

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



TELL BIDEN: No war! U.S./NATO hands off Russia and Donbass!

By Greg Butterfield

Jan. 24 – U.S. imperialism is playing with fire in Eastern Europe. U.S. officials are toying with the lives of millions of people in Europe, Asia and potentially the entire world with their unprecedented campaign of threats, provocations and war propaganda aimed at the Russian Federation.

The Biden regime and corporate media are lying when they warn of an “imminent” Russian invasion of Ukraine. The real danger of invasion comes from the U.S.-supported, NATO-armed Ukrainian government against the peoples of the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk on Russia’s Western border.

Wall Street, its bought-and-paid-for politicians and the Pentagon have long sought to dominate all of the former Soviet Union, including Russia. Big Oil is especially rabid to stop Russian oil and gas from reaching the European Union, so that erstwhile U.S. allies are forced to rely on their products instead.

Today the U.S. announced it was pulling diplomats’ families and other “nonessential personnel” out of Ukraine. It’s not because they are in danger from Russia. Rather, it’s another in a long line of war provocations by Washington and the NATO military alliance it dominates.

U.S. politicians are working to create a wartime atmosphere so that any defensive action by Russia or the Donbass republics, or a wholly manufactured incident, can be used to justify Ukrainian aggression and NATO intervention.

After a week of talks where Secretary of State Antony Blinken continued stonewalling Russia on its just demands for security guarantees against NATO expansion, and when Biden said at a news conference that his “guess” was that a Russian invasion of Ukraine was inevitable, it seemed on Jan. 21 there might be a glimmer of hope that the U.S. warmongers would take a step back.

Blinken finally agreed to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s request to give a written U.S. response to Russia’s draft statement on security guarantees, more than a month after it was pre-



Protest against NATO Summit in Chicago, May 2012.

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sented by Russian diplomats. At least, this would force Washington to declare its intentions in writing before the world rather than being shrouded in backroom negotiations and rumors circulated by unnamed sources in the Western media.

Instead of using this opportunity to step back from the brink of war, it now seems the U.S. and its allies are instead rushing recklessly ahead.

Along with the move to pull embassy personnel out of Ukraine, the weekend of Jan. 22-23 saw a new propaganda barrage from Washington’s junior partner Britain, alleging that Russian President Vladimir Putin was planning a coup to replace the current U.S.-backed Ukrainian government of President Volodymyr Zelensky with one friendly to Russia.

Moscow immediately refuted the claim. But it was taken as gospel by all the big-business media, despite the fact that, as even the New York Times admitted, “The British communique provided no evidence to back up its assertion.”

Meanwhile, another provocation was carried out by Kiev on Jan. 22, as a Ukrainian military sabotage team illegally crossed the ceasefire “line of contact” into the Lugansk People’s Republic and kidnapped a soldier of the People’s Militia. It was the third such kidnapping since October.

After a weekend at Camp David with his military and diplomatic advisers – when they were

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HONDURAS inaugurates Xiomara Castro

By John Parker

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 26 — A delegation of activists representing organizations from various countries arrived in Tegucigalpa yesterday, at the invitation of the Libre Party, to celebrate with them the inauguration of President-elect Xiomara Castro, who is also a member of the Libre Party.

President Castro’s overwhelming victory follows the rapid deterioration of life for the people of Honduras after the 2009 coup that kidnapped and overthrew the elected government of self-described pro-socialist President Manuel Zelaya. That coup — with technical, logistical and monetary support from the U.S. — was led by two Honduran military officers who had trained at the Pentagon’s notorious “School of the Americas.” The school made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution.

After the coup, fraudulent elections were imposed on the country, seeking to give legitimacy to the coup regime. But the economy and social well-being of Honduras was destroyed by rapid privatizations, environmental destruction and brutal repression and torture targeting any supporters of Zelaya, especially those in the National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP) which formed after the coup to bring back the legitimate presidency of Zelaya. Women and LGBTQ2S members were also severely targeted and tortured.

