We won’t go back: Texas & Supreme Court attack on women must be defeated

Statement from Women In Struggle / Mujeres En Lucha and Socialist Unity Party

Texas Senate Bill 8, which took effect Sept. 1, bans abortion after six weeks, before many women are even aware that they are pregnant. Anyone who sues an abortion provider under this law will be awarded a $50,000 bounty. Texas Right to Life has already set up a “whistleblower” website where people can give anonymous tips about who might be violating the law.

In upholding SB8, the U.S. Supreme Court basically approved the notion that vigilantes can track down women and their “abettors.” There are no exceptions for rape, incest or diagnoses of fetal anomaly. Who will be most impacted?

It is Black, Brown and Indigenous women, the poor and youth, those who rely on reproductive rights centers for health care, including contraception, general checkups and cancer screenings. SB8 will effectively shut down care for transgender people, who will no longer be able to access needed hormone replacement therapy. Many women will be forced to flee to other states just to obtain the basic right to control one’s own body. But even this will not be possible for many poor, working-class and very young women who will be forced to risk their lives or health in back-alley abortions. The same reactionary forces behind SB8, and those who did nothing to prevent it, care little about children and less about all women, regardless of who they love or their gender identity, including transgender women.

A box full of diapers and a car seat is little help when families are facing joblessness and homelessness. Where is the fight to stop unemployment benefits from being cut? Where is the moratorium and cancellation of rents, foreclosures and utility shut-offs? Where is the fight to stop forced sterilizations of poor and oppressed women from Puerto Rico to Mississippi, or the fight to make sure that all children— and every person—have free healthcare, or paid maternity leave for working families?

What about the lack of affordable, safe daycare that has forced women to work? Continued on page 3

Hurricane Ida blows away illusions

By Gregory E. Williams

I am from a small town in Louisiana’s Tangipahoa Parish, now living in New Orleans. Professionally, I am a cook and am training to be a biological lab technician. When I first began to understand that Hurricane Ida was going to be bad, I was afraid. But to some extent I had been lulled into complacency by the fact that New Orleans has largely been spared from major hurricane damage for several years. On the other hand, the 2020 season was devastating for the entire state, which has still not fully recovered from those shocks.

Mentally, I was still unprepared as Ida made landfall as a category 4 storm near Cherry Point on Sept. 1, with winds of 157 mph. Unsurprisingly, when it barreled through northern Tangipahoa Parish, where I was staying with family, the destruction was immense.

The problem here is the trees. Within one mile (1.6,5,000 square feet) of where I am writing, I have counted to fall en trees. Visually, the rest of the town looks similar. Trees have blocked roads and fallen onto houses. They have ripped down power lines, or else the electrical poles themselves have uprooted—sometimes twisted into splintered segments. As in New Orleans and other parts of the state, people here are without power. Water and groceries are in short supply.

This has been hard on my family, as one family member fell and broke his hip during the storm, and many of us had to be outside during the worst of it in order to help him. First responders were unable to come until the next day.

Takeaway messages

1. Climate change means that nowhere is completely safe. My plan of travelling 80 miles north was laughable, considering that at least 25 people were killed by the storm in distant parts of New Orleans, 8 feet below sea level, and the city now floods during regular rainstorms. I wanted to get out, and thought I would be safe as long as I was away from typical flood zones.

My assumptions were too optimistic. Based on the Saffir-Simpson hurricane wind scale, Ida was a Category 5 when it made landfall, with winds right at 157 mph. Unsurprisingly, when it barreled through Tangipahoa Parish, where I was staying with family, the destruction was immense.

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Crowd cheers removal of racist monument

By Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality

After 131 years of lording it over Richmond, Va., and much of the country, the towering statue of slavery-defending Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee has finally been removed from his perch, to the cheers of a jubilant crowd pumped up by the Black worker who had just cut through the bolts holding the 21-foot statue to its 40-foot base.

The statue itself was cut into its original two pieces, loaded onto a truck and carted off to a state-owned facility for storage. (Fittingly, Richmond used a city sewer facility to accommodate the statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Confederate generals Stonewall Jackson and I.E.B. Stuart and Confederate Admiral Matthew Maury.

Despite sad attempts by local and state politicians to claim credit for this victory over a leading symbol of white supremacy, it is important to remember that it was a long, deliberate and growing movement of anti-racist activists that finally forced the state of Virginia — which has owned the statue since its unveiling in 1890 — to agree to take it down.

Richmond’s Black community has always despised the statues honoring the slavery-defending traitors on Richmond’s famed Monument Avenue. Many people have spoken about how they deliberately avoided driving or walking down that high-end real estate boulevard because of the terrible feelings it evoked in them.

But until very, very recently, Virginia’s state government has had no such feelings. Way back in 2007, the state spent $450,000 to try and clean away illusions that forbade the removal of “war memorials,” as the Confederate statues were officially known.

Then came the horrific police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, an event that proved to be the tipping point in the long-smoldering mass rage over police abuse in the United States. Millions of people took to the streets in massive protests that lasted some 100 days. In Richmond, the movement formulated seven demands, which included taking down the Confederate monuments — which had been gloriously tagged on the second night of the protests during a march of thousands down Monument Avenue.

Later, the statue of Davis was torn down by protesters, along with a statue of Christopher Columbus and a statue dedicated to police officers, both in Byrd Park, named after one of Richmond’s earliest slave owners.

After that change in the state law allowing the removal of the statues, it was the mass and militancy of Richmond’s anti-racist protesters that finally moved local officials to take down the city-owned statues on Monument Avenue. Lawsuits by pro-Con federate and Monument Avenue property owners and a resulting injunction delaying the removal of Lee were finally rejected just last week by the Virginia Supreme Court.

