Socialist countries beat back COVID-19

By Scott Scheffer

Nov. 22 — Another wave of COVID-19 is raging across the U.S. The death count has now reached a quarter-million; Black, Brown and Indigenous communities have suffered the heaviest toll.

After actively discouraging all recommended methods of slowing the spread of the disease and cutting lockdowns short to try to get capitalist production restarted, the Trump regime has focused for months exclusively on the development of a vaccine.

In March, in an article about the efforts to develop a vaccine, the New

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Workers at the Chinese vaccine maker Sinovac Biotech.

Whoever’s in the White House, get ready to fight

By Greg Butterfield

Nov. 25 — The year 2020 has been exhausting.

At the beginning of this year, a U.S. war of aggression against Iran seemed imminent. President Donald Trump ordered the illegal, provo- cative and downright racist assassination of Gen. Qasem Soleimani, commander of Iran’s Quds Force, responsible for beating back the threat of Islamic State (ISIS) forces in Syria, Iraq and throughout West Asia.

Then came the global pandemic, which killed almost 15 million people worldwide by late November. While some countries were able to take swift, organized, community-supported action to stop the spread — especially socialist countries like China, Vietnam and Cuba — those based on market-driven capital- ism, with inadequate, privatized health care, were unable to meet the challenge.

That was the U.S. most of all, with 12.7 million cases reported on Nov. 25 and 260,000 deaths, the worst in the world. Both numbers continue to soar with no end in sight.

Millions of workers are reeling from the unnecessary, preventable deaths of loved ones, especially in the hardest-hit Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities.

Entwined with the pandemic, and looming even before COVID-19 was identified, was the latest global cap- italist economic crisis, which has hit the world harder than any boom-and-bust cycle since the Great Depres- sion of the 1930s. Millions were thrown out of work.

Families are scraping by and joining miles-long lines for food assis- tance after the U.S. Congress and the White House failed to extend emergency benefits or further cash relief. At the end of 2020, more than 13 million unemployed workers will lose their jobless benefits. Almost 7 million households are threatened with eviction when emergency protections end on Dec. 31.

For those low-wage workers and health care workers lucky enough to keep their jobs — the so-called essential workers, also disproportionately oppressed and poor people, including undocumented migrants — every day is a struggle to stay safe from infection.

A study by National Nurses United, the country’s largest nurses’ union, found that Filipinx workers have been one-third of the nurses who have died, despite being only 4 percent of nurses in the U.S. That’s because they are disproportionately on the frontlines in emergency rooms and care centers, and have less access to necessary equipment and care health themselves.

Black Lives uprising

In May, Minneapolis cops mur- dered George Floyd, a Black man, in broad daylight. The city and the whole country erupted in a mass up- rising against racist police violence. Led by Black youth, millions took to the streets against the killer cops and their political enablers from city halls and statehouses to Washing- ton. The New York Times reported that as many as 26 million people in the U.S. participated in demonstra- tions over the death of George Floyd.

The multinational uprising, which some have termed the largest pro- test movement in U.S. history, shook the racist foundations of the capital- ist system.

Lacking coordinated national leadership, this heroic move- ment was unable to sustain its ear- ly momentum as the capitalist state brought its forces to bear to suppress it. But valuable lessons were learned and the anger of the people has not gone away.

Each outrage, like the blatan- tantly fraudulent manipulation of the 2020 November presidential election into a referendum on Trump’s racism. And Trump lost, by 6 million votes and counting.

Now, as we enter the last month of 2020, with Trump in office for eight more weeks, the threat of U.S. war on Iran looms again.

Get ready to fight

After all this — when the media announced on Nov. 7 that Trump had been defeated and Biden had won the necessary Electoral College votes to take office — the masses of workers and oppressed people let out a collective sigh of relief. In many places, people spontaneously came out into the streets to cele- brate Trump’s defeat.

This feeling is completely under- standable.

The tension ramped up again as Trump denied the results. To this day, Trump has refused to concede defeat. He and his backers in the ruling class, the capitalist state, and fascist gangs like the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and Wolverine Watch- men, have not stopped plotting to overturn his electoral defeat.

Until Trump is out of the White House, we must remain on guard and
Wall Street’s war machine includes 11 aircraft carriers and 5,800 nuclear weapons. Yet the capitalist government in the United States is helpless to combat the latest coronavirus surge. Daily totals have soared to 180,000 with over a thousand deaths per day. Hospitals throughout the Midwest are being overwhelmed. New York City has closed its public schools again.

None of this was inevitable. Donald Trump has blood on his hands. By sabotaging absolutely necessary public health measures—like wearing masks and practicing social distancing—he has guaranteed thousands of more deaths.

The Trump regime follows decades of cutbacks and privatizing government programs. Hundreds of hospitals have closed with tens of thousands of hospital beds lost. Now the coronavirus is here.

Some of the closed hospitals—like St. Vincent’s in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village—have been turned into field hospitals. But the profits are more important than human lives.

Contrast the tragedy unfolding in the U.S., with the socialist countries are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Twenty-two new cases of the coronavirus were reported on Nov. 12 and Nov. 13 in the People’s Republic of China.

That’s 10,000 times fewer cases than in the U.S. How has socialist China been able to control the pandemic?

People’s health comes first under socialism. China’s government, led by President Xi Jinping, didn’t hesitate to temporarily shut down the economy in order to save lives.

No consideration was given to private profit. That’s unlike the capitalist U.S., where President Trump is seen as an executive keeping the meatpacking plants open without safety guarantees.

Tyson Foods and other big meatpackers demanded it to shield themselves from lawsuits. Trump compounded it on April 28, which was Workers’ Memorial Day. 

