, racism directed against the Indigenous population has justified the seizure of millions of acres of land and the murder and removal of millions of Native peoples.

At the same time, millions of people were kidnapped from Africa and imported to be enslaved on the plantation lands of the U.S., as well as in the Caribbean Islands and Central and South America. Anti-Black racism was the justification. Then, one-half of Mexico was seized and colonized in the Southwest. Anti-Latinx racism was added to the racist gal-

**Racism has a long and bloody history in the U.S. Some say that U.S. fascism flies on the wings of racism**

**Capitalists and slave masters alike have used racism since the beginning of the country.**

axy of the corporate masters. Tens of thousands of Chinese were brought to the West Coast to build the railroads. Anti-Asian violence became commonplace.

## European immigration expands the ranks of the working class

Meanwhile, the corporations brought tens of millions of European immigrants to the U.S. to farm the land seized from the Native peoples and to do the mining, lay the railroad tracks, work in the factories, and expand the farm population and the working class.

The first European settlers established colonies on Native lands on the Eastern seaboard in the 17th century. With the expansion of the commercial and industrial revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries, the bosses and landlords brought in more and more Europeans from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Norway and Holland. In the late 19th and early 20th century the bosses brought in millions from southern and eastern Europe, including many Jews fleeing persecution. By the beginning of the 20th century, millions of Italians, Poles, Hungarians and Czechs were also incorporated into the working class.

Before long, the U.S. was populated with millions of oppressed African, Native, Latinx and Asian people alongside millions of poor workers and farmers from Europe. All were toiling on the lands, in the mines and the factories of the U.S. millionaire ruling class.

In a society based on the exploitation of labor of the vast majority by a tiny minority, every capitalist — large or small, corporate or political — constantly feels the need to divide and rule. It comes with the territory. The pressure to weaken the subject population through divisions is always present.

## Trump speaks out loud the mind of the capitalists

A long-suppressed tape recording of a phone conversation between former president Ronald Reagan with then-president Richard Nixon was recently released by the U.S. National Archives. The conversation took place in August 1971, when Reagan was governor of California. They spoke on the occasion of the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations after being kept out by Washington since the victorious Chinese revolution of 1949.

Reagan, referring to African members of the Security Council, said to Nixon: "Did you see those monkeys? They're not even comfortable wearing shoes." Nixon gave a big laugh. Reagan knew enough not to say that out loud publicly. But today, Trump says it out loud, referring to African nations as "shithole countries" or saying, "Go back where you came from," to four women-of-color representatives.



In general, few prominent members of the capitalist establishment, big bankers or corporate leaders have condemned Trump's racist or misogynistic rants. They probably think and say similar things in private conversations.

## Chapters from the history of capitalist racist politics

It is not only Trump, Reagan and Nixon who have been racist. They are following in the footsteps of generations of ruling-class political heroes. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the most liberal president of the 20th century, ordered the Ponce Massacre of Puerto Rican nationalists in 1937. In pursuit of imperialist war with Japan, Roosevelt had over 120,000 Japanese people rounded up and sent to concentration camps and had their property seized.

Abraham Lincoln, the most progressive president of the 19th century, ordered the attack on the Dakota Indians of Minnesota in 1862 and oversaw the Dakota Removal Act even while pursuing the Civil War against the slavocracy.

Theodore Roosevelt was an arch-colonialist who oversaw the conquest of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the massacres during the seizure and annexation of the Philippines. Roosevelt considered people of color inferior.

Woodrow Wilson, another lionized hero of liberalism, showed the racist, pro-South, pro-Klan, pro-slavery movie "Birth of a Nation" in the White House in 1915. The movie, based in part on a history book written by Woodrow Wilson, quotes Wilson on a title card praising the "great Ku Klux Klan." Some say the movie fostered the rise of the Klan which followed.

Of course Trump is often seen on TV in front of a painting of Andrew Jackson. Using the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Jackson had the Cherokee tribe removed from east of the Mississippi and driven to Oklahoma in the "Trail of Tears."

Of course there is George Washington, first U.S. president, who was the biggest owner of enslaved people in the 13 colonies.

In this list, we must not forget Bill Clinton, who destroyed welfare, promoted legislation leading to mass incarceration and declared that the "era of big government" is over.

## Aspects of the subjugation of oppressed people in the U.S.

Capitalists and slave masters alike have used racism since the beginning of the country. The settlers who colonized the U.S., the Pilgrims and the 20,000 Puritans who piled into New England, all carried out un-

speakable atrocities to subdue the Native people while slandering them as "savages" and subhuman.

This was to justify the slaughter of New England tribes, the Wampanoag, Narragansett and Algonquin, among others. Thousands of Native people in Massachusetts alone were killed.

The New England massacres were the beginning of a continent-wide offensive which spread from western Florida to the Midwest to Arizona to California and lasted until the 1890s. Millions of Native people were either killed or removed to reservations.

The number of African people enslaved in the U.S. grew from the 388,000 who survived the Middle Passage and were originally brought to the U.S. in chains, to 4.4 million at the outset of the Civil War. There are now over 45 million African Americans in the U.S.