And so it came to pass that today, Sept. 8, 2021, a Black worker cut through the bolts holding Lee to his pedestal, and the statue finally came down.

It was back in 1890 that “Fighting Robert E. Lee statue removed in Richmond, Va., Sept. B.

Richard Va.

PHOTO: THE VIRGINIA DEFENDERS

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Hurricane Ida blows away illusions

Continued from page 1

u nation orders for areas outside the levees, and strongly advised other residents to evacuate. Some 35% of Black households do not own an auto, and about 20% of white households don’t own autos.

In Independence, La., over 800 nursing home residents from facilities owned by Baton Rouge businessman Bob J. Dean Jr. were thrown into a warehouse. These people were left in their own filth. At least four of them have died. This is all too familiar to Hurricane Katrina.

The working class has no stake in this rotten society. Overthrowing capitalist rule is truly a matter of life and death.

An Anthology By Clarence Thomas

Workers and activists document struggles as they happen in news articles, interviews, letters, posters, photos, speeches, and video transcripts.

The author is a third generation retired member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 in San Francisco and a leading radical African American trade unionist.

Order Today at www.MillionWorkerMarch.com
We won’t go back! Texas & Supreme Court attack on women must be defeated

Continued from page 1 and parents of all genders out of the workplace?

The importance of Texas

Many reproductive–rights advocates have already pointed out that SBB and the Supreme Court’s ruling will give impetus to similar measures in other states. This is certainly true.

But Texas itself is important. It is the second most populous state, after California. Twenty-nine million people are impacted. And SBB is not the only right-wing bill that has swept the state.

Exactly 666 new reactionary laws went into effect Sept. 1. It is now basically illegal to be homeless, as a statewide ban on homeless encampments and any loitering from opt-out and fines the homless $500 (for being homeless).

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Teachers are now forbidden to tell the truth about slavery. A new law provides funding for the so-called “1836 Project” that is set against the 1839 Project and projects a “patriotic education” about Texas, its “war of independence” from Mexico.

Cities with over 250,000 people had sparked a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Two Spirit, LGBTQ2S+ movement. Just two years later, the occupation of Wounded Knee by the American Indian Movement (AIM) took place. The McKay Commission (New York State Special Commission on Attica) was finally formed. With the occupation of Indian massacres in the late 19th century, the State Police assault which ended the four-day prison occupation was an encounter between Americans since the Civil War.

Organizing behind the walls

Serious organizing was going on inside Attica prior to the rebellion. Many of the groups outside the prison were reflected inside, including the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords, the Nation of Islam and the Five Percenter. Many had study groups. The Attica Liberation Faction developed in this period.

In July 1971, the Attica Liberation Faction presented a list of 27 demands to Commissioner of Corrections Russell Oswald and Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in the White House. The list of demands was based on the Folsom Prisoners’ Manifesto crafted by Chicano prisoners Martin Souza in support of a November 1970 prisoner strike in California.

Then, on Aug. 21, 1971, Black Panthers. The prisoners were given guns, taken to a place and gunned down by racist guards in California’s San Quentin prison. Prisoners all across the country, including several hundred in Attica, went on hunger strikes. The assassination of George Jackson became the glue that allowed the Attica prisoners to unite across religions, nationalities and sexual and/or gender identities.

The prisoners’ Paris Commune

On Sept. 9, Attica prisoners seized the facility. They took corrections officers hostage to ensure that their protest would be heard, since they had received no response to their manifesto from the corrections commissioner or governor.

When the event took place on Sept. 9 were spontaneous and began as a clash between guards and prisoners, the level of organizing and what became a full-scale uprising were the result of the revolutionary leadership and consciousness that had grown during this period.

What’s remarkable is the high degree of organization and discipline of the thousands of prisoners who took part. They elected a central committee, which rotated chairpersons; they organized a 31-person observers’ committee, which included not only attorney William Kunstler, Black Panther Bobby Seale, New York State Assemblymember Arthur O. Eve, and representatives of the Young Lords, but also Tom Soto of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.

We will not go back!

Healthcare and childcare, maternity leave, food, work and shelter, the basic ability to control one’s body — all of these are basic human rights.

Black and Brown women must be guaranteed the right to vote that is still being denied to Black and Brown people.

Don’t mourn — organize and hit the streets!

Women in Argentina and all over Latin America, in Poland and many other countries, have shown the way by taking to the streets in the millions, firing shots.

We need a “green bandana” movement in the U.S. like the one in Latin America.

We must organize to stop transphobic, homophobic, transphobic and anti-working class attack.

From capitalist climate change to capitalist class war to attacks on workers’ rights — we cannot wait for or depend on the Democratic Party. What is needed is a revolutionary, independent, accountable action to push the clock forward.

We need car caravans, people’s blockades and resistance to de-du clinics. It’s time to march on Texas and the Supreme Court!

We pledge ourselves to this fight together and we will not go back!

Demands were continually being developed. A major one was food for the incarcerated.

Countless photos show the rows of tents, preparatory ditches and many of the other measures the prisoners organized. They set demands and rationed food and water for survival. During the entire occupation, the 42 hostages were treated humanely.

The concrete demands that developed during the uprising included all aspects of social life in the prison, including health, food, ending solitary confinement, the right to a trial and a list of labor rights, including the right to a union and an end to exploitation.

The first time the working class took power into its own hands was the insurrection known as the Paris Commune of 1871. The communards canceled rents, recognized women’s rights, abolished child labor, took over workplaces and set up their own form of government. The commune mobilized people to many revolutionary socialists of the potential for a workers’ state. It was ultimately put down in blood, but the lessons remain.

