



Class war rages across South America

By Greg Butterfield

On Oct. 20, Sebastián Piñera, the right-wing president of Chile, declared: “We are at war with a powerful, relentless enemy that does not respect anything, or anyone, and that is willing to use violence and crime without limits.”

Piñera said these words to slander the popular uprising in Santiago, sparked by students righteously protesting in mass defiance of subway fare hikes, as he enacted a state of emergency to increase repression. The price hike was the last straw in the heavy burden of austerity measures imposed on the exploited masses of Chile by the U.S.-backed government. The pressure was too much, and the dam burst.

Although he is on the wrong side of history, Piñera was right about two things. There is a war—a class war—raging today, not just in Chile but across the South American continent, from the rainforests of Brazil to the Ayacucho mountains of Peru. And one side of that war—Piñera’s side, that of the capitalist oligarchy, repressive police and military forces, and the imperialist bosses and bankers who call the shots from Wall Street and Washington—“does not respect anything, or anyone, and ... is willing to use violence and crime without limits.”

At least 15 people had been killed by the Piñera regime by Oct. 23. Tens of thousands are in the streets of Santiago in defiance of emergency decrees. The country’s main union federation, which includes economically critical miners and port workers, has called for a general strike on Oct. 23-24. But there were no calls in the U.S. Congress to sanction Piñera’s government or ban weapons sales to the military, whose structure and ideology is descended from the Pinochet dictatorship.

What a contrast to the anti-China, pro-imperialist protests in Hong Kong! Democrats and Republicans alike have bent over backward to fawn over violent demonstrators who frequently target workers and symbols of national independence and socialism.

And that story is being repeated by U.S. officials and the corporate media in their attitude toward South America. Protests fueled by popular movements against cutbacks, poverty and imperialist domination—in Ecuador, Colombia, Chile—are largely ignored, and if they can’t be ignored, condemned; their powerful and vicious enemies are treated with kid gloves. Meanwhile, popular governments struggling to protect the gains of workers and oppressed people, like that of President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela, are sanctioned, threatened with war and denounced as “dictatorships.”

Declaración por la situación que se vive en Chile 4



Students defy subway fare hike.



Bolivian President Evo Morales.

Take Bolivia. In national elections on Oct. 20, President Evo Morales, the country’s first Indigenous president and leader of the Movement Toward Socialism, who has overseen vast social programs to reduce poverty, provide health care and eliminate illiteracy, was re-elected with over 46 percent of the vote. He scored more than 10 points above his nearest opponent, right-winger Carlos Mesa, ruling out the need for a second round of voting. But even before the first vote was cast, the right-wing opposition had declared it would not recognize the results if Morales won.

And sure enough, violent opposition protests broke out in at least nine Bolivian cities after the results were announced. Vote counting centers were burned. While international election observers said the vote was free and fair, the U.S. State Department dutifully declared the results in doubt and Western media claimed Bolivia’s democracy was endangered by Morales’ re-election.

The litmus test: U.S. imperialism

In moments like this, it is important for workers and oppressed people, students and youth here in the U.S. to be able to distinguish friend from foe. Not every protest is good, and not every government is bad.

What decides is the class criterion. Does a movement strive to represent the interests of the working class, peasant farmers and all the exploited sectors of society for social justice, independence and equality? Or does it represent the interests of the wealthy and privileged sectors of society and of the imperialist powers seeking to continue their domination?

In the case of today’s class battles raging in Latin America, there is an easy litmus test: where does the protest movement or government stand in relation to U.S. imperialism? Is it struggling to lift the boot of Washington off the people’s necks, or seeking to give Trump & Co. free reign?

For several years, the U.S. imperialists and South American oligarchs have been trying to roll back the social gains and moves toward independence won by the people during the years of the “red tide” of the early 2000s, inspired by the advances of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela under Hugo Chávez as well as socialist Cuba’s tenacious will to survive.

But enough rollback is enough. Now the people are fighting back. Students and teachers in Colombia are defying repression to challenge tuition hikes and unchecked assassinations of movement leaders and community activists. Peruvian workers pushed back a coup attempt by the ultraright in Congress. Powerful class forces are testing their strength. Workers, farmers, Indigenous communities and students are learning valuable lessons every day in the streets.