In spite of the repression, the courageous people of Honduras continued to grow their re-

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Delegation at a culture center for revolutionary art and music in Tegucigalpa.

Anti-trans bills threaten youth in many states

By Greg Butterfield

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with activist Erin Reed (she/her) about anti-trans measures currently flooding state legislatures, and how people are fighting back.

Struggle-La Lucha: Can you tell our readers a bit about who you are and your work for trans rights?

Erin Reed: I have been a longtime advocate for transgender rights, especially when it comes to accessibility of trans health care. I created the largest map of informed consent hormone therapy clinics in the United States. Informed consent is a method of obtaining hormone therapy that does not require years of expensive therapy to obtain hormones. Instead doctors tell you the risks and benefits, letting you make the choice if it is right for you. They then monitor your hormone levels and aid in your transition. This resource has been accessed over 1.6 million times.

I also have been extremely active in marginalized spaces which include transgender people. I created Maryland Equity Vaccine Hunters, which ultimately obtained nearly 10,000 vaccines for Marylanders in underprivileged communities, including transgender Marylanders and especially trans people of color.

Lastly, I openly advocate for transgender legal rights and have been tracking bills this cycle that seek to detransition trans youth, remove transgender people from public spaces like bathrooms and changing rooms, remove the ability of transgender people to update legal documents, and call those who affirm trans youth child abusers.

SLL: Can you give us an overview of the current anti-trans legislation?

ER: As of right now, multiple trackers exist showing dozens of anti-trans bills pending. The ACLU says 79 anti-transgender bills have been filed so far in the first month of 2022. Step Up lists 65 active anti-trans bills being proposed.

These bills all share very similar language. Many go after those who provide trans teenagers with transition-related medical care, threatening prison sentences for doctors or defining parents as child abusers. Others seek to ban changes to identification documents. Some propose banning transgender people from bathrooms. Others will ban transgender people from competing in sports, even youth sports and even for youth transitioners.

Many of these bills have no enforcement mechanisms or outrageous enforcement mechanisms like genital inspections. They all will increase harm to the transgender community.

SLL: For you, what is most dangerous about these attacks on trans rights, especially for youth?

ER: Youth are at an enormously high risk of suicide when denied the ability to transition. Most statistics show that transgender people are at a 41% likelihood of attempting suicide at some point in their life.

However, being able to access gender-affirming care lowers transgender youth's chance of suicide attempts by 40%, according to an article published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* in December 2021. This makes transition-related care for trans youth one of the most life-saving treatments you can give to someone under the age of 18.

That several states are looking to ban transition care should terrify many people. So many trans youth will be stuck in these states and withdrawn from their hormone therapy should the bills pass.

SLL: How are trans people fighting back in different states, and how can others get involved?

ER: Local organizations are best — every state usually has its own local LGBTQ organizations that mobilize when an anti-trans bill takes effect. There have been some particularly effective national organizations.



High school students joined a Protect Trans Kids rally in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Jan. 16 to protest legislation that would ban trans kids from sports programs and restrict bathroom access in schools. Actions were held in six cities across the state.

Lambda Legal, Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, Transgender Law Center and the ACLU have been essential in challenging these bills and organizing advocacy. If you live in one of the states in the ACLU or Step Up's tracker, contact your representatives about these bills and show up for the hearings.

Sometimes trans youth as young as 11 are the ones that show up and make all the difference. Kai Shappely stood in front of Texas legislators and was essential to defeating anti-trans youth bills. She is now a finalist for Time Kid of the Year.

SLL: Reproductive rights and Black people's voting rights are also under threat in many of the same states. Can you talk about the importance of building unity among all the communities under attack?

ER: Solidarity among all communities under attack is extremely important. Reproductive rights are intricately tied to transgender rights — anti-abortion laws are inseparable from anti-trans laws and represent an attack designed to enforce

a gender hierarchy that reduces our gender and sexuality to a biological role of reproduction and control of our bodies. The same organizations that fight against abortion rights and fund anti-trans organizations around the globe.