A century later, on Sept. 13, 1971, Gov. Rockefeller ordered the storming of Attica prison. With helicopters flying overhead, close to 1,000 state troopers, national guard troops and prison guards fired into the yard, killing 39 people and wounding 185 in what can only be described as a massacre. This took place in just 15 minutes.

Many of those wounded received no medical care. The prisoners had no guns or bullets to defend themselves. The press screamed that the 39 captives who died had their throats slit. But autopsies showed that all 10 had been shot to death by Rockefeller’s storm troopers.

What happened in the immediate aftermath of the slaughter is too painful to fully describe. Prisoners were stripped naked, beaten, made to run through gauntlets of guards and brutally tortured. Guards stormed into the yard chanting “white power.”

A battle cry for liberation

to the working class, to the incarcerated, and the massacre stirred prisoners everywhere. It’s estimated that 200,000 prisoners protested and held strikes around the U.S., the number of prison rebellions doubled.

It continues to serve as a beacon today. Those of us against racism and mass incarceration and for workers’ rights everywhere.

Watch a special video interview with Tom Soto, Prisoners Solidarity Committee observer at the Attica rebellion: https://tinyurl.com/uy4sazv2

Join SLL’s Attica webinar Sept. 18.

We must unite and fight back! We have nothing to lose but our chains!
Happy Labor Day — now drop dead

By Stephen Millies

At least 75 million workers will lose all their unemployment benefits on Sept. 6. Another 7.5 million workers will lose part of their income. That's how the capitalist government celebrates Labor Day.

Two million workers in California will be thrown off a cliff. So will 1.2 million in New York State and nearly a half-million in Pennsylvania.

What are jobless workers and their loved ones to do? Counting family members, 20 million or more people will be endangered.

Hunger will increase and so will people losing their homes. Food banks are bracing for an upsurge of need.

The cut-off on Labor Day comes after the U.S. Supreme Court declared the banksters stealing homes.

Illegal are rent-gouging landlords and banks are bracing for an upsurge of people losing their homes. Food banks are bracing for an upsurge of need.

We need to increase the volume. If Congress doesn’t act to restore these absolutely necessary benefits, the labor movement should march on Washington, D.C., and the state capitals.

.As Frederick Douglass said:

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

Jobs or income now! Don’t starve — fight!

Never forget the Hamlet fire: Capitalist greed killed 25 workers

By Stephen Millies

Twenty-five workers were killed Sept. 7, 1991, when a fire broke out at the Imperial Foods chicken plant in Hamlet, N.C. Workers choked to death from heavy black smoke after a deep-fat fryer ignited. Eighteen of the dead were women. Another 54 workers were injured. Forty-nine children were orphaned.

Disabled benefits for survivors were pitiful. The payments were just two-thirds of their average pay, which was around $5 per hour.

None of the workers had to die. The processing plant had neither an operating sprinkler system nor an evacuation plan.

Bodies were found next to doors with footprints from workers trying to escape. The doors were locked by the plant’s owner, Emmett J. Rowe.

The chicken nugget capitalist did so because he thought workers, many of whom were Black, would steal chickens. White and Black workers died together because of Rowe's racism.

In its 11 years of operation, the plant never had a safety inspection. Rowe didn’t even register the plant with the state.

Even if he had, the workers might not have seen an inspector. Like half the states, North Carolina is allowed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to run its own inspection program. North Carolina has 10.5 million people but less than a hundred safety inspectors.

OSHA isn’t any better staffed. It currently has just 1,850 inspectors in the United States. That’s one inspector for every 82,513 employed workers.

Defunding trigger-happy, club-swinging, chokehold-using police is denounced by both Trump and Biden. OSHA has been defunded since the day it was established 50 years ago.

Jet dead chickens at the Hamlet plant were inspected every day by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. One USDA inspector even approved locking a door — a violation of federal and state laws — to supposedly keep out flies.

Nobody wants filthy food, but shouldn’t human lives be given as much consideration as chicken parts? Despite a 1994 agreement to report dangerous conditions to OSHA, there’s no record that the USDA has ever done so, according to “The Assembly” digital magazine.

Rich man’s justice

It was only because of a community mobilization that Rowe was given any jail time at all. Playing key roles were the Black Workers for Justice in North Carolina and Brenda Stokely, former president of AFSCME Local 2727 in New York City.

Serial murderer Rowe was sentenced to 19 years, 11 months in prison. He served almost four years. That’s less than two months for every worker he murdered.

Compare that to Alvin Kinard’s sentence. Before being released in 2019, the Black man spent nearly 36 years in Alabama prisons for allegedly robbing $50 from a bakery.


The plant had two fires, injuring several workers, including one critically. It was sued for polluting water. Just as northern textile mills went south in the 1920s so the companies could pay lower wages, so did Emmett Rowe.

Besides his Hamlet factory, Rowe bought the Havepride Foods plant in Tarrant, Ala., in 1988. He closed it in 1990 without giving the employees 60 days notice, as required by federal law.

More than $250,000 in severance pay was ordered to be paid to 115 workers by a federal judge. Rowe never paid a penny.

Rowe’s co-conspirators in these crimes were the fast-food outfits that bought his chicken fillets and nuggets. They rip off millions of workers, and not just at their drive-throughs.

Wendy’s CEO Todd Penegor is pulling in $7,313,774 this year. Meanwhile the farmworkers who pick the tomatoes for Wendy’s hamburgers are ill-treated and miserably paid.

Job cuts kill

Hamlet was an important junction on the old Seaboard Air Line rail road, now part of the CSX system. (The term “air line” referred to the railroad’s claim of a straight route.) Two Amtrak trains a day stop there.