Here in the U.S., we must come down unambiguously and firmly on the side of the workers and oppressed of South America. Our job is to tie the hands of U.S. imperialism by building the movement of solidarity, against sanctions and war, by educating our class, our communities and co-workers about the reality of developments in Latin America and the Caribbean, to make it too dangerous for the U.S. bankers and bosses and their political stooges to impose their will.

Victory to the popular uprisings in Chile and Ecuador!

Solidarity with the peoples’ movements in Brazil, Colombia and Peru!

Long live the popular governments of Bolivia and Venezuela!

In the words of Comandante Che Guevara: ¡Hasta la victoria siempre!

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Chicago teachers’ strike continues

The joint strike by the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) and SEIU Local 73 began October 17.

The teachers and school workers are on strike for “the schools our students deserve”: smaller class sizes, genuine sanctuary schools, and a nurse and librarian in every school. Among their demands are political demands, or what the CTU calls “bargaining for the common good.” These include the demand for affordable housing for working-class Chicagoans, something that the mayor refuses to put into the language of the contract but which the teachers say is a key issue to resolve before they can return to work.

Full at tinyurl.com/y6xfk7t8



PHOTO: JEFF SARLES

GM workers speak out

Nearly 50,000 members of the United Auto Workers are in the fifth week on their nationwide strike against General Motors. Key issues for the union include ending the company’s use of tiered wage plans that pay less to new hires; ending the company’s reliance on temporary workers and creating permanent jobs for thousands of long-term temps; and pushing back GM’s attempt to saddle workers with more health care costs.

Struggle-La Lucha visited UAW members in White Marsh, Md., north-east of Baltimore. Hear what they have to say at tinyurl.com/y6bv8q3w

Copper miners on strike in Arizona

After more than a year of company stalling and game playing instead of fair negotiations, workers at ASARCO-owned copper mines and mills are on strike. Rejecting their bosses’ so-called “best and final offer,” some 2,000 copper workers voted overwhelmingly to walk off their jobs on Oct. 13.

ASARCO operates three open pit copper mines and a smelter in Arizona and a refinery in Amarillo, Texas. Most of the striking workers belong to the United Steelworkers (USW),

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It's Autumn, and I can't wait for the Fall (of Columbus)

By M. Tiahui

I write this in October, in the midst of all of the fall celebrations in the U.S.—Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and even Halloween—that can give some big headaches to Indigenous people by enhancing the erasure of Indigenous history and the stereotyping of Indigenous peoples.

Responding to these fall holidays is just a starting point, but first steps are important. Of course, we still need to get rid of the vampire economic system that profits from misery and destruction of the Earth, along with settler colonialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia and much more. But in the meantime, we can all work to ensure that Indigenous peoples and histories are not marginalized and disrespected as one of the many ways to support frontline Indigenous struggles.

Here's some more information about the fall holidays to think about, including what you can do to bring positive change to each holiday.

Columbus Day

Sometimes referred to as “Cruelumbus Day” by those who oppose it, Columbus Day is a disgusting celebration of the genocide of Indigenous peoples and theft of land that began when Columbus and his men got lost and arrived in this hemisphere in 1492. It does harm to everyone who grows up

learning that he was a great hero and “discovered America.” The holiday sends the message that it is fine to completely whitewash history and celebrate the genocide of tens of millions of people.

Indigenous peoples in the Caribbean and elsewhere were not “discovered” by anybody since they were already here. Nor did they need to have civilization or spirituality brought to them, since they already had civilizations and beliefs. They had and still have the inherent right to continue to live in their own ways on their own lands.

Columbus' policies on the islands where he landed, including slave labor, starvation, sex trafficking and slaughter, resulted in the near-complete genocide of the Indigenous peoples of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places where the Spanish invaded. (Columbus was Italian, but he invaded on behalf of the Spanish crown.)

Altogether, Columbus shipped approximately 5,000 enslaved Indigenous people across the Atlantic — filling his pockets and setting the stage for the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the enslavement of millions of Africans as well as Indigenous people. He sold Indigenous women and girls as young as 9 and 10 into sexual slavery.

The Spaniards hunted down Taíno and Arawak people with huge dogs that tore them apart and devoured them. Babies were fed to these dogs. The

men tested the sharpness of their blades by cutting off the hands of the people.

