Extreme weather & capitalism: DEADLY

By Scott Scheffer

Climate scientists around the world are alarmed by a triple climate–change–related crisis that hit the western U.S. and Canada in June and July.

Normally climatologists are careful in their assessment of extreme weather events, under pressure from energy industry profiteers and anti–science climate change deniers. They go to great pains to avoid being accused of exaggeration, and rarely (really never) point to climate change as the cause of specific freakish weather events.

The severity of what has happened in June and July has pushed past many of their carefully calculated projections. The fingerprints of capitalist-induced global warming are all over the crime scene.

A severe drought in the western states of the U.S. that has been worsening for months has nearly drained Lake Mead in Nevada, Lake Oroville in California and other major reservoirs, threatening power generation for millions of people. A series of intense, widespread, sustained heat waves tortured a quarter of the U.S. as well as western Canada for weeks, taking the lives of hundreds of people.

The super–dry conditions in the region have caused 83 wildfires, including the Dixie Fire in Northern California and the Bootleg Fire in southern Oregon. They are two of the largest wildfires in history and are both still raging.

Mild Pacific Northwest goes wild

The Southwest U.S. is no stranger to deadly heat, but what is most unexpected is that this extreme heat has hit the Pacific Northwest, a region known for mild temperatures and damp weather.

Roads buckled in Seattle from the sweltering heat. For several days Portland, Ore., was the fourth–hottest place on earth. British Columbia suffered the highest death toll with more than 400 deaths between the end of June and middle of July — quadruple the average number of deaths.

The village of Lyttton in British Columbia burned to the ground just as Paradise, Calif., did in 2018 — essentially nothing left but ashes and smoke.

In Canada's British Columbia province, and the U.S. states of Washington, Oregon and Northern California, the heat broke all–time temperature records, and then broke those records again, and then again.

California and California's livability depends on a system of 1,500 human–made reservoirs, not only for drinking water and agriculture but for electricity from hydroelectric generators.

Engineers say that the water level in Lake Mead will be below the minimum water level needed to generate power to 1.3 million people in a matter of days. Lake Oroville will likely last until September, when it won't be able to supply electricity for another 800,000.

Normally, power companies buy power from nearby regions when needed. But constantly running air conditioning in a wide swath of the western U.S. during 2021 has diminished power surpluses that normally allow that to happen.

Cuba’s freedom and Assata Shakur’s

By John Parker

For all of those saying that Cuba is not free, consider the freedom of our sister and former Black Panther Assata Shakur, who, like many other Black liberation fighters, was framed for murder in a blatantly racist and unfair trial.

Her freedom today would not be possible if not for the solidarity and principled leadership of the Cuban Communist Party and the revolutionary people who make up the great majority in Cuba. They gave our sister asylum.

If not for Cuba, Assata would instead be dead (the U.S. currently has a $2 million bounty on her head, dead or alive) or among the ranks of over 2 million incarcerated people in the U.S. The U.S. has the largest jailed population in the world; by far the largest in actual number and percentage of population, predominantly Black, Brown and other oppressed people.

So for those people who live in the U.S. and continue to lie about Cuba, we say enjoy your “freedom” and your ignorance and we’ll enjoy wishing our free sister Assata a very happy belated birthday. (She was born on July 16.)

DEFEND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

No intervention from Cuba to Haiti

July 26th makes history

Answering U.S. media lies and attacks on Cuba

By Gloria Verdieu

"If I leave here alive, I'll leave nothing behind. They'll never count me among the broken men, but I can't say that I'm normal either. I've been hungry too long, I've gone angry too often, I've been lied to and insulted too many times. They've pushed me over the line from which there can be no retreat. I know that they will not be satisfied until they've pushed me out of existence altogether. I've been the victim of so many racist attacks that I could never relax again… I can still smile now, after ten years of blocking knife thrusts, and the pick handles of faceless sadistic pigs, of anticipating and reacting for ten years, seven of them in Solitary. I can still smile sometimes, but by the time this thing is over I may not be a nice person. And I just fit my seventy–seventh cigarette of this 21–hour day. I'm going to lay down for two or three hours, perhaps I'll sleep." 

George Jackson


August 21, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of revolutionary George Jackson.

In 1960, 18–year–old Jackson was accused of stealing $70 from a gas station in Los Angeles. His court–appointed lawyer advised him to plead guilty in exchange for a light sentence in the county jail.
Caravan condemns residential school legacy, honors Indigenous resistance

Zola Fish is a member of the Chocotaw Nation.

By Zola Fish

On July 18, between 50-60 cars gathered at the historic Sherman Indian School in Riverside, Calif., for a caravan to honor “Indian resilience” in the face of brutal European colonialism. The event also honored “lost children,” a reference to the many Indigenous youth who perished while attending the boarding school.

The gathering was called in response to news out of Canada that the remains of 215 children were found in a mass grave on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, European colonizers to the Americas began forcing Native people out of their reservation homes and into off-reservation boarding schools, with the express purpose of assimilation into European culture and training for menial labor.

Caravanners dressed in bright orange and their cars were decorated with bright orange flags and signs that read “Honor the children” and “Honor the survivors.” The route proceeded along Gladys and then to the Sherman Indian School Cemetery five and a half miles away, where the remains of 67 Native children reside.

It has been reported that the causes of death of the children were from disease (typhoid ravaged the school in 1904), “accident” and bad water. Ten children were reported to have died from typhoid, including three siblings and a 1-year-old baby girl. The average age of youth who attended Sherman were from 4 years old into their twenties.

The Sherman Indian School, also known as the Sherman Institute, was founded by Frank Miller and named after James S. Sherman, U.S. vice president in the Taft administration. Originally the Perris Indian School located in Perris, Calif., it moved to Riverside in 1903.

Modeled after the infamous Carlisle School in Pennsylvania, the school’s motto was “Kill the Indian, save the man.” Miller said his goal was to “make the Indian useful” by teaching English, a little math and science, with the rest of the curriculum consisting of sewing, smithing, shoemaking, baking, gardening and barbering.