Asians were brought to Hawaii and the West Coast as laborers during the 19th century. After the Great Depression of 1873, the racist Chinese Exclusion Act of 1892 promoted anti-Chinese riots and lynchings on the West Coast.

The northern half of Mexico was annexed by Washington in 1848 by conquest. The Southwest Latinx people became a subject population.

## Anti-working class strategy and tactic of capitalists

Students of working-class history are familiar with the divide-and-conquer methods of the bosses. From the early 19th century, the law declared any gathering of three or more workers as an illegal conspiracy.

When the workers defied this restriction and went on to organize, the bosses expanded their tactics. They hired Pinkerton thugs and other labor spies to frame up workers and break unions. They tried to turn the unorganized against the organized. They pitted the higher paid against the lower paid. They set the skilled against the unskilled.

They tried to turn white against Black, white against Brown, Brown against Black, white, Black and Brown against Asian, etc. They hired gun thugs to fight organizing drives or organized unions. In the modern era, they rely on the FBI and private labor spies to do their dirty work.

The racism of Trump and the ruling class must be put in the anti-working class setting in which it has always existed. It is the answer of a tiny minority of the rich, exploiting class to the fear of rebellion by the vast majority of the masses of people. Only class solidarity and international solidarity can overcome this poisonous racist division. [E]

# White supremacist terror and fascism

By Sharon Black

We should remind ourselves that white supremacist terror is not new to U.S. soil. Historically, it has been intertwined with the development of capitalism. First with the theft of Indigenous lands and later with the institution of chattel slavery.

The stolen land of Indigenous people and the unpaid labor of enslaved Africans provided the basis for the expansion of capitalism on this continent, and, along with the Northern troops, it was the General Strike of Black labor, both enslaved and free, that played a pivotal role in bringing down the slavocracy in the Civil War (1861-1865).

What was immediately ushered in after the defeat of the slavocracy was one of the most thoroughly democratic periods in U.S. history — Reconstruction. Reconstruction not only brought change and power to Black workers, it also ushered in progress for landless poor whites.

All of this is brilliantly documented in W.E.B. Du Bois' seminal book, *Black Reconstruction in America 1860-1880*.

It took the extralegal power of the murderous Ku Klux Klan to bury this revolution in blood through lynchings, torture, mutilations and terror. The Klan was a continuation of the pre-war slave patrols but on a much larger scale. In both cases, the purpose was essentially the same: protecting the slave owner class.

The betrayal and defeat of Reconstruction was fueled by the fears of Wall Street and the Northern finance capitalists. The idea of dividing up the slave owners' plantations was considered far too radical for the Northern bourgeoisie.

In the final analysis, it was the violence and terror of the Klan, which was led by former Confederate officers and plantation owners, that crushed this brief period of "people's democracy."

The legacy of the defeat of Reconstruction continues today. In the end, the vast tracts of land were back in the hands of wealthy landowners and the promise of "40 acres and a mule" was never fulfilled.

## Galveston, Texas

There is nothing that illustrates this more graphically than the recent actions of the two Galveston, Texas, police on horseback leading a handcuffed Black man by a rope through the street.

This disgusting image is painfully reminiscent of the slave hunters of the past, who tied up captured slaves and paraded them publicly to discourage escape. This fact could not be lost on the present-day descendants of enslaved people.

## Is gun control the answer?

It is critical that revolutionaries and socialists understand and distinguish the pain of those who have suffered horrific losses in mass shootings and those who have had their communities decimated by gun violence, from the cynical manipulations of politicians and their pundits.

In these former cases, it's understandable that people who feel powerless and in pain turn to the demand for gun control, especially since it's what receives the most attention in

the bourgeois media.

The problem is that politicians promoting gun control from both big business parties, Democrats and Republicans, have done more to cloud the issue than to lend clarity or address the root causes of violence.

We need to understand what class forces are involved, that is, who has power and who doesn't, and what is propelling political and social developments. First, guns and all kinds of weapons are already in the hands of extralegal white supremacists and fascist groups.

It is important to point out two things about the state, with all of its police agencies, whether they are local police and sheriff's departments, or national entities like the Customs and Border Patrol or the FBI. First, the state is not neutral. And it is certainly not on the side of the poor, the oppressed or the working class in general. Second, the state and its police agencies are all armed.

The repressive apparatus of the state has grown ever larger.

It has been thoroughly documented that members of white supremacist groups and individuals who have similar ideas, including virulently misogynist and Islamophobic ideologies, work inside police departments, in jails and prisons, serving as guards, as secret service agents, in sheriff's departments and as border patrol agents.

The ProPublica group recently revealed that close to 10,000 Customs and Border Patrol agents, present and former, were part of a secret Facebook group that posted violent and racist material mocking migrant deaths and posting a rape meme of Congressperson Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who had visited and spoken out against the horrific conditions at the border camps.