Talking about his billionaire friends in the dead-animals industry, Trump said: “They’re so happy. They’re coming to us, they have called us.”

No thought was given to the problem of thousands of meatpacking and poultry workers getting sick and dying.

Socialism vs. COVID-19

In socialist countries, people are encouraged to be organized. Members of communist parties volunteer for duty in the war against the coronavirus.

In the People’s Republic of China, more than 1,000 volunteers joined in the fight against the virus. A hundred thousand people who were infected volunteered in the fight against the virus.

Police killed the average of three people per day in the U.S. At least half are Black, Indigenous or Latinx.

When the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan was shut down to fight COVID-19, unarmed socialist police delivered meals to people’s homes. Thirty-five people have died of COVID-19 in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, a country of 97 million people. North Dakota’s 762,000 people have had 1,028 deaths from the virus as of Nov. 13.

The Pentagon killed at least three million people in Vietnam, using napalm and phosphorus bombs to burn children to death. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people suffer from the effects of Agent Orange, dropped by U.S. planes, as do thousands of U.S. veterans.

Thirty million people were killed in neighboring Laos. The U.S. killed over three million people during the Korean War.

Both the imperialist Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the socialist Democratic People’s Republic of Korea have reported no deaths from COVID-19.

For 60 years, socialist Cuba has been economically blocked by the U.S. Its socialist health care system has become well known. Cuban medical workers have gone to Italy to help during the pandemic.

Cuba, with 11.3 million people, has had 113 deaths due to COVID-19. The 11.7 million people in Ohio have had at least 5,700 deaths.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is also beating back the coronavirus, despite Trump’s cruel sanctions. Venezuela’s 26.6 million people have suffered 844 COVID-19 deaths. The 29.5 million people living in Texas have had at least 19,917 deaths, from COVID-19.

Africa fights back

Africa has been pillaged for over 500 years by European and U.S. capitalists. Yet African countries have been able to tackle the coronavirus much more effectively than their colonial exploiters.

With four times the population of the United States, Africa has had less than one-fifth of the cases of COVID-19. The people of Zimbabwe have been punished by the U.S. and the European Union for daring to take back their land from white settlers. These policies have also blocked or strangled Zimbabwe’s economy.

With around 15 million people, Zimbabwe has had 257 COVID-19 deaths. Pennsylvania, with around 13 million people, has had at least 9,353.

More than a vaccine is needed

People are hoping for the rollout of vaccines against the coronavirus. Capitalists see dollar signs.

After Pfizer and the German firm BioNTech announced a potentially effective vaccine, $24 billion poured into U.S. stock markets. U.S. billionaires have grabbed another trillion dollars during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, 15 million workers are scheduled to lose their unemployment benefits the day after Christmas. Temporary moratoriums on evictions and home foreclosures are set to expire.

We have to demand the reinstatement of the $600 weekly supplemental unemployment benefits that ended in July, with the missing weeks paid in full. We have to keep evictions and foreclosures must be enacted.

This won’t happen automatically even if Trump is kicked out of the White House. We have to organize the power of the people to win it.

Socialist countries beat back COVID-19

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York Times said that “the United States, China and Europe are battling to be the first.” That competition is also taking place in the major capitalist countries. It is an all-out, cutthroat battle—each country prioritizing their economy, trying to reopen businesses, and trying anything. Secrecy abounds and the competition is even between companies in the same country. But the New York Times was being deceitful to include China in the battle “to be the first.”

China, Cuba and communists and socialists around the world have had amazingly successful campaigns against the virus and have a different degree of success than the capitalist countries. They don’t view gaining control of the virus in their own countries as the end of the fight, their goal is to help the rest of the world as well.

China’s death toll under 5,000

China’s Communist Party prioritized saving lives over keeping their economy going and shut down huge areas where around 100 million people live as soon as COVID-19 was identified. Their economic sacrific-

From the cancellation of a trial in Brazil of a Chinese pharmaceutical company’s vaccine. President Jair Bolsonaro—a reactionary and a close ally of Trump—ordered their pharmaceutical regulators to cancel Sinovac’s trial after a suicide by a participant. Bolsonaro later gloated to the press that it was “a victory for me.” There has been a huge outcry from medical professionals, virologists and epidemiologists in Brazil because the suicide had nothing to do with the safety of the vaccine.

As four of China’s vaccine candidates have progressed through Phase 3 trials they have inoculated up to one million people at home, according to state media. Front-line workers, workers who travel frequently as part of the Belt and Road Initiative and the People’s Liberation Army also received the emergency use basis. As of yet, there are no reports of serious or unexpected side effects.

U.S. sanctions block progress

China’s achievements in fighting the pandemic have been unparalleled. And even though terrible U.S. sanctions have damaged the economies of some progressive and socialist countries and hindered progress, all evidence shows that socialist and communists in government, from Vietnam to Cuba, from India to China, are still better equipped than even the most developed capitalist countries to deal with this world crisis. If the deadly U.S. sanctions regime were defeated, the world’s population would be far better off in dealing with this pandemic.

In India, Communist Party (Marxist) member K.K. Shailaja astounded observers around the world as she swung into action to limit an outbreak in her densely populated home state of Kerala, where she serves as minister of health. The entire state government of Kerala is in the hands of her party. Shailaja was honored by the United Nations because her sensitivity to local traditions won the trust of the population and allowed a vigorous campaign that kept the number of cases as well as the case fatality rate much lower than in the rest of India in January and February.

Now, due to many people returning to Kerala from abroad and because of many traditional festivals taking place, a second wave has hit.