Legacy of cruelty and greed

Miller’s motive for moving the school was to build a resort for the wealthy in Riverside, using cheap Native labor and entertainment for guests of his mission inn. The school and the inn were dedicated in the same year.

By 1912, the Sherman Institute had 631 pupils from 12 states and 55 tribes. It included a 400-acre farm on which students produced and used the produce. It continues to operate on the original campus as a high school administered by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Native children were subjected to brutal and inhumane treatment in colonial boarding schools. They were forbidden from practicing their own traditions and religions. Nor were they allowed to speak their own languages. Their hair was cut and they were forced to wear clothing.

Children were punished and humiliated when caught practicing anything “Indian” and were made to do manual labor. Physical beatings were a common punishment for violations of school rules. Corporal punishment was unheard of in Indigenous culture. Its use at Sherman helped cause great psychological anguish among Native youth.

Sexual abuse was also rampant. One survivor remembered, “We had many different teachers during those years; some got the girls pregnant and had to leave.” She went on to describe her own story of sexual abuse at the hands of one of the nuns.

At the cemetery Native people prayed, lit sage and placed tobacco on the graves. There was a women’s drumming circle with Pauite Salt Songs to aid in community healing and to assist with the transition to the next world.

In attendance were the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice from Los Angeles, the Answer Coalition, BAYAN USA, Unión del Barrio, the San Diego Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and many more.

The ‘Land Back’ Campaign: Oklahoma is only a start

By Zola Fish

Last year the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision that affected 20% of Oklahoma. The court decided to uphold a 19th century treaty made with five Indigenous tribes of Oklahoma: Chocotaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Cherokee and Seminole. This was very significant for the five tribes.

Tulsa, the second biggest city in Oklahoma, sits on Creek land. So does the fourth biggest city, Broken Arrow. The ruling gives Native governments better protections over the citizens of each nation.

The state of Oklahoma no longer has the legal authority to prosecute cases involving Native Americans in territory previously owned by the state.

The Creek Nation released a statement that partly read: “Today’s decision will allow the Nation to honor our ancestors by maintaining our established sovereignty and territorial boundaries.”

The Supreme Court decision was 5-4, with Justices Neil Gorsuch, Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Stephen Breyer in the majority, while Justices John Roberts, Brett Kavanagh, Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas dissented.

This was a good start for the LANDBACK Campaign. The 40% of land is Eastern and expands to the South of Oklahoma.

Trail of Tears

The history of the five tribes is a sad one. The traditional lands of the tribes are Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. The Seminoles’ home was as far as Florida.

The Trail of Tears was brutal and not all made it. They were colonized along the way. Most became farmers with crops of corn, beans and squash. Wild turkeys were also a food source.

The colonial government quickly broke the treaty it had signed and the tribes were forced onto a small portion of what was promised. Other peoples already inhabited Oklahoma. The Wichita, Plains Apache, Quapaw and Caddo tribes were there during the colonization by the Spanish and French.

By the early 1800s the Osage, Pawnee, Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes migrated into “Indian Territory” — also known as Oklahoma. Tribes Native to present day Oklahoma are the Caddo, Osage and the Wichita.

There is a “Land Back” movement building momentum. It’s beginning with the Black Hills and is trying to shut down the Mount Rushmore monument.

To quote the NDN Collective working on the LANDBACK Campaign: “South Dakota is our cornerstone battle, from which we will build out this campaign. Not only does Mount Rushmore sit in the heart of the sacred Black Hills, but it is an international symbol of white supremacy and colonialization.”

The land that was given back to the five tribes is a good start, but we want all of our land back.

Reparations must be paid!

By Stephen Millies

“They stole us, they sold us, they owe us!”

These powerful and truthful words were chanted at the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan on July 23 to demand reparations for slavery. The nighttime rally was called to push the New York State Senate to pass the reparations bill already overwhelmingly approved by the State Assembly.

Owomale Clay of the December 12th Movement opened the rally by reminding everyone that the late Sonny Abubadika Carson stopped a bulldozer from desecrating that hallowed ground. It was only because of struggle that the U.S. government was forced to declare the site a national monument.

State Assembly Member Charles Barron explained how the reparations bill would set up a commission that wouldn't just have members hand-picked by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. It would include two members each from the following community organizations: the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA), the Institute of the Black World, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The commission would determine how much the state would have to pay up to Black people.

Continued on page 4
Baltimore’s unemployed workers speak out

By Struggle-La Lucha Baltimore bureau

Coming off its second court victory against Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s plan to cut off federal pandemic unemployment relief early, the Unemployed Workers Union planned a Town Hall Assembly at Baltimore City Hall on July 29.

A worker testifies about the crisis caused by unjust withholding of unemployment benefits, July 29.

Asmall, photo: Sharon Black

Unemployed Workers Union wins court victory: ‘We will continue to fight’

July 13 — The Unemployed Workers Union is encouraged by today’s decision by Baltimore Circuit Court Judge Lawrence Fletcher-Hill to grant a preliminary injunction to halt Governor Hogan’s plan to end federal pandemic benefits early.

Along with the U.S. Department of Labor’s requirement of a 30-day cut-off notice, the judge’s decision means that help will continue until September.

Today’s court decision is a victory for unemployed Maryland workers, especially those who collect pandemic benefits. In the absence of this $300 a week, the only funds available for workers who have exhausted benefits or are not covered under regular unemployment benefits.

Alec Summerfield, attorney for the Unemployed Workers Union, stated, “It may make the difference whether a worker eats or not, or between paying a utility bill, car payment, mortgage or rent.”

Summerfield continued, “This addresses a part of our lawsuit, the second part revolves around the thousands of workers who have not seen a penny of their benefits, some for as long as a year, held up in the U.S. Department of Labor’s requirement of a 30-day cut-off notice.”

Organizers thought severe weather would force them to cancel. Yet despite a tornado warning in the area, over 30 people showed up, drawn by the opportunity to “Tell your story and let the world know that the crisis is not over!” The assembly went ahead as planned while activists kept a close eye on the skies.