You can't separate either of these from attacks on the Black community. Bills targeting trans youth in sports often get brought up when Black athletes perform well, regardless of if they are trans. In 2021, three cisgender women were banned from the Olympics in some sports categories for not taking birth control to lower their natural testosterone because of trans panic: Castor Semenya, Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi.

And the latest attacks on education in the United States banning books often target "critical race theory" and "gender theory." Both transness and Blackness are seen as dangerous and are constantly under attack by a white patriarchal society. [📖](#)

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx & Engels Were Right!

Bob McCubbin

Illustrations, bibliography and index

This book focuses on Frederick Engels' view of the social evolution of humanity, specifically on the changing social position of women, LGBTQ2S people and the human social/sexual relationship usually referred to as marriage.

Understanding the impermanence and transformation of all social phenomena, despite the strictures of the ruling capitalist class ideology, is a liberating insight owed all workers and oppressed people.

The global struggles of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two spirit people in the last half century have made recognition of the presence of sex and gender variation in the human family, the richness of our species, clear.

Knowledge of their socially beneficial roles in pre-class societies, their subsequent persecution and oppression with the onset of patriarchal class society, and their present struggle for full liberation is integral to a science-based understanding of human social evolution and the road to human liberation.

We Marxist revolutionaries are united in our belief that the destructive contradictions imposed on human society, including those that have distorted social/sexual relations ever since the imposition of private property, can only be resolved by capitalism's elimination.

Marriage: a biased view vs. science

McCubbin's book begins with a debate between early leaders in the field of anthropology — Bronislaw Malinowski and Robert Briffault — that took place in 1931.

Malinowski professed the view that the family is: A group unchanged throughout history, a father and mother and their children, legally united by a contract and surrounded by religious sanctions.

McCubbin presents Malinowski's views as an example of the counterrevolution in anthropology that arose in response to Frederick Engels book *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*.

Briffault's opposing position, based on extensive research, was that in every

quarter of the globe and in every age that the transaction rests chiefly, upon economic considerations.

His studies show that before the development of agricultural production created an unequal distribution of wealth and power, a form of social organisation existed that was matrilineal and matrilineal.

Only when wealth became established as private property were legal contracts required to insure that a son would inherit his father's name and property.

McCubbin presents these divergent views as the basis for a continuing ideological struggle. This book includes the research and writing of anthropologists, archaeologists, liberation fighters and revolutionary leaders, referenced in a bibliography containing more than 80 entries.

Uncovering hominin/human prehistory

Objective, scientific investigation of human prehistory taking place in various parts of the world has revealed common threads: The breaking down of kin groups

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels Were Right!

Bob McCubbin



In Kindle or paperback

<https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

into individual families and the introduction of private property, the loss of women's status — changes that laid the basis for class society.

Same-sex marriage in pre-class societies

While the word "marriage" may or may not be used to characterize transgender, age disparate and companionate homosexual relationships, the reports we've reviewed are strong evidence that such relationships existed as a part of early human societies. Most importantly, these relationships benefited from general acceptance and approval.

We need to learn from our ancestors!

For first time in 37 years No cops, ICE or military in Los Angeles MLK Day Caravan

PHOTOS: TIRA DENISE JONES

By Struggle-La Lucha
Los Angeles bureau

Los Angeles, Jan. 17 — More than a hundred cars and floats joined the MLK Day Caravan for Social Justice down Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, decorated with anti-racist, anti-imperialist, pro-people slogans reflecting today's struggles.