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Colin Kaepernick: Now is the time to release Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Gloria Verdieu

“Release Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners” was the message of the Nov. 16 Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Press Conference. As the title slide and a video segment from Colin Kaepernick, calling on the movement against racist police to join in the work to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal home.

Listen to and view Kaepernick’s entire presentation on YouTube — at tinyurl.com/ysg3xxul.

Johanna Fernandez opened the virtual press conference with an urgent emergency message regarding 77-year-old political prisoner Russell Maroon Shoats. Shoats, suffering stage 4 cancer, for the last year and a half, has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

This infection is no doubt a result of the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus in Pennsylvania state prisons and the callous disregard shown by prison authorities to elderly and infirm incarcerated people, including withholding testing and unhygienic isolation of those who report symptoms. The message included a request for all supporters to call the office of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and demand the unconditional release of Russel Maroon Shoats and all elder prisoners with COVID-19.

The message was signed by Russel Maroon Shoats Jr., son of Shoats. The number to call (717-787-2500) was posted on the chat and Fernandez repeated this information throughout the press conference.

Fernandez, a member of the virtu- press conference, is an associate professor of history at Baruch Col- al press conference, is an associate professor of history at Baruch Col-

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Still, under the leadership of “Shailaja Teacher,” as she is known, the case fate of Mumia was kept down to an incredibly low 0.37 percent.

Cuba, a world leader against COVID-19

Cuba has also been a world leader in the fight against COVID-19. With a great deal of experience in biolog- medicine accumulated during past outbreaks of dengue fever and a host of tropical diseases, their expertise not only helped them keep their own death toll to 131, but has enabled them to save lives throughout the world.

Interferon-a2b, a biologic drug, was developed by Cuban scientists in 1986. One clinical study showed that when administered early during the infection, interferon-a2b can keep death rate down from 2.95 percent to 0.92 percent. When they laud the success against outbreaks of dengue fever and a host of tropical diseases, their expertise

— early testing on small groups of humans.

A Mint Press News article notes that the use of sanctions on Cuba’s vaccine production and the poten- tial help to other countries that they might be able to provide otherwise.

Betts read a prepared poetic statement that began:

For more on the movement

Mumia's words brought life

Dwayne Betts is director of the Million Book Project at Yale Law School, public defender and award- winning author. Betts read a pre- poeted statement that began:

“Your name is Regional Dwayne Betts; I am a poet; I am a lawyer; I am a convicted felon. In 1997 I went to prison as a 16-year-old. I plead- ed guilty to murder, sentenced for nine years. During those years in cells, I discovered Mumia Abu-Ja- mal’s writing. I discovered him in the same way that I discovered As- sata Shakur, and George Jackson, and James Foreman, and Stokely Carmil- chael, and H. Rap Brown, Fred Hamp- ton, Huey P. Newton, Bobby Seale, Malcolm X, Dr. Angela Davis.” Betts said that Mumia’s words brought life to him when he was in solitary and he speaks for all people in prison regardless of their innocence.

Professor Angela Davis, author of “Are Prisons Obsolete,” registered her unwavering support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. “It is right and just for us to accelerate our efforts to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners,” Davis said.

Mumia’s grandson Jamal spoke of how “This is something I’ve had to endure all my life.” He said it is great to see so many organizations coming together, strategizing and figuring out action plans to get my grandfather free. Jamal spoke the names George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Walter Wallace, who was recently shot by the police in Philadelphia.

Jamal said, “It’s a good time to have my grandfather’s case come to the forefront. There are a lot of in- dividuals who are misused, so much misinformation provided by the Fraternal Order of Police. I am grateful for so many that are partic- ipating in this press conference.”

The press conference concluded with a powerful statement from Col- in Kaepernick. Watch the complete event on YouTube.

For more on the movement to free Mumia Abu-Jamal go to MobilizationMumia.com.
By Greg Butterfield

Last June 1, as reported by Struggle-Lucha, President Donald Trump attempted to carry out a coup d’état when his administration ordered U.S. soldiers in National Guard troops to “dominate” Washington, D.C., during mass protests against the police murder of George Floyd. Trump’s plan to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 — first enacted to suppress slave rebellions — and dispatch the military to put down Black Lives Matter protests across the U.S.

The scheme collapsed when Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mark Milley and Defense Secretary Mark Esper lost their nerve, fearing that rank-and-file soldiers, mostly from the working class and many from Black and Brown communities, would refuse to carry out these orders and join the protesters. Instead, Trump deployed an illegal secret federal police force, including agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security and the Border Patrol, to Portland, Ore., Seattle and other cities for a smaller-scale attack on protesters. In September, Trump’s stormtroopers carried out the cold-blooded execution of anti-Fascist Michael Reinoehl of Portland, Ore.

But Trump and his closest supporters have never given up their desire to use the military to secure their influence over Black and Brown workers and oppressed communities. Rumblings of possible troop deployments began before the Nov. 3 election, and Trump has refused to acknowledge his defeat, and continued to try and overturn the vote, the rumblings have grown louder.

Just a week after Election Day, Trump abruptly replaced several high-ranking officials in the Defense Department, the civilian body governing the Pentagon, and the National Security Council with ultratight loyalists. Esper, who had twice been in Trump’s 2016 coup attempt, was replaced as secretary of defense by Chris Miller, previously the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, who had only served in that post since August.

Others moved into high posts include both civilians and former military personnel known for public displays of racism and anti-Muslim bigotry, and advocates of war with Iran.