“Thousands of Marylanders have still not received a dime of unemployment insurance and benefits owed to them,” says the leaflet for the event. “Instead, their claims are languishing in hold, false claims, or simply not being paid. Don’t let the Labor Department sweep us under the rug.

“We are continuing to fight inside the courts, but that will not be enough. Only your voice and actions will ensure we win again.”

The turnover, despite the threatening weather, demonstrates the severity of the crisis for unemployed workers in the state of Maryland.

“We will do this again so that none of those who were deterred by the storm and the tornado warnings get a chance to testify,” UWU’s Sharon Black said.

We wrapped the event and heard firsthand the experiences of unemployed workers: tinyurl.com/2hqa8maw

Unemployed Workers Union victory

Unemployed Workers Union picket in Baltimore, July 6.

By Struggle-La Lucha Baltimore bureau

“We still have miles to travel on this road until everyone is paid. Please do not stop.”

The Unemployed Workers Union will be announcing future actions soon. In the meantime, if you have an eviction emergency, reach out to UWU representative Joyce B. by email at stillsmiling4eva@gmail.com.

Don’t forget our weekly Unemployed and Workers’ Rights Clinic, Thursdays from 6 pm to 8 pm at 2011 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. Just show up — no need to make an appointment. Please come and fill out a grievance form.

Welfare Rights conference in New Orleans:
‘Imagine a world where no one goes without food or affordable housing’

By Gregory E. Williams

During the first week of August, the National Welfare Rights Union (NWRU) convened in New Orleans. The meeting brought together activists from around the country to study both history and current conditions, as well as to reaffirm their commitment to struggle.

This was a good time for a national meeting on welfare rights, given the extreme situation faced by millions of working-class people in the United States. For many, life has been made bleak by decades of low wages and austerity. The COVID-19 crisis is making things even worse. The country’s largest hunger-relief non-profit, Feeding America, reports that some 50 million people were food insecure during the pandemic. On the eve of this conference, 11 million families were facing eviction or foreclosure. Biden only acted to extend the eviction moratorium after facing popular pushback.

In an address at the onset of the pandemic, NWRU President, Mau- reen Taylor, spoke of the difficulties caused by the cruelty of this system, but she also stressed the need to envision an alternative. Taylor said: “Working people—can’t we imagine a world where all human beings have the right to a decent life are a right and cannot be tied to a job that may disappear? Working people—can’t we imagine a world where preparation for pandemics are already in place because the next one is anticipated? Working people—can’t we imagine a world where no one goes without food or affordable housing under any circumstances?”

The NWRU was established in 1987, growing out of the work of the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWR). The NWRU was a key part of the Poor People’s Campaign organized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. That movement terrified politicians. One organizer at this week’s conference said, “The threat of Martin Luther King was that he was uniting the working-class. In- deed, when King was murdered in 1968, the militancy of the Black liberation struggle was spilling over to all groups fighting for their rights in this society.

The organizers with today’s NWRU are carrying on the radical traditions of the NWRU founders, like Cesar Chavez, Wiley and Johnnie Tillmon, two giants of the civil rights era. In this week’s discussion, conference-attendees stressed we need to build back to basics, that is, to struggle led by poor, working-class people, not beholden to granting organizations and professional politicians. Elders shared radical history with the younger activists, while affirming the immense potential of today’s youth, as demonstrated by the 2020 rebellions against white supersma- cist police terror.

A lively conversation took place about the necessity of basing struggle on revolutionary education and an analysis of changing conditions.

Rev. Annie Chambers of the NWRU, Socialist Unity Party, and other organizations, summed up much of this discussion in the following way: “Facing different conditions today, what else can we do but have revolu- tion? Young people are fighting. But we’ve got to give it direction, to call what we’re in a revolution to change this whole system. Piecemeal change isn’t enough. This whole capitalist system must fall.”

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Eleven million families face being thrown out of their homes. That’s because the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) ban on evictions and foreclosures expired on July 31. So at least 30 million people have no legal protection from a landlord or bank kicking them out of their apartment or house. At the same time, there’s another upsurge in the coronavirus pandemic.

The great evictions caused by being homeless during the COVID-19 crisis are why the CDC imposed the moratorium. Evictions led to hundreds of thousands of more cases of the coronavirus.

Families living in shelters or in their cars much more likely to get infected. So are elderly and disabled people.

Overcrowded housing is a big reason why the death rates from COVID-19 are two and then three times as high among Black, Indigenous and Latinx people as among whites.

These facts mean much to sexual predator Brett Kavanaugh. The U.S. Supreme Court judge told the Biden administration that he wasn’t going to allow more than a one-month extension on the CDC moratorium.

To judges like Kavanaugh, property rights always come before human rights. How are families supposed to pay their rent or mortgage when more than 30 million lost their jobs since the pandemic began?

California, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Washington, D.C., place some limits on evictions and foreclosures. People living in these areas won’t be immediately affected by the CDC moratorium coming to an end.

Worst housing crisis since Great Depression

But in the rest of the United States, landlording and banksters will be running to court demanding an avalanche of evictions and foreclosures. This is the worst housing crisis since 90 years ago during the Great Depression.

What is to be done?

With the Biden administration and the Democratic Party leaders in Congress knew this catastrophe was coming. They did practically nothing to head off the runaway train. Rep. Cori Bush from St. Louis is outraged at this inaction. She slept overnight outside the U.S. Capitol to demand Congress reconvene and stop evictions.

Representative Bush knows what it is to be homeless. After being evicted, she had to live in her car with her children.

Congress did authorize $47 billion to help pay back rent. But only $3 billion has been spent.

Many landlords are just refusing to accept the money. They just want to evict people. That’s criminal.

What’s that Roxanne Schaefer is facing in West Warwick, R.I. The disabled woman lives in an apartment that is not properly serviced or maintained, with a rent of $995 per month. Her slumlord refuses to take federal rental assistance.

Behind even the biggest landlords are banks that own the mortgages. They would rather have millions on the street in cardboard boxes than lower rents.

It was because 26 million people took to the streets demanding justice for George Floyd that Congress did anything to stop evictions and foreclosures. They need to fear us again.

We need to join and support organizations like the Crown Heights Tenant Union in Brooklyn. The housing courts need to be surrounded by people.

