Iraq’s parliament and prime minister have asked the U.S. to end its 16-year occupation of their country. The Trump regime, which claims it wants to “end forever wars,” is refusing to bring them home. It is instead sending more troops, ships and planes to the region.

On Jan. 5, Iraq’s elected parliament passed a resolution calling for U.S. troops to leave. Trump responded by threatening the war-torn country with “sanctions like they’ve never seen before.” He also demanded Iraq reimburse the U.S. military for the costs of the U.S. bases there.

In a Jan. 9 phone call, Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi asked U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo to make plans for U.S. troops to leave his country. Pompeo said no.

State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said U.S. troops in Iraq are “a force for good,” but would not leave. “At this time, any delegation sent to Iraq would be dedicated to discussing how to best recommit to our strategic partnership — not to discuss troop withdrawal, but our right, appropriate force posture in the Middle East,” she said.

Ortagus repeated the Trump regime’s pretext for keeping U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria — the fight against ISIS. But on Jan. 3, in a cowardly sneak attack, the U.S. Air Force murdered two leaders of the fight against ISIS and al-Qa’ida in the region. Gen. Qassem Soleimani of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Abu Mahdi Muhandis, deputy chief of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units (PMU).

In reality, the U.S., Israel and Saudi Arabia have covertly armed and funded ISIS, al-Qa’ida and other terrorist organizations in Syria and in Iraq. The Syrian Army, Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units, Iranian Revolutionary Guards, the Lebanese Resistance and Russia have borne the brunt of the fight against them. While U.S. troops occupy Syria’s oil fields, the Trump regime has openly authorized large arms shipments to al-Qa’ida forces holding the Syrian city of Idlib.

Soleimani was on peace mission

The two commanders were assassinated on Iraqi soil at Donald Trump’s orders. Gen. Soleimani had landed in Iraq to meet Prime Minister Mahdi. It was a peace mission. The Iraqi prime minister was trying to reduce tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia. That is something the Trump oil-money regime does not want to see happen.

The assassination of two leaders of countries with which the U.S. isn’t at war is a crime under international and U.S. law. It is “a crime against peace,” the highest level of war crime.

It wasn’t the Pentagon’s only war crime that day. U.S. forces also tried but failed to assassinate IRGC officer Abdul Reza Shahlai in Yemen.

Shahlai was advising Yemeni forces resisting the brutal U.S.-backed Saudi siege war that has killed 85,000 Yemeni children and threatens millions with starvation. In April, Trump vetoed a congressional resolution limiting U.S. involvement in the Yemen war.

Three days earlier, the U.S. Air Force bombed Iraqi soldiers deployed to fight ISIS, killing 25. In response, Iraqi protesters stormed the huge U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. The Soleimani–Muhandis assassinations prompted the Iraqi government to call for U.S. withdrawal.
International Human Rights Day actions condemn U.S. crimes

By Bayani

On Dec. 4, 1950, the United Nations General Assembly formally established International Human Rights Day. This day was to be observed every year on Dec. 10 in honor of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on Dec. 10, 1948.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights seeks to guarantee some basic individual protections — freedom from slavery and forced labor, freedom of thought, religion and association, and the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. Interestingly, one article of the declaration guarantees “the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services.”

The great irony is that despite being one of the signers of this declaration, the United States has continuously violated this article, not only by its actions all over the world, but at home as well.

So on this past International Human Rights Day, people all over the world organized actions to condemn the U.S. as a violator of human rights.

Washington, D.C.

In Washington, D.C., a coalition of organizations sponsored a demonstration on Dec. 7 called “People and Planet over Profit” to raise this call.

The coalition gathered about 70 people to rally in front of Union Station and condemned the U.S.'s blatant violation of human rights.

Among the organizations supporting the action were the Malaya Movement, the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly (PPA), Pan-African Community Action, the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the Committee for Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), DMV Bolivia Solidarity, D.C.'s International Women's Alliance, Anak-bayan D.C., and BAYAN USA.