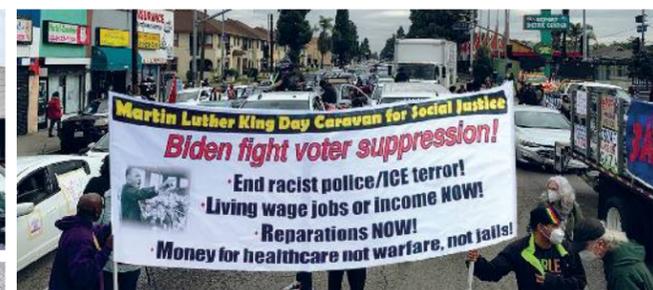
Organizations, including the Southern Christian Leadership conference; the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice; African American Writers & Artists Inc.; Friends of Malcolm X Library; Harvard Blvd Block Club; Africa Town Coalition; Black Pact; Union del Barrio; Al-Awda — LA; Veterans for Peace; Topanga Peace Alliance; Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS); Socialist Unity Party; Health Care for All — LA; BAYAN USA and more raised the messages of Dr. King today and the various social justice issues that he championed.

One of the primary focuses of the day was voting rights, demanding that the Biden administration stop surrendering to white supremacists. The day before the caravan in Los Angeles, Dr. King's son — Martin Luther King III — Andrea Waters King and their daughter Yolanda Renee King, who is 13, led a march in Arizona, demanding Biden do more than talk to stop the further disenfranchisement of Black people.

"This MLK Day we are finally able to be true to Dr. King's vision of social justice and honor the wishes of his family today," Jefferson Azevedo declared at the Los Angeles MLK Day event. "That is only because of the unity that over 25 organizations had in fighting to take this King Day back from those who would have the police, ICE and the military and corporate sponsors like insurance companies and fast food parasites in our community, for the past 37 years, stomping on the legacy of Dr. King with messages enabling capitalist exploitation and police terror in our communities."

This indeed was an unprecedented event. In Los Angeles for the past 37 years the "Kingdom Day Parade," led by the California branch of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE — CA), was a corporate-driven event, charging \$500 for each grassroots, community organization to participate. Many felt this cost to the community was unnecessary, since corporate sponsors already paid thousands of dollars to attend. This year, however, there was no cost to participants since the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice filed for the permit last July on behalf of the Ad Hoc Coalition for the MLK Day March, and successfully fought the police to keep the permit.

"We tried to respectfully negotiate with CORE and were willing to share the permit," said John Parker, coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Center. "Our only condition — which was also insisted upon by the many Black organizations leading this effort along with other community organizations in the coalition — was to keep the police, military and ICE out of the parade. Unfortunately, the



CEO of CORE, Dr. Adrian Dove, insisted the police be included."

Parker continued: "Given the history of terror by the LAPD and Sheriffs and especially considering the recent killing of a child by the LAPD, that was a non-starter. But our control over the permit, which we had to fight with the LAPD to keep, even threatening legal action, allowed not only greater access for the community to the King Day activities, it also banned the police, ICE and the military from having contingents or any representatives in the procession for the first time in 37 years."

Ron Gochez of Union del Barrio said, "We're proud to be here today standing shoulder to shoulder with our Black community and our African sisters and brothers taking the righteous step to say that the LAPD, Sheriffs, ICE and the military have no place in an event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. We all know that Dr. King was against police brutality, against imperialism and all types of oppression of any kind of people. So, for us today as Latin American people it's our duty and responsibility to be in solidarity."

Gochez' words reflected the tremendous multinational, multi-gender, multi-age participation and

especially Black and Brown unity at this event with Latin American, Indigenous, Filipino grassroots organizations helping to organize this event, including the day-of live-streaming courtesy of the Filipino organization BAYAN-USA.

The livestream over Zoom was emceed by Andrew Mayton of the Peoples Power Assembly in Baltimore and Beto Rios of Union del Barrio, allowing those who couldn't attend the large car caravan to get a bird's-eye view of the demonstration and commemoration of King.

All of the organizers said this was the beginning of the end for the corporate-sponsored event and that they would work together and gather more grassroots and community and progressive organizations, united in solidarity with each other's struggles, to make this a yearly event.

Billion Godsun of the Africa Town Coalition said: "Having no law enforcement, military or big corporations involved set a new precedent for how King Day events should be. Even though this first one was a little bit smaller than the traditional parade, a number of people shared that the overall energy was better. We will expand on this and grow next year."