Support for resistance

Since the beginning of the Black Lives uprising this summer, the organization About Face: Veterans Against War (formerly known as Iraq Veterans Against the War) has urged National Guard soldiers to resist deployment to suppress the protests. A letter signed by 700 veterans called on these troops to “Stand Down for Black Lives.”

The group reiterated its call in the run-up to Election Day: “This election is critical and as rank and file soldiers are often put in questionable positions and told they have no choice, the time is now to resist and we’re here to help.” About Face publicized ways for National Guard members to report “ethical, legal or safety concerns” and request support.

The National Lawyers Guild Military Task Force, built on policies it would provide support. “MLTF — shares the concerns of many in the public and the legal community, that U.S. servicemembers may be used in illegal orders or face real conflicts with their moral, political or religious beliefs in the context of the 2020 Presidential election and aftermath. In particular, we are concerned that National Guard members and other military personnel may be used in voter suppression or repression of progressive demonstrations.”

“The Task Force is troubled about the lack of effective legal alternatives for servicemembers dealing with possible illegal orders and believes it is essential that members of the military are fully informed about their rights under the law. For this reason, the Task Force has set up a system for free, confidential telephone consultations with attorneys to discuss possible illegal orders and related issues.”

And a popular appeal to U.S. soldiers was issued by Detroit’s Mora- torium Now! Coalition, “Attention! Refuse to Follow Trump’s Illegal Orders to Overturn the Election.” The call is endorsed by the Peoples Power Assembly, the Peoples Alliance–Bay Area, Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha, the People Movement and Youth Against War and Racism, among others.

‘You do have a choice’

The call states: “At some point, Trump may declare the 2020 election to be ‘null and void.’ We would then order you, U.S. servicemembers, into cities and towns across the country, to suppress the millions of people who pour into the streets to protest his illegal coup d’état. Are you ready to shoot down civilians, just to keep Trump illegally in power despite the election outcome?”

“Union locals and labor councils across the country are already preparing for a national general strike. Let’s make sure that if Trump refuses to recognize the people’s decision and overturns the election, you are ready to support workers standing up for our democratic rights!”

“Some 42 percent of U.S. soldiers are people of color. Are you willing to kill for this racist bigot as he tries to hold his grip of power and un- leashes bloody revenge on any who oppose him?”

The call goes on to point out the hypocrisy of Trump and his allies when they attempt to use the troops to circumvent the capitalists’ own anti-coup measures.

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Whoever’s in the White House get ready to fight

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ready to mobilize against a coup at tempt. If Trump’s four years in pow- er have taught anything, it is that the “venerable institutions” in which the Democratic establishment and corporate media urge the people to put their trust will not protect us. But even if Trump departs and Biden takes the oath of office peace- fully on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2021, the fight is not over. Far from it. Just look at whom Biden is lining up as his Cabinet appointees and other high positions in his administration. Most are carryovers from the Obama administration, while others repre- sent the right-wing Democratic leadership.

Biden’s former chief of staff, Bruce Reed, an advocate of austerity and cuts to Social Security, is his likely pick for the office of Management and Budget. The former arm- mercorner on Iraq, Libya, Syria and Ukraine, is Biden’s choice for secre- tary of state. To head the Department of Homeland Security will be Alejandro Mayorkas, an anti-communist Cu- ban American whose family fled the socialist revolution. And so on.

Biden is expected to nominate several women and people of color to positions that have been exclusively held by white men. Representation is important. Those who discount or ridicule it are not doing themselves any favors; it will not gain them an audience with the workers.

But if those being appointed to these positions are loyalists of the system that oppresses women, people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ2S people and all others, then the value of that representation is limited.

Biden has also suggested that he may appoint “mainstream” republicans, in the same spirit that his campaign solicited and trumpeted union locals and labor councils for All?

Will Biden put workers before political and corporate interests?

To head the Department of State, he has his choice of neo-fascist, white supremacist mercenaries to serve U.S. military, political and corporate interests.

Anyone hoping for the incoming Democratic administration to enact a massive retooling of the country to be more equitable is in for a big disappointment. The will for a New Deal or a Green New Deal doesn’t ex- ist within the capitalist class.

The global desire for a U.S. impe- rialist power and the tendency of the rate of profit to fall, as described 150 years ago by Karl Marx, under- cut any liberal hopes. That’s why the best that the system can offer the workers is Biden and a return to pre- 2016 misery. That’s why the return of Trump (or someone similar) in 2024 will hang over the next four years.

Will Biden enact the national shutdown needed to bring the virus under control?

Will Biden rein in the police, much less defund them?

Will Biden fight for Medicare for All?

Will Biden stop wars and sanctions?

Will Biden stop the war on immigrants?

Will Biden defeat the white supremacist gangs threatening our communities?

Will Biden put workers before Wall Street?

Trump’s electoral defeat was a vic- tory. It was a battle, and an import- ant one. But the class war continues. Under Trump or Biden, the job of socialists and communists, of all class-conscious workers, is to orga- nize and fight for the rights of those who have been oppressed and to use this historic moment to help our class shed its illusions and build a militant movement against the whole rotten capitalist system, for a socialist future.
Black voting power under attack

It was Black voters who prevented David Duke from being elected Louisiana governor in 1991. While 55% of white voters cast their ballots for Duke, Black, Livonia is less than 5% African American. In Michigan, the vote was 62% for Republicans and 68% for Democrats. Detroit's Black voting power under attack is the reason that Trump lost the 2016 election.

The plot is to have them nominate George W. Bush becoming president, not those of Detroit itself. All these cities have large Black, Latinx and poor people in general. It was the power of the people that stopped this outrageous. Hundreds mobilized to stop the steal. Local congressman Rep. Rashida Tlaib — a Palestinian American — denounced the racist attempt to disenfranchise Detroit’s voters.