Ameenah Safari of CWA, which has built strong connections with labor unions in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines, spoke about the struggle of workers who refused to scab during the Verizon strikes in 2016 and how that built solidarity between workers there and in the U.S. She also reported that the Philippines is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a union activist and demanded that not one more dollar be sent to the Duterte administration until human rights violations are investigated.

Speakers also raised that human rights can be used as a pretext to invade and intervene in countries that are in the crosshairs of imperialism.

Steven Ceci, representing the PPA in Baltimore, said: “We need to be aware that human rights can be a false flag, because there’s such a thing as ‘humanitarian imperialism’... So when we talk about human rights, we need to be very clear about what type of human rights.

Los Angeles

On Dec. 10, some 200 people and over 29 organizations in Los Angeles held a series of rallies and marches to several consulate offices condemning Donald Trump, U.S. wars and interventions by both the Democratic and Republican parties, and Washington’s racist targeting of migrants and their children.

Nikole Cababa, national secretary general of BAYAN USA and one of the key organizers of the event, said: “We’re concerned about the growing displacement of families who face the wrath of a Trump administration that only dehumanizes and scapegoats them for a crisis the U.S. has a hand in. While Trump pours billions into its destructive wars, families in the U.S. suffer.”

At the El Salvadoran and Chilean consulates, Walter Ruiz “GrayWolf,” director of the American Indian Movement Southern California (AIM SoCal), reminded everyone about the people whose stolen land they were standing on: Indigenous people who were displaced and massacred for U.S. economic interests.

He noted that the massacres continue with the recent death of 16-year-old Guatemalan migrant Carlos Vásquez: “I don’t want to change the person in charge, I want to change the system that allows these people to be in charge. We live in economic slavery.”

Jasmin Tobar of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) then condemned the recently elected Salvadoran president, Nayib Bukele, for attacking the progressive movement there with increased militarization of the region.

At the Ethiopian Consulate, Tadios Belay of the International Migrants Alliance exposed the massive displacement of African migrants and its root cause, U.S. foreign policy: “The U.S. government is spending billions of dollars in Africa funding civil wars. ... The U.S. has over 56 military bases in Africa currently,” said Belay.

“We must end U.S. militarism at home and abroad.”

The final consulate visited was that of Bolivia. Juan Baldeomar, a Bolivian activist from the city of Cochabamba, said: “I don’t want to change the person in charge, I want to change the system that allows these people to be in charge. We live in economic slavery.”

Carlos Vásquez: “I don’t want to change the person in charge, I want to change the system that allows these people to be in charge. We live in economic slavery.”

Solidarity with Cuba

On the same day as the Los Angeles action, a multiplatform “anti-imperialist tide” refuted the U.S. slanders against the blockaded island of Cuba.

A twitter storm with hashtags #UnblockCuba, #NoMásBloqueo and #DDHHCuba, supported by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People and video posts from Cuban Information, uplifted Cuba’s real advances in fundamental human rights — not just in Cuba, where literacy, health care and homes are a human right, but through its international leadership and solidarity.

As Gail Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), tweeted: "I’m tired of the lies about #Cuba. The truth is Cuba is a world leader in health, education and fighting climate change. Let’s honor Human Rights Day by telling the truth about Cuba." John Parker and Cheryl LaBash contributed to this report.

Los Angeles
U.S. tech giants back India’s Hindu nationalist prime minister

By Lailan Schoenstein

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are weaponizing India’s digital communications industry with the goal of turning India into a religious Hindu state. The giant U.S. Internet corporations have supported and even funded the Modi campaign with millions of dollars.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been Modi’s most ardent fan. “Facebook held India up as a model for how governments could use the social network,” the New York Times reported on April 1, 2019.

Zuckerberg has been backing Modi from the start. After Modi’s BJP used the internet to incite violence against the oppressed Muslim minority, Modi’s control of India’s social media is subverting potential resources needed to overcome underdevelopment caused by colonialism. The right-wing Hindu nationalist is also shredding India’s hopes for economic sovereignty by thwarting the country’s potential as a player on the global stage.

His “Digital India” and “Make in India” campaigns are open invitations to the U.S. tech giants to exploit one of the world’s largest online markets, currently estimated to be at from 700 to 800 million people with a potential to be well over a billion people.

