The storming of the U.S. Capitol by white supremacists incited by President Trump, which temporarily halted the certification vote, had to have the collusion of the federal and local police agencies. It is implausible that there was no preparation when these very events had been telegraphed for months by Trump himself. “Civil War January 6, 2021” was printed on the MAGA sweatshirts, this was not a secret. The only way that the racist thugs, the fascist mob could freely occupy the Capitol is if the police made a deliberate decision to let them.

The world watched while armed fascists carrying Confederate flags and metal battering rams breached metal detectors, held Congress hostage, took over offices, smashed windows, openly carried ladders to scale the Capitol, posed for selfies with police and were eventually escorted out of the building without initial arrests.

Two pipe bombs were confiscated, along with weapons and ammunition, and five people are reported dead. A KKK-inspired noose was erected on the west end of the Capitol.

This was reminiscent of how the Alabama authorities allowed the Klan to attack the freedom riders in Anniston, Ala., on May 14, 1961, nearly killing several people. Local police did nothing for at least 15 minutes.

The storming of the Capitol was consciously in the tradition of the previous overthrow of the democratically elected, majority-rule Reconstruction governments in South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana and the rest, which culminated in the coup and massacre in Wilmington, N.C., in 1898.

Contrast this with Kenosha, Wis. In anticipation of community anger at the refusal to indict police in the shooting of Jacob Blake, streets were shut down and the National Guard was mobilized in advance of the acquittal.

What happens next, is the danger over?

Biden’s extremely weak response is deeply problematic in terms of pushing back the fascists and what it means for the possibility of dismantling or disbanding the fascist thugs, the racist mob or arresting Trump, Biden called for unity.

Unity with who and for what?

Here was an opportunity for Biden and the Democrats to strike a definitive blow against Trump and the movement he has spawned. He could have called for Trump’s arrest or made an appeal for people to mobilize against the racist and reactionary threat. He didn’t.

In many respects it was a betrayal of the black voters, especially in Georgia, who courageously resisted racist threats to vote against racism and reaction.

The timidity of Biden and the Democrats is not surprising.

What underlies these developments and the fascist reaction is the contradiction of the U.S. ruling class between deep crisis and the system. While seemingly hidden, it supersedes the division and fragmentation of its rival political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, which can never represent one section or an other of the ruling class.

It is an important lesson. The capitalist class, regardless of its divisions, has no will to put these racist scum in the dustbin of history. Like the bankers and businesses that were financing Hitler up to the last bullet, they are hedging their bets. They are reluctant to crush them.

Danger of imperial war in the next 14 days

We would be seriously amiss to not state the obvious threat of imperial war most immediately aimed at Iran, but ultimately — regardless of which administration is in office — directed against any country that seeks to chart an independent course from imperialism — whether it is Venezuela, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Cuba or Zimbabwe. See the call for emergency response actions below.

There is still over a week until the Jan. 20 inauguration. Just as we decried the jailing of killer cops, we must mobilize the movement to call for the immediate arrest of Trump and stop the white supremacist mobs.

Trump should not only be arrested but also extradited for war crimes. Trump is now wanted by Iraq for ordering the assassination of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi Commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis; Iran has also issued an arrest warrant through Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) for the same crime.

The antidote to fascism is workers’ solidarity and socialism.

While billionaires are raking in unprecedented profits, cashing in while the deaths of COVID victims pile up, the vast majority of the people are finding themselves in even deeper misery. Capitalist governments have not been able to stop the COVID pandemic and have failed miserably in providing health care for the vast majority. Widespread unemployment threatens not only wage workers but also the middle class. Millions are facing evictions, foreclosures and utility shutoffs.

Traditionally it is the middle class, the small business owners, and others like them who are isolated and in despair, who are duped by fascist ideology. It is only a strong, united anti-capitalist and anti-racist working-class movement that can pull them away from such a destructive dead end.

Such a situation can only exist in periods of extraordinarily acute social crisis when the capitalist state is so torn by internal contradictions and weakened by its inability to overcome its social crisis that it inevitably gives way to extra-parliamentary, extra-legal forms of rule,” Sam Marcy said of the struggle against fascism.

It will take the organization of the broad working class and the leadership of its most oppressed, Black, Brown, Latinx, Indigenous, Arab, Asian, women and LGBTQ2S people, to both develop a defense of its own class interests and place socialism on the agenda.

Stop U.S. attacks on Iran. No war! End sanctions!

We call on the anti-war and anti-imperialist movement, workers’ and community organizations to be on alert for the possibility of a U.S. military attack on Iran. We urge the movement to join us in calling for emergency day-after protests in cities around the country to demand “Hands Off Iran” in the event of a strike by the Pentagon or its proxies. The U.S. may use Israel to initiate an attack.

Since Election Day, the Trump administration has escalated war threats against Iran. On Nov. 27, Israel assassinated Iranian scientist Mohsen Fakrizadeh Mahabadi. Israel is a proxy state completely dependent on Washington. It could not have carried out such a provocative act without prior approval from the U.S. government.

On Nov. 30, the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz and its strike group of guided-missile cruisers and destroyers entered the Arab/Persian Gulf off the coast of Iran. On Dec. 7, U.S. B–52 bombers based in Louisiana flew another run over the gulf off the coast of Iran. Saudi, Bahraini and Qatari warplanes — made in the USA — flew with them. On Dec. 11, the U.S. nuclear submarine Georgia, ac-
Before the attack on the U.S. Capitol: Trump’s Wisconsin coup attempt

By Stephen Millies

After a fascist mob was allowed to take over the U.S. Capitol, Trump’s attempts to overturn the election can’t be dismissed as a close loss. It should have been obvious weeks before.

Wisconsin showed how serious it was. Trump lost the state by just 20,682 votes, a little more than six-tenths of a percentage point. It was still a significant victory against racism.

Trump’s campaign was no-stop racism. It spent millions on racist Facebook ads attacking the Black Lives Matter movement.

The ads targeted both Minneso-ta and Wisconsin, where two of the biggest anti-racist rebellions took place. Minneapolis exploded after the police torture murder of George Floyd on May 25.

Demonstrations began in Kenosha, Wis., after Jacob Blake had been shot seven times by policeman Rustey Sheskey on Aug. 23. The unarmed Black father was shot while getting into his own car. Some of Blake’s children were in the back seat.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley outrageously announced on Jan. 5 that no charges would be brought against Sheskey, who left Jacob Blake paralyzed.

Trump himself came to Kenosha. He didn’t visit Blake’s family or of-fer condolences. The White House klanman spewed hate at a racist pep rally instead.

The Trump campaign’s supports defended Kyle Rittenhouse, who killed two anti-racist activists in Kenosha. YouTube ads ran claiming “lawless criminals terrorize Kenosha.”

Trump lost Wisconsin, but he didn’t give up. The Trump campaign spent $3 million on a recount only to see its margin of defeat increased.

Three of the justices wanted to throw out hundreds of thousands of votes.

After that, there were a series of Badger State billionaires.

The Trump campaign’s attacks included Richard Uihlein and Elizabeth Uihlein, who togeth-er own the nonunion Uline business supply outfit. They gave nearly $40 million to racist candidates in the 2018 elections.

Liz Uihlein claimed “the media is spreading COVID-19.” In a March email. Eight months later, both the Uihleins contracted the coronavirus.

Then there’s the Kohler family’s $83 billion toilet-making fortune. It took over 60 years for Kohler work-ers to get a union. An 1897 strike was smashed. So was the 1934 strike in the family’s company town of Kohler — just west of Sheboygan — where two workers were killed.

If only a strike starting in 1954 and lasting more than six years was Kohler forced to sign a union con-tract with Local 833 of the United Auto Workers. Two members of the Kohler strikebreaking family were Wisconsin governors.

Milwaukee was the last big manu-facturing city in the U.S. that the Great Migration of African Ameri-cans came to. By 1930, many of Mil-waukee’s factories were dependent on Black labor.

Among them was A.O. Smith, which manufactured a quarter of the auto frames used by General Motors. The 360-acre facility was known as “the plant” in the local Black com-munity because so many African Americans were employed there.

Capitalism’s need for Black work-ers didn’t prevent Milwaukee from being the most segregated city in the United States. Every year, Vel Phillips, the first Black member and first woman member of Milwaukee’s City Council, would introduce a fair housing ordinance.