Nine years ago the Unemployed Councils stopped evictions in Chicago. The power of the people can stop the tidal wave of evictions and foreclosures.

Reparations Now!

Barron described how only Charleston, S.C., was more dependent on enslaved Africans than New York City. The city once operated a municipal slave market on Wall Street.

State senators and assembly members came to join Charles Barron in demanding this reparations bill be passed. They included state senators Jabari Brisport and Robert Jackson, and assembly members Khaleel Anderson and Stefani Zinerman.

Barron described how only 26% of Black Lives Matter in New York, declared that “the biggest terrorists are the white capitalists.” Newsom emphasized that the rally was being held on sacred ground.

That didn’t stop the National Park Service from initially locking the gate to the burial grounds. It was only because people demanded entry to the public monument that the policy was rescinded.

New York City Council Member Inez Barron described her efforts in motivating the council to support the reparations bill in the Assembly.

A member of Operation POW-ER, a militant community group based in the East New York section of Brooklyn, demanded the reparations bill be passed.

People were urged to contact New York Senator and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to urge that reparations bill S.7235 be passed by the legislative body. Her district phone number is (646) 422-4631, while her Albany number is (518) 455-3715. Stewart-Cousins can also be reached by email at scousins@nysenate.gov.

Reparations now!
Stop killing workers with heat!

By Stephen Millhollin

There's nothing natural about the heat waves and massive forest fires scorching the earth. Capitalist climate change is unnatural.

Record-high temperatures in the western United States and Canada are matched by temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in Siberia. The millions of workers are forced to work in these dangerous conditions. Among them were Oregon farmworker, Sebastian Francisco Perez, who collapsed and died on June 26, one day after his 38th birthday. He had been working in temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Sebastian Perez came from the Guatemalan town of Itzam to put food on our tables. Bigots want us to hate immigrants who are the major food on our tables. Bigots want us to have any regulations to protect workers from heatstroke. The other states are Minnesota, Washington and Oregon.

California farmworkers have to work in 114-degree heat. The Golden State is one of only four states that have any regulations to protect workers from heatstroke. The other states were Minnesota, Washington and Oregon.

California requires bosses to provide workers with one quart of fresh water every hour. That didn't prevent Maria Isabel Vasquez Jimenez from dying in 95-degree heat in 2006. The 17-year-old was working on the grape harvest.

No heat safety regulations

Forty-six states don't have any regulations to protect workers dying from heat injury. Neither does the federal government's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

That's despite the Center for Disease Control's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health requesting OSHA to do so in 1975. That was 46 years and nine U.S. presidents ago.

Government figures show 585 workers dying from heat between 1992 and 2017. Over 70,000 were injured. The real numbers are far higher.

Construction workers account for 36% of these heat deaths; six times their percentage of the workforce. But it isn't just workers who work outside who can die. Million-dollar warehouse workers also suffer from extreme heat. During a 2011 heat wave, Amazon workers at a co-working distribution center near Allentown, Pa., were pushed to meet production quotas.

Instead of opening loading dock doors to help ventilate the facility, supervisors kept them locked because they were worried about theft. Employee health was less important. Amazon instead stationed ambulance outside with paramedics who would whisk away workers who had collapsed from the heat.

The reason why OSHA hasn't been allowed to issue any rules to protect workers from extreme heat is that it would cut into capitalists' profits. "Treating Amazon workers humanely could cost Amazon big boss Jeff Bezos some profit," the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The e-mailed statement oozed with the confidence that bosses have the power to determine what the "human right. Millions of families need free air conditioners and cheap electricity to operate them.

If the people are willing to fight for it, it can be won.

Frito-Lay workers win strike against ‘suicide shifts’

By Scott Scheffer

Workers at the Frito-Lay factory in Topeka, Kansas, held their ground and won a favorable union contract after a solid three-week walkout. Frito-Lay is owned by PepsiCo and operates 30 other manufacturing centers throughout the country.

The company made $4.2 billion last year. During the pandemic, it was slow to meet rising demand, instead hiring more workers and paying decent wages.

The workers called them.

Although Amazon also operates 30 other manufacturing centers throughout the country, the Frito-Lay's practice of Amazon-style hyper exploitation shows the structure of the entire food processing industry. Hundreds of billions of dollars are matched by temperatures of 100 degrees Fahrenheit in Siberia.

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By Gregory Williams

July 26th became a movement: The Cuban masses make history

Today, the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba is a museum and a school — fitting, given the Cuban Revolution's well-known commitment to education. But this was the site of a battle that radically altered the course of history on the island.

In the early morning hours of July 26, 1953, Fidel Castro — a young law student with no political experience and barely old enough to vote — led a group of revolutionaries in an attack on the army barracks in Santiago de Cuba. The attack was (as Castro himself later admitted) a complete failure, with the revolutionaries suffering more than 100 casualties and leaving 26 men dead. The event came to be known as the Moncada Revolt.

But the failure of the Moncada attack did not signal the end of Castro's revolution. Rather, it marked the beginning of a long and bitter struggle for power in Cuba, one that would ultimately result in the fall of the Batista regime and the rise of the Cuban Revolution.

The Moncada Barracks was not a random choice for Castro. It was the capital of the entire eastern region of Cuba, and it was the home of the national guard. The attack was designed to serve as a symbolic gesture of defiance against the Batista regime, and it was intended to spark a wider uprising against the dictatorship.

Still, the attack was a disaster. The revolutionaries were quickly dispersed, and Castro himself was captured and imprisoned. But despite the setback, Castro continued to organize and recruit supporters, and his message of resistance and rebellion resonated with the Cuban people.

The failure of the Moncada attack did not dampen the spirits of the revolutionaries. They continued to organize and prepare for a second attack on the barracks. This time, they were better prepared, and the attack was successful.

On January 1, 1959, the revolutionaries launched their second attack on the Moncada Barracks. This time, they were successful, and the Batista regime was brought down. The revolutionaries went on to establish a new government in Cuba, and they worked to build a socialist society.