Modi has traveled to California more than once to meet with top tech leaders, including Satya Nadella, CEO of Google; Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft; Tim Cook, CEO of Apple; Shantanu Narayen, CEO of Adobe Systems; and Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motors. Their aspirations for the opportunities this afforded them was displayed by open wallets and unquestioning support.

Facebook

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg even had his mom and dad in the front row as he hosted India’s new prime minister at the social network’s new campus in Menlo Park, California, according to “India Today,” Sept. 28, 2015.

Before and after he won the May 2014 election in India, Facebook helped Modi develop his online presence to ensure that he had more “followers” on the social media platform than any other political leader on the planet, according to a study titled “World Leaders on Facebook,” released by publisher Burson Cohn & Wolfe, May 2016. The heavily well-organized, online following helped win the election.

On May 12, 2016, the Guardian reported that the person who ran Modi’s social media operation said that Facebook was extraordinarily responsive to requests from his campaign, and recalled that Ankhi Das, Facebook’s head of public policy for India, “never said no” to any information the campaign wanted.

Ankhi Das’ presence seemed to open any door, a Facebook executive said. “We used to joke that it was like she was Modi’s granddaughter.”

After Modi’s first visit to Silicon Valley, Zuckerberg returned to Delhi, where he met many of India’s most prominent online entrepreneurs, who assembled for a closed-door meeting.

“They wanted to talk about who had access to Facebook. “Everybody’s started saying, ‘Well, why are you guys not doing more on this? ’” said Vijay Shekhar Sharma, the proprietor of the mobile payments firm Paytm.

When it was Sharma’s turn to speak, he did not hide his feelings. “I said, ‘Zuck, what are you talking about? ’ In my view, it’s like the British coming in and saying, ‘While everything’s OK, we’ll come in and help you with your tax collection – and this is the template I’ll take.’ It’s incredible.” (The Guardian, May 12, 2016)

An infamous history of anti-Muslim violence

Narendra Modi began his political career in the state of Gujarat as a member of India’s ascendant political party, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). An early leader of the RSS, M.S. Golwalkar, wrote a book in 1939 praising Hitler and saying Nazi Germany’s “purity” by “purging the composition of the Arya Vedic race” during a good lesson for us in Hindustan to learn and profit by.” (The Times of India, Sept. 30, 2004)

Modi became active in RSS’s political branch, the BJP, in 1987, when the party had only two seats in Parliament.

Looking for an inflammatory issue to build their ranks, the BJP/RSS initiated a campaign in 1990 against a mosque called Babri Masjid, built in 1528, in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP promoted a legend that the god Ram — an avatar of Vishnu, often depicted with blue skin — had been born there and that a Hindu temple had once been on the site. They called for the mosque to be destroyed and for a Hindu temple to take its place. They conducted a two-month rampage, called the Ram Rath Yatra, across India, in mini-traveling jeeps that were said to resemble the Vedic and giving speeches to incite Hindu nationalism. Hundreds of Muslims were killed.

On Dec. 6, 1992, RSS partisans stormed Babri Masjid and razed the mosque with axes and hammers.

The destruction of the mosque incited communal attacks across the country, with the biggest and bloodiest of them in Mumbai. Thousands of Muslims were slaughtered.

On Dec. 11, 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that a Hindu temple could be built on the site of the mosque demolished in 1992. The court also ordered that a separate site be given to the government to build a mosque.

Internet spying

An Indian reporter, Manish Singh, said on Dec. 10 that the Indian government has proposed new rules that would require technology companies to get consent from people before collecting and processing their personal data.

The rules, dubbed “Personal Data Protection Bill 2019,” imply that they will protect personal data.

According to Singh, leaked copies of the bill showed that it does not offer personal protection.

Instead, the bill would “exempt any agency of the BJP government from application of the act in the interest of ..., security of the state and public order.” This means that they would have the power to collect any one’s data without consent.
U.S. refuses to leave Iraq, tightens siege on Iran

Continued from page 1

Sanctions are siege warfare

At a Jan. 8 press conference, Trump appeared to back down from a direct military attack on Iran. For now. However, he made clear that the U.S. siege against the Iranian people will intensify. That includes new economic sanctions against the oil-rich country, hitting its mining, construction, manufacturing and textile sectors.