Trains coming south from Virginia could go to four different directions from Seaboard’s Hamlet hub. These included lines to Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

The line to Atlanta and Birmingham went through Monroe, N.C., where Mabel and Robert Williams organized armed self-defense against the Ku Klux Klan. They faced phony kidnapping charges but were able to escape to the socialist countries of Cuba and the People’s Republic of China.

Last year hundreds of workers tested positive for the coronavirus at Tyson’s poultry plant in Monroe. At least one worker died of it.

The company forced workers to come in even if they were sick. Tyson’s management should be put in jail, too.

Hamlet still has a large railroad yard. Why didn’t some of the workers at Emmett Rowe’s deathtrap try to get a job there?

While railroads are more profitable than ever, the number of railroad workers has shrunk from 1.5 million in 1947 to around 143,000 today. That’s over 1.3 million jobs destroyed — a 90 percent drop.

What made these job cuts more heartbreaking was that Black and women workers were finally being hired in many railroad jobs.

This took decades of struggle. Charles Hamilton Houston, who mentored Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, repeatedly went to the U.S. Supreme Court to fight discrimination on the railroads.

Instead of union railroad jobs, International Tie Disposal wants to build a plant next to CSX’s Hamlet yard to dispose of old railroad ties. The facility will emit harmful air emissions near a poor community. That’s called toxic racism.

Never forget the workers in Hamlet who died because of greed. Capitalism kills.
In Puerto Rico, the people’s struggle continues

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

While the dictatorship of the Fiscal Control Board (“la Junta”) imposed by the U.S. Congress and its lackeys in the local government do everything to destroy Puerto Rico as a nation and sink us into poverty and despair, the people continue to organize and fight on many fronts.

It is already clear that the administration of Governor Pedro Pierluisi will not favor the people at all. Both he and his sister Caridad, whom he took to reside in La Fortaleza to help him govern without being elected by the people, have as a priority to privatize the publicly-owned agency that remains.

The people didn’t remain idle. They demanded an end to the war that has been waged against Castillo by the Peruvian Congress and military, which are acting under the influence of the U.S., Canada, and the oligarchs and transnational corporations that control their governments.

“The U.S. government has no business in Peru,” declared Lazaro Aguero, a Perure Libre Party member. “You don’t have the right to put military bases in Peru. Peruvians are the ones who must solve their problems, not you. We don’t want your bas- ses and that’s not what the Peruvian people need. You should stay away from the political issues of Peru.”

This war was going on even before the presidential elections that pitted Pedro Castillo, an Indigenous school teacher and union organizer, against Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of former right-wing dictator Alberto Fujimori. Maneuvering by Fujimori and the Peruvian elite blocked Castillo from being official- ly declared president for more than a month after his decisive victory in June’s runoff election.

Peru Libre is a socialist party that has massive support from the people, especially impoverished rural and Indigenous Peruvians. As usual, where there is money to be made, the interests of the people ahead of the interests of corporations, the right wing wants to destroy it. Old tools of imperialism like defamation and lies through the capitalist-owned media are being used to achieve this goal.

Peru’s Congress is another body used to do the capitalist’s bidding. Everything that Castillo and his party try to do, like forming a cabinet with the people they want, is being denied, as seen in the forced resignation of Foreign Affairs Minister Hector Bejar.

Bejar, a former member of the National Liberation Army (Ejército de Liberación) in the 1980s, rejected the Washington-dominated Lima Group and sought a new approach to rela- tions with Venezuela and Nicaragua. That was too much for Western impe- rialism — so he had to go.

The oligarchs might have forced Hector Bejar to resign with pressure from the right-wing sectors. But he will remain in the war by continuing to assist and advise Castillo’s government.

Destabilization campaign

The destabilization campaign is ongoing. It is urgent that independent, internationalist media go to Peru and show the rest of the world that the people of Peru support Castillo’s government in its fight against powerful enemies who have the congress, the media and the mil- itary on their side.

The local media, to the surprise of many, is on the side of the reaction- ary forces, especially after Castillo cut the slush fund by previous gov- ernments given to the media to pay them off for their support.

The media have always been sup- portive of former Peruvian govern- ments and spoke in their favor. But with Pedro Castillo, they act com- pletely differently. During the pres- idential runoff, Fujimori had the support of all the corporate media. Afterward, satisfied with the re- sults, they helped in her attempt to steal the elections by falsely claim- ing she had won.

The people didn’t remain idle. Through massive mobilizations and demonstrations, they were able to deter the attempted coup. Social media was the only reliable way that Peru Libre and President Castillo had to counter the lies spread by the mainstream media and com- era-balance its partiality.

As for the other prong of imperi- alist-controlled sabotage, the Peruvian military brass, many of them are afraid that they will go to jail as punishment for crimes committed during Alberto Fujimori’s presiden- cy, as President Castillo promised to bring justice to their victims. There- fore they have another reason to want regime change.

Taxing big business

President Castillo is also demand- ing that foreign corporations pay over 20 years of back taxes or they will not be allowed to operate in the country. Before, these transnational- als (the mining sector being one of the biggest) were tax-exempt with the excuse that they were “brining jobs to the country.” The truth is, they brought few jobs and took vast amounts out of the country, leaving the poor, and especially In- digenous people, destitute of the most basic necessities of life.

It’s no coincidence that the right- wing-controlled Congress just voted to allow more U.S. military bases in Peru.

The current constitution was written during Fujimori’s presiden- cy, and, in line with any other capitalist country, devised to support the interests of the bosses and landlords instead of the people. The Peruvian Congress can impeach the president at any time, even without serious charges against the sitting official.

In late 2020, Peru had three presid- ents in the space of a week.

Speakers at the Aug. 26 protest ex- plained that the people are demand- ing a new constitution. Signatures are being collected everywhere, even here in the U.S., for a referendum on a new constitution to be created by an elected popular assembly. This is something of the utmost impor- tance to the future of Peru.