The local fair housing law was only passed after Milwaukee’s Black rebellion in 1967, in which four people were killed.

Fascist violence and the form of the state

By Sam Marcy

What is completely left out of con-sideration is that the spread of fasc-ist organizations takes place in a a vastly different, if not wholly new, social and political situa-tion. The entire social environment in which the spread of this evil dis-ease takes place imparts to it a sig-nificance which far surpasses the numerical strength of these organi-zations.

It is this which adds a really new dimension to the perilous growth of this virulent disease. Fascist vio-lence has been endemic to the main-tenance of the domination of the ruling class in the U.S. for a number of decades. It is, however, excep-tionally important to distinguish between the violence which ema-nates directly and openly from the capitalist state, and the extra-legal, extra-governmental violence of fasc-ist organizations.

The capitalist state is itself, of course, the main generator of force and violence. In its role as an instru-ment of capitalist domination over the working class and the oppressed, it operates as an organ of suppres-sion, terror and control and secure its rule over the masses.

Differenitate between government and extra-legal violence

Violence practiced upon the working class and the oppressed is there-fore an irreconcilable element of the rule of the oppressing and exploiting bourgeoisie. Notwithstanding the viciousness, ferocity or magni-tude of the violence which the rul-ing class visits upon the oppressed, it must nevertheless be considered as violence within the framework of the bourgeois legal (“democratic”) system.

Such violence must be differen-tiated from, and not be confused with, the extra-legal, extra-governmental violence which is the essential characteristic of fascist organization. It is, of course, absolutely true that both legal and extra-legal violence can coexist along with the bour-geois state, but it is the very inequity of the state itself.

In the U.S., legal and extra-legal vi-olence have existed side-by-side for longer than one can remember. Extra-legal violence is a principal example of how extra-legal violence visited upon the oppressed masses coexists with the destruction of jobs and filling prisons

The big Allen–Bradley plant on the city’s South Side refused for years to hire Black or Latinx workers. That’s the reason super racist Lester Mad-dox came to campaign there when he ran for president in 1976.

Maddock had closed his Atlanta chicken shack so he wouldn’t have to serve Black people. He handed out handles to his white customers to attack Black people.

The Bradleys sold their electrical controls company to Rockwell Interna-tional in 1985. Much of the pro-ceeds went to the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, which now has over $3 billion in assets.

All of it is used to promote hate. Among its recipients is Charles Mur-ray, co-author of “The Bell Curve,” which claimed there were differ-ences in intelligence between Blacks and whites.

This is Hitler stuff and Murray got a $250,000 prize from the Brad-ley Foundation for it in 2016. Harry Bradley was a founding member of the John Birch Society, whose head-quarters are located in Appleton, Wis.

Between 1977 and 1992, 55,000 factory jobs were destroyed in Mil-waukee County according to the Census of Manufactures. Most of them were union jobs.

There was an increase of 66,000 manufacturing jobs in the rest of the state, which is overwhelmingly white. Big capital wanted to get away from Black workers.

Instead of Black workers getting jobs in the big plants, they were be-ing railroaded to big prisons.

The 53206 ZIP code touches the now-closed A.O. Smith plant where over 7,000 workers used to be em-ployed. Sixty-six percent of the Black adult men there are either in-carcerated or have been in prison.

It is, of course, true that Black people are more likely to be killed by police than white people by eight times since the early 1960s.

This was the viciousness that was rejected by poor and working people in Wisconsin. Perhaps.

Continued on page 3
By Gary Wilson


“Wall Street closed out a tumultuous year for stocks with more record highs on Thursday, a fitting coda to the market’s stunning comeback from historic plunge in the early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic,” AP reported.

Look at the economy. Some 195 million workers are officially unemployed, four times as many as last year at this time. At least another 10 million are unemployed but not included in the official count. Jobs continue to be cut as rising coronavirus infections keep many people at home and state and local governments reimpose restrictions.

Over one-third of the adult population in the U.S. faces eviction or home foreclosure in the next two months according to new data from a U.S. Census Bureau survey. South Dakota, South Carolina, Georgia and Oregon have the highest rates of people facing eviction or foreclosure. In some states, food bank lines stretch for miles. Even before the pandemic hit, 13.7 million households, or 10% of all U.S. households, experienced food insecurity at some point during 2019, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Convent household nuns, who numbers and you get 35 million who couldn’t get enough food. That number doubled during the last year, according to researchers at Northwestern University.

Tens of millions of working-class people have fallen into poverty and hunger or are near that edge. Stimulus money has mostly gone to big corporations. Of the 160,000 small businesses have closed.

The rich got richer

Meanwhile, the richest 500 people on the planet added $1.8 trillion to their combined wealth in 2020, according to data from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Walmart and Target reported record sales. Amazon tripled its profits. Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Microsoft now make up 20% of the stock market’s total worth. The tech industry has achieved an unparalleled level of wealth and dominance.

Wall Street is having a party. With huge injections of credit by the Federal Reserve Bank at interest rates near zero, and the massive government stimulus payments to big business, the large corporations stockpiled the government-backed money, buying back their own shares or other financial assets. The stock market rocketed to an all-time high.

Wall Street bets on austerity, reduced wages

Wall Street’s rise is betting that the pandemic and mass unemployment, general poverty, hunger and homelessness will force workers to return to work at much lower wages. This will raise the ratio of wages to paid labor, leading to a higher rate of profit as business returns to normal.

Then Wall Street expects that dividends will rise and with it stock market prices. In anticipation of the good times they see coming — for the capitalists, that is — stock market speculators have bid up the prices of stocks.

In the 1920s after the end of the “Spanish” flu epidemic — it actually first appeared in the U.S. — the stock market shot up to new highs, much like what is happening now. Profit rises were even higher, as productivity substantially exceeded real wages. Wealth inequality soared to the greatest level ever seen, with 0.00% owning 25% of the total wealth in the U.S. That was an inequality level not seen since — until now. Some call it the return of the Roaring Twenties. Of course, the Roaring Twenties ended with the Great Crash in the stock market of 1929–1930 and the ensuing Great Depression of the 1930s. Inequality of wealth and income, poverty, homelessness and hunger rule the land while the stock market booms. That’s the current Roaring Twenties.

Jeff Bezos says you don’t deserve $2,000

Jeff Bezos has a fortune of $194 billion. Just in the United States, over a third of a million people have died from the coronavirus.

The tragedy has been a gold mine for the owner of Amazon. Bezos’ stash gained another $79 billion in 2020. Yet the richest man on earth doesn’t think you deserve a $2,000 stimulus check. His personally owned newspaper, the Washington Post, came out against the proposed $2,000 checks in a Dec. 29 editorial.

The Post calls this “a bad idea.” It attacked “the progressive left, spearheaded by Sen. Bernie Sanders, for saying that the $2,000 would go to desperate families.” Bezos’ newspaper claimed that “huge amounts [are] destined for perfectly comfortable families.” The same phony argument could be made against Social Security and Medicare.

The Washington Post is furious about the alleged $460 billion cost but is silent about the twice as large annual cost of the Pentagon and U.S. spy agencies.

The real crime in the bill is cutting off working to the bone hundreds of thousands of workers in the U.S. and other countries.

Amazon warehouse workers are monitored and if they can’t keep up with the pace they’re fired. Fifteen workers collapsed during a 2011 heat wave at an Amazon warehouse in Allentown, Pa. The company knew of the health dangers but refused to reduce the line speed. Amazon instead parked ambulances outside the door.

Even before Bezos bought it, the Washington Post was a company town newspaper, the “company” being the CIA and the military-industrial complex. Its real name should be the Pentagon Post.

The Post broke the 1976-1977 strike of its printing press operators. This defeat of labor whetted the appetite of other union busting capitalists.

Sweatshop billionaire

The attitude of Bezos’ mouthpiece shouldn’t surprise anyone. Mr. Amazon’s $194 billion treasure is based on working to the bone hundreds of thousands of workers in the U.S. and other countries.

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Poor and working people — led by Black, Indigenous and Latinx voters — defeated Trump by over 7 million votes. But all the capitalists, landlords and cops have some Trump in them.

And in order to live, we have to struggle. Union organizing drives at Amazon, Walmart and Target are no more impossible than making Henry Ford sign a union contract in 1914.

The new year will be a fightback against all the billionaires.

By Stephen Millies

Soldiers from the U.S. Army 36th Infantry Division help distribute food items during a Tarrant Area Food Bank mobile pantry event in Arlington, Texas, Nov. 20, 2020.