Police killings of innocent Black and Brown people have been so frequent that they have been referred to as "modern day lynchings." On Aug. 8, 2019, a study published by the National Academy of Sciences says that the sixth leading cause of death for youth is police violence. The study found that Black men and women, Indigenous men and women, and Latinx men have a higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than white civilians.

Are we to believe that these same agencies of the state, whether it's the police or the Customs and Border Patrol, will disarm and disband the neo-Nazi, white supremacist movement? It is a lot like "asking the fox to guard the henhouse."

If there is any sincerity in those who advance gun control, then the demand must be made to disarm the police, the sheriff's departments, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and all the racist state institutions that are armed. It means that we must also assert the right of the oppressed to self-defense and community control.

M. Matsemela-Ali Odom exposes the proliferation of guns in the community and the connection to colonial war in his article "Militarism leads to gun violence and the teachings of the late Michael Zinzun."

To build solidarity with people around the world who are suffering

from war, or indirectly from sanctions, it is critical to call for disarming and disbanding the CIA and the Pentagon, both of which act as global police.

## Rooted in the failure of capitalism

The screed written by the racist El Paso killer, who stated that he was targeting Mexican people, while rambling, is a classic fascist document.

Whether the recent mass shootings are the acts of individuals or not, there is no doubt that they are all influenced by a fascist movement that is global in scope: from the U.S. and Europe to Brazil and the streets of Venezuela, where "guarimbas" target and burn to death Afro-Venezuelans for allegedly being Chavistas.

These forces have one major thing in common, they are used directly to turn back the gains of the working class and to crush any incipient struggle for liberation.

This is not accidental. It is a result of capitalism, which is now an interconnected global system that is in decay. It has forced workers to compete globally with each other in a never ending spiral that produces poverty and alienation.

Neoliberalism has failed, as attested by the "Yellow Vest" protest movement in France. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the possibility of planetary failure from unbridled climate change.

It is not necessary for the different white supremacist, xenophobic and misogynist killers in El Paso, Texas, or Dayton, Ohio, or Gilroy, Calif., to have known each other. Their actions flow organically from the present social, political and economic conditions. This is, of course, not to assert that there are not organized groups who do conspire.

One of the hallmarks of capitalism is that production is not planned but is instead determined by the anarchy of the market and by what is profitable. Despite the fact that members of the ruling class conspire to keep themselves wealthy and in power, the system itself operates beyond their mere will. This is equally reflected in social conditions.

## Trump is very much a part of this fascist movement

When Trump calls out to his supporters, "Who's going to stop the invasion?" referring to immigrants and refugees, whether they are Latinx, Caribbean, African, Indian, Filipino or Chinese; when he tells women-of-color representatives, "Go back where you came from," he is loading the gun. It doesn't matter whether he fired it or not. The orders are clear.

One would ask how is it possible that Donald Trump is tolerated by even his own wealthy class or certainly by those in the political establishment who might have preferred to have all of this hidden and sugar-coated regardless of party affiliation. Which sections of the ruling class, of the banks and big businesses, does he most serve? What does this mean for the possibility of imperialist war? Both are important questions.

But the immediate answer is rather straightforward. The very rich are

making money, or more precisely, profit! And a lot of it!

This is made possible by the unfettered exploitation of the world's working class and by the capitalist system's introduction of technology on a level previously unheard of in history. In the hands of private ownership, it makes work a nightmare. Ask the Amazon workers.

The subject of Trump may occupy the minds of everyday people. But the question that surely haunts the more conscious members of the class of bankers and billionaires is power, that is, how they can keep it, and what if their modern slaves rebel.

"What happens if the system falters and collapses?" Some of their economic thinkers are predicting another possible economic collapse similar to the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in 2008, which became a worldwide crisis.

Vince Copeland, in the "Unfinished Revolution," explained it best when he described how the slave owners were more conscious of and frightened by a slave rebellion than even by the enslaved peoples themselves or the abolitionists. They understood their own crimes better than anyone and lived in fear. They remembered Nat Turner.

What a fascist movement does regardless of rhetoric is preserve the power of the big banks and billionaires. In many cases, it paves the way to imperialist war.

Vice President Mike Pence's words on Aug. 11, 2019, at a campaign rally in Atlanta, just five miles from where the Democratic Socialists of America were conducting a conference, shouldn't be lost on anyone. He said, "The moment America becomes a socialist country is the moment America ceases to be America."

For the capitalist class, it doesn't really matter what kind of socialism is envisioned (at least at this moment), whether it's a revolutionary version or simply a reform that will cut into their profit margin. This attitude would change immediately, of course, if they were confronted with either revolution or reform.

## Solidarity is our immediate and urgent task

Our most immediate and urgent task is to fight to stop the war on migrants and refugees and to actively fight white supremacy. This includes shutting down the camps, literally if possible, and making sure that every effort is undertaken to organize defense of all who are under attack. It is through struggle that workers learn not only solidarity, but also who is the enemy and who are our friends.