As in Bolivia, Venezuela and all Latin America, the reactionary forc- es do not accept Indigenous and working-class people in power. A democratic Peru must be defended at any cost and President Castillo must be respected because the people chose him.
‘Woke’ imperialist, women’s liberation and Afghanistan

By Sharon Black

There is no greater hypocrisy than the deceitful lies of imperialist propaganda. One of the most damaging, since it rests on 20 years of destructive war and occupation, is that the U.S. war on Afghanistan was about liberating Afghan women.

U.S. imperialism — a euphemism for war and terror — actually began 42 years ago, when the CIA’s Operation Cyclone launched in 1979 under Jimmy Carter’s presidency. It continues today in the form of sanctions and even bombings, as witnessed by the recent drone strike that killed at least 10 people, seven of them children, as young as two years old.

The real fight for women’s rights

U.S. terror and intrigue began following the 1978 Sau Revolution that brought the socialist and progressive People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to power, decisively toppling the old Kingdom of Afghanistan.

The April Revolution, led mostly by young women and men of Kabul, ushered in major changes that included women’s rights in education and participation in government. Debts owed to cruel feudal landlords were abolished. Women were trained as teachers and books were published in all of the Indigenous and minority languages.

Brigades of women spread out across the country to teach and provide medical services, similar to the Cuban Revolution’s “literacy brigades” of mostly young women that went into the countryside and mountains to teach the poor.

The marriage age was raised from 8 years to 16. Maternity leave with a three-month’s salary was established. By the end of the 1980s, half of the health and education workers in Afghanistan were women.

The story of Afghanistan’s women and their struggle for liberation is remarkable. But it’s seldom told in the capitalist West, whose propaganda is filled with distortions and lies.

In the 1980s, she founded the Democratic Organization of Afghan Women (DOAW), and in 1965, Ratebzad and other Afghan women organized the first International Women’s Day March in Kabul. Earlier in 1963, Dr. Ratebzad graduated as a medical doctor.

There is vast documentation that the imperialist bourgeoisie knew full well that the Soviet Union had not planned, let alone carried out, the April Revolution.

It was Afghanistan led by the PDPA that requested assistance from the Soviet Union, whose borders bound Afghanistan, to help in the growing civil war protracted by reactionary and corrupt warlords bent on overturning the new government.

What is not well understood is that the U.S. was deeply involved in the Afghan civil war, not on the side of the new government, but on the side of the reactionaries who were bent on the destruction of the progressive gains, which foremost included women’s rights.

In 1979, the CIA began arming and financing the mujahideen — murderous warlords — and later conspired with both Osama Bin Laden and the Taliban. The CIA operation, dubbed “Operation Cyclone,” was the longest and most expensive in U.S. history. It continued after the Soviet army withdrew in 1989.

Later, the CIA ran death squads that terrorized Afghan villagers and murdered children.

In 1992 the Afghan warlords, backed by the U.S., finally succeeded in overthrowing the PDPA government. At the time, Western governments celebrated this as a “victory against Soviet tyranny.” In 1996 the Taliban movement, a product of in-fighting among the warlord factions, seized control of the country. Socialists leaders who had been held under house arrest were executed.

In 2001, the Taliban made a convenient first target for the U.S. “war on terror” after the 9/11 attacks. In two decades of U.S. war and occupation since then, only a tiny percentage of women and girls were able to advance themselves, inadvertently becoming show pieces for Western NGOs and the media. But the vast majority of Afghan women have remained in the worst possible conditions.

Business Insider, certainly not a revolutionary source, documents Afghanistan among the 25 poorest countries. Afghanistan is listed as the 7th poorest, with a gross domestic product of $699.44 per person, just ahead of war torn Yemen. It was more likely that an Afghan woman or girl would be blown up by a landmine or starve to death than have the opportunity to go to school.

Wherever imperialism has gone it creates misery and backwardness, stunning and distorting the development of the colonized, oppressed and even the neocolonial world.

Class roots of women’s oppression

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founders of scientific socialism, advanced a materialist conception of history. Included was the thesis that the development of private property during the period of prehistory led to the first division among humans — the overthrow of matrilineal society and the consequent oppression of women.

While they rested that conclusion on anthropological studies that were available in the 19th century, their conclusions have now been more fully documented. (See Engels’ “The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State” and Bob McCubbin’s “The Social Evolution of Humanity.”)

The materialist view of history explained that the development of society was based on changes in the mode of production from slavery (referring to the slavery of antiquity), feudalism and capitalism to socialism and what lies in the future, communism.

It is the struggle of classes that drives this process forward.

Marx and the thinkers that followed him did not view this process as stagnant and linear but rather one that was rupture, chaotic and revolutionary. Sometimes different modes of production existed side by side for a period of time before contradictions gave way to change.

The role of religion and culture is a product of the dominant economic system. Ideas do not abstractly exist in the media. But the vast majority of Afghan women have remained in the worst possible conditions.

Business Insider, certainly not a revolutionary source, documents Afghanistan among the 25 poorest countries. Afghanistan is listed as the 7th poorest, with a gross domestic product of $699.44 per person, just ahead of war torn Yemen. It was more likely that an Afghan woman or girl would be blown up by a landmine or starve to death than have the opportunity to go to school.

Wherever imperialism has gone it creates misery and backwardness, stunning and distorting the development of the colonized, oppressed and even the neocolonial world.

Continued on page 7

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! — Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterful work, “Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.”

McCubbin is the author of “Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.” First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.
society. That includes the ideology of patriarchy.

The modern-day women’s liberation movement in the United States is not exempted. It emerged and was influenced by the great struggles against imperialism, including the Vietnamese liberation struggle, and domestically, the Black liberation movement.