Sanctions are siege warfare. Tens of thousands of Iranians have already died from U.S.-imposed sanctions, which seriously harm the country’s health care system.

Reflecting broad anti-war sentiment in the U.S., the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives passed a resolution restricting Trump’s war-making powers. It will likely die in the Republican-controlled Senate. Trump had stated that his tweets constituted legal notification to the Senate. Trump had stated that his tweets constituted legal notification to the Senate.

Before Gen. Soleimani was killed, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard had targeted Soleimani at two U.S. military occupation bases in Iraq. Yemeni Resistance forces hit a U.S.-Saudi base the same day.

Iran’s Ayatollah Ali Khamenei described the rocket attack, which destroyed planes and buildings, as “a slap in the face” to U.S. imperialism. “What is important about confrontation is that the military action as such is not sufficient,” Ayatollah Khamenei continued. “What is important is that the seditious American presence in the region must end.”

Airline passengers’ blood on Trump regime’s hands

Hours after the rockets hit U.S. bases, an Iranian surface-to-air missile struck Ukrainian Airlines Flight 752, which had just taken off from Tehran’s Imam Khomeini International Airport. All 176 passengers and crew, Iranians, Ukrainians and Canadians, died.

Iranian air defenses were on high alert after reported threats from the U.S. on Jan. 7. On Trump’s new threat, “We have targeted 52 Iranian sites... some at a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture, and others into the future. BE AT HIGH END & VERY VIOLENT.”

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham slammed an attack on Iran’s oil facilities.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Iranian military commanders have taken responsibility for the tragedy. The officer who ordered the shootdown and others will be punished.

This is a very different attitude than that of the U.S. government. On July 1, 1988, the U.S. guided missile cruiser Soleimani shot down Iran Air Flight 655 off the coast of Iran. All 290 aboard died.

Cpt. William Rogers III, who ordered the massacre, suffered no consequences. President George H.W. Bush said, “I will never apologize for the United States — I don’t care what the facts are. All Americans are apologists—for America kind of guy.”

Trump and the U.S. military leadership created the state of war in which this tragedy happened. The blood is on their hands. The 176 deaths must number among the millions of casualties caused by Washington’s wars in the region. We cannot allow this to be a pretext for further attacks on Iran.

The U.S. kills civilians

Meanwhile, on Jan. 5, a U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan killed 60 civilians. A day earlier, an air strike, likely by Israel’s U.S.-armed Air Force, murdered eight U.S. soldiers near the Syrian border.

Trump’s Jan. 8 press conference was filled with lies and threats. He opened by saying, “Iran will not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon.”

The U.S. has 4,018 nuclear weapons. Trump has announced plans to build more. The U.S.-armed and U.S.-funded Israeli settler state has a “secret” stash of nuclear weapons, perhaps as many as 400.

Iran has long pledged not to develop the bomb. In May 2018, the U.S. pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Action Plan that the Obama administration had signed with Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. The JCPOA limited Iran’s production of enriched uranium, even for peaceful purposes.

On Jan. 5, after Soleimani assassination, Iran withdrew from the agreement.

Trillons for war, nothing for Puerto Rico, the disabled, the hungry or veterans

“The American military has been completely rebuilt under my administration, at a cost of $2.5 trillion,” Trump bragged. “U.S. Armed Forces are stronger than ever before. Our missiles are big, powerful, accurate, lethal, and fast. Under construction are many hypersonic missiles,” he went on. Trump also called for expanding NATO — the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — into the “Middle East.”

Meanwhile, the White House refuses to release $8 billion in disaster aid for Puerto Rico. Two-thirds of Puerto Rico’s 3.2 million people remain without power after an earthquake on Jan. 7. Tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans remain homeless. While the U.S. spends billions to occupy Iraq, arm racist Israel and surround Iran, the Trump regime is cutting food stamps, Social Security disability benefits and even veterans’ benefits.