## Socialism is the answer

There is no returning to a so-called better period of capitalism. It didn't exist then, and it doesn't exist now. The only answer is to move forward in getting rid of capitalism and building socialism, a system based on human needs, which includes cooperation and planning, a system that will allow us to begin to challenge the longstanding ideologies of white supremacy, sexism and misogyny, anti-LGBTQ2S bigotry and much more, so that all human beings can develop to their fullest capacity.

## Tlaib and Omar

## Watershed moment in the struggle against imperialism and racism



By Leon Koufax

On Aug. 17, 2019, Representative Rashida Tlaib stood in front of a crowd in her hometown of Detroit. The event was technically a public Shabbat called by the progressive Jewish community. However, a diverse and multinational crowd attended to show their support for the Tlaib.

The most powerful aspect about Representative Tlaib's appearance was that she shouldn't have been there at all. She should have been visiting her grandmother, Muftiya, who lives in a small village in the occupied territory of the West Bank.

Since 1967, the apartheid state of Israel has violently and illegally occupied the entirety of the West Bank. For the past fifty-plus years, Palestinians in the West Bank have lived and struggled under the oppressive yoke of U.S. imperialism in the form of Israeli racism. Muftiya is one of such brave Palestinians.

So, why was Representative Tlaib not in the West Bank?

Tlaib had originally planned to visit her grandmother after she completed a diplomatic mission to the region with her fellow progressive Representative Ilhan Omar. In recent weeks, both women have been under a vicious attack from the right for their alleged "anti-semitic" positions. As we have previously written, these attacks are no more than a smokescreen to silence critiques of Israel's racist and genocidal policies.

Conspicuously enough, these same voices crying anti-semitism at Omar and Tlaib were silent when a private prison correctional officer drove a truck through a crowd of Jewish people demonstrating against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement concentration camps.

As the right-wing war of words against Omar and Tlaib reached a fever pitch, the fascist leader of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, announced both elected Representatives would be barred from entering Israel. Sig-

nificantly, the Israeli government made this decision at the urging of the United States' own demagogue, President Donald J. Trump.

After a public outcry against the decision, Israel rescinded its decision to bar Omar and Tlaib, but only under the condition that neither would express support for the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement — colloquially known as "BDS." The BDS movement has been a crucial force in bringing attention to Israeli apartheid.

Much to her credit, the Representative Tlaib rejected this insulting condition, stating, "Visiting my grandmother under these oppressive conditions meant to humiliate me would break my grandmother's heart." This statement is indicative of an important political moment for the progressive struggle in this country and around the globe. Representative Tlaib's statement was an expression of nothing less than international working-class solidarity, and not just with her grand-

mother, but with all people suffering under U.S. imperialism and, in particular, Israeli apartheid.

This development is a groundbreaking one in terms of the political discourse in the U.S. The rise of two Muslim progressive Congressional representatives who are willing to take on the issue of Israel and Palestine in an honest and material way is unprecedented.

That is not to say that the Democratic Party transformed overnight into an anti-imperialist force. It is just to say that the contributions of Omar and Tlaib in the movement against U.S. imperialism and Israeli apartheid should not be ignored. Ultimately, their existence and rise to influence must be called what it is: a victory gained through the struggle of the working class against the wealthy at home and abroad.

*Leon Koufax is a Jewish communist from Baltimore who participated in the Embassy Protection Collective's defense of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, D.C.*

## Blockade Trump not Venezuela

By Stephen Millies

Big Oil and the big banks want to starve the people of Venezuela into submission. They want to return the independent Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the days when Nelson Rockefeller—the butcher of Attica's prisoners—had a 100,000 acre ranch there.

That's why Trump issued his Aug. 5 executive order forbidding anyone from doing business with Venezuela's government. Neither the United Nations nor the U.S. Congress was consulted.

Among the Venezuelan governmental programs affected will be the Local Supply and Production Committees, known as CLAP, which provide food for 6 million families. Also hit will be imports of medicine for the public health system.

Two days after Trump's announcement, a ship carrying 25,000 tons of soybeans destined for Venezuela was told not to deliver the foodstuff by its insurer because of the new sanctions. At the time, the vessel was going through the Panama Canal.

Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodríguez denounced this action: "Venezuela calls on the U.N. to stop this serious aggression by Donald Trump's government against our country, which constitutes a massive violation of the human rights of the entire Venezuelan people, by attempting to impede their right to food."

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza warned that Trump will freeze all of Venezuela's assets in other countries. The Bank of England earlier seized a billion dollars of Venezuelan gold on U.S. orders.

Despite these acts of economic warfare, the foreign minister declared that Venezuela will not be intimi-



dated by the billionaire in the White House. "It takes much more than a magnate-president to violate the dignity of Venezuela," said Arreaza.

## Bolton cracks the whip in Lima

Trump's imperial edict came just before an international conference opened in Lima, Peru, on Aug. 7, to supposedly "restore democracy" in Venezuela. Although the U.S. is ostensibly not a member of the Lima Group that called this circus, Washington is its ringmaster.