Dorothy Ballan explains in the pamphlet “Feminism and Marxism” how the development of the birth control pill, which gave women some modicum of control over their bodies, buttressed the movement.

Socialist revolutions

The Russian Revolution of 1917, which established the Soviet Union, was among the earliest waves of feminist revolutionary movements that shook off both the chains of capitalism and feudal relations, and others followed.

In 1949, the Chinese Revolution threw off the shackles of feudalism. Chinese women, who “held up half the sky” participated in bringing about a new China that abolished child brochets, concubinage and arranged marriages in the revolutionary movement. Following, a cruel process of mutilating girls and a product of feudal China, was over.

What the revolutionary socialist women and men of Afghanistan were able to accomplish from 1978-1992, prior to their revolution’s destruction and losses, was nothing short of heroic.

The grinding poverty and the existentials conditions mitigated against everything they were trying to accomplish. Yet they fought. Their struggle took place in the shadows, both literally in proximity and figuratively, of the great Bolshevik Revolution that brought innumerable gains to women and all of the Soviet people. The Soviet revolution could not have helped but raise the expectations of the Afghan people.

Ironically, it was the retreat of the Soviet leadership during this period, leaving the Afghan crisis to the Sovis Union, that would also figure negatively into the equation.

While today it is the oppressor’s history, the feminist struggle is the culture with slanders and self-righteous criticism, none of it can change the heroic character of those men and women who fought for genuine social change.

Reparations needed for Afghan people

At present the Afghan people are suffering from staggering inflation. It’s just as bad as rising in price, as the media snidely reports, but food and many other necessities. The New York Times has reported that other banks are blocking Afghanistan’s nearly $9.5 billion in assets.

U.S. imperialism and its banker allies are blocking Afghanistan’s nearly $9.5 billion in aid that had been promised. Russian and/or Iran helping to rebuild of a 20-year – war.

The deaths of innocents shouldn’t come as a surprise. The war was justified by lies about elevating the long reach of American sanctions, and all the U.S. agencies of death and destruction.

Another whistleblower jailed

In March 2012, a U.S. Army staff sergeant was arrested for going house to house murdering 16 people. Members of Afghanistan’s pro-U.S. National Assembly alleged that up to 20 U.S. soldiers had been involved. Exercising U.S. extraterritoriality, the Pentagon was in charge of the trial, and it was handled as the act of one individual.

The history of the war is chequered with reports of U.S. massacres. There was a wedding banquet bombed in 2002, killing dozens and injuring at least 100. In 2008, a U.S. aircraft bombed a village in Herat, killing 100 — including 50 children and 19 women.

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No end in sight to U.S. war crimes in Afghanistan

By Scott Scheffer

On Aug. 26, a suicide bomb was detonated at the airport in Kabul amid the chaos of the U.S. troop withdrawal. Two hundred people were killed, including 13 U.S. soldiers. Reporters paid tribute to the U.S. troops that died, but barely mentioned the deaths of up to 170 Afghan people in the same attack.

Then, ostensibly in response to the attack that ISIS-K took credit for, the Biden White House ordered two successive drone strikes. The second U.S. drone strike killed 10 people, mostly of them children. None of them were terrorists.

The dismissal of Afghan deaths typifies and speaks volumes about the character and the true goals of the 20-year war.

The contradictions of the imperialist war effort have been defeated, every inch of ground" phase of the imperialist war effort has been defeated, every inch of ground and all the U.S. agencies of death and destruction.

On Aug. 31, in Biden’s speech about the withdrawal, he asserted — as his administration has in the recent past — the right of the U.S. to continue using drones to wage war in Afghanistan. He said, “We have what’s called Over The Horizon (OTH) capabilities, which means we can strike terrorists and targets without American boots on the ground, or very few if needed.”

The people of Afghanistan will ultimately bring progress. U.S. out of Afghanistan — reparations now!
By Stephen Millies

Thirty-eight years ago, 269 people were killed when Korean Air Lines flight 007 was shot down over the Soviet Union on Sept. 1, 1983.

President Ronald Reagan called it “an act of barbarism.” U.S. cops kill 365 miles off course to go over sensitive Soviet military bases at night. Monitoring Soviet communications, the National Security Agency later admitted the socialist country’s air defense personnel thought the jet was a U.S. RC-135 spy plane, a Boeing military plane that’s identical to the Boeing 707 commercial aircraft.

The Iranian airliner, on the other hand, was expected to drop a bomb when it shut down in broad daylight, seven miles from the U.S., by a mistake caused by the weather. Both tragedies were used by the military-industrial complex to get what it wanted.

After the airliner was shot down, Iran was compelled to end the Iran-Iraq war on poor terms. Using the “divide and conquer” tactic, both the Carter and Reagan administrations promoted this bloody war that killed hundreds of thousands of people. Now it was time to end it, with both Iran and Iraq severely weakened.

The shootdown of the Korean airliner now chilled a tide of hate against the Soviet Union. Corporate media acted as cheerleaders. Reagan used the 269 deaths to push through huge increases in the Pentagon budget.

A crucial part of this war drive was deploying 11 medium range nuclear missiles in West Germany in November 1983. These mass murder weapons — that could hit Soviet targets in eight minutes — were installed despite millions of people having demonstrated against them.

War propaganda at the U.N.

Pumping up the anti-communist campaign was a Hollywood spectacle — the United Nations Security Council, courtesy of the U.S. Information Agency. Its director was Reagan’s buddy Charles Wick, co-producer of “Snow White and the Three Stooges.”

Five TV screens were set up in the council chamber to show the video. The MC was U.S. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick.

She had dismissed the murder and rape of a young nun by churchmen in El Salvador by the oligarch’s National Guard. “The nuns were not just nuns. Kirkpatrick admitted they were also political activists.”