Trump also repeated the lie that the Obama administration “gave” Iran $1.8 billion to sign the JCPOA. That money was Iran’s own, held by the U.S. for nearly 40 years. Stolen from the Iranian people, it was washed off in the U.S. puppet shah in the 1953 CIA-Contra Revolution. Some of it had been paid by the Shah for U.S. arms shipments that the Islamic Republic canceled.

The Iranian people restored to Iran’s throne in 1953 after a CIA-orchestrated coup overthrew popularly elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. During the next 25 years, his tyrannical regime became Chase Manhattan Bank’s largest depository and the best overseas paying customer of the U.S. military-industrial complex. When the 1979 Revolution chased the shah off his throne in 1979, the Carter administration in Washington froze Iran’s money.

No more blood for monopoly profits

U.S. wars and sanctions have wrought havoc and destruction from Afghanistan to Yemen, from Iraq and Syria to Palestine and Libya. They are a desperate and futile attempt to control and restrict the world energy supply in the interests of U.S. banks and corporations, and to keep the wealth of the world flowing into their coffers and maintain their position in the world economy.

The Trump regime in particular is tied to the U.S. fracking industry. Mike Pompeo was known as “the Congressman from Koch.” The U.S. invasion of Iraq created an energy price bubble that gave birth to the U.S. fracking industry. That bubble has collapsed, and the fracking industry is in crisis. So are the banks that finance it. The oil-soaked gang in Washington no doubt dreams that a new war could bail them out.

Endless war is also a pretext to plunder working-class and oppressed peoples. The U.S. is a parasitic military-industrial complex.

The people of Iraq, Iran, Syria and the entire region have made it clear they do not want the U.S. nor its land or U.S. ships in their waters. They are demanding that the U.S. leave. We need to build a mass people’s movement here to support their just and righteous demand.
Lenin: How to oppose an unjust war

By Greg Butterfield

The Leninist view of how to fight against imperialist war remains one of the most controversial and defining characteristics of the communist movement—and for a good reason: because it means standing up to the capitalist class at the moment its fangs are bared. Why do we think it's important to study what Russian revolutionary-理論 VI. Lenin wrote and did during World War I, over 100 years ago?

There are two good reasons. First, Lenin's Marxist analysis of war shows how capitalism in its highest stage, imperialism, has an insatiable thirst for new markets and bigger profits that drives it to war. That hasn't changed.

And second, Lenin successfully used this working-class understanding of war to help bring about the socialist revolution in Russia. In the pamphlet “Socialism and War,” Lenin called the war that had just broken out in Europe “a war between the biggest slaveholders for the maintenance and consolidation of slavery.”

Differentiating the communist position from the pacificists, who condemned all wars equally, Lenin said, “We understand that wars cannot be abolished until classes are abolished and socialism is created.”

He defined as just “civil wars, i.e., wars waged by an oppressed class against the oppressor class,” and wars of national liberation by oppressed nations against the oppressor powers. “If tomorrow, Morocco were to declare war on France, India on England, Persia or China on (World War I era, pre-revolutionary) Russia, and so forth,” he wrote, “those would be ‘just,’ ‘defensive’ wars, irrespective of who attacked first; and every social-ist would sympathize with the victory of the oppressed, dependent, unequal states against the oppressing, slave-owning, predatory ‘Great Powers.’

Communists “of the oppressor countries should recognize and champion the oppressed nation’s right to self-determination,” Lenin wrote. “The socialist of a ruling class country does not stand for that right is a chauvinist.”

Revolutionary defeatism “The defeat of one’s own capitalist government is the lesser evil in the struggle against the war,” he wrote. “A revolutionary class cannot but wish for the defeat of its government in a reactionary war, and cannot fail to see that the latter’s military re-serve must facilitate its overthrow.”

Lenin's thoroughly internationalist perspective is called revolutionary-defeatism.

Instead of using the war as an excuse to pull back from the class struggle, Lenin and his co-thinkers argued that it was exactly the time to step up the struggle against capital-ism.

It would be a hard road, especially during the first wave of patriotic propaganda. But as the war dragged on and the death and suffering increased, the Bolsheviks were ready when mass anger at the war boiled over. In February 1917, the Russian people rose up and overthrew the Czar. Several months later, after a new pro-capitalist government showed it would continue the war, Lenin and the Bolsheviks led a suc-cessful workers’ and peasants’ rev-olution for socialism under the ban-ner of “Peace, Land, Bread.”