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Wall Street’s New Year’s party: Dancing on the backs of poor workers

Fascist violence

Continued from page 2

legal forms of the capitalist state. and on occasion goes beyond legal limits (usually characterized by the bourgeois press as “excessive”). The two should not be confused even though the police may, and often do, collaborate with the Klan, neo-Nazis and other fascist and neo-fascist organizations.

Fascist groups threaten bourgeois democratic state

Fascist organizations in their embryonic form, particularly when they are armed and supported massively, represent the same dangers but refused to reduce the line speed. Amazon instead parked ambulances outside the door.

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The new year will be a fightback against all the billionaires.
Dispatches from the housing war

By Greg Butterfield

Jan. 1 — Millions of renters and homeowners received a last-minute reprieve when President Donald Trump finally signed the (still inadequate) congressional stimulus bill on Dec. 27 after several days’ delay. The law extended the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) eviction ban for another month, through Jan. 31, just in time to put off a spate of New Year’s evictions amidst the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Census Bureau survey released just before the holiday showed an incredible 33.5% of adults in the U.S. are “living in households not currently on rent or mortgage or who eviction or foreclosure in the next two months either will likely or somewhat likely.”

“The survey found that residents of Washington, D.C., New York City and the states of Oregon, Wisconsin and Minnesota face eviction or foreclosure, with 67.3% of adults living in households who face eviction or foreclosure the least likely what likely,” Newsweek reported. “States with a majority of adults also likely to lose their homes include South Carolina, South Dakota, Georgia and Oregon.”

Desperate workers and families, faced with being thrown into winter streets, have finally take a break when the stimulus bill was signed — but only just. The CDC eviction ban was extended for just another month, during which time high unemployment and the ravages of disease are unlikely to improve.

And the measure still requires that all back rent payments and mortgage payments be paid to the landlords and banks — meaning the massive debt crisis facing workers is only getting worse.

“The Federal stimulus bill extends the flimsy CDC ban on evictions (the one that requires you to swear to pay your landlord what you can)” to the end of January,” noted the Crown Heights Tenants Union. “All this moratorium does is offer some (two-seconds) breathing room for us to beg judges not to evict us.

“It did not, for example, stop the ‘legal’ eviction of a former school teacher Clinda Florence-Yarde and her three children in Rochester, N.Y., on Friday night.”

Florence-Yarde, a Black woman, was jailed, as were housing activists who attempted to block the family’s forcible eviction on Dec. 18. Florence-Yarde had withheld payments because of awful conditions and numerous code violations, which her landlord was trying to evict her for.

Diane Yentel, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, told National Public Radio, “One of the real problems we’re seeing is that the CDC ban is not automatic, and so renters need to know that the protection exists and what they need to know what actions to take in order to receive that protection.”

“The order is also being treated like a ‘temperance’ law by the U.S.,” notes NPR, “so outcomes vary wildly depending on where people live or what court they end up in,” citing recent examples of eviction proceedings by the CDC, a Texas mother of three, who was evicted despite doing her best to fill the CDC requirements.

A quick survey of local news media across the U.S. is enough to show that this is a deep, widespread, country-wide crisis, not limited to the most expensive coastal cities. From Tampa, Fla., to Youngstown, Ohio, the story is the same: working-class families with few resources to avoid eviction, landlords hungrily preparing for mass evictions as soon as restrictions are lifted, and already hundreds of tenantsAdvocates to meet the massive need for legal and material support.

Not a new crisis

As the Lower Hudson news site reported Dec. 31, “Before the pandemic, 48% of rental households in the nation were already ‘rent burdened,’ or paying more than 30% of their income toward housing costs, according to to 2018 American Community Survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

“The majority of renter households below the poverty line spent at least half of their income toward rent in 2018, with one in four spending over 70% of their income toward housing, according to 2018 U.S. Census Bureau data.”

No wonder that the fight for housing rights has been among the most widespread working-class struggles in recent years, along with the movement to defend Black lives from police violence. Because of widespread housing discrimination, racist redlining by banks and attacks on public housing residents by white supremacist politicians, these struggles also overlap to a great extent.

Even before the current economic crisis, Black women were twice as likely to be evicted as white people in at least 17 states, according to Sandra Park, senior attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union Women’s Rights Project.

“Unfortunately, the fallout will be borne most by women of color, who have also had to bear so much of the fallout of the pandemic and economic crisis overall,” Park told the 19th News.

Here are a few current hotspots in the housing struggle.

Portland: Red House defense

In early December, police in Portland, Ore., attempted to raid a house in the gentrified North Portland neighborhood and evict the Kinney family. Their home, known as the Red House, is one of the few remaining Black and Indigenous-owned homes in what was once a predominately Black neighborhood.

Activists supporting the Kinneys, who have camped out near the house since September, managed to fight off the cops. An “eviction blockade” has been established around the house, including barricades and stones on the street, with 24-hour people’s patrols to keep cops out.

The Kinney family said in a statement. “We refuse the most basic repairs for our home, and spend our limited income fighting eviction and facing foreclosure, with no end in sight. We have lost income or dealt with in underlying medical condition.”

“All our leaders need to fund social and supportive housing, and make a real plan to end homelessness.”

“We now have to ORGANIZE, continue to build the #RentStrike, to #CancelRent by May Day so that no one owes any rent and all cases are permanently dismissed on May Day. We won this victory on the eviction ban by persistent struggle in our blocks and our neighborhoods. We WILL cancel rent by May Day,” vowed the Crown Heights Tenants Union.

Los Angeles: Families seize empty houses

A pitched battle between houseless families and the vicious California Highway Patrol (CHP) on Nov. 25 made national headlines. The families and supporters were attempting to occupy 19 empty homes in the El Sereno neighborhood of Los Angeles. The homes are owned by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Los Angeles Housing Authority allowed the homes to be opened at any time in the future to house unhoused people in Los Angeles.

Between now and May 1, Los Angeles’ leaders need to fund social and supportive housing, and make a real plan to end homelessness.

“With this health crisis and this housing crisis, we need every vacant house to be a home for those who don’t have a safe and stable place to sleep,” Gordillo said.

“Taken off guard by the bold action, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Los Angeles Housing Authority allowed them to stay. But there are 200 vacant homes across the county that need to be opened for the unhoused. The CHP and Los Angeles police need to open the homes for Angelenos experiencing houselessness.”

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Traveling to Cuba in the time of COVID-19

By Cheryl LaBash

Of course, by the time this small story is read, the conditions and procedures giving rise to these experiences will likely have changed.

We hope that one thing will change and be no more: COVID-19, now spreading silently where people gather, especially inside, in enclosed spaces, where people are in close, extended contact. Airplanes say: “Instan al gobierno que acepte ayuda ration with Cuba. Spanish language to medical and scientific collaboration with Cuba to save lives, go to SavingLives. Cuban tourist visa? travel. A privilege only for travelers — 5 days after arriving, then a day or two for results, and it will be sev- en or eight days not ten.

The process for people staying in hotels — by the way, people from the U.S. are forbidden to stay in Cuban hotels by the U.S. government — or people staying with their fami- lies isn’t part of my experience.

It is in the interest of all of us on both sides of the Florida straits to #unblockCuba2021. Please support the Saving Lives Campaign (on Facebook or at SavingLivesCampa- ign.org) to get your city, county council or state legislature to pass a resolution to speak out against this 60-year injustice.

Nine U.S. cities and three labor councils have done this since May 5. Together we can make 2021 the year to end the blockade of Cuba.

Los Angeles car caravan says: ‘End the blockade of Cuba!’ Medical collaboration to fight COVID-19’

By Cheryl LaBash

On Sunday, Dec. 27, COVID-stricken Californians filled Los Angeles hospitals. In response, an 18-car caravan showed support for Cuban families caravanning in Miami and other cities. Decked out with signs calling for an end to the U.S. economic war against Cuba, the pro- test also called for ending barriers to medical and scientific collabor- ation with Cuba. Spanish language TV news correspondents reported the action: “Instan al gobierno que acepte ayuda de enfermeras y médicos cubanos.”