There were many hurdles to overcome, including the omicron variant and multiple broadcasts by the major corporate media that the King activities for the day were canceled, even though they were sent numerous press releases saying otherwise. In spite of that, the caravan was the largest event in Los Angeles County on MLK Day, and the safest — turning the first proposed march into a caravan with plenty of masks and sanitizer for each float and participating cars. And defying the false news about cancellations, at least a hundred cars and floats participated, and organizers estimate that already thousands of people have seen the livestream of the event.

Rebecka Jackson, a member of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the executive director of "Resist This Pac: Give Us The Ballot," an initiative of Martin Luther King III, said: "For the sake of 14-yr-old Valentina Orellana-Peralta, murdered by the recklessness of the LAPD, we're not going back. For the sake of George Floyd and Eric Garner and Breonna Taylor and all the victims here in LA of police violence and terror, we're not going back. This is our day, this is our legacy, not the corporate sponsors, but our united us." [icon]

Murder and voting rights

By Stephen Millies

Harriette Moore and Harry T. Moore died for the right to vote. The Ku Klux Klan bombed their Mims, Florida, home on Christmas Day in 1951.

It was the couple's 25th wedding anniversary. They left behind two daughters, Annie Moore and Evangeline Moore.

Harry Moore died on the way to the hospital while Harriette Moore died nine days later. Both had to be taken to a hospital 30 miles away in Sanford because the nearest hospital wouldn't admit Black patients.

The Klan chose Christmas to bomb because that was the only day these two organizers and teachers would both be at home. As leader of the Florida NAACP, Harry Moore helped register more than 100,000 Black voters, more than in any other Southern state at the time.

No one was ever convicted of these foul murders. Nearby Orange County was so Klan-infested that the county sheriff was a member.

Medgar Evers assassinated

Medgar Evers was also murdered for the right to vote. The Mississippi NAACP field secretary was assassinated on June 12, 1963. Evers traveled constantly through Mississippi encouraging Black people to register to vote.

It took 30 years to bring the assassin, Byron De La Beckwith, to justice. At this murderer's first trial, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett embraced Beckwith in the courtroom leading to a hung jury.

World War II veteran Maceo Snipes was the first Black person to vote in a primary election in Georgia's Taylor County on July 17, 1946. He was named after the "Bronze Titan" who helped lead the Cuban wars of independence.

The next day four Klan members confronted Snipes while he was eating dinner with his mother. Snipes was shot in the back by Edward Cooper.

Snipes wasn't operated on until six hours after he was wounded. He was denied a blood transfusion because the blood supply was segregated and the hospital didn't have any "Black blood."

As a result Maceo Snipes died on July 20, 1946. The coroner's jury claimed Cooper was justified in killing Maceo Snipes.

A 17-year-old student at Morehouse College wrote a letter of protest to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. His name was Martin Luther King, Jr.

Without struggle there is no progress

Seventy-five years after Maceo Snipes was murdered, the Georgia state legislature made it illegal to

offer a chair or a glass of water to people waiting in line to vote, even if they were elderly or disabled.

What should be illegal are laws like these that try to prevent poor and working people from voting. Hundreds of laws are being railroaded through state capitols designed to deprive people of their voting rights.

All of them violate the U.S. Constitution's 15th Amendment, which guarantees the right to vote. Don't look to the U.S. Supreme Court to enforce it.

In 2013 a majority of the high court threw out a key enforcement provision of the Voting Rights Act in their *Shelby v. Holder* decision.

The 24th Amendment outlawed poll taxes. Yet the same court has upheld laws that often require money to purchase identification and are indeed taxes.

The right to vote was won on the battlefields of the Civil War and by the Reconstruction governments that followed. It was Black troops in the Union Army and the general strike of Black workers in the South that played the key role in defeating the slave masters' confederacy.