Thirteen years later the video’s producer, Alvin Snyder, admitted that “the video was not truthful, effective and wrong.” It featured alleged comments of Soviet pilots, many of which were mistranslated.

Adding to the right-wing uproar was the death on flight 007 of John Birch Society leader and Congress member Larry McDonald. The fascist had nominated Nazi war criminal Rudolf Hess for a Nobel Peace Prize.

The Birchers claimed that flight 007 was actually captured by a secret Soviet weapon with McDonald and the other passengers being held captive. Interestingly, other Congress members — including Ku Klux Klan Senator Jesse Helms — flew on KAL flight 007, which followed flight 007 and kept on the correct flight path.

All the while, the Reagan regime was conducting a massive cover-up that rivaled Watergate. Key radar tapes were destroyed. Gag orders were issued to silence witnesses.

By law, the National Transportation Safety Board was supposed to investigate the shootdown. It was illegally ordered instead to turn over its evidence to the State Department, which destroyed it.

Deliberately off course

One of few voices to question the White House story about flight 007 was British journalist R.W. Johnson. His book “Shootdown” was published in 1986 and is worth reading today.

Johnson described the tremendous odds against the Korean airliner getting caught on a radarscope so far from its designated flight path.

He quoted retired Canadian Major-General Richard Rohmer: “Did the [Korean] 747’s crew know the aircraft was off course? ... Yes, they knew exactly where they were ... here’s some of the reasons “Shootdown” gives for disbelieving that flight 007 flew 250 miles over Soviet territory by “mistake”:

• “The Boeing 747 was equipped with the Inertial Navigation System. The INS has three computers so it can continue to function even if two of the computers crash. Over a five-year period there was only one INS error per 200,000 flights, most likely caused by programming errors.”

• “It’s hard to believe that such an error was made by the captain of flight 007, Chun Byung-in. The experienced pilot was known as a “human computer.”

• Chun wasn’t alone on the 747 flight deck. Even if the INS and the autopilot were uncoupled, the crew would have had to ignore the amber warning light. They also would have had to fail to notice the reading on the magnetic compass.

• Standard procedure would be for the plane’s weather radar to be in its ground-mapping model. This would have clearly shown the Soviet Union’s rocky Kamchatka peninsula that the plane flew over.

• Captain Chun repeatedly gave false positions of his location. He flew almost directly over the Soviet bases of Petropavlovsk and Korsakov. Chun turned to go over the Soviet Union’s Sakhalin Island.

• In order to make evasive maneuvers, including increasing the speed, Captain Chun took 10,000 pounds of fuel than he put on the flight release sheet.

• Retired Trans World Airlines pilot and navigator Robert Allardice along with his associate James Golfin listened to the last words of flight 007’s First Officer Son Dong-Hui. It was first broadcast on ABC’s “20/20” program. They heard: “For South Korean Direc- tor ... repeating instructions. Hold your bogey (or ‘bogies’) north (or ‘course’)... best conditions, Gonna be a bloodbath ... you bet.”

As R.W. Johnson pointed out, both “director” and “bogey” are military, not civilian, aviation terms. He wrote that First Officer Son “was in touch with the mission director of what could only have been a surveillance mission.”

Using passengers as bait

Flight 007 wasn’t the first Korean Air Lines plane to go over Soviet territory by “mistake.” On April 20, 1978, KAL flight 902 flew over the Soviet base at Murmansk before it was forced to land by a Soviet fighter. Its 290 passengers were killed.

South Korea is a virtual colony of Wall Street and its military-indus- try complex. It is a U.S. military base. That’s like British or German troops occupying New York City’s Central Park.

The CIA used South Korea to spy on the socialist Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and, at that time, the Soviet Union. KAL flight 007 was forced to land by a Soviet MiG-23 over Soviet soil in eight minutes — were killed when Korean Air Lines flight 015, which followed flight 007 and kept on the correct flight path.

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Updated and actions, visit

Vietnam resists Washington's anti-China campaign

By Gregory E. Williams

Vietnam and China fought an unfortunate border war in February and March of 1979, egged on by U.S. imperialist interference in the region. Nevertheless, relations between the two countries have steadily improved, based on a shared interest in peaceful socialist construction, resulting in deepening political and economic cooperation. Currently, maritime disputes are the biggest threat to this long-lasting controversy. Controversies have arisen around commercial fishing, oil exploration and other activities in the waters that China calls the South Sea, and Vietnam calls the East Sea. There are ongoing claims about control of various small islands.

One-third of the world's trade passes through these waters. But the situation must also be understood in the context of U.S. military provocations; for example, this year, Washington has deployed a Navy strike group headed by the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the sea.

Despite ongoing disputes, both Beijing and Hanoi have reaffirmed their commitment to a peaceful solution, and both governments have firmly maintained that they will resolve all issues through dialogue and recourse to international law.

On April 26, a high-level meeting was held between Vietnamese and Chinese officials in Hanoi. In attendance were Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and China's National Defense Minister Wei Fenghe. The leaders pledged to strengthen bilateral ties and military cooperation. In his Beijing visit, President Phuc said that "Vietnam will stay on guard against and firmly resist the bullying and excessive maritime claims." Harris's appeal to the U.N. is rich, considering that Washington has consistently flaunted the U.N.'s resolutions demanding an end to sanctions against Cuba and other unilateral imperialist bullying.

The Biden administration's approach to the region is a continuation of Trump-era policy, such as Obama's "pivot to Asia." The 2018 classified report, "U.S. Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific," lays out the overall strategy and goals. The first bullet point reads, "How to maintain U.S. strategic primacy in the Indo-Pacific region and promote a liberal economic order while preventing China from establishing new, illiberal spheres of influence, and cultivating areas of cooperation to promote regional peace and prosperity?"