In the fight against COVID-19, Cuba’s Henry Reeve Brigade re- sponded to the call from dozens of countries on all continents to relieve exhausted medical teams and share their internationally recognized ex- periences fighting epidemics and the aftermath of natural disasters. The U.S. attempt to strangle the Cuban economy intensified, even during the pandemic, blocking fuel and COVID relief to the island. Yet Cuba’s research and pharmaceutical in- dustries have developed not just one vaccine, but four COVID-19 vaccine candidates now in trials. At least one Cuban vaccine can be administered through nose drops, really giving hope to the world that everyone can be protected from this virus.

While Black, Brown and In- digenous U.S. communities suf- fer disproportionate deaths from COVID-19, the U.S. blockade stymies collaboration that has proven to save lives. Not one Cuban medical professional has died of COVID-19, nor have pregnant women or children.

For more information on how you can help to open the door to medi- cal and scientific collaboration with Cuba to save lives, go to SavingLives. US-CubaNormalization.org.

The caravan was initiated by the Los Angeles U.S. Hands Off Cuba Committee. Cars decorated with signs and banners spread the mes- sage as they drove from the West- wood Federal Building across Los Angeles to Echo Park.

Organizers announced national- ly coordinated actions to take place on Jan. 20 that will further the same demands.

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For more information on how you can help to open the door to medi- cal and scientific collaboration with Cuba to save lives, go to SavingLives. US-CubaNormalization.org.

The caravan was initiated by the Los Angeles U.S. Hands Off Cuba Committee. Cars decorated with signs and banners spread the mes- sage as they drove from the West- wood Federal Building across Los Angeles to Echo Park.

Organizers announced national- ly coordinated actions to take place on Jan. 20 that will further the same demands.

Los Angeles car caravan says: ‘End the blockade of Cuba!’ Medical collaboration to fight COVID-19’

By Cheryl LaBash

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The trials and tragedy of Duryea Green

By Lev Kofax

In 2004, in the Baltimore neighborhood of O’Donnell Heights, two teenagers played basketball. One was shot. To this day, it is unclear what exactly happened.

What is clear is that this was a case of mistaken identity. A wrong man is still in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Duryea Green was arrested and charged, convicted and imprisoned for the attempted murder of the two teenagers. Two witnesses were pressured by police to identify Duryea as the shooter.

The Green family was your typical Baltimore family. Both parents, Van and Duryea, worked full time, doing their best to raise two sons. Due to racism, a corrupt police detective and a thoroughly rotten Baltimore police department, their lives were turned upside down.

In the weeks following the shooting, Van Green started to receive strange visits from her house to the Baltimore City Police Department. There were three visits by the investigators. Detectives Lloyd James and Lloyd James, who would eventually be promoted to sergeant. During Lloyd’s first visit, he met Van Green and an individual named “Derrick Green.”

As this wasn’t Duryea’s name, Van told the police that she did not know anyone named Darrell Green. A week later, Detective Lloyd returned and asked for someone named “Derrick Green.” Again, Van didn’t know a Derrick Green. These two requests were particularly strange because the Green family had lived in the same home for ten years. Duryea’s name was on the records and known in the community.

The first two times the police visited the Green home, Duryea was at work. Eventually, Lloyd interviewed the couple in their living room. Duryea asserted he could not have committed the crime as he was working at the time. After a brief conversation, Lloyd left.

For approximately a month, the Greens didn’t hear anything from the Baltimore police. One day, James Lloyd arrived again at the home; however, this time he forced his way into the house. He was accompanied by two other patrol officers. All of their guns were raised. The only people home at the time were Van and her two sons.

Lloyd and his officers physically forced Van onto her couch, guns still raised. Her two young sons were scared and confused. Lloyd berated Van and her sons with questions. The family was eventually placed in a police van, the same type used in the murder of Freddie Gray, and was taken to the Southeastern District station. They were held in a cell for over three hours, but not told why. After three hours, Van started to protest and demand to know why she and her children had been thrown in jail. Several hours after this, Lloyd appeared and presented an arrest warrant. This warrant is supposed to be for Duryea Green, yet the name on the warrant is “Derrick Green.” To this day, the name “Derrick” appears in the case file and court documents.

The miscarriage of justice based on these facts alone is disgraceful. However, in many ways it is just the tip of the iceberg. The state violence and racism against the Green family is a stirring example of a bigger problem: an inherently racist and profit-motivated criminal justice system. Nothing represents this better than the record of the lead detective on Duryea’s case, James Lloyd.

James Lloyd, a corrupt cop in a corrupt department

The corruption and racism manifested in the Baltimore Police Department is well documented in mainstream news. This heinous record includes not only a long history of racist murder, but also planting evidence, beating suspects, and paying witnesses to provide false testimony. James Lloyd is a poignantly manifest example of this corruption, demonstrated by two particular incidents during his career. The most telling example is that James Lloyd is currently being held without bail on charges of extortion and kidnapping.

According to court documents, Lloyd used threats of arrest and kidnapping to extort large payments from several individuals. The charging documents assert that Lloyd had a pattern of using his position in the police department to force cash payments. The prosecution provided such a wealth of evidence that the judge denied bail. It is extremely rare for police officers to be indicted, let alone held without bail.

As if this wasn’t enough, James Lloyd is notorious in the area for being the assigned detective to the Sean Suiter case. Sean Suiter was a Baltimore police officer set to testify before a grand jury investigating the corruption of James Lloyd, a corrupt Baltimore police task force. The night before his scheduled testimony, Suiter was found shot by his own service weapon in his patrol car. The police first locked down the neighborhood where Suiter was found, Harlem Park. The narrative pushed by the BPD was that someone in the community murdered Suiter. The brutal and racist lockdown lasted six days. Not long after the lockdown ended, Lloyd concluded that Sean Suiter had committed suicide. To this day, many in Baltimore doubt the veracity of this conclusion. It is anyone’s guess where Suiter was killed, but it was possible that Suiter was murdered to prevent his testimony. Given Lloyd’s checkered and violent history, it is ever possible he killed Suiter.

The criminal injustice system

Sixteen years later, Duryea Green remains in prison as the COVID pandemic rages; furthermore, Green is currently battling cancer and is thus vulnerable to the virus. The Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly along with this publication demand that he be released immediately. Frankly, if this article were to detail every injustice committed against Duryea by the police, the courts and his own attorneys during this process, it could easily fill a book.

In the United States, we are always told that the police are here to protect and serve us. We are told that we have the greatest court system in the world. We are the land of the free and the home of the brave. How is it that working for Duryea Green and his family fighting tooth and nail to get him home? This case demonstrates what is truly at the heart of the police, courts and jails in this country. It certainly isn’t justice. Those three institutions are committed to the will of the wealthy and the powerful. Consequently, they adhere to two tenets alone: racism and profit.

Duryea Green deserves better. Oppressed communities deserve better. Community control of the police, courts and jails is crucial.

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Stop killing prisoners with COVID-19!

By Stephen Millies

Winter weather didn’t stop people from protesting the coronavirus plague that’s being allowed to sweep through U.S. prisons. Dozens gathered in front of New York City’s main post office on 8th Avenue on Dec. 15. Other rallies were held in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Prisoners are some of those most vulnerable to COVID-19. Over 200,000 of those locked up — one-out-of-ten inmates — have caught the virus. In an outbreak at California’s San Quentin prison, 3,200 inmates fell ill and 28 died.

At the New York rally, former political prisoner and Black Panther Brother Shep Sadaki Olugbala described the dangerous prison conditions: “I spent 17 years in various prisons. Consequently, I know prison superstructures provide highly favorable breeding grounds for contracting COVID-19. In most prisons four or more cells share the same vent shaft. When a prisoner in one cell lights up a smoke, all the other prisoners connected to his vent smell his smoke. Moreover, those prisoners not housed in cell blocks are housed in dormitories. Their beds are not six feet apart. Both living arrangements provide ideal breeding grounds for contracting COVID-19.”

Governors procrastinate as prisoners die

Brother Shep — Sadaki Olugbala — of the Universal Zulu Nation chaired the rally. When he was 19 years old, Shep joined the Black Panther Party. Relatives of prisoners talked of their imprisoned loved ones being refused adequate medical care. The granddaughter of Mutulu Shakur described how the 70-year-old political prisoner has been diagnosed with bone cancer. Yet prison authorities delayed giving him a cat scan.