In Milwaukee, racist Trump supporters are harassing election workers, many of whom are Black, during a recount. “It looks like [Trump is] looking to do pretty much everything. I see racism and disenfranchisement voters of color,” said Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, the first Black person elected to that post.

That’s nothing new. After the 1976 presidential election, former Wisconsin Gov. Warren Knowles claimed people were being driven around Milwaukee in a school bus and voting a zillion times.

Then there’s North Carolina. People being beimed Black, going to polls on Halloween in Alamance County were pepper sprayed and stun grenades were used by sheriff’s deputies. The Reverend Greg Dumnwright and two others are now facing frame-up felony charges. Sheriff Terry Johnson, who ordered the attack, is also a notorious anti-immigrant and anti-Latinx bigot.

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It was Black voters who prevented David Duke from being elected Louisiana governor in 1991. While 55% of white voters cast their ballots for the neo-Nazi, the Black community, with support from progressive whites, mobilized to stop Duke.

A Black shield stopped the deluge of anti-Jewish racism and fascist violence that would have followed Duke’s election.

Ollie North wasn’t elected a U.S. senator in 1984, from Virginia because White voters were being flooded the U.S. with crack cocaine while Ronald Reagan was in the White House. Drug sales financed the campaign. Crime rates fell and savings and loan collapses hit low Nicaragua’s Sandinista government.

And it was the Black vote that blocked Sen. Strom Thurmond’s super bigot sexual predator Roy Moore from becoming a U.S. senator from Alabama in 2018.

By Stephen Millies

Nov. 1 thug Rudy Giuliani wants the votes in Detroit. Miami University and Philadelphia thrown out. All these cities have large Black communities with Atlanta and Detroit making up majorities. If Trump is able to ditch the votes in these cities, he can overturn the results in Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and win the Electoral College.

That’s what Trump supporter Moore, the conservative Republican of Wayne County, which includes Detroit. Sitting on the county election board, Palmer wanted to certify just the votes of Detroit’s suburbs but not those of Detroit itself.

That’s despite the suburb of Livonia having the second highest number of county precincts with irregularities. While Detroit is nearly 80% Black, Livonia is less than 5% African American. Livonia also has large Arab and Latinx communities whose votes would have been thrown away.

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Most of the media are laughing at Rudy Giuliani. The racist clown de- serves it.

He’s been exposed as a greedy pig who wants to charge Trump’s re-election campaign $20,000 per day for his dubious legal services.

Giuliani’s Nov. 7 Philadelphia news conference — sandwiched between a porno bookstore and a cre- matorium — became a national joke. His loopy claims of voter fraud in an election that Trump lost by six million votes were being ridiculed.

None of this makes Giuliani any less dangerous. He’s attempting to have the votes of Black, Latinx and Indigenous peoples in Detroit, Phil- adelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities thrown out.

Make no mistake about it: Trump is attempting to overturn the election with Giuliani as his thug-in-charge.

Trump called Monica Palmer — who’s on the Wayne County, Mich., Board of Canvassers — and pressured her to reject the hundreds of thousands of votes cast in Detroit and surrounding communities. Giuliani also summoned Republican members of Michigan’s Legislators to the White House on Nov. 20. The plot is to have them nominate pro-Trump electors to the Electoral College despite Trump losing the state by 153,000 votes.

This is reminiscent of Trump’s June 1st coup attempt. That’s when he marched from the White House with the Pentagon brass. Tear gas and stun grenades were used to clear demonstrators from Lafayette Park.

Trump wanted to invoke the In- surrection Act — which was passed in 1807 to suppress revolts of enslaved Africans — to crush the Black Lives Matter movement. The mil- lions of people on the streets stopped Trump from declaring martial law. Another coup attempt is happening right now and we must stop it.

There is a new world order taking real democracy to the streets; we will stop evictions and win compensation for all the jobless. We need to organize and fight more than before.

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There is a new world order taking real democracy to the streets; we will stop evictions and win compensation for all the jobless. We need to organize and fight more than before.
Nov. 28, 2020, marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Engels, co-founder of scientific socialism with Karl Marx. Following is an abridged article, written by the Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin after Engels’ death in 1895.

By V.I. Lenin

What a heart has ceased to beat!

What a torch of reason ceased to burn,

By V.I. Lenin

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letarians who are fighting for their
the conscious class struggle of the
of these foundations, and therefore
– disappear. The interests of the
erty and anarchic social production
the foundations of class struggle and
society. All recorded history hither
of dreamers, but the final aim and
letariat that will deliver humanity
from the evils which now oppress it.

They showed that it was not the well-meaning efforts of
the proletariat. They showed that it was not the well-meaning efforts of

On Aug. 5, 1895, Frederick Engels died in London. After his friend Karl Marx (who died in 1883), Engels was the leading socialist and teacher of the modern proletariat in the whole

From the time that fate brought
Karl Marx and Frederick Engels to
together, the two friends devoted their
life’s work to a common cause. And so it continued.卡尔・马克思
Engels has done for the proletariat, one
must have a clear idea of the signifi-
cance of Marx’s teaching and work for
the development of the contempo-
rary working-class movement.

Marx and Engels were the first to show
that the demands of the working class
are a necessary outcome of the present economic system, which

Unified Code of Military Justice

the working class to know itself and be
rendered by Marx and Engels to the

Marx and Engels did not share
Marx and Engels did not share
the beliefs of the philosophers of their

time but none came to answer the

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the beliefs of the philosophers of their

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Continued from page 4

the people in the streets and help up
turn the will of the people. Join with

Marx and Engels became their followers. Although

Engels became his follower. Although
Marx and Engels became their followers. Although
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Continued from page 4

facs with people active in the En- glish labor movement at the time and began to write for English social- ialist publications.