The brutality of Columbus's actions would reverberate through all the other invasions to come and the tens of millions of deaths that would follow. In fact, so many millions of people died as a result of European colonization that it even caused a climate change — a “little ice age.”

Celebrating Columbus erases centuries of Indigenous reality; it erases the decimation of Taíno, Arawak and many other peoples. It is an effort to silence Indigenous peoples and make them invisible. Pretending it is acceptable to celebrate Columbus has a terrible impact not only on Indigenous people, especially kids, but also on non-Native people.

What you can do: The Columbus Day holiday needs to be abolished. Indigenous Peoples' Day is the holiday that replaces it. Work with Indigenous people where you live to get the truth out about Indigenous history and get Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrated instead of Columbus Day in your community, school, organization, workplace. Put up signs saying that the day is Indigenous Peoples' Day. Put the day in your union contract. We can lead and celebrate this day, making it part of everyone's life, even when some bigots refuse to pass legislation.

Halloween

Halloween is fun, especially beloved within LGBTQ2S communities and by kids. And yet, every year, Halloween is also a hailstorm of cultural appropriation, with non-Native people “dressing up as Indians,” wearing blackface, brownface and yellowface, and so much more.

Use of Pocahontie costumes (sexually suggestive fake-Native costumes for women) increases the view that Indigenous women exist for sexual exploitation. This is especially sickening given the crisis of thousands of #MMIWG2S (Missing & Murdered Indigenous, Women, Girls & Two-Spirits) in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

If you see someone wearing a costume that smacks of cultural appropriation, you might talk to the person or send them this link (<https://tinyurl.com/y3qsjlmu>) for lots of information about what cultural appropriation is and why they shouldn't do it. When you see fake-Native costumes at a store, tell them you won't shop there unless they stop selling those costumes. Our culture is not your costume!

Thanksgiving

You may be asking yourself: “Wait a minute. Can't I even celebrate a harvest festival without this writer complaining about something?”

Here's the problem: Thanksgiving in the U.S. is not just a harvest festival. It is a celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims and the English theft of Indigenous lands and colonization of the U.S.

The myth of Thanksgiving is that the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Mass., the Native people welcomed them, they had a feast together with the “Indians,” and everyone lived happily ever after. The myth doesn't talk about the enslavement of the Wampanoag, Nipmuc, Massachusett and other Native peoples, the colonial wars against them, how their lands were stolen and they were forced into concentration camps such as Deer Island, how widespread starvation and hangings of Indigenous people came to be.

And the myth of Thanksgiving certainly doesn't tell you that the first official day of thanksgiving in Massachusetts was proclaimed by Massachusetts colony Gov. Winthrop in 1636 to celebrate the safe return of the white men who had helped to massacre several hundred Pequot children, women and men at Mystic, Conn.

On the East Coast, you can observe the 50th annual National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Mass., on “thanksgiving” day, Nov. 28. On the West Coast, you can observe “Unthanksgiving” at Alcatraz Island. You can also do something within your own family or community to tell the truth and decolonize the holiday. 📌

Since 1970, Indigenous people & allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression that Native people continue to experience.



50th NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Thursday, November 28, 2019

12 Noon - Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock)

Plymouth, Massachusetts

Unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!
We welcome all our Indigenous relations who have been crossed by the US border and ICE. #closethecamp

Special message from Leonard Peltier *Respectful allies welcome*
 For More Information/Orientation:

United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)

info@uaine.org www.uaine.org facebook.com/groups/UAINEN

No Drugs or Alcohol Allowed [Tentative: Social to Follow]

#NDOM2019 #NoThanksNoGiving Donate: gf.me/u/vumxka



‘Respect our right to work’ LGBTQ2S rally at Supreme Court

By Andre Powell
Washington, D.C.

On the morning of Oct. 8, several hundred LGBTQ2S people and allies defiantly rallied outside the U.S. Supreme Court to demand protections against discrimination in the workplace. The three cases being heard by the Supreme Court seek to extend federal anti-discrimination protections to cover sexual orientation and gender identity.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs assert that LGBTQ2S people should be covered as a protected category under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It bars discrimination on the basis of sex but does not address the question of sexual orientation or gender identity. It was passed years before the Stonewall Rebellion in New York opened up the modern LGBTQ2S civil-rights movement.

The three cases being heard as a group address workers who were fired after it was revealed that they were gay or transgender.