Baba Zaydul Muhammad spoke into the microphones of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The three Democratic officials have delayed freeing prisoners despite the dire health conditions that Tarik Haskins described. Following the rally, people marched through Manhattan’s Penn Station with signs. A final rally was held across from Macy’s biggest department store.
Trump’s racist revenge executions

By Stephen Milles

During his final days in the White House, Trump is executing more prisoners than any U.S. president has since the 1950s. Starting on Bastille Day (July 14) this year, 30 prisoners have been put to death by the U.S. government.

Five of those executed were Black and one was Indigenous. The mentally disabled Black man Alfred Bourgeois was executed on Dec. 11, despite the opposition of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Two more Black men — Cory Johnson and Dustin John Higgins — are awaiting execution.

Trump also wants to kill Lisa Montgomery, a white woman who suffered psychosis from childhood rapes. Montgomery would be the first woman executed by the U.S. government since Ethel Rosenberg was the last in 1953.

Records are being broken in his selection of the first Black woman as vice-president, Kamala Harris, who is so pro-cop she’s against even the slightest investigation of police violence.

The White House also has been putting the Black people on federal death row out of Black votes, Trump wants to execute as many Black, Indigenous and Latinx prisoners as he can. The only reason Trump hasn’t executed any Latinx prisoners is because those on federal death row haven’t exhausted their appeals.

Trump has a special hatred for Indigenous people. He refuses to pardon Leonard Peltier. The framed American Indian Movement leader has spent 44 years in federal prisons.

Trump lost Arizona by just 10,457 votes. But he lost Arizona’s Apache County — which is 77% Indigenous — by 11,854 votes.

Trump’s lust for revenge is shared by his Proud Boy supporters. The fascist group has held banners outside Catholic churches in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 12 and set Black Lives Matter banners on fire.

Many more executed by Trump

Those killed on federal death row are just a small percentage of those executed by Trump. He bragged about ordering U.S. Marshals to exe¬cute a racist activist Michael Ra¬inoehl on Sept. 3 without a trial.


The Trump government of children and adults killed by drones and bombs in Af¬ghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia and Yemen were executed by Trump. Two million Yemeni children suffering from severe malnutrition are being slowly executed by Trump.

Will Biden be any different? The president-elect says he’s now against the death penalty. So is Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Biden was singing another tune when he was a U.S. senator seeking the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. Some of those executed by Trump were killed under provisions of that act.

Biden declared that “the liberal wing of the Democratic Party is now for 60 new death penalties. The lib¬eral wing of the Democratic Party is for 125,000 new state prison cells.”

Trump’s constant opposition on the death penalty only because of the Black Lives Matter movement with over 20 million people in the streets.

In 1988, George Bush-the-First defeated the Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis by 7 mil¬lion votes. The elder Bush ran racist ads about Willie Horton, a Black prisoner, and emphasized Dukakis’ opposition to the death penalty.

Two years later, Joe Biden, running on an anti-death penalty platform, defeated Donald Trump by 7 million votes. Biden’s 81 million

Continued on page 11

Trump’s cabinet picks show

Many organizations participated in the Dec. 12 International Human Rights Day: Uniting Beyond 2020 webinar highlighting the continued use of state-sponsored extrajudicial killings, state-sponsored, sanctioned, and condoned political revenge attacks against political dissidents, prisoners of conscience, and journalists, and the designated, sanctioned, and targeted assassinations of journalists, human rights defenders, and political opponents.

Black chair of the Council of Econ¬omic Advisers (CEA).

The fact remains, however, that the capita¬list state needs repression to maintain inequality and exploita¬tion of our class and, with regard to economics, their goal is to main¬tain profits and the exploitation that keeps us in poverty for the sake of their profits.

Biden made clear during a campaign speech in Las Vegas that the summer of 2019, where he said that “no one’s standard of living will change” and “nothing would funda¬mentally change.” At an event by the Poor People’s Campaign that he attended, he said the opposite.

With regard to war, Biden’s pick for U.S. secretary of defense is re¬tired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, who led the U.S. Central Command from 2013 to 2016 under Obama. Austin would be the first African American secretary of defense.

Biden was in the U.S. military when, as reported by the Council of Foreign Relations, the U.S. dropped an average of 72 bombs every day — the equivalent of three an hour — in 2016. The council admitted that those numbers were lower last year, but at the same time, a report from mili¬tary officials admitted that twice as many civilians were killed as previ¬ously reported.

Austin is on the board of Raytheon, one of the country’s most powerful defense contractors. Last year, Ray¬theon received more than $56 billion in federal government contracts, the fourth-most of any company.

Imperial war, however, is also a domestic war, and this may be why Susan Rice, former national securi¬ty adviser under Obama, was chosen as Biden’s pick for White House Do¬mestic Policy Council. The job is sup¬posed to, among other things, help fight racial injustice. However, Rice, along with another Biden pick, John Kerry, pushed Obama toward bomb¬ing. And, as national security adviser under Obama, Rice was an integral part of Obama’s use of drones for as¬sassinations and admittedly pushed Obama toward the war against and de¬struction of Libya.

According to an article in the Guardian, Obama increased drone strikes by ten times from the pre¬ceeding former President Bush. To attempt to justify this legally, they categorized all males of military age in these regions as combat¬ants, “making them fair game for remote-controlled killing.”

Rice was part of and encouraged this type of racial profiling with the use of military weapons, why would Rice be opposed to the profil¬ing and frequent assassinations of Black and Brown children “of mili¬tary age?” The extrajudicial killings and bombings that occurred during the Obama administration occurred largely in countries around East Af¬rica, including Somalia and Yemen, and there were mounting numbers of civilians killed on the African continent.

Rice couldn’t see the racial injustice of U.S. imperialist war, why would Rice see it in Black and Brown occupied countries?

Regarding climate change, unfortu¬nately it’s business as usual with the appointment of John Kerry as the head of Biden’s climate change ef¬fort. Kerry told National Public Radio that he was relying on the market — the same market that failed miserably in supplying health and safety equipment during this pandemic.

The market is in search of profits, not the saving of humanity. And the two goals are often irreconcilable. The ruling class is willing to run humanity over the cliff of nonexis¬tence with its irrational allegiance to capitalism and profit. This explains Biden’s cabinet, which will be pre¬dominantly made up of the enablers of capitalism’s many diseases, along with war criminals who belong in a jail and not in office. Therefore, it will take a unified movement of our working class to promote and fight for a society that puts the control of the resources and the land and fac¬tories in the hands of the people, not the profiteers. That’s why we must fight for socialism.  

What Biden’s cabinet picks show
Blood and Oil and Trump and Biden

Trump seeks war on Iran to save U.S.

By Bill Dores

The Trump regime sees war with Iran as its salvation. They’re using its诿ments, the price of oil and the value of the U.S.’s No. 1 export: the dollar. Bankers fear war would disrupt the flow of petrodollars that the ruling families of the Arabian peninsula depend on for peace. But in fact the fracking industry needs endless war to survive. And the idea of “U.S. energy dominance” is genocidal and insane.

Blood and fracking

The “shale revolution” that once enchanted bankers and investors was a product of the price—profit boom caused by the 2003 Iraq War. It stretched the official bubble that has lasted for over a decade by bloody wars and cruel sanctions.

It has now burst. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been lost. Mountains of debt cannot be repaid. The Trump regime is trying desperately to reinflate it.

The shale debacle turned many on Wall Street against Trump. But he retains a base among those capitalists whose fortunes depend on fracking.

Those fortunes are collapsing with the price of oil, and Trump’s political base is draining away. The remaining frackers are desperate for subsidies, tax breaks and an end to environmental regulation.

They are also desperate for an oil war. Not a war to “get oil” — contrary to popular belief, the U.S. has never been at war to “get oil.” As this book goes to press, a war to restrict supply is the target of U.S. sanctions. Reports say the Saudi prince Mohammed Bin Salman, who has a personal beef with Trump, demanded the assassination of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

If the Trump regime was ever at war with Iran, it was the 1973 war over the Islamic Republic of Iran and the 1980-88 war that they see as their main competition. Iran is also a key player in the region’s arms race.

Stealing Palestine’s gas

Also involved is the fate of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s pet Mediterranean Pipeline Project, a U.S.-Israeli scheme to bring stolen Palestinian gas to Europe in the Shah’s owned oil to Europe in the Shah’s time. There is now talk of a direct pipeline from Occupied Palestine to the Mediterranean across stolen Palestinian land.