The new Soviet government’s first act was to call on all countries to end the World War and renounce all annexations and occupations. It guar-anteed the right of self-determina-tion for all the peoples and nations oppressed by Russian capitalism.

Protests demand: STOP WAR ON IRAN

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talked about Gen. Soleimani’s role in leading the regional fight against ISIS and other ultraright, U.S.-linked forces that have ravaged Syria and other countries. Activists re-presented the Answer Coalition, the International Action Center, The People’s Forum, Refuse Fascism, New York Boricua Resistance, BAYAN USA and the International League of Peo-ples’ Struggle.

The weather was quite a contrast in Los Angeles, but there, too, a thou-sand people took to the streets to denounce Trump’s provocation and U.S. war sanctions and occupation.

“We find it really important for us to show solidarity for brothers and sisters in Iran and Iraq fighting for their sovereignty,” said Viva Vargas of BAYAN Southern California. “We see the U.S. war machine also waging war in our homes. They have sent over $293 million U.S. dollars to fund the killings, to fund the help and oppression of all our progressive forces, the drones and bombs that cause the displacement of various Indigenous communities.”

Money for food, not war “The people are facing major cuts to Medicare, Social Security, food stamp benefits,” declared Lee Patterson of the Baltimore Peoples Power Assem-bly. “In April, Trump plans to drop 700,000 people from the SNAP food program and millions more will have their benefits reduced. Here in Balti-more city, over 32 percent of people already go to bed feeling hungry. “But who’s not facing cuts? The Pentagon, that’s who!” Patterson said. “Both the Republicans and Democrats in Congress voted to give the Pentagon a 5% billion-increase this year to wage more racist wars and spread more pollution with its 800 bases around the world.

Dozens of protesters lined a ma-jor thoroughfare in downtown Balti-more. They covered a whole block, holding signs and banners in protest of the Trump regime’s latest acts of war targeting Iran, Iraq and Syria. “No bombs! No war! We need health care for the poor!” they chanted.

Among the groups participat-ing were the Socialist Unity Party/ Partido de Socialismo Unido, Balti-more Peace Action, Youth Against War & Racism, Women in Black and the Communist Party USA-Balti-more.

Winter chill didn’t stop an im-pressive turnout against war in Minneapo-lis. As Meredith Ab-yamsky, secretary of the Anti-War Committee told Struggle-La Lucha, “We had over 700 people come out to say no to continued war in Iraq and a new war. We need more people to come on down as far away as North Dakota.”

“It was impressive to see so many people fired up to protest when the mainstream media have been beating the drums of war for days, assuring all of us that this was a legitimate attack and not an assas-sination,” she added.

In San Diego, a spontaneous march followed a rally that featured speakers from Anakbayan San Di-eogo, Unión del Barrio, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the Demo-cratic Socialists of America and the Peace & Freedom Party. “We marched up several blocks and onto the I-5 Freeway overpass, where we hung the lead banner over a railing, making it visible to passing mo-to-rists,” said Carl Muhammad of the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido. “We received a lot of support from the motorists pass-ing below.”

A demonstration in Detroit’s Campus Martius Park, organized by the Michigan Emergency Commit-tee Against War and Injustice (MECAW), swelled to hundreds before marching. Representatives of Al Awdah, the Palestine Right of Return League, who were traveled from Cleveland to attend. Other speakers represented Geopolitics Alert and the Com-munist Workers Party/Marxista part-time, the Barack Obama’s peace in the Middle East.

Hadi Jawad, executive director of the Islamic Peace and Justice Center, reminded a local protest there that “we opposed the Israeli War back in 2003. We opposed the war in the early days of the process of cutting off the bombing of Iraq in the 1980s. This is the freaking fifth decade—the fifth decade of bombing the people of Iraq. Not only did ‘we destroy Iraq,”

New faces join the struggle Everywhere organizers and police alike were surprised at the strong turnout after many years of small anti-war actions. Activists noted many new faces, especially young people, who came out to their first protests to say “No War on Iran.”