Gerald Bostick, a social worker in Clayton County, Ga., was fired after an article about a local gay softball league revealed that he was gay. Donald Zarda was fired as a skydiving instructor when he revealed that he was gay. Their consolidated cases, *Bostock v. Clayton County, Ga.*, and *Altitude Express v. Zarda*, are being argued together.

The third case, *R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Home v. EEOC*, involves transwoman Aimee Stephens, who after years of working at the funeral home was fired when she explained to her employer that she is transgender.

No right to discriminate

As the cases were being heard inside the court, outside, supporters of equality marched a short distance to the steps of the Supreme Court, until they were stopped by police barricades. They listened to speeches and chanted, “Don’t roll back our rights!” Many carried placards or wore t-shirts that read, “Protect LGBTQ workers now” and “No right to discriminate.”

When they arrived at the steps, they found that a small group of anti-trans bigots were standing off to the side. Part of the supporters confronted and drowned out their hate with continuous chants of “Transwomen are women!” The religious bigots were no match for the militant crowd.

After the hearings were over, Bostock and Stephens both came to the podium and thanked the crowd for the strong showing of support. Donald Zarda passed away in 2014, but his lawsuit continues.

As speeches continued on the steps of the court, a large group of



SLL PHOTOS: ANDRE POWELL

ington Blade, a weekly LGBTQ2S newspaper in Washington, reports that approximately 1,800 charges have been filed each year since alleging anti-LGBTQ2S discrimination. Trump has done his best to erase all the beneficial things that were won for working and poor people under the first African American president.

The tremendous showing for equality outside the Supreme Court demonstrates that the LGBTQ2S community and allies have had enough of these right-wing attacks. The Equality Act, which was passed by the House of Representatives, will have an uphill fight in the Senate in order to get passed out of Congress. If so, Trump will no doubt veto the bill.

However, it takes more than passage of a law to get full equality and respect. It will take a fundamental change in this country to destroy the system of capitalism that promotes anti-LGBTQ2S and anti-immigrant bigotry as well as racism and sexism.

Capitalism must be replaced with a socialist society that values each individual for what they can contribute to the betterment of society, instead of for making the bank accounts of the rich fatter. ■

nearly 100 activists from ACT-UP and Housing Works in New York marched down the street chanting and sat down while the rally crowd cheered. The activists were all arrested in an act of civil disobedience.

The Trump administration is hell-bent on pushing back against equality for LGBTQ2S people. Donald Trump has already reinstated the ban on transgender people in the military. It is one of the many things he has done to try to turn back progressive gains made under President Barack Obama.

Under the Obama administration, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission decided in 2015 that it would accept LGBTQ2S charges in its enforcement of Title VII. The Wash-

Why PG&E turned off the lights in California

By Scott Scheffer
Los Angeles

Poor maintenance by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) has caused wildfires in California in recent years that resulted in well over 100 deaths and billions of dollars in property damage. The privately owned PG&E has declared bankruptcy to avoid paying settlements to its victims and is rejecting a federal judge’s orders to come up with safer ways to deliver gas and electricity to millions of Californians.

The 2017–2018 fires aren’t the first time that PG&E’s greed has turned deadly. Investigations of a 2010 natural gas explosion in San Bruno that killed 8 people and burned an entire city block revealed that a pipe replacement project was called off prematurely to save money and should have included San Bruno. PG&E employees had voiced concerns and were ignored.

Experts point to the fact that PG&E has neglected tree-trimming near its power lines to save money. David Walters, a retired member of the Electrical Workers union (IBEW) and former PG&E worker, said about the 2017–2018 fires: “This was totally the fault of PG&E, my former employer. PG&E admits it has only accomplished 31 percent of the required PUC [Public Utilities Commission] mandated tree trimming.

“This story is an old one going back to the mid-1980s, when the



San Francisco protest calls for public takeover of private utility PG&E.

company started scaling back tree trimming operations. ... Tree trimming is mandated by state regulations. ... PG&E has failed to do this. We have had higher wind situations 20 and 30 years ago which did not cause any fires whatsoever.”

Politicians, courts and watchdog agencies are supposed to police the corporations. But unlike the cops that terrorize communities of color throughout the U.S., these cops wear velvet gloves.