U.S. & Israel: partners for war

On Nov. 27, in a brazen terrorist attack, an Israeli death squad murdered Dr. Mohsen Fakrizadeh, director of Iran’s Center for Defensive Innovation and Research. They ambushed him on his way to visit his family in Tehran. Fakrizadeh helped produce its own medical equipment, including a COVID-19 test kit. Trump retweeted an Israeli praising his murder.

A week before Dr. Fakrizadeh’s murder, Trump’s Secretary of State in Saudi Arabia Mohamed Bin Salman. As they met, the White House belatedly realized that it had made the assassination of a key player in the fight against ISIS and al-Qaida in Iraq and Syria.

Gen. Soleimani was in Iraq to meet Saudi representatives about reducing tensions. On Nov. 26, the Trump regime bragged about the assassinations in a hate-filled rant to the United Nations General Assembly.

The Trump regime said Soleimani was a terrorist. It has also escalated the war in Yemen. In March, U.S. Marines invaded the Yemeni island of Socotra. They came to back up UAE forces in the genocidal war against Yemeni Muslims. Soleimani joined them there.

Every minute, a Yemeni child dies from the brutal blockade that the U.S., Saudi Arabia and the UAE have imposed on that impoverished land.

In 2019, Trump vetoed bills restricting U.S. involvement in that war and ending U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

On Dec. 11, Steve Muncie’s Tribune-Review story put sanctions on five Yemeni officials. The White House has said it will cooperate with President Raisi in the suppression of the Nazis. But in reality it is using -rullah government — the “Houthi” — to the State Department terror list. The Trump administration wants to make it harder to bring humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged country.

On Dec. 9, Iran sanctioned U.S.-based Saudia Airlines. President Donald Trump has praised Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his role in the humanitarian catastrophe there.

Trump’s ‘peace deals’ are war moves

War with Iran is the object of Trump’s vaunted “Abrahamic Accords.” That’s what he calls his “peace deal” he “brokered” between Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and the Israeli occupation regime in Palestine.

Bahrain is over 1,200 miles from Palestine. The UAE is more than 600 miles away. Neither state has ever been at war with Israel. Bahrain is, however, only 480 miles over open water from Iran. The UAE is 30 minutes away. The U.S. has 300 warships and 125 fighter aircraft in the Persian Gulf, 400 miles away. That’s 20 minutes as the crow flies.

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the frackers need would also boost the renewable energy and vehicle industries. In their fight for these new markets, frackers need access to cheaper production.

“Game of Thrones” in Washington: Persian Gulf vs. Permian Basin

Former CEO XOM Rex Tillerson was Trump’s first secretary of state. He was in the “U.S. interest” to stay in the Iran nuclear deal. Trump fired him in March 2018. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis agreed with Tillerson. He was gone by the end of that year.

Trump replaced Tillerson with CIA Director Mike Pompeo. His time on Capitol Hill, Pompeo was known as the “Congressman from Koch.” Koch Industries gets most of its revenue from oil refining and electricity operations. It also competes with XOM in the petrochemical industry.

For Koch, a devastating war in the Arabian Peninsula would be a windfall. As it would be for the fracking barons and speculators behind Trump. They don’t have interlocking directorates with transnational banks and corporations or their vast cash reserves. They want to follow in the footsteps of the Rockefellers, Pews and Melons: robber barons who became monopolists. They are a century too late.

Their profits come from the Permian Basin in the southwestern U.S. — a region stolen from Mexico and Indigenous peoples — not the Persian Gulf. Yet they are no less imperialist than their blue-chip cousins. They too must follow the iron law of capital: expand or die. Their profits are eroded by falling crude oil prices and with declining rates of profit. They too must conserve the value of their capital and make investments for their profitable investment.

That law has driven every U.S. imperialist war since President William McKinley’s 1898 war with Spain, which led to the U.S. gaining Puerto Rico and the Philippines in 1898.

The billionaires who own Trump

Who are they? “Big oil remembers ‘friend’ Trump with millions in campaign funds,” the British Guardian reported August 9. The headline is misleading.

The capitalists behind Trump are very rich indeed. But they are not among the shrinking club of giant multinationalities that made up Big Oil. They are “new money” oil drillers and corporate “outsiders.” Their fortunes multiplied in the energy-price boom created by the shale plays. They want to follow in the footsteps of Blackstone’s Steve Schwarzman, the Fishers of Claytonville Investments, Texas banker Andy Beal, John Paulson of Paulson & Co., Jack Fusco of Cheniere Energy, Henry Kravis of Apollo Global Management, Paul Singer of Elliott Management, and the Hunts and the Wilks brothers.

Oil-money heirs Timothy Mellon and Ross Perot Jr. also gave big to the Trump campaign.

Schwarzman has since called for Trump to accept the election results. So has energy magnate Charles Koch, who helped put the Manhattan real estate parasite in the White House. No doubt promises have been made.

Trump’s biggest lie

In the Oct. 22 presidential debate, Trump told a whopper even by his standards. “We are energy independent for the first time,” he claimed. “We don’t need all of these countries that we had to fight wars over because we needed their energy. We are energy independent.”

But even Trump knows that Washington’s 30-year war in the “Middle East” is not over. He gets it. He knows it’s a war for monopoly, to control the world’s energy reserves and revenues. Trump basically admitted it in his July tweet that he authorized U.S. troops to seize Syria’s oil fields. He offered them to XOM.

Trump also knows that the U.S. fracking industry cannot survive without endless war.
Oil prices stayed over $90 a barrel.

Several counterclockwise, offshore drilling, coal, even ethanol, all flourished. Firms like General Electric and Berkshire Hathaway poured money into the 10 companies on Fortune's 500 list for 2009 were energy companies. XTO and Devon made a $20 billion purchase in 2005, but remained at No. 3.

The flood of investment in North American shale paid off big in Obama's re-election campaign. The U.S. Energy Information Agency declared that the U.S. had replaced Rus sia and Saudi Arabia as the world's top petroleum producer. (Trump, of course, claims it happened on his watch and that he made it possible.)

Capitalist bubbles always burst

But the boom was not without downsides. The U.S. capitalist class as a whole. High oil prices hurt such sectors as airlines, retail, auto sales, and everything manufactured companies and online retailers dependent on them (including Amazon).

High prices helped oil-producing countries. Companies with huge cash reserves, ties to the big banks, and cheap oil and gas can act like financiers. They compete for fields once thought marginal. The biggest banks compete for “new money” wildcatters and speculators in their willingness to back the Saudi kingdom with an Independence from the Islamic world.

Syrian airbase at Al Shayrat. In September 2013. He ordered the first direct U.S. attack on Syrian government air weapons. And he raved against Obama’s alleged “war on coal.”

The rebukes, their political masters in the Republican Party, characterized the invasion of Iraq as every other U.S. president has characterized the invasion of Turkey’s President Recep Erdogan — should be seen in that context.

An example of the conflicts inside the ruling class was Trump’s April 21, 2020, order to Chevron to stop delivering gas to Turkey for Trump’s fracking bosses and bad for Venezuela. But it was also bad for Chevron.

The new regime

What will Joe Biden do? The same as every other U.S. president has done: What he’s told.

President, including Trump, are not vision makers. They are hired actors hired by ruling class factions. There will be a fight over which ruling class faction does the telling.

That struggle for position between capitalist classes, fi nancial capitalism, financial power, is the ultimate power. But even the bankers are not their own masters. The sands of the world economy shift constantly beneath their feet. They are slaves to the relentless battle of capital against crisis and contraction, which defines the monopoly capitalist era.

The Biden regime is also a coalition. It faces the same contradiction as Trump’s does. There is the clash between the position of U.S. monopoly capital in the world economy and the need and right of oppressed nations to develop their own productive forces. There is a constant battle for position between capitalist classes, factions, and modes of production in times of economic contraction.

It often appears as a fight over grand strategy, but usually comes down to what both are expressions of the contradiction between the explosive growth of human productivity and the fetters of capitalist ownership. That contradiction leads inevitably to crisis and war.

The real interests of working-class and exploited people in this country are opposed to those of monopoly capital. We have nothing except the power and the right to real investment funds being at the center of the world economy. Imagine how much better off we would be in a world of controlled competition, destruction, and plunder.

Shutdown the U.S. Central Command! Bring home all the troops, ship all the weapons home to the bosses, the generals and agents of destruction! End the sanctions! End all U.S. aid to the ramps and railheads.