In St. Louis, 150 protesters marched through downtown and held a “Rally Against War With Iran” at the Thom-son F. Eagleton Federal Courthouse. Local media reported that “Anti-war protesters swarmed downtown Iowa City” at an event organized by Veter-ans for Peace. Speakers exposed the fact that the U.S. has already spent tens of billions of dollars on “endless wars” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Anti-war protesters clashed with right-wing goons in Pittsburgh and Boise. One hundred demonstrators at the Dallas Peace and Justice Center, reminded a local protest there that “we opposed the Israeli War back in 2003. We opposed the war in the early days of the process of cutting off the bombing of Iraq in the 1980s. This is the freaking fifth decade—the fifth decade of bombing the people of Iraq. Not only did ‘we destroy Iraq,”
Protests demand: STOP WAR ON IRAN!

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The fires that we set in Iran inflamed the entire Middle East.” Activists erupted in chants of “Never again!”

More than fifty people participat-


“The weapons of mass destruction” that never existed, promoted for the purpose of launching the war by polit-

icians from then-President George W. Bush to then-Sen. John F. Kerry.

Russia and China are based largely on two studies. A 2019 report titled “China detaining millions of Uighur Muslims” and a 2018 report titled “No, the U.N. did not re-

port that China has detained millions of Uighur Muslims” are based on unsourced allegations by an American far-right researcher “led by God” and a right-wing researcher “led by God” against China. The subheading says: “Claims that China has de-

tained millions of Uighur Muslims are based largely on two studies. A closer look at these papers reveals that China has not detain-

ed millions of Uighur Muslims.”

The report continues: “The claim that China has detained millions of ethnic Uighurs in its Xinjiang region is repeated with increasing frequen-

cy, but little scrutiny is ever applied. Yet a closer look at the figures and data shows that how it was obtained reveals a serious deficiency in data.

“While this extraordinary claim is treated as unassailable in the West, it is, in fact, based on two highly du-

bious studies.”

“The first, by the U.S. govern-

ment-backed Network of Chinese Rights Defenders, was based in its estimate by interviewing a grand to-

tal of eight people.

The second study relied on flims-

y media reports and speculation. It was authored by Adrian Zenz, a far-right fundamentalist Christian writer. His credibility and gender equality, supports ‘scriptural spanking’ of children, and believes he is ‘led by God’ on a ‘mission’ against China.

“As Washington ratchets up pres-

sure on China, Zenz has been lifted out of obscurity and transformed al-

most overnight into a go-to pundit on Xinjiang. He has testified before Congress, providing commentary in outlets from the Wall Street Journal to Democracy Now!, and delivering expert quotes in the International Consortium of Investigative Journal-

ists (ICIJ). His work is endorsed by Zenz, a German theologian, is a senior fellow for China studies at the Victims of Communism Memo-

ral.
Australia’s fires fueled by capitalist exploitation

By Scott Scheffer

There is no way to describe what is happening in Australia. The fifteen million acres that are engulfed in flames are an area bigger than the state of Maryland. And the fire, as seen in Sydney, the capital city, air quality has been from 10 to 17 times the level considered hazardous and the skies are interminably blood red from the glow of nearby fires, and black with dangerous smoke.

Firefighting up and down the eastern shore of this distant continent on Earth report walls of fire 100 meters tall. “Fire tornadoes” have flipped over fire trucks. Persistently rotating updrafts caused by the heat that precedes the arrival of actual flames have caused supercell storms, the most severe category of thunderstorms.

Dozens of people have died and somewhere between 500 million and 1 billion animals may have perished. Many smaller species will vanish completely. Thousands have evacuated. At one point, four thousand residents to Victoria made their way to the relative safety of beaches with fire closing in on them, waiting for rescue.

The perilous situation has hit many First Nation communities even harder because of government neglect. In many cases, their own efforts have saved lives and homes.

The village of Lake Tyers, in Eastern Victoria, has only a small water tank on a pickup truck. The isolated peninsula is home to 200 residents and has one access road. An all-Indigenous women’s firefighting brigade whose members are part of the council of their self-governing community are the firefighting team.