Of the 100 countries invited to Lima, 56 showed up. Among those that boycotted it were the People's Republic of China, Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Uruguay, the Russian Federation, Spain and Turkey.

Who did attend was the death squad government of Colombian President Iván Duque Márquez. Fifty-nine community leaders and human rights defenders were assassinated in Colombia during the first four months of 2019. More have been killed since then. Brazil's fascist President Jair Bolsonaro also sent a delegation.

Trump's national security advisor, John Bolton, and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross came to the Lima conference to give marching orders. While Bolton has a worldwide reputation as a warmonger, Ross is a vulture capitalist who stole health care benefits from thousands of Bethlehem Steel retirees.

Bolton declared that the U.S. government was "sending a signal to third parties that want to do business with the Maduro regime: Proceed with extreme caution." He added that those that continue to trade with Venezuela "risk (their) business interests with the United States."

Bolton is threatening to cut off foreign companies and banks, including those belonging to imperialist rivals. Companies like Air France and the Spanish oil company Repsol could have their U.S. assets seized.

Washington can do this because the U.S. dollar is world money. The world's most traded commodity—oil—is traded in dollars.

This is applying Trump's rules to the 96 percent of humanity who do not live in the U.S. It's a complete

violation of international law. As Thomas Walkom, a columnist for the Toronto Star newspaper, described it, "This is known as extraterritorial application of (U.S.) law and it drives the rest of the world nuts."

## Venezuela will never surrender

Across Venezuela on Aug. 10, Venezuelans demonstrated against Trump's blockade. Venezuela's elected President Nicolás Maduro Moros encouraged people to come to public squares named after the Liberator, Simón Bolívar. A few days before, on Aug. 7, was the 200th anniversary of Bolívar's victory at the Battle of Boyacá, which helped lead to Latin America's independence.

People around the world are denouncing the Trump administration's acts of economic warfare and threats of military intervention. Protests took place on Aug. 10 in Australia, Angola, Bulgaria, Canada, Spain, Ethiopia, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Malaysia, Namibia, Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, Turkey and the U.S.

In New York City, supporters of Venezuela gathered in Grand Central Terminal on Aug. 9 during the evening rush hour. They carried signs and distributed leaflets to commuters. The demonstration was called by the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle of New York.

Among those interested were tourists visiting from the People's Republic of China. They were glad to see people in the U.S. protesting against Trump. Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's Foreign Ministry, called Trump's embargo "a serious violation of the fundamental principles of international relations."

Bolívar never surrendered and neither will the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. 🇻🇪

# Washington's long war in the 'Middle East' It's not the oil, it's the money

By Bill Dores

'Only Iran-U.S. tensions supporting crude oil prices; outlook bearish'

— Economic Times, July 23, 2019

U.S. warships are not prowling the coast of Iran to protect navigation and the free flow of oil. That's a lie. For decades, Washington has used wars and sanctions to stop the flow of any oil or gas not owned by U.S. corporations.

The name of the game is monopoly. It's a global version of what John D. Rockefeller did when he set up the Standard Oil trust—ancestor of ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco—in the 1870s. But much, much bloodier. Rockefeller's goons sometimes torched or dynamited competitors' drilling rigs and refineries. The Pentagon and its proxies have murdered hundreds of thousands of people in the past 30 years to keep the world's energy revenues flowing to U.S. banks and corporations.

## The U.S.-Israel-Saudi axis

Who are those proxies? First and foremost, the racist state of Israel and the brutal House of Saud. Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state, called Israel "the biggest U.S. aircraft carrier in the world and the only one that can't be sunk." The Zionist state has been in a state of war since it was created on the stolen land of Palestine. And every war it has waged has benefited U.S. corporate interests.

Saudi-occupied Arabia is a U.S. tribute state, a cash cow for U.S. banks, and oil and arms companies. So are the other five kingdoms on the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. For decades their ruling families have put their oil revenues and production policy at the service of Wall Street and Washington.

Saudi ARAMCO, the world's richest oil company, was originally the Arabian-American Oil Company. Now, it is supposedly owned by the Saudi royal family. But its top executives are U.S. and British citizens. Four Western monopolies—ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP and Shell—control and market its output. U.S. bankers invest the kingdom's oil revenues, and U.S. contractors run its military.

The Saudi kingdom is the big-



PHOTO: IRANOIL.JPG

A partially constructed gas refinery at the South Pars gas field in Asalouyeh, Iran, on January 22, 2014.

gest overseas customer of the U.S. military-industrial complex. For the past four years the kingdom has used its U.S.-made weaponry to murder and starve the people of neighboring Yemen. The United Nations has described the situation in that impoverished land as "the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world." President Trump has vetoed two congressional resolutions to limit U.S. involvement in the war. The Senate upheld the vetoes.

The United Arab Emirates, also involved in the war in Yemen, is the world's third biggest purchaser of U.S. arms. General Dynamics keeps an F16 production line open to fill a contract from Bahrain. On July 27, Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifa family executed two young pro-democracy activists, Ahmad al Malali, 24, and Hakim Al Arab, also 24, who had been tortured and convicted with 56 others in a mass trial. Bahrain is under Saudi military occupation. It is also home to the U.S. Naval Central Command and the U.S. Fifth Fleet, whose ships are off the coast of Iran.