Make the arms plants manufacture vaccines, ventilators, medical equipment and PPE, not weapons of destruction. Money for health care, housing, schools and the people, not endless war!
Spies are going to spy. Five questions on the so-called Russian hack

By Gary Wilson

"Russian Hackers Broke Into Fed-

eral Agencies, U.S. Officials Suspect," was the Dec. 13 New York Times headline on a report by David Sanger. U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin said the hack is "virtually a declaration of war." U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio said that "America must retaliate, and not just with sanctions." A Reuters headline said, "Biden's options for Russian hacking punishment: sanctions, cy-

ber retaliation." What's really going on?

1. What is the role of the media?

The report on the hack in the New York Times said that Russia did it, even though some of the agencies reporting the hack cited Russia in any way.

David Sanger's report said the official story is that Russia hacked into U.S. government networks.

That became the story used by all the big media in the U.S. For example, NBC followed with a report that the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infra-

structure Security Agency "has not said who is behind the hacking, or why — except for a persistent threat actor behind the 'significant and ongoing' campaign, but many experts are pointing to Russia.

Sanger has written multiple pieces blaming Russia for hacking, much like what he and his col-

league, Judith Miller, did leading up to the U.S. war on Iraq, insisting on the presence of weapons of mass destruction — weapons that never existed.

Sanger was also an originator and promoter of the false claim of a Russian hack of the Democratic National Committee and top of-

ficials in the 2016 Hillary Clinton campaign.

That accusation was used as a distraction after it was learned that WikiLeaks was about to publish emails that showed Clinton and the DNC had survived to block Bernie Sanders.

Too many still believe the Russia hacking and Trump campaign campa-

ign are one and the same, like the kind of operation is typically done by private cybersecurity companies.

Smith writes: "One illustrative company in this new sector [private cybersecurity companies] is the NSO Group, based in Israel and now involved in U.S. litigation. NSO created and sold to governments an app called Pegasus, which could be installed on a device simply by calling the device via WhatsApp, the device's owner did not even have to answer. According to WhatsApp, NSO used Pegasus to access more than 1,400 mobile devices, including those belonging to journalists and human rights activists."

3. Who did it?

The actual security reports on the attack say no source for the hack can be identified. There is no evidence that Russia was involved. If it was, the media would have pre-

sented it instead of attributing the charge to anonymous sources.

The hack was discovered by the network security company FireEye.

"The highly evasive attacker" used "difficult-to-attribute tools," Fire-

Eye said. Neither FireEye nor Micro-

soft could identify any source for the "difficult-to-attribute" intrusion.

Max Abrams, an international security professional and author of a book on terrorism titled "Two Wars:" "The U.S. government did not pub-

licly identify Russia as the culprit behind the hacks, first reported by Reuters, and said little about who might be responsible."

"You know this story will be retold as all 17 intel agencies 100% certain Putin is behind it." A second Tweet by Abrams added: "American Media: 1. Punish Russia.

5. What is this an act of war?

Cybersecurity and legal ex-

perts say that the hack would not be considered an act of war under international law. But there is a range of experts who consider it a routine act of espio-

nage. Espionage is internationally allowed in peacetime.

To qualify as an act of war, United Nations resolutions and other sources of international law require the use of force or destruction. In this case, U.S. intelligence agencies say there has been no damage or any kind to the infrastructure. The hack has been for data collection only. The intru-

sion has not reached any systems on the specially protected "secret" networks.

The hackers gained access to the U.S. Treasury Department's unclassified systems but really just saw what the system was doing, the applications running and that sort of thing.

"At this point, we do not see any broad threat to our national security," Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said on CNBC. "Our un-

classified systems did have access, I will say the good is there has been no damage, nor have we seen any large amounts of information disclosure.

Breaking into unclassified gov-

ernment and corporate networks, reading other people's emails — that's spying. That's the kind of cyber spying that the National Security Agency does 24 hours a day against Russia, China, Iran, Cuba, Venezuela and many more.

"Warfare implies violence, death and destruction," said Duncan Hollis, a professor of law at Temple University specializing in cyber-

security. Hollis and other experts said the attack appears to have been a "classic intelligence-gathering" operation.

"The SolarWinds Orion software server was newly developed, according to FireEye. It was not built using hacking tools that were de-

veloped by the U.S. Defense Depart-

ment's National Security Agency (NSA) that were leaked in 2017 and have become the primary tools used for spying operators outside the U.S.

The capability to develop these kinds of spy tools is held primari-

ly by the NSA, along with Britain's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and Israel.

China and Russia have some capa-

bility, but all recent reports indicate their 'spying' is often done using the tools leaked from the NSA or something based on those NSA tools. Mi-

crosoft's Brad Smith suggests that it is likely a private cybersecurity company that is involved.

Despite the lack of evidence that points to a specific actor, the U.S. media immediately blamed Russia for the spying attempt.

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perts say that the hack would not be considered an act of war under international law. But there is a range of experts who consider it a routine act of espio-

nage. Espionage is internationally allowed in peacetime.
Mass voter opposition leaves rulers of the world’s largest economy in a crisis of stability

By Gary Wilson

Donald Trump was the biggest loser in the November election. In a record turnount of the voting-eligible population, 51.4% of the vote for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. Donald Trump and Mike Pence got 46.9% of the vote. It was the biggest voter turnout percentage spot, with more than 66% of those eligible voting.

Trump had made racism the core of his campaign, and he was mostly seen as a rejection of Trump and racism.

The U.S. consistently has been the lowest voter turnout of all the industrialized countries in the world. This is due, in part, to the extensive voter suppression in the U.S. — including poll taxes, registration fees and “literacy tests” — and the many undemocratic measures that prevent participation in the elections, such as holding voting only on workdays.

There are also millions who are blocked from voting because they are immigrants or were formerly incarcerated. Also, the unofficial — but strictly enforced — rule that only a Democrat is eligible for public office discourages a great many voters.

This election year had unusual complications because of COVID-19, which made voting at traditional polling stations dangerous. As a result, many voted by mail. Voting by mail is not only safe, it is democratic, cancels the restrictions that prevent people from voting. Trump, therefore, has made a special issue of opposing voting by mail.

Donald Trump encouraged his supporters to vote in person, while the anti-Trump voters generally voted by mail. The early mail-in ballots were usually counted first, Trump racked up huge initial leads in most of the states, which were reported on the evening of Nov. 3. At that point, Trump declared victory.

However, by the following day, as the early mail-in votes were counted, Trump’s large leads in those states disappeared. By Friday, Nov. 6, it was clear that Biden had won the Electoral College vote, as well as the popular vote.

However, the Associated Press, which unofficially declares the president-elect, held out for another day. On Nov. 7, AP finally declared Joe Biden the president-elect of the United States.

This unusual delay gave Trump and the Republicans a considerable head start in their campaign to steal the 2020 election. The archaic U.S. Constitution, written in 1787 — modeled on the slave-holding Roman Republic’s government, with its servile senators and representatives — was under supreme command of the army and the civil administration which was chosen by something like the electoral college. The Constitution allows states to decide, using a unique formula for Electoral College vote, and Congress decides, using a unique formula for its decision. Each state’s delegation gets only one, so there will be a majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives which will be expected to decide the presidential election, and likewise for major Republican states.

On that basis of one state, one vote, in the current Congress, Trump trick was to shift just 4 states so that Trump would have 269 electoral votes, causing an Electoral College tie that Congress likely would have decided in his favor.

According to the Constitution, if no candidate gets a majority in the Electoral College, then Congress decides, using a unique formula for its decision. Each state’s delegation gets only one, so there will be a majority of Democrats in the House of Representatives which will be expected to decide the presidential election, and likewise for major Republican states.

Many capitalists prefer Trump

As is always the case in the U.S. president elections, the big capitalists differ among themselves as to which Democrat or Republican candidate should be president. While many capitalists preferred Trump, others backed Biden.

The argument for Trump is that he is a big capitalist and landowner, he is one of their own and understands their interests. Over the last four years, Trump has done things the “pro-business” U.S. administration in history. He won over to his side many originally skeptical capitalists.

Trump first said that the General Electric Company or one of Trump’s strategies from the beginning of his campaign. He never tried to win the popular vote, but only to make sure his preferred plans to block democracy and provides many avenues for special interests to get away with.

The Constitution allows states to select their electors any way they want. She are not required to choose the winner of the state’s vote. A state could decide its electors based on what they declare would best serve the national interest. Or a state legislature could stop in an election and select the electors, claiming that the will of the electors is unrepresentative.