Every state has a Public Utilities Commission. But PublicIntegrity.org conducted a survey of the entire U.S. and found that most commissioners have direct financial interests in the industries they are supposed to be “watchdogging.” The supposed independence of the watchdog agencies from utility corporations is a hoax.

‘Watchdogs’ for profit

On Sept. 16, 2014, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that William Peevey, then chief of California’s PUC, actually held a discussion with PG&E executives about ways of getting litigation against the utility moved in

front of friendly judges following the San Bruno explosion. They were “judge shopping” over lunch. Peevey was forced out in late 2014, but is still bandied about as an expert in the area of power generation and regulations.

After the fires of 2017, the California Legislature passed a law so that PG&E could force its customers to pay for the liabilities from the 22 deaths and thousands of structures destroyed. But that law only covered the 2017 fires, and when the Camp fire and others happened in November 2018, the political risk of covering for PG&E again was too great. This time, 85 people lost their lives in a terrifying fire — the worst in California history. The fire tore through the entire town of Paradise. The property damage from that fire alone was in the billions of dollars, and without cover from its bought-and-paid-for politicians, PG&E declared bankruptcy.

Legislators, courts and watchdog agencies are supposed to keep corporations clean: reign in corporate excess, issue penalties for corporate abuses, prevent price-fixing, enforce safety regulations, etc., etc. But the legal and political structures developed by capitalism allow banks and corporations to exploit social needs, rake in billions and grant corporations de facto immunity when catastrophic events happen. The balance of power is the opposite of how it is explained in high school social studies classes.

Experts have voiced the opinion that a rigorous operation of trimming tree branches and clearing vegetation away from electrical lines and towers would have prevented the 2017–2018 fires. Others point to the possibility of burying power lines as is done in many other countries.

But PG&E spokespeople ridicule the idea of tree-trimming or burying power lines because of the expense. Instead, they unilaterally decided to shut down power in times of high-risk for fires.

This plan was implemented when winds kicked up on Oct. 8 with little advance warning. PG&E shut off power to nearly a million customers when high winds threatened to down power lines. There was barely any warning and the shutdown lasted more than 72 hours in some cases.

Refrigerators didn’t run, food spoiled, communications were hindered, medicines that needed refrigeration went bad. The power shut-offs were a cheap, Band-Aid solution to a problem of PG&E’s own making.

PG&E investors would put their capital elsewhere if investments in infrastructure lowered profits relative to other investment opportunities. As Karl Marx put it, “Capital flows to the highest rate of profit.” That’s the way it works under capitalism.

Socialism means power to the people

It also raises a question that every social and economic justice activist

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'Solidaridad con la lucha por lograr un Chile más justo'

Declaración por la situación que se vive en Chile

La Red de Intelectuales, Artistas y Movimientos Sociales en Defensa de la Humanidad manifiesta su solidaridad con el pueblo de Chile, con sus estudiantes secundarios, y los trabajadores y trabajadoras en el ejercicio de su legítimo derecho a la protesta social y la desobediencia civil frente a una democracia cada vez más deslegitimada y una sociedad extremadamente desigual.

Lo expresado durante los últimos días en la ciudad de Santiago, como consecuencia del alza del precio del transporte, se suma al rechazo de una serie de medidas que encarecen la vida del pueblo de Chile al tiempo que benefician en ganancia a las empresas privadas que controlan la provisión de los servicios básicos en ese país.

Denunciamos ante la comunidad internacional, los organismos de Derechos Humanos y los pueblos hermanos, la criminalización a la protesta social que ha emprendido el gobierno de Sebastián Piñera, especialmente contra los niños, niñas y adolescentes que han protagonizado las protestas de los últimos días y que por eso fueron catalogados como "violentistas", "vándalos" y "delincuentes", los cuales han sido perseguidos y reprimidos con brutalidad.



FOTO: FRENTE FOTOGRÁFICO

Denunciamos que estos hechos constituyen graves violaciones a los derechos humanos.

De igual forma, condenamos enérgicamente las vergonzosas medidas tomadas por el gobierno, que incluyen haber decretado el estado de emergencia y la consecuente restricción del derecho de reunión y de libre locomoción, medidas propias de una dictadura, y que lejos de resolver la

compleja situación, la acentúan.