In 1844, while on his way back to Germany, he met the philosopher Richard Freilich in Paris, with whom he had already started to correspond. In Paris, under the influence of the French Revolution, Engels also became a socialist.

Here the friends jointly wrote a book entitled “The Holy Family, or Criticism of the Communist Manifesto,” which only “critically” contemplated the surrounding world and the events going on within it. These men- tions, the Bayers, looked down on the proletariat as an uncritical mass. Marx and Engels vigorously opposed this absurd and harmful ten- dency. In the name of a real, human person — the worker, trampled down by the ruling classes and the state — they demanded not contemplation, but a struggle for a better order of society. They, of course, regarded the proletariat as the force that is capable of carrying on the struggle and that is interested in it.

Even before the appearance of “The Holy Family,” Engels had published in Marx's and Ruge's Deutsch-Fran- zösische Jahrbücher his “Critical Es- says on Political Economy,” in which he examined the principal phenom-ena of the contemporary economic life. The two books were a majestic monument to the genius of the young Marx. When Engels died, he left a deeply loving soul.

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**Frederick Engels**

he collected from NBC to cover his real estate and casino losses. The same newspapers and maga- zines that are now mocking Giuliani were for years his biggest cheerlead- ers. He ignored his racist cam- paign to defeat David Dinkins, who was the only Black mayor New York City has ever had.


Giuliani bragged that he drove 600,000 poor people off welfare pro- grams and reduced crime.

Giuliani said it would be “a good thing” if poor people “left the city.” According to him, pushing poor people from Critical Studies. This book, which appeared a year before “The Condition of the Working Class in England,” and the greater part of which was written by Marx, contains the foundations of revolutionary materialist socialism, the main ideas of which we have expounded above.

“The holy family” is a facetious nickname for the Bauer brothers, the philosophers, and their followers. These gentlemen proclaimed a critic- ism which stood above all reality, above parties and politics, which rejected all conventions and moral rules which only “critically” contemplat- ing the surrounding world and the events going on within it. These men- tions, the Bayers, looked down on the proletariat as an uncritical mass. Marx and Engels vigorously opposed this absurd and harmful ten- dency. In the name of a real, human person — the worker, trampled down by the ruling classes and the state — they demanded not contemplation, but a struggle for a better order of society. They, of course, regarded the proletariat as the force that is capable of carrying on the struggle and that is interested in it.

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Three typhoons rock the Philippines, militant students strike

By Bayani

As if extrajudicial killings, the worst COVID-19 infection rate in Southern Asia and a renewed government effort of red-tagging weren't enough, the Filipino people were struck by three typhoons within the space of three weeks.

October 25: Typhoon Molave (called Quinto in the Philippines) made landfall at San Miguel Island and tore across Luzon for two days.

October 31: Super Typhoon Goni (or Rolly) struck the Bicol region, very close to where Molave made landfall.

November 11: Super Typhoon Vamco (or Ulysses) hit the Quezon region on Nov. 11, just hours of where the first two typhoons made landfall.

Following the destruction of these three storms, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports:
- 73 deaths
- 24 injured
- 19 people still missing
- 82,900 people in evacuation centers
- 82,900 people remain displaced
- 50 villages remain isolated
- Over $165 million in infrastructure damage across 8 regions
- Only 60 out of 316 municipalities have had power restored
- Over 73 deaths
- Around 82,900 people in evacuation centers
- 82,900 people remain displaced
- 50 villages remain isolated
- Over $165 million in infrastructure damage across 8 regions
- Only 60 out of 316 municipalities have had power restored

Many of the working and oppressed masses of the Philippines have accepted that help is not coming. Despite the millions of U.S. dollars poured into military and police aid, none of it will be utilized for disaster relief or rescue.

Revolutionary feminism

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demanding the abolition of police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, because it is precise- ly our Black, Brown and Indigenous children that are being murdered by these racist systems. It is our children who are being held in cages by ICE and separated from their mothers even as their mothers breast feed them. It is our Indigenous women’s experience to try to defend their land.

Fighting for the rights of LGBTQI+ people is women’s work. Homophobia and transphobia are the tools of the capitalist system to keep us in our place. By forcing us to accept la beis and mis and shame that say, “This is the only normal way to be a woman” or “This is the only normal way to be a man.” This also works to keep us di vided and fighting each other, while the bankers and the bosses line their pockets with the profits from our blood and sweat.

And, of course, the fight against the oppression of women is not only women’s work, it is the work of all revolutionaries to matter the gender.

Revolutionary feminism is the struggle against sexual and domest ic violence and the violent system that is the fight against forced sterilization and forced birth control or abortion for poor women of color. It is a continu ous struggle for women and trans women to have dominion over our bodies and our lives.

We all have been raised with many backward ideas about race, gender and sexual identity. We all have to continue to check ourselves and each other when any of these evils rears its ugly head.

I think one of the biggest gains in the fight for liberation of wom en today is the unity in the move ment. Women, men, young, old, gay, straight, trans, Black, Brown, Indig enous and white, all stand with each other, protecting and defending each other, fighting for the liberation of the proletariat. If we are to achieve this goal we must continue to stay united. Keeping our eye on the true enemy: capitalism and imperialism.