## Why they hate Iran

Before the 1979 Revolution, the Shah of Iran was the U.S. arms industry's biggest overseas paying customer and Chase Manhattan Bank's largest depositor. At Henry Kissinger's request, the shah bailed the U.S. arms industry out of the slump that followed the end of the Vietnam War.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi ("King of Kings, Shadow of God, Light of the Aryans") was put on the throne by British troops in 1941. The CIA kept him on it. In 1953, as the monarch hid out in Rome, a CIA-organized coup overthrew Iran's elected prime minister, Mohammed Mossadegh. Mossadegh's government had nationalized Iran's then British-owned oil industry. The grateful shah cut the Gulf Oil Company, now part of Chevron, in on Iran's oil reserves. And Kermit Roosevelt, the

CIA agent who ran the coup, became a vice president of Gulf Oil.

The 1979 Revolution, which threw out the shah, ended Iran's subservience to Washington and Wall Street. The country's oil revenues no longer went into U.S. bankers' pockets. The Islamic Republic has been on Washington's enemy list ever since.

There are a lot of differences between Islamic Iran, Bolivarian Venezuela, Baathist Iraq, Jamahiriya Libya and Putin's Russia. But in the eyes of the U.S. ruling class they are all guilty of the same sin: using their oil revenues for their own interests and not those of Wall Street.

Something more urgent than greed for lost tribute drives the Trump regime's desperation to confront Iran. It's the same thing that drove the U.S. to attack, sanction and invade Iraq, sanction Venezuela and Russia, bomb Libya and launch proxy wars in Syria and Ukraine. It's the desperate struggle of capital against that crisis unique to the capitalist system, what Karl Marx called "an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity—the epidemic of overproduction."

## The 'end of history' and endless war

Let's go back 30 years, to the summer of 1989. The so-called Cold War, which was hot and bloody in most of the world, seemed to be ending. The Soviet Union was imploding under the impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika. Politicians promised a "peace dividend" as military budgets would supposedly be slashed. A State Department employee named Francis Fukuyama wrote an essay called "The End of History." Its theme was that "the triumph of the West," of capitalism, would usher in an epoch of global stability.

As the corporate media oohed and aahed over Fukuyama's words, a Defense Department employee was engaged in a different task. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. Central Command, was drawing up plans to attack Iraq.

The general was carrying on a family tradition. His father, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf Sr., first served in Iran in the 1940s. He organized the shah's brutal security forces and helped crush independent republics in Azerbaijan and Kurdistan. During the 1953 coup, he was liaison between the CIA, the shah and Iranian security officials. After the coup, Schwarzkopf Sr. trained the shah's dreaded secret police, later known as SAVAK.

Gen. Schwarzkopf Jr. drew up his war plans more than a year before Iraqi troops entered Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990. That Iraqi action was deliberately provoked by Kuwait's British-installed royal family and manipulated by the first Bush regime. (A detailed description of Washington's maneuvers can

be found in the book "The Fire This Time" by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.)

On Aug. 6, 1990, the U.S. pushed sanctions against Iraq through the U.N. Security Council. Five million barrels a day disappeared from the world market. The sanctions were followed by a devastating U.S. bombing campaign against the Iraqi people. The U.S. military has been at war in West Asia and North Africa ever since.

## It's not the oil, it's the money

In January 1991, as the U.S. war machine began bombing Iraq, hundreds of thousands marched in Washington chanting, "No blood for oil!" It's a catchy slogan but a misleading one.

Iraqi troops withdrew from Kuwait on Feb. 27. U.S. planes napalmed retreating soldiers and civilian refugees on Highway 8, the "highway of death," killing thousands. But the Bush regime did not seize Iraq's oil fields. Nor did it allow Iraq's oil back on the world market. Instead it—and the Democratic and Republican administrations that followed—bombed and sanctioned Iraq for 12 more years.

A December 1995 U.N. report found that sanctions had caused the death of 587,000 Iraqi children. Commenting on the deaths, Bill Clinton's secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, told CBS 60 Minutes, "We think the price is worth it."

The tragedy in Iraq was indeed worth it to the U.S. corporate ruling class, especially those most invested in oil. They had "won" the Cold War. But their "victory" only intensified the crisis of their system.

Big Oil desperately needed respite from the oil glut of the 1980s. That glut, aggravated by Saudi and Kuwaiti overproduction, seriously damaged the Soviet economy. But it also played havoc with oil profits.

The end of the Soviet bloc's planned economy and state-owned industries drove down the price of labor on a world scale. It opened up new markets for the U.S. dollar and for capitalist investment and exploitation.