The Moncada Barracks was a symbol of the revolution and of the struggle for freedom in Cuba. It was also a testament to the determination and courage of the Cuban people, who, despite the challenges and setbacks they faced, continued to fight for a better future for themselves and their country.

The Moncada Barracks is now a museum and a school, a place where visitors can learn about the history of the Cuban Revolution and the struggle for freedom that took place in Cuba from 1953 to 1959. It is a place where the story of the Moncada Revolt is told, and where the legacy of Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution is remembered.

The Moncada Barracks is a symbol of the power of the human spirit, and of the ability of the Cuban people to fight against oppression and for a better future. It is a place where the story of the Cuban Revolution is told, and where the legacy of Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution is remembered.
Defend the Cuban Revolution! No U.S. intervention from Cuba to Haiti

By Struggle-La Lucha

On the weekend of July 10-11, a series of count-er-revolutionary provocations took place in Cuba in an attempt to undermine the socialist govern-ment for the shortages of medical supplies, fuel and food caused by the unilateral U.S. blockade, which was tightened by Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The Cuban government has identified U.S.-funded opposition groups and media outlets as the source of these provocations.

In a televised address to the Cuban people on July 11, President Miguel Díaz-Canel denounced the destabilization attempt emanating from Washington, D.C., and Miami. He reviewed the seri-ous problems caused by the tightening of the U.S. blockade under Trump and Biden, after the brief thaw in relations under President Obama. He urged the Cuban people to take to the streets to defend the revolution and to continue fighting alongside people worldwide for an end to the cruel blockade.

“Those streets belong to the revolutionaries,” Diaz-Canel explained. In response, workers, farmers, students and members of the revolu-tionary armed forces held demonstrations Sun-day across the island in support of the Cuban Rev-olution and its leadership. Many carried portraits of the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro. Earlier, President Díaz-Canel himself went to San Antonio de los Baños, a small town south of Havana where the provocations began where he walked through the streets and held discussions with the people.

It is now apparent why President Biden’s ad-ministration hasn’t reversed Trump’s cruel in-tensification of the blockade, as he had promised during his election campaign. The U.S. capital, ruling class, the bosses and bankers who call the shots for both the Republicans and Democrats, are united in their hatred of Cuba. After the re-tirement of former president and Communist Party leader Raúl Castro earlier this year, the U.S. bosses are testing for cracks in the Cuban govern-ment and military that they can exploit to destroy the Revolution.

The hypocrisy of U.S.-funded “human rights” and “independent media” groups is blatant. They are trying to stir up anger at the Cuban govern-ment among people affected. All the shortages are purely the responsibility of the U.S. govern-ment and its six-decade criminal blockade.

Despite the difficulties imposed by the block-ade, Cuba has done much in the past 18 months to help protect not only its own people, but poor and working people around the world, from the scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has sent medical brigades to dozens of countries to help combat the virus. Cuba has even developed its own very effective vaccines — but lacks the nec-essary syringes to administer doses to the people because of the cruel blockade.

Nor is it a coincidence that this is happening just days after the assassination of the discredit-ed U.S. puppet president of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, in a sophisticated operation carried out by U.S. and Colombian mercenaries. The new acting leaders of Haiti have already called for the intervention of U.S. troops. A U.S. occupation of Haiti could serve as the launching pad for an invasion of Cuba.

The U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, site of ongoing “War on Terror” torture of prisoners, is on illegally-occupied Cuban territory. This is a cancerous threat that threatens not only Cuba and Haiti but all of the Caribbean.

The U.S. rulers have never forgiven the people of Haiti for carrying out the first successful slave revolution. Likewise, they’re never forgiven the Cuban people for carrying out the first socialist revolution in the Western hemisphere right under their noses — and successfully defending it for over 62 years.

But significantly, this attack also comes at a time when the U.S. blockade is more unpopular than ever. More and more people in the U.S. and around the world have been coming out in the streets to denounce the blockade with monthly caravans.

“Everyone pointed to the 62-year-long criminal blockade of Cuba by the U.S. as the source of the socialist country’s shortages. They denounced any intervention in Cuba or Haiti. But it’s not allowed to be used in the U.S. because of the blockade. Thirty years ago Cuban scientists developed a vaccine against meningitis. But it’s not allowed to be used in the U.S. because of the blockade.

Defending Cuba in New York City

By Stephen Millies

Two hundred people came to Manhattan’s Union Square on July 15 to defend the Cuban Revolution. They rejected the lies of the big business-media that’s attacking socialist Cuba.

The rally was called by the Young Communist League and support-ed by many different organizations. Among them were the New York-New Jersey Cuba Solidarity Coalition; the December 12th Movement; the Interreligious Foundation for Commu-nity Organization (IFCO); Vencere-mos Brigade, The People’s Forum; and the Samidoun Palestinian Pris-oner Solidarity Network.

Chants of “Cuba sí, bloqueo no!” filled the park. A contingent of Bra-zilians came to support Cuba.

Everyone pointed to the 62-year-long criminal blockade of Cuba by the U.S. as the source of the socialist country’s shortages. They denounced any intervention in Cuba or Haiti.

Justine Medina, co-chair of New York’s Young Communist League, described how her parents emigrat-ed from Cuba. She said they’re not socialists but they are against the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Malcolm Lynch and Cameron Orr also spoke from the YCL. Lynch de-nounced the U.S. economic sanctions on Iran, Syria, Venezuela and Zim-babwe. Like the sanctions on Cuba, they are cruel and inhuman.

Gail Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), spoke. She and her late father, the Rev. Lucius Walker, have broken the blockade many times with the Past-ors for Peace caravans.

“When Africa called, Cuba an-swered,” was a chant started by members of the December 12th Movement. Thousands of Cuban soldiers gave their lives alongside their African comrades in helping to defeat the Nazi armies of apartheid South Africa.

Manolo De Los Santos, co-execu-tive director of The People’s Forum, raised the campaign to donate sy-ringes to Cuba. Although Cuba has de-veloped its own effective vaccines against the coronavirus, the coun-try is short of syringes. All the more reason to stop the blockade.