COVID-19 and gender disparities

Comrades: I want to now focus on how COVID-19 has worsened long-standing gender inequalities. Women are more likely than men to work in service occupations, in danger and low income, low paid service, retail, tourism, and hospitality, that require face-to-face interactions and have been hard-hit by layoffs. For these jobs, telework ing is not an option. Women workers are largely represented in frontline jobs, which have been on the frontlines of the pandemic to defend essential services and require people to work in-person.

In addition women have been harder hit by pandemic-related job losses than men.

COVID-19 has hit women especially hard for three reasons:

Massive job losses in service industries and other occupations where we are disproportionately represented

Sex discrimination that makes us more likely to be laid off

We tend to bear more responsibility for pandemic-related challenges to family health, school closures, and other disruptions.

These pressures have resulted in many women leaving the workforce altogether. The drop was particularly sharp for Latina women, whose part icipation rate fell by 5.1%, and Black women, whose rate dropped by 4.0%. Transgender women are always in a precarious position, but COVID-19 pandemic has made them particularly vulnerable. According to research from University of California-Los Angeles, transgender women are at a higher risk for COVID-19 for several reasons. They are more likely to be low-income, with 47.7% of transgender women living below 200% of the official U.S. poverty line. They are also significantly more likely to suffer from asthma and HIV, conditions that put people at higher risk of mortality if they contract COVID-19. And they experience high barriers to receiving health care.

The pandemic has also hit transgender women especially hard economically. A poll from the Human Rights Campaign shows that as of June 2020, some 54% of transgender women had experi enced reduced work hours — more than double the 23% of the total U.S. workforce. Twenty-seven percent of transgender women had experi enced pay cuts, compared to just 7% of the U.S. workforce. And 19% had become unemployed due to the pandemic, a significantly larger share than the general population.

The gender poverty line

The gender poverty gap has wid ened over the past 50 years. But COVID has made poverty a partic ularly acute problem for women of color, affecting 21.2% of Black wom en, 18.7% of Latinos, and 22.8% of Native American women, compared to the national poverty rate for white women of 7.0%.

Lizz Toledo at rally against police brutality and racist murders in Atlanta on May 29.

Students strike back

Youth and student groups called for a national academic strike against the criminal negligence of the Duterte administration. Students at Uni versity of the Philippines campuses, the Ateneo de Manila University, the University of Santo Tomas and many more submitted pledges to withdraw all submissions of enrollment requirements until their demands are met.

The demands:

- National academic break before the end of the semester
- Urgent calamity aid and pandemic response
- Ouster of the Duterte administration
- Fair wages for university staff and faculty

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque threatened: “Babagsak po kayo, or, ‘you will fall.’” Duterte threatened to cut off funding to the University of the Philippines, red-tagging the university in the process: “Sure? UP? Fine. Stop study ing. I will stop the funding. You don’t do anything except recruit commun ist s. You study, and then you crit icize the government. You are so lucky. Don’t threaten me, because I will oblige you.”

Alongside the student protests, at least 134 faculty members of the University of Philippines-Diliman issued a statement calling for the end of the semester.

The situation is very fluid. One way to follow developments is to tune into the hashtag #YouthStrikePH on all social media platforms. Whatever happens, this action led by youth and students, bringing together the workers and faculty of the universities and surrounding communities, is a remarkable example of mass action.

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Nov. 17 — It is a fallacy that this consultation constituted a majority vote. The U.S. government "staked their claim to admission as the 51st State of the Union." (New York Times: Make Puerto Rico a State Now) This was a fallacy because they staked their claim to statehood. Nov. 4, 2020

Firstly, the status of a colonial regime cannot be a binding expression of a people since the people of Puerto Rico are not free to engage in a democratic process because of 122 years of U.S. military occupation and colonial rule. What takes place in Puerto Rico every four years is of little utility to the people of Puerto Rico. Whomever wins colonial elections merely becomes an administrator of the colony for the interests of the U.S. and Wall Street. Additionally, colonial elections have no real authority, and the elected officials have no power since all local economic decisions are made by the Financial Supervisory and Management Board created by federal legislation. This colonial board was not an elected board by and of the people of Puerto Rico, but is instead authorized and executed by the U.S. Congress, where there is no Puerto Rican voting representation. Furthermore, Congress specifically addressed this so-called plebiscite and stated that it will not be binding.

What is the fuss about this statehood?

The “Yes” or “no” vote for statehood in Puerto Rico on Nov. 3, 2020, is neither a “plebiscite” nor a “referendum.” It constitutes a mere consultation, poll or survey of approximately 50 percent of the registered voters’ opinions. Fewer voters turned out for this election than ever before. A real plebiscite would be supervised by the United Nations and would outline the consequences of the peoples’ decision. Puerto Rico, as a colony of the U.S., is required every ten years by the United Nations Decolonization Committee and their resolutions have consistently called upon the United States to immediately transfer power to the people of Puerto Rico to enable the free exercise of their self-determination and inalienable right to independence in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 1541 (XXV). Since “plebiscites” have often been used to annex a territory or country, another violation of international law, to institute a people’s constituent assembly for creating a new government and constitution for an independent nation. It is inconsistent with how the original 13 U.S. colonies went about their independence against Britain. The imposed U.S. citizenship has never been referred to them by the legislature as a political unit determine independence or annexation with another country. Originally plebiscites were used by the Roman Empire to incorporate occupied territories and later used by Napoleon Bonaparte to do the same in Europe for France.