For more than the anti-democratic Electoral College, see Jesse Wegman’s book, “Let The People Pick the President: The Case for Direct Election” (Public Affairs). Trump might be counting on creating constitutions and legal changes to exclude the large-scale decisions made by Trump supporters in the states, as a basis for declaring martial law. During his first “debate” with Biden, Trump demanded that the “Boys in MAGA hats” that got recorded on video burning a Black Lives Matter banner at the Asbury United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., an action widely char- 

The Nov. 23 New York Times re- ported, “Concerned that President Trump would refuse to accept the election results is hurting the country, more than 160 top American exec- utives asked the administration on Monday to immediately acknowledge Joseph R. Biden Jr. as the pres- ident-elect and begin the transition to his administration.”

Signers of this letter “included the chief executives of Mastercard, Visa, MetLife, Accenture, the Carlyle Group, WeWork and American International Group, among others. They included some of the most important play- ers in the financial industry: David M. Solomon, the chief executive of Goldman Sachs; Laurence D. Fink, chief executive of the asset manage- ment giant BlackRock; Jon Gray, Blackstone’s president; and Henry R. Kravis, a prominent Republican do- nor who is the co-chief executive of KKR, a private equity firm.” In other words, a representative group of the ruling capitalist class.

The ruling class

Since Trump’s 2016 presidential victory, the ruling capitalist class has been strongly divided on Don- ald Trump. Who are the people that collectively make up the U.S. ruling class?

The capitalist class is not just the 358 billionaires on the Forbes 1,000 list of February 2020. Though that is how it is sometimes seen, that’s not how Karl Marx defined it in his writings. The 1% percent or even 0.001% doesn’t really define it.

The ruling capitalist class, as Karl Marx defined it, consists of those “capitalists who live off profit — bank- ing interest, stock market divi- dends, business profits and landlord rent. The working class lives off the wages of labor, the working class — between the capitalist class and the working class in the Commu- nist Manifesto, written by Marx and Frederick Engels, they use the tra- ditional French name for the middle class — the petty bourgeoisie.

As Marx elaborated, if you can live off property income — profits, in- terest and rent — at a level exceed- ing that of a skilled worker without having to hold a job, you are a member of the capitalist ruling class.

In the U.S., there are some 20.2 mil- lion millionaires, according to the Credit Suisse “Global Wealth Report 2020.”

A key part of the capitalist class are actually business people, what Marx called “active capitalists.” These include heads of banks and other fi- nancial corporations as well as CEOs of industrial and commercial enterprises. The active capitalists are mostly seen as the large and medium-sized businesses. Small business people generally have net assets of less than $1 million and mostly live on wages. Having $10 million or more in assets should be sufficient to have an upscale living standard without having to work at all.

Without at least $10 million in as-
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el Lower East Side de Manhattan, hoy Loisaida. Las calles se llenaron de comerciantes de personas pobres del este y sur de Europa que intentaban sobrevivir. La policía disparó 42 veces contra el joven Dally el 4 de febrero de 1999, asesinando a este inmigrante desarmado de Guinea. La partidaria de Trump, Heather Mac Donald, llama a la víctima africana “un vendedor ambulante de vídeos pirateados y calzinetes”.

¿La venta de calzinetes merece la pena de muerte? Hilitera solía atacar a los vendedores ambulantes judíos. Los propietarios quieren deshacerse de los vendedores ambulantes porque no les pueden cobrar alquiler. Lo mismo ocurre con los ban- cos, ya que están las hipotecas de los propietarios.

Amazon, no los vendedores ambulantes, lo que está arruinando industrias. Es el propietario Jeff Bezos, con su fortuna de 191,000 millones de dólares, el responsable de vaciar los centros comerciales.

¿Qué tiene para vender?

En una sociedad capitalista como Estados Unidos, todo el mundo tiene que vender algo. Para la gran mayoría de la población, esto significa vender una capacidad de uno para realizar un trabajo.

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sets, small business people can’t re- tire from the active management of their small businesses. They are therefore both the original owners and the managers. They are therefore both active capitalists who repre- sent the owners of the corporation as well as being money capitalists in their own right.

In large corporations, the CEOs don’t usually own anything close to a controlling interest in the corporation. But if they have net assets exceeding $1 million, they can live quite well even if they lose their corporate positions. They are therefore both active capitalists who repre- sent the owners of the corporation as well as being money capitalists in their own right.

The closest allies to the capitalist class are the near-capitalists: the upper-middle class. They are therefore both active capitalists who repre- sent the owners of the corporation as well as being money capitalists in their own right.

These people unrealistically expect to become capitalists in the fu- ture and thus identify with the inter- ests of the class they will never in fact join. These range from people doing tech startups to small busi- ness people who lack enough capital to hire professional managers and therefore must work hard in their businesses to enjoy a “decent” middle- class lifestyle.

Another group identifying their interests with the interests of the capitalist class are the federal and state police and prison guards — the very least perform the labor of the capitalist class.

Still another group in the middle area that identifies their interests with the interests of the capitalist class are the managers and supervi- sors. In “Capital,” Marx described how the division of labor requires a complex managerial hierarchy: “An industrial army of workers under the command of a capitalist requires, in addition, a large number of officers and officials, and NCOs (foremen, overseers), who command during the labor process in the name of capital.” These are the salaried workers and Specialists in the U.S. endorsed Donald Trump.

The administration’s baseless and illegal withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear agree- ment was a pretext to escalate war preparations. Unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran by Washington and enforced against other countries have caused terrible economic harm as well as death, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sanctions are another form of war.

Last January, Trump issued a statement claiming that the attack was “almost certainly conduct- ed by an Iranian-backed rogue mili- tary group,” a charge disputed by Iraqi officials. On Dec. 23, Trump tweeted: “If one American is killed, I will hold Iran responsible. Think it over.”

The administration’s failure of any kind to return to the 2015 nuclear agreement will continue to cost the world many lives and will harm the lives and livelihoods of all people in the Middle East.

Iraqis take part in a protest at Tahrir Square to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the U.S. assassination of Iraqi military commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis and Iranian military commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani on January 3, 2021.

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A year before his abortive coup at- tempt in Washington, Donald Trump ordered the murder of Iran’s Gen. Qassem Soleimani in cold blood. Eight others died with the general in the Jan. 3 drone strike at Baghdad International Airport. Among them was Majid Abu Mahandas, deputy commander of Iran’s Popular Mo- bilization Units. Now both Iran and Iraq have filed requests for Trump’s execution.

General Soleimani’s funeral was one of the largest in history. Mil- lions turned out as his coffin was carried across Iran and Iraq to his final resting place in his hometown of Kerman. He was loved for leading the fight against ISIS, Al Qaeda and other U.S.-backed terrorists in Syr- ia and Iraq and his role in driving U.S.-Israeli forces out of Lebanon. His murder was a “crime against peace” under international law, an attempt to start a war. The U.S. should honor Iran and Iraq’s just requests and send Trump to face justice.

Stop U.S. attacks on Iran.
No war! End sanccions!

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El mundo observó mientras fascistas armados que portaban banderas confederadas y aríetes acústicos violaron detectores de metales, tomaron como rehenes al Congreso, tomaron oficinas, rompieron ventanas, llevaron escaleras abiertamente para escalar el Capitolio, y finalmente fueron escoltados fuera del edificio sin arresto.

El asalto al Capitolio por supremacistas blancos incitados por Trump, que detuvo temporalmente el voto de certificación, tuvo que contarse con la colisión de las agencias policíacas federales y locales. Es imposible que no hubiera preparación cuando estos mismos eventos habían sido telegrafados durante meses por el propio Trump. “Civil War 6 de enero de 2021” estaba impreso en las sudaderas de MAGA; esto no era ningún secreto. La única forma en que la mafia racista podría ocupar libremente el Capitolio es si la policía tomó la decisión deliberada de dejarlas.

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Por Stephen Millies

Los hombres de Trump pueden comer y pagar el alquiler, no solo para ellos, sino también para sus hijos. Muchos comerciantes ambulantes envían directamente la mayor parte de su ingreso a sus negocios y otras empresas. Vendedores ambulantes marcharon a través del puente de Brooklyn para protestar en defensa de sus negocios y pedir que se les dé ayuda para COVID en la ciudad de Nueva York, el 12 de noviembre.

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