Monica Cruz from the Party for Socialism and Liberation reflected to the people worldwide for an end to the cruel blockade.

On July 11, tens of thousands took to the streets across the country to defend the Cuban Revolution.

“Listen up, Joe Biden: Hands off Cuba! Stop the blockade!”

STRUGGLE = LA LUCHA
August 16, 2021 Page 7
Answering U.S. media lies about Cuba

By Scott Scheffer

In the wake of U.S. sabotage of the Cuban economy and efforts by the CIA’s National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to build counter-revolutionary sentiment, the anti-imperialist and socialist movement needs to be strong and united, and not be weakened by the misinformation spread by U.S. media and politicians.

Many corporate media aligned with the Democratic Party's “anti-Cuba campaign" are seeking to support their own imperialisim and disingenuous narrative during the torrent of lies that emanated from the Trump administration on many issues. To many, they seemed momentarily to be the defenders of democracy and truth.

Now the curtain is lifted. There is not a shade of difference between the two capitalist parties in their vicious attacks on Cuba. And lies about Cuba are being used to attack protesters and lack of military aid.

Fact: The U.S. trade embargo is causing all of the hardship in Cuba.

Six decades ago, as soon as it was clear that Cuba was developing an alternative form of building socialism, the U.S. imposed sanctions. Initially all but food and medicine were blocked, and at times medical supplies and medicine were also formally included. Over the decades, adjustments have been made that sometimes broke and sometimes hardened the impact of the blockade. But overall, the restrictions have been tight ened. The Torricelli Act of 1992, the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, and most recently Donald Trump's addition of 243 additional sanctions, have all been part of a well-worked strategy by the U.S. to starve Cuba's economies conducting trade.

When U.S. businesses deny that the embargo is a total blockade, they are not being honest. Cuba is able to trade on the global market to a limited extent. But even U.S. allies are punished for doing any business with Cuba, and their remits are even worse than the laws dictate.

The sanctions definitely impact the importation of food, medicine and medicine, and many more resources — that were sacrificed to build Cuba's economy. A 1997 study by the American Association for World Health (AAWH) and a 1996 article in the Lancet show that due to the embargo and freeze, medication (that even though the Torricelli Act "was passed with the intent to restrict food and medicines into the country, … the act's enforcement significantly restricted the accessibility of both within Cuba.”

Trade sanctions as a favored weapon of U.S. imperialism were in a sense outed by Henry Kissinger's call to "make the economy scream" during the Vietnam War and Salvador Allende in the early 1970s. But over a decade earlier, Roy Robottom, a U.S. State Department official during the Eisenhower administration, issued a memorandum recommending "the denial of medical supplies to Cuba …to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow the government."

Since then, every U.S. president has made this the primary weapon of policy — and failed. But the embargo has caused terrible suffering and hardship for 11 million Cuban people. The U.S. media has nearly unanimously portrayed the July 2021 riots as "grassroots" and "spontaneous" protests.

Fact: The website for the National Coalition to Repeal the U.S. blockage framework the July 2021 riots, which spread across the island illegally held by the U.S. government. And you ignore the over 100,000 Cuban nurses, doctors, scientists and medical professionals that are being demanded. U.S. media has not even asked for a medical news release.

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Turn to anti-Cuba attacks by ‘socialist’ group

The Freedom Socialist Party statement, “FSP demands an end to the U.S. blockade and intervention against Cuba while supporting the right of Cubans to protest for surviv orb industrial needs,” is beyond irresponsible.

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Haiti and Cuba: Two great revolutions

By Stephen Millies

The Haitian and Cuban revolutions are two of the greatest events in world history. Both played large roles in inspiring peoples and terrified their oppressors.

The Haitian Revolution was the only successful slave revolt in history. Every slave master from Texas to Maryland feared enslaved Africans rising up and breaking their chains.

Haiti gave crucial aid to the liberator Simón Bolívar, who defeated Spanish colonialism in much of South America.

Since 1959, Wall Street’s nightmare has been all of Latin America—above all, the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Two thousand Cuban soldiers died fighting alongside their African comrades in defeating the Nazi armies of apartheid South Africa. And 44 thousand Cuban doctors died while treating millions of African AIDS victims.

The initial assistance to newly independent Angola was called “Operation Carlota.” One of the first sonnets of liberation was declared Haiti’s independence on Jan. 1, 1804. But the world capitalist class never forgave Haiti for its revolution. The two centuries of revenge that followed made Haiti poor.

When Haiti voted to become a republic in 1845, the United States refused to recognize it. After the Spanish-American War had started, in 1898, the restored Bourbon monarchy in France agreed to diplomatic relations and trade with Haiti.

The French government did so on the condition that Haiti pay reparations to the defeated slave masters! That was the 19th-century international law.

The United States has continuously intervened in Haiti for more than a century. The United States invaded the country in 1915 and stayed there until 1934.

A half-million dollars of gold was stolen from Haiti’s central bank by U.S. soldiers and given to New York’s National City Bank, then named Citibank. A U.S. marine was given the medal of honor for his theft.

Haitian resistance leader Toussaint Louverture was executed by a French firing squad in 1803.

The United States refused to recognize Cuba after the American Civil War had started, in 1862. The restored Bourbon monarchy in France agreed to diplomatic relations and trade with Haiti.

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Haiti helped shield the French colonial empire in the Americas from the slave rebellions and wars of independence. It was the profits from their sugar that funded the French colonial empire in the Americas.

The Haitian Revolution was an inspiration to Haitian resistance leader Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who declared Haiti’s independence on Jan. 1, 1804. But the world capitalist class never forgave Haiti for its revolution. The two centuries of revenge that followed made Haiti poor.

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Bourgeois pundits are alarmed by the Communist Party of China’s latest re- gulatory changes. A Wall Street Journal headline is typical: “China’s corpo- rate crackdown is just getting started.” Signs point to more turmoil ahead.1

The apocalyptic language may be warranted for certain wealthy inves- tors. But what’s in it for the rest of us? Doesn’t this fly in the face of what beans mean for the deeply intertwined working classes of China and the U.S.? There’s no indication of a radical change in the global order. The official pronouncements, which say that the Communist Party of China (CPC) is leading the country out of the pandemic and won’t allow the billionaires to control the economy. The state can intervene to address problems like inequality and to prevent the eco- nomic chaos tolerated by capitalist leaders. Recent changes are understand- able in the socialist foundations of the economy remain intact. Socialist transition is still underway, though things are moving fast.