The "peace and prosperity" bit is the most outrageous part. If they were serious about that, they would end their occupation of South Korea, stop providing weapons to the Duterte regime in the Philippines, etc. The generals in Washington would likely hope to have a military base in Vietnam, but as part of its revolutionary sovereign policy, Vietnam does not allow foreign bases on its soil.

But the important thing here is that, despite considerable trade and diplomatic relations between Washington and Hanoi, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is not on board with the U.S.-led anti-China coalition.

Palestinian prisoners resist as Freedom Tunnel heroes seized

By Samidoun

In the early hours of Saturday, Sept. 11, occupation forces seized Ahmad Ardash and Zakaria Zoubaidi, over five days after they liberated themselves from Gilboa Prison. Earlier that day, they seized Mahmoud Ardah and Yaqub Qadr. Two liberated prisoners remain free, insisting on their freedom despite an ongoing state of siege. The leadership of the Palestinian occupation forces. Given the record of the Israeli occupation, we have every reason to believe that the four freed members of the Freedom Brigade will be subjected to severe torture and abuse in an attempt to garner information on the whereabouts of their liberated brothers.

The four are currently being held in the Jalameh interrogation center and are being denied access to their lawyers. Palestinian lawyer Kahled Mahajneh told Quds News that "the occupation intelligence is hiding all information about the prisoners who were arrested, and the court has imposed until now an order to prevent the four prisoners from meeting with their defense lawyers...We have not been able to obtain information about the prisoners’ conditions, nor about their health, physical or psychological state." All of the Palestinian resistance organizations have issued stern warnings to the Israeli occupation against harming the four heroes of the Freedom Tunnel, while human rights organizations emphasized that the occupation holds full responsibility for their lives.

Western imperialist governments are part and parcel of the ongoing attacks against Palestinian prisoners and the colonization of Palestine. From the over $3.8 billion annual in weaponry provided by the U.S. to the Israeli regime, to the ongoing economic, political and diplomatic support provided by the European Union, Canada, Britain and others, all of these states are directly involved in the ongoing crimes perpetuated against the Palestinian people. Everywhere in the world, we can and must act now to stand with the heroes of the Freedom Tunnel and all Palestinian prisoners struggling for justice, and for the liberation of Palestine!

For updates and actions, visit samidoun.net.
En Puerto Rico, sigue la lucha del pueblo

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Mientras la dictadura de la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por el congreso de EUA y sus lacayos en el gobierno local hacen todo por desestimular como país y hundimiento en pobreza y la desesperación, el pueblo sigue adelante organizándose y luchando en varios frentes.

Esto está claro que la administración del alcachichile gobernador Pedro Pierluisi en nada va a favorecer al pueblo. Habiéndosele como su hermana Cavidad, a quien llevó a residir en La Fortaleza para ayudarlo a gobernar sin habér sido sido elegido por el pueblo, tienen como prioridad privatizar cualquier agencia que queda del pueblo.

Pero en su arrogancia, no cuentan con que el pueblo ya está cansado del abuso por los malos servicios de salud, energía, educación, vivienda, seguridad pública, etc, además del terrible aumento en el costo de vida y la canasta básica.

Hay luchas por todos lados, entre ellas, comunidades enteras contra la denegación de telecommunicaciones, contra la construcción en zonas marítimo terrestres, en pro de la defensa de la educación, sindicatos, pero ahora la más urgente es la lucha contra la terrible privatizadora de energía Luma porque ya hay muchas indignación por los incesantes apagones por todo el país.

Hay varias manifestaciones patadas para estos días tanto en contra de Luma como contra la Junta de Control Fiscal.

La lucha es cuesta arriba, pero se sigue avanzando. ¡Fuerza Luma y la dictadura de la Junta y sus lacayos en el gobierno!

Las remesas que no llegan en Cuba

Por Rosa Miriam Elizalde

Con el dinero que gana limpiando casas en la mañana y una oficina en la noche, Virgen Elena Pupo, migrante cubana de 47 años, ha logrado sacar a su pequeña familia de vivir. “Una pequeña remesa”, que en el caso de Cuba implica la posibilidad de invertir en un pequeño negocio particular. “Constituye una fuente importante de ingresos para las familias receptoras, de su capacidad de vida”, que en el caso de Cuba implica el poder de sus padres, hermanos, hijos y sobrinos.

En un estudio realizado en 2006 sobre las remesas y su impronta en la familia cubana, el investigador Edel Fresnedo Camacho reconoce que esta ayuda no se destina a la inversión productiva. “Constituye una fuente de ingresos para las familias receptoras, de su capacidad de consumo y ahorro e implican un mejoramiento en las condiciones de vida”, que en el caso de Cuba incluye el poder de invertir en un pequeño negocio particular.

Y otros investigadores han dado cuenta de las escasez de la inmigración en Virginia en este frente. En los años 90, durante la crisis conocida en Cuba como el Período Especial, Estados Unidos reforzó el cerco económico. Bill Clinton prohibió de agosto de 1994, a 1998 las remesas excepto bajo condiciones estrictamente humanitarias: enfermedad o en casos de personas con permiso oficial de inmigración. Bush impuso restricciones aún más crueles, al permitir sólo visitas a la isla, una vez cada tres años, si se trataba de familiares muy cercanos –los tíos y primos no eran considerados “familia”–. Aún así, la remesa se las ingenió para continuar llegando a la isla. Hasta ahora. Sin oficinas de Western Union, sin posibilidad de enviar remesas, se le quitaron de manos a la gente una solución a la pobreza y la desesperación. En el barrio marítimo terrestres, en pro de la canasta básica.

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