Se constata una defensa férrea del modelo neoliberal a ultranza, en el marco de una estrategia que pretende imponer un modelo a nivel continental, que lleva a restringir los derechos del pueblo, y posteriormente se hace un llamado a un supuesto diálogo sin retroceder en las alzas.

Finalmente, hacemos un llamado

a intelectuales, artistas y hombres y mujeres honestos del mundo a manifestarse y condenar la crisis en Chile, al tiempo que reiteramos nuestro respaldo a la protesta ciudadana y nuestra completa solidaridad con las luchas sociales por alcanzar un Chile más justo para todos y todas.

Secretaría de la Red en Defensa de la Humanidad

19 de octubre de 2019

'Solidarity with the struggle for a more just Chile'

The Network of Intellectuals, Artists and Social Movements in Defense of Humanity expresses its solidarity with the people of Chile, its high school students and workers, in the exercise of their legitimate right to social protest and civil disobedience in the face of an increasingly delegitimized democracy and an extremely unequal society.

What has developed during the last few days in the city of Santiago, as a consequence of the rise in the price of public transportation, adds up to the rejection of a series of measures that make the life of the people of Chile more expensive while at the same time benefiting

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN CHILE

the private companies that control the resources and basic services in that country.

We denounce before the international community, the human rights organizations and the fraternal people of Chile, the criminalization of social protest that the government of Sebastián Piñera has undertaken, especially against children and youth who have taken part in the protests in the last few days, and who for that reason were labeled as "violent," "vandals" and "delinquents," who have been persecuted

and brutally repressed, and we declare that these facts constitute serious violations of human rights.

Similarly, we strongly condemn the shameful measures taken by the government, which include the decree of a state of emergency resulting in the restriction of the right of assembly and free movement, measures that are characteristic of a dictatorship and that far from resolving the complex situation actually aggravate it.

There is strong support from the government to maintain the neo-

liberal model at all costs, part of a framework and a strategy that seeks to impose that model on a continental level, which leads to restricting the rights of the people, and then calls for a supposed dialogue without addressing any of the problems.

Finally, we call on intellectuals, artists and honest people of the world to demonstrate and condemn the crisis in Chile, while reiterating our support for the popular protests and our full solidarity with the social struggles to achieve a more just Chile for all.

Secretariat of the Network in Defense of Humanity

October 19, 2019

Copper miners

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but also include seven other unions, among them the Teamsters, IBEW, Machinists, Operating Engineers and Boilermakers. All these unions cooperate in negotiations with the company.

Full at tinyurl.com/y5q6fd8c

Fast food workers union to strike

Members of the Burgerville Workers Union (BVWU)—the first officially recognized fast food workers union in the United States—now say they are preparing to engage in what could potentially become the largest strike in their union's history.

The union, which represents workers at five Burgerville fast food stores in Oregon and Washington state, won official recognition in 2018 and 2019 and is part of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

Full at tinyurl.com/y4zarndm

Why PG&E turned off the lights in California

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should be thinking about: How is it that countries trying to build socialism avoid this debacle and are able to move mountains when it comes to massive projects for the people?

As PG&E was declaring bankruptcy in January 2019 to get out of paying settlements for its negligence, hundreds of construction workers in Beijing were busy burying powerlines in two districts where there are traditional alleys—hutongs—dense with electrical cables.

Meanwhile, according to Venezuelan analysis, Bolivarian Venezuela, under U.S. attack on multiple fronts, was proudly passing the halfway mark in "Venezuela's Great Housing Mission" (GMVV) with a goal of 5 million new homes by 2025. Granma reported that Cuba was continuing work on the largest water diversion in its his-

tory, adding power generation plants and increasing agricultural capacity in some areas by 15 times.

Under socialism, there is surplus value in the revenue taken in by enterprises that are owned collectively. But none of it is turned into profit for a tiny handful of rich people. It goes into a fund held by the state. It may be the national government or it may be a provincial administration, but the surplus from the revenue is set aside for the greater good of society. If a multibillion-dollar project is needed for electricity generation,

mass transit or mass communication, the decision gets made and the project is undertaken.

Capitalism is still the dominant mode of production in the world, and that fact has made it difficult for countries trying to build socialism to attain the full potential of a planned economy. The advanced economic power of China yields the greatest examples, but U.S. aggression hasn't stopped Cuba and Venezuela from making great gains for their population.

Safe, clean Power to the People! 📌

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