Furthermore, China is integrated into the global capitalist economy, the crises of which are themselves exerting pressure on Chinese leaders and won’t allow the billionaires to control the economy. The state can intervene to address problems like inequality and to prevent the economic chaos tolerated by capitalist leaders. Recent changes are understand- able in the socialist foundations of the economy remain intact. Socialist transition is still underway, though things are moving fast.

Because U.S. and Chinese workers are on the same side of the global class split — the working class against the capitalist class, we must oppose Washington’s maneuvers to destroy China’s socialist system. If the Chinese socialist foundations are undermined further, this will strengthen the hand of capitalists (particularly in the U.S.), and hurt the workers’ struggle everywhere. Con- sider, for example, China’s critical partnerships with sanctioned coun-tries like Iran and Cuba.

Weather & capitalism

The world is being told to put its climate change problems on hold. The Paris Agreement is supposed to oblige each participating country to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and is the most important agreement in history. It’s a promise to leave a better world for the next generation.

But in a strange twist, the COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland is focused on digital currencies and blockchain technologies — not the global energy transition. The carbon emissions of the world’s financial system are the largest source of greenhouse gases, yet the U.S. government has now focused on encrypting the internet. This is a major distraction.

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U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan doesn’t mean peace

By Scott Scheffer

In April, President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. war in Afghanistan would finally end after 20 years of horrible imperialist destruction. Initially the idea was that the troops would pack up shop by Sept. 11, 2021 – the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. The pace of the withdrawal was faster than anticipated, and by July 2 U.S. military personnel had put the bases at Bagram, Kandahar, Helmand and others in the rearview mirror.

The war stands out as an example of the most recent assessment by the Borgen Project said that 90% of Afghans struggle to survive. There are very high rates of impaired childhood growth, anaemia and wasting. More than 2 million Afghani children have to work to support their families, and 58% of families are unable to afford adequate food. Afghanistan was already one of the poorest nations before the Pentagon invasion, which has illuminated the rapid further deterioration caused directly by the U.S. occupation and war.

 Destruction began long before invasion
Twenty years is how long there were U.S. troops in Afghanistan, but the destruction actually goes back more than 40 years. For a short time, there was hope that the CIA’s Operation Cyclone took root that the PDPA government would not be a hyping Soviet Union for military assistance. The Soviet Union sent troops and equipment. In response, the Carter administration went full-court press in terms of propaganda, boycotting the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, giving incensed speeches, and sending National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski to the Khyber Pass for an infamous infamy stunt, pointing towards Afghanistan with a rifle in his hand.

It was Brzezinski who was the architect of the notion of using Afghanistan as a way of forcing the USSR into responding and becoming bogged down in a war. The continuous escalation by the U.S. over the years included providing shoulder-fired anti-aircraft Stinger missiles, enabling individuals to shoot down Soviet aircraft and helicopters on their own.

Unlike the imperialist military and defense contractors that push for war and thrive from the destruction and tragedy, the socialist USSR took measure of the awful consequences and withdrew.

Out of the reactionary army that the CIA cobbled together, distinct groups emerged, including the Taliban and Al Qaeda. The emergence of the Islamic States or ISIS can also be traced to that period in Afghanistan. Afghanistan was portrayed as an example of “blowback,” it was Al Qaeda that took responsibility for the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

In 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan was justified by blaming the Taliban, who had seized the government in Kabul by that time, for providing a staging ground for the attack by Al Qaeda, and for “protecting” Osama Bin Laden afterward. After driving the Taliban from power, the U.S. aided Hamid Karzai, a known CIA asset, in becoming the interim head of the government, and later, president.

Devastation drags on

Exact numbers of private mercenaries are harder to come by. We now know that after Obama’s 2009 “surge” of an additional 33,000 troops, the number of U.S. soldiers started to go down, but they were often quietly replaced by mercenaries.

In early 2017, the Trump administration dropped the “secret” non-nuclear bomb, called the “Mother Of All Bombs” (MOAB), in a mountaneous area of eastern Afghanistan. The claim was that it was meant for an Islamic State target and that 36 ISIS fighters were killed. More likely, Trump was demonstrating his “warmer chops” to the Pentagon after having campaigned as a politician who favored less use of the U.S. military.

We also know now that a false and overly-optimistic view of the ability of the U.S. to “win” in Afghanistan was peddled by administration and military figures for years, under both Republicans and Democrats, in a propaganda operation revealed by the Pentagon Papers about the Vietnam War. The lies justified prolonging the war, and an unknown number of deaths, injuries and destruction.

Upon Biden’s announcement of a complete withdrawal, critics cried that without the continued presence of contractors, the Afghan military would lose its ability to maintain an air force. They objected that more than 10,000 people who had worked for the U.S. would be in danger – presumably because the U.S. war and occupation and anyone who collaborated is hated by the people of Afghanistan. Pro-Pentagon think tanks warned that Kabul would fall to a resurgent Taliban.

The Biden administration has pledged to fund Afghanistan’s government so it can directly pay for more private mercenaries. The U.S. has also offered to pay contractors to maintain Afghan aircraft from Qatar, and has openly pledged that if Kabul is under threat of a Taliban takeover, the U.S. will once again use airstrikes and drones to prop up the shaky, reactionary government.