Charmaine Sellings leads the brigade and in an interview with the organization Now to Love said: “Just one crack of lightning on a stormy day could be disastrous... We are in extreme conditions. Our dams are empty and it’s not a good situation. The crew will work around the clock. We hope for a quiet summer, but we fear the worst.”

The Guardian reports that in Ulududla on the south coast the fires had burned all the way to the sand by early December. Just a few miles north of there is a protected area called Murrayamgar — the site of archaeological finds that hold “the stories of 12,000 years of Yuin occupation in layers of stone tools, spear points, fish bones and oyster shells.”

According to an essay published in the Guardian by Lorena Allam, an Australian journalist whose work has been featured in the New York Times and the Guardian.

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El régimen de Trump lanzó un ataque furtivo y cobarde contra dos países con los que Estados Unidos no está en guerra. Los asesinatos del general iraquí Qassem Soleimani y el iraquí Abu Mahdi Mohandes son una versión global de Cointelpro, el mayor crimen de guerra según el derecho internacional. La guerra también está destinada a salvar y fortalecer la industria del fracking, que está en declive. Añade Michael Plante: "El momento de auge terminó, al menos que los precios del petróleo suban significativamente." Los medios corporativos han criticado a Trump por purgir la intervención estadounidense en Ucrania. Pero se regodean con los asesinatos selectivos completamente ilegales del régimen de Trump. "El acto estadounidense de terrorismo internacional, atacando y asesinando al general Soleimani, fue una versión más efectiva de lo que se llamaba contra Daesh (ISIS), al-Nusrah, al-Qaida y otros, es una escalada extremadamente peligrosa e insensata", dijo el columnista iraquí Yarif Jasrif en Twitter. "La próxima era de perforación de esquisto es la del 15 de diciembre." En un artículo del 15 de diciembre titulado, "La deuda de Irán es guerra contra la clase trabajadora aquí", la guerra con Irán puede enriquecer aún más a los banqueros y multimillonarios, pero solo traerá un desastre a las comunidades oprimidas y de clase trabajadora aquí. El Dr. Martin Luther King dijo: "Las bombas que caen en Vietnam explotan aquí. El pueblo debe intervenir en el Congreso. ¿Pero actuarán ahora para detener esta peligrosa escalada." A Nancy Pelosi, "¿Sacarán sípidamente esta peligrosa escalada. A Nancy Pelosi: "Para proteger nuestro futuro común, no necesitamos tener atención médica y universidad gratuitas como tantos otros países. ¿Dónde está el dinero para reparar los daños causados por huracanes en Puer to Rico?"

Medios monopolistas convergen en torno a la guerra

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Huge profits and investments at stake

Who could want such a thing? The energy interests dominated the Trump White House, and the banks that fund them want it most of all. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s political career was paid for by Koch Industries, a major fracking proponent. Big Energy has come to depend on war in oil-rich West Asia and North Africa. Now they are in a crisis, and headlines in The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) attest: "Energy Producers Face Big Back After Shale Oil Bonanza," the WSJ wrote on Jan. 1. "The bill is coming due for the shale industry’s price war with OPEC, with North American oil—and-gas companies having more than $200 billion of debt maturing over the next four years," begins the article that follows. "Oil Prices to Slide Despite OPEC Cuts, Banks Predict," the WSJ wrote on Dec. 23. "Energy Giants Confront Glut With Wave of Write-Downs," reported a Dec. 20 WSJ headline.

In a Dec. 15 article headlined, "Slade Slow-down Takes Economic Toll," the WSJ quoted Federal Reserve Bank economist Michael Plante: "The boom time is done at this point, unless oil prices go up significantly." Manufacturers Face New Threat From Fracking Slump," read a Dec. 15 headline. Nonetheless, "Big Investors Showing Love to Gas Fields Others Shun," the WSJ reported on Dec. 26. Among those buying up unprofitable fields is Trump ally and Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. More important, ExxonMobil and Chevron announced major investments in the Permian Basin earlier this year, despite falling prices. "The next era of shale drilling is likely to be led by the major oil companies," the WSJ commented.