It however caused a huge drop in global demand, threatening to drive energy prices lower still. And it left the U.S. military-industrial complex without an enemy to justify bloated budgets and new contracts. The children of Iraq were collateral damage in a desperate attempt by the wealthiest U.S. corporations to salvage their bottom line. [📄](#)

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# Situación de las mujeres en EUA

Saludos camaradas y amigas, traigo solidaridad y amor de las Mujeres en Lucha y del Partido de Socialismo Unido en Estados Unidos.

“La situación y la condición de las mujeres trabajadoras en el capitalismo EEUU continúa siendo miserable y de explotación. Aunque el 46,9% de la fuerza laboral total son mujeres, nos mantenemos en los trabajos peor pagados como el servicio de comida, oficinas, fábricas y asistencia médica. En el 2019, las mujeres todavía ganan 79 centavos por cada dólar que ganan los hombres.

“Sin embargo, mujeres trabajadoras recientemente dirigieron las luchas sindicales más dinámicas, incluyendo las revueltas de maestras/os desde West Virginia hasta Los Ángeles. En este caso, las maestras, a veces sin ayuda de los sindicatos tradicionales, dirigieron paros y rehusaron volver al trabajo hasta que ganaran.

“Trabajadoras de comida rápida en la cadena de McDonald, retaron el acoso y abuso sexual recurrente, conduciendo un paro de un día en 10 ciudades diferentes. La mayoría de las trabajadoras está mal pagadas, y en su mayoría son negras, latinas e inmigrantes.

“Mujeres migrantes de África oriental jugaron un papel fundamental en el paro del 15 de julio de trabajadores del depósito de Amazon en el centro de distribución en Shakopee, Minnesota.

“Hibaq Mohamed, una de las líderes del paro en Amazon Prime Day, fue una de las mujeres que enfrentó patronos, policía y guardas de seguridad para facilitar una huelga contra los niveles de producción agotadores. Ella tiene solo 26 años,” reporta la ex trabajadora de Amazon, Sharon Black.

“Muchas de nuestras hermanas todavía enfrentan opresión y a menudo son marginadas por sus familias y comunidades. ¡La depresión, el abuso de sustancias y la pobreza siguen siendo la norma para las lesbianas latinas! Las latinas enfrentamos el

racismo en Estados Unidos y como lesbianas enfrentamos múltiples opresiones. Continuamos luchando, defendiendo y protegiendo a nuestras hermanas en todas partes,” informa Celenia T., una activista lesbiana latina.

“Mientras que el capitalismo decae, hay menos empleos bien remunerados que nunca disponibles para las mujeres jóvenes, especialmente las mujeres y las personas cuir de color e inmigrantes. La extrema falta de oportunidades económicas ha dejado a muchas mujeres jóvenes subempleadas o desempleadas e incapaces de acceder a las necesidades básicas, incluida la atención médica y la educación.

“La administración Trump ha reducido los derechos de aborto y el acceso a anticonceptivos. Multitudes de mujeres jóvenes y personas cuir se encuentran endeudadas por financiar su educación, incluso cuando los títulos universitarios se devalúan cada vez más.

“Hay una epidemia de violencia sexual y violencia de género contra mujeres jóvenes y personas cuir que continúa creciendo. Las personas transgénero, las mujeres negras y marrones, las mujeres migrantes y las mujeres indígenas son asesinadas y desaparecen todos los días.”

“Las enfermedades mentales y los traumas son comunes, y la atención médica no está disponible, por lo que las mujeres jóvenes y las personas cuir tienen aún más dificultades para ser productivas bajo el capitalismo.

## Status of women in the USA

*Continued from page 1*

nities. Depression, substance abuse and poverty are still the norm for Latinx lesbians! Latinas face racism in the U.S. and as lesbians we face multiple oppressions. We continue to fight back, defending and protecting our sisters everywhere,” reports Celenia T., a Latina lesbian activist.

“As capitalism decays, fewer good-paying jobs than ever are available to young women, especially women and queer people of color and immigrants. Extreme lack of economic opportunity has left many young women underemployed or unemployed and unable to access basic needs, including health care and education.

“The Trump administration has cut back abortion rights and access to contraceptives. Multitudes of young women and queer people find themselves going into massive debt to fund their educations, even as university degrees become more and more devalued by the day.

“There is an epidemic of sexual violence and gender-based violence against young women and queer people that continues to grow. Transgender people, Black and Brown women, migrant women, and Indigenous women are murdered and go missing every day.

“Mental illness and trauma are common, and health care is unavailable, so young women and queer people have even more difficulty being productive under capitalism. These obstacles disproportionately affect women of color, Indigenous women and girls, and LGBTQ2S

Estos obstáculos afectan desproporcionadamente a las mujeres de color, a las mujeres y niñas indígenas y a los jóvenes LGBTQ2S.”

“Como socialistas, es nuestra obligación luchar. Estamos educando a las masas de mujeres jóvenes y personas cuir sobre la causa de su opresión, que no son los hombres de clase trabajadora, sino el sistema capitalista que les roba a las trabajadoras jóvenes, y a todos los trabajadores y personas oprimidas, sus derechos básicos y oportunidades.”