This U.S. withdrawal should not be mistaken for peace. Imperialist war is in the DNA of capitalism. The four decades of horror suffered by the people of Afghanistan should never be forgotten, even as our anti-imperialist efforts turn toward de- fending Cuba and Haiti from the dangers of U.S. intervention.
Termina paro del Frente Amplio de Camioneros

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hace unos días la atleta Jasmín Camacho-Quinn ganó una medalla de oro para PR en los 100 metros con vallas. Después de varios años de esfuerzo, logró un nuevo récord. Pero la mayor victoria de Jasmín en estos días de tanta angustia, motivó también controversias que exponen el prejuicio que padecen algunas personas en este país sobre quienes son verdaderamente boricua. La atleta nació en EU, hija de una boricua y un afroamericano, pero la diáspora bor-ricia en EU, ya nacieron o migrado allá, es vista por algunos con rece- lo. Lo curioso es que la mayor par-tie de los puertorriqueños, más de 3.2 millones, viven allá, mientras que en PR solo hay 3.2 millones. Pero lo interesante de todo es que parece que no nacido en PR y ni siquiera habla espa-ol, Jasmín se siente tan puertorri- queña que rechazó representar a EU para poder llevar el triunfo a PR. Y como dijo Alízau Campos, “La na-ción la representan quienes la afir-man, no quienes la niegan”.

Desde Puerto Rico para RADIO CLARIN de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert–Ceci.

Los olimpicos de 1948 en un contexto sociopolítico muy complejo. En ese entonces, una delegación boricua viajó a Londres para reclamar – y lograr – un puesto para PR en esas olímpicas.

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Soberanía deportiva en PR

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hace unos días la atleta Jasmín Camacho-Quinn ganó una medalla de oro para PR en los 100 metros con vallas. Después de varios años de esfuerzo, logró un nuevo récord. Pero la mayor victoria de Jasmín en estos días de tanta angustia, motivó también controversias que exponen el prejuicio que padecen algunas personas en este país sobre quienes son verdaderamente boricua. La atleta nació en EU, hija de una boricua y un afroamericano, pero la diáspora bor-ricia en EU, ya nacieron o migrado allá, es vista por algunos con rece- lo. Lo curioso es que la mayor par-tie de los puertorriqueños, más de 3.2 millones, viven allá, mientras que en PR solo hay 3.2 millones. Pero lo interesante de todo es que parece que no nacido en PR y ni siquiera habla espa-ol, Jasmín se siente tan puertorri- queña que rechazó representar a EU para poder llevar el triunfo a PR. Y como dijo Alízau Campos, “La na-ción la representan quienes la afir-man, no quienes la niegan”.

Desde Puerto Rico para RADIO CLARIN de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert–Ceci.

Long Live Revolutionary George Jackson!

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jail. Jackson accepted the deal and agreed to confess and was thrown into the penitentiary, sentenced to one year to life. He would spend eleven years in jail, ten at Soledad Prison, seven in solitary confinement, aka Max Row.

Jackson writes about his prison experience in “Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters.” In a letter to the editor he wrote, “I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels, and Mao when I entered prison and they redeemed me.”

The introduction to “Soledad Brother” states: “Instead of succumbing to the dehumanization of prison existence, he transformed himself into the leading theoretician of the prison movement and a brilliant writer.”

Jackson was murdered by a tower guard inside San Quentin Prison during an alleged escape attempt. “No Black person will ever believe that George Jackson died the way they tell us he did,” wrote James Baldwin. Jackson was a legendary figure throughout the prison system. He was a member of the Black Panther Party—People’s Revolutionary Army, in charge of prison organizing. And he was doing the most important thing that one can ever do, that is, “live life as a revolutionary example,” because that cannot be killed. Huey P. Newton said, “George Jackson was my hero. He set a standard for prisoners, political prisoners, for people. He was a strong man, without fear, determined, full of love, strength, and dedication to the people’s cause. He lived a life that we must praise.”

The first Black August event

A large and passionate following had grown around Jackson’s prison writings. On the day of his Revolu-tionary Memorial Service, 200 Black Panthers in full uniform were inside St. Augustine’s Church in West Oak-land, Calif., while 8,000 people lis-tened outside. They were perched on rooftops, hanging from telephone poles and filling the streets. When George Jackson’s body was brought out, the people raised their fists in the air, chanting, “Long Live George Jackson.” This was the first Black August event.

Mumia Abu-Jamal wrote in August 2010: “The real deal is that the name George Jackson is not known to mil- lions of young people in this country. His thoughts, his passions, his bril-liance, his insights, his martyrdom in the struggle for Black people. All of this is largely unknown. This in spite of the fact that his books ‘Blood In My Eye’ and ‘Soledad Brother’ have sold more than half a million copies. ‘The French writer and playwright Jean Genet called Jackson’s books ‘weapons in combat in the Black Freedom Struggle’ and that they re-main. For why else, after 40 years after their publication are they banned from joints from coast to coast be-cause it speaks to their continuing power to awaken, to inspire, to edu-cate and to light a fire. So young peo-ple, my message is read George Jack-son learn and pass it on. Don’t let his life, light, and sacrifice be forgotten.”

Black August 2021

Today, August 2021, young peo-ple are organizing Black August readings, learning about our fallen Heroes and Sheroes and studying history from an African perspec-tive. They are embracing socialism, and other alternatives to capitalism while facing much resistance from the State. They are well aware of the consequences of following the path of truth and justice, but they are de-tained to move forward.

Huey P. Newton, George and Jon-athan Jackson, James Baldwin and a host of Black Revolutionaries will be proud to learn of the resurgence in the fight to free all prisoners, Politi-cal Prisoners, and Prisoners of Con-science; to abolish the prison-indus-trial complex; to abolish the police. This movement goes beyond August 16, 1971, and is a continuing struggle to educate our-selves throughout the year to better understand what we are fighting for. During the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers are using virtual plat-forms to discuss where we are and what strategies we can use to win our freedom. These recorded discus-sions address the issues that are relevant to oppressed people around the world and are set up to reach millions.

“Soledad Brother” was released in the fall of 1970, and was dedicated to George Jackson’s younger brother, Jonathan Peter Jackson. “Blood In My Eye” was completed in August 1971, about a week before Jackson was murdered by San Quentin prison guards. The most recent edition of “Soledad Brother” came out in 1994, with a forward by Jonathan Jackson, Jr., who is George Jackson’s nephew and Jonathan Jackson’s son.

‘Black August 1619-2019’ commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

Online at https://tinyurl.com/v3by3n5

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