In Europe, plebiscites are elections held to decide two paramount types of political issues: government legitimacy and the national territory of territories contested between governments. Following the French Revolution in 1789, the plebiscite was widely popular in France, rooted as it was in the ideas of nationalism and popular sovereignty. In the 20th century, totalizing regimes in Europe have employed plebiscites to legitimize their rule. Plebiscites also have been used as a device to decide the nationality of territories. For example, after World War I, the League of Nations proposed 11 such plebiscites, the most notable of which was held in 1935 in the Saar, where its inhabitants chose overwhelmingly to return to Germany rather than become a part of France.

In contrast, a referendum is the right reserved to the people to approve or reject an act of the legislature, or the right of the people to approve or reject legislation that has been referred to them by the legislature. The referendum power is created by state constitutions and is conferred on the citizens of a state or a local subdivision of the state. Referring a law that has not yet gone into effect for a local subdivision of the state. Referendum legislation comes operative as a law. A referendum is a direct vote of the people of a local subdivision of the state. Referendum legislation is the right reserved to the people to approve or reject an act of the legislature, or the right of the people to approve or reject legislation that has been referred to them by the legislature. The referendum power is created by state constitutions and is conferred on the citizens of a state or a local subdivision of the state. Referring a law that has not yet gone into effect for a local subdivision of the state. Referendum legislation comes operative as a law. A referendum is a direct vote of the people of a local subdivision of the state.

Revolutionary feminism

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Transgender economic gaps

Transgender people experience poverty at double the rate of the general population. and transgender people of color experience even higher rates. The unemployment rate triples among transgender people in the U.S. in comparison to that of the general population. The unemployment rate is even higher for Indigenous, Black, Latinx, Middle Eastern and multi-racial transgender people.

Black, Latinx and Indigenous people infected with COVID-19 are abundantly more likely to be hospitalized than others, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). People of color have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. The number of COVID-19 cases among Black and Latinx children and across all ages is higher than other groups. Black and Latinx people infected with the virus also died at disproportionate rates over the summer. In addition, due to poverty and healthcare disparities, communities of color, including Latinx, African American and Indigenous peoples, are often uninsured and have higher rates of conditions like hypertension, diabetes, depression, obesity, which can lead to more severe reactions to COVID-19.

The fight continues

While workers and specifically women and trans workers made some gains prior to the pandemic, gender-based economic oppression and transphobic violence has worsened. COVID-19 has set us back years. But we must continue to push forward, demanding an end to the violence that predated it. All too often, a system that has allowed a pandemic to kill over 250,000 people in the U.S. right to make decisions about our lives and our bodies, whether this means keeping our babies and having the resources to raise healthy children or having full access to health care, including medications and surgeries, is under threat. That’s what we choose. We choose when and if we have babies, we choose what in body we want to live our lives, we choose how we live and how we choose who we love, we choose how to raise our children, and this is true revolutionary feminism.

Women and trans people living in the belly of the capitalist-imperialist state are constantly fighting not only against disease, led, of course, by women and trans people of color. United we will give the final blow to this decaying system and build a world where every life is valued and protected. Where people are more important than profits.
Feminismo revolucionario

Por Liz Toledo

Queridas Compañeras: saludos revolucionarios de Mujeres en Lucha y Partido de Socialismo Unido de los EUA.

Es difícil separar la lucha de las mujeres de otras luchas ya que todas las luchas están intrínsecamente conectadas porque nuestra opresión, ya sea racial, de género, transfobia, transphobia o sexismo, proviene de la lucha de clases o de la lucha para acabar con el capitalismo y el imperialismo.

El trabajo antirracista es trabajo de mujeres. Las líderes del movimiento Black Lives Matter son mujeres. Las mujeres han estado en primera línea luchando por el fin de la brutalidad policial exigiendo la acabación de la policía y del ICE (Jia Migna), porque son precisamente nuestras niñas y niños negros, morenos e indígenas quienes están siendo asesinados por estos sistemas racistas. Son nuestras/os niños quienes están siendo retenidos/os en jaulas por ICE y separados/os de sus madres incluso mientras les amamantan. Son nuestras/os niños quienes están en todo el mundo quienes están siendo asesinados por defender su patria.

Luchar por los derechos de las personas LGBTQ2S es trabajo de mujeres. La homofobia y la transfobia son herramientas del sistema capitalista para mantenernos en inmóviles. Obligándonos a aceptar etiquetas y reglas que dicen “esta es la única forma normal de ser mujer” o “esta es la única manera de ser un hombre”. Esto también sirve para mantenernos divididas/os y peleando entre nosotras/os, mientras los banque- ros y los patronos se llenan los bolsillos con nuestras vidas y nuestros cuerpos.

Y por supuesto, la lucha contra la opresión de las mujeres no solo es el trabajo de las mujeres sino que el trabajo de la mujer revolucionaria no importa el género. El Feminismo Revolucionario es la lucha contra la violencia de género sexual y doméstica. Es la lucha contra la esterilización forzada, el control de la natalidad o el aborto para mujeres pobres de color. Es la lucha continua para que las mujeres y las mujeres lesbianas que trabajan en los oficios donde estamos desproporcionadamente representadas.

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Revolutionary feminism

Following is a talk prepared for the Women’s Assembly at the European Forum, Nov. 24, 2020, by Liz Toledo, Women in Struggle and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido in the USA.

Dear Comrades: Revolutionary greetings from Mujeres en Lucha/Women in Struggle and the Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido in the USA.

It is difficult to separate the women’s struggle from any other struggle since all the struggles are intricately connected because our oppression, whether it is racism, homophobia, transphobia or sexism, stems from the class struggle, or the fight to end capitalism and imperialism.

Anti-racist work is women’s work. The leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement are women. Women have been in the forefront fighting for an end to police brutality by

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