“Deseamos difundir una visión colectiva de una sociedad en la que las mujeres y las niñas jóvenes estén empoderadas y tienen las herramientas para lograr la liberación total del patriarcado, todas las formas de violencia de género y sexual y la explotación capitalista. Ahora es el momento para que las mujeres jóvenes, las niñas y las personas LGBTQ2S de la clase trabajadora se unan en la lucha,” dice Miranda de Mujeres en Lucha y Juventud Contra la Guerra y el Racismo.

La condición de la mujer en Estados Unidos sigue siendo una lucha. Las mujeres han estado y continúan estando en la primera línea de las luchas por la liberación de todas las personas. Somos trabajadoras sindicales que luchan para aumentar el salario mínimo a \$15 y por la igualdad salarial. Estamos en el movimiento de Derechos Em/Migrantes exigiendo que terminen las separaciones familiares y abolir la policía de ICE (Inmigración y Control de Aduanas).

Mientras que en El Paso, Texas, y Dayton, Ohio, las comunidades enterraron a sus muertos por tiroteos racistas, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos arrestó a 800 trabajadores en sus trabajos en las fábricas de procesamiento de pollo de Mississippi. Sus hijos se quedaron sin sus padres en su primer día de escuela, pero los propietarios multimillonarios racistas que explotan a estos trabajadores no fueron arrestados para contratar trabajadores indocumentados.

Estamos en las calles exigiendo el fin del encarcelamiento masivo y abolir el sistema policial opresivo que solo sirve a los ricos y poderosos que continúan matando a jóvenes negros y marrones a voluntad y con impunidad.

Estamos entre los luchadores por la liberación LGBTQ2S. Stonewall 50 se celebró el pasado 30 de junio en la ciudad de Nueva York, cuando delegados de todo el mundo vinieron a celebrar el 50 aniversario del nacimiento del movimiento LGBTQ2S moderno.

Organizamos y luchamos para poner fin a la violencia sexual y doméstica de cualquier tipo dirigida a mujeres y niñas. Somos antibélicas y antiimperialistas. Incluso con la bota del imperialismo estadounidense en nuestros cuellos, seguimos defendiendo a Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Irán, Siria, Irak, Zimbabue, Palestina, Cuba y la República Popular Democrática de Corea contra la agresión estadounidense. ¡Fin a las guerras imperialistas! ¡Viva la clase obrera internacional!

*Traducción de M.E. Duno*

### ONLINE

#### History of the Women's International

It is not accidental that very little is known in the U.S. about the Women's International Democratic Federation, which was born to fight against the same imperialism that the U.S. leads. On Dec. 1, 1945, right after World War II, women from 41 countries met in France to create the WIDF (FDIM in Spanish). Many of these women had suffered directly from the bloody effects of the war and many had struggled against fascism.

Vilma Espín — one of four WIDF vice presidents, a combatant in the Cuban Revolution, a member of the Central Committee and the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Cuban Women's Federation — played a decisive role in the enormous task of ensuring the survival and development of the WIDF. Thanks to Cuban action, the federation not only survived but thrived as a space of struggle and promotion of women.

Report by Berta Joubert-Ceci at <https://tinyurl.com/WIDF-FDIM>

young people.

“As socialists, it is our duty to fight back. We are educating the masses of young women and queer people about the root cause of their oppression, which is not working-class men, but rather the capitalist system that robs young women workers, and all workers and oppressed people, of their basic rights and opportunities.

“We wish to spread a collective vision of a society where young women and girls are empowered and have the tools to achieve full liberation from patriarchy, all forms of gender and sex-based violence, and capitalist exploitation. Now is the time for young women, girls and LGBTQ2S people of the working class to unite in struggle,” says Miranda from Mujeres en Lucha and Youth Against War & Racism.

The status of women in the United States continues to be one of struggle. Women have been and continue to be in the frontlines of all people's fights for liberation. We are union workers fighting to raise the minimum wage to \$15 and fighting for equal pay. We are in the Im/migrant Rights movement demanding that family separations end and to abolish the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) police.

While in El Paso, Texas, and Day-

ton, Ohio, communities buried their dead from racist mass shootings, the U.S. government arrested 800 workers at their jobs in Mississippi chicken processing factories. Their children were left without their parents on their first day of school, but the racist billionaire owners exploiting these workers were not arrested for hiring undocumented workers.

We are in the streets demanding an end to mass incarceration and to abolish the oppressive police system that only serves the rich and powerful, who continue to kill Black and Brown youth at will and with impunity.

We are among the fighters for LGBTQ2S liberation. Stonewall 50 was celebrated this past June 30 in New York City, as delegates from around the world came to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of the modern-day LGBTQ2S movement.

We organize and fight to end sexual and domestic violence of any kind directed at women and young girls. We are anti-war and anti-imperialist. Even with the boot of U.S. imperialism on our necks, we continue to defend Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea against U.S. aggression. End Imperialist wars! Long live the international working class! 🇺🇸

**STRUGGLE** ★ **LA LUCHA**  
*for Socialism* | *por el Socialismo*