The Reconstruction state governments, backed by Black voters, established the first public school



PHOTO: MOORE CULTURAL COMPLEX

The Moore home after the bomb explosion.

systems in the South. These were the best governments poor white people ever had.

Ku Klux Klan terror overthrew Reconstruction and stole the right to vote from Black people. The 1890 Mississippi state constitution outlawed Black people from voting. A white mob in 1898 overthrew the Black-majority city government in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Thousands of people — including Harriette Moore, Harry T. Moore, Medgar Evers, Maceo Snipes and Dr. King — died for the right to vote. The drive to roll back voting rights is revenge for Trump's defeat and the 26 million people who marched to declare Black Lives Matter!

As Frederick Douglass said, without struggle there is no progress. After 50 years of cutbacks, the pent-up anger of workers and poor people will defend their right to vote by any means necessary. [📄](#)

No war! U.S./NATO hands off Russia and Donbass!

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supposed to be preparing their written response to Russia's draft security agreement — President Biden's spokespeople announced that the administration was likely planning the deployment of thousands of additional U.S. troops and more military hardware to the region. A decision is expected from Biden this week, according to the New York Times.

The real invasion threat

While corporate media whip up fears because Russia has deployed approximately 100,000 troops to defend its Western border, they never mention that 125,000 Ukrainian troops — that is, half the country's entire military — are now concentrated at the contact line with Donetsk and Lugansk, near Russia.

This fact cannot be ignored by the residents of Donbass or Russia, however. Especially since those deployed to the front are the most notorious ultra-nationalist, neo-Nazi Ukrainian battalions, armed with NATO-supplied weapons and trained by the U.S., British and Canadian military.

The Ukrainian fascists have been hell-bent on war with Russia since they toppled Ukraine's democratically-elected government eight years ago. In keeping with their genocidal ideology, inherited from anti-Soviet Nazi collaborators of World War II, these armed groups regard the multinational, mostly Russian-speaking residents of Donbass as "cattle" and "insects."

For weeks, U.S. media have published glowing accounts of how the CIA and other Western police-military agencies have been training these forces for "resistance" in the event of a Russian invasion. In fact, they are being armed and trained to launch a murderous attack on the population of Donbass.

Since Ukraine launched its war on the Donbass region in 2014, when its people voted overwhelmingly for independence, more than 14,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Donetsk and Lugansk have warned for months about the dangers of a new Ukrainian invasion as the build-up of troops and heavy weapons unfolded. The last time Kiev invaded, in 2015, the People's Militias routed the Ukrainian forces and handed them a humiliating defeat.

"In terms of the numbers, if we take personnel, then from the Ukrainian side [near the contact line] it is two-to-three times higher than ours," explained Denis Pushilin, the Donetsk People's Republic head of state, on Jan. 18. "The amount of equipment also exceeds ours. But we are at home, we are defending our land, so we have many more chances to resist."

While the Donbass republics are confident in their ability to defeat the invaders again, as they did in 2015, the influx of NATO high-tech weaponry would mean massive devastation to the civilian infrastructure and high casualties in a region already suffering under a nearly eight-year economic blockade by Ukraine and the West.

And this time, the danger of direct NATO military intervention — forcing Russia to defend itself and potentially igniting a new regional or even world war — is very real.

Alexander Skubchenko of the Housing Union of Ukraine summed up the situation: "What is happening now is not an attempt by NATO to protect Ukraine from a Russian invasion — it is an attempt by Russia to protect the Donbass republics from Zelensky's military adventure, which NATO is pushing him to do."

Flooding Ukraine with weapons

A Jan. 22 Washington Post headline screamed, "Military trainers, missiles and over 200,000 pounds of lethal aid: What NATO members have sent to Ukraine so far."

"Last December, the White House authorized a \$200 million security assistance package that provides Ukraine with small arms and ammunition, secure radios, medical equipment and spare parts. Other lethal equipment, including Javelin anti-tank missiles and other anti-armor artillery, as well as heavy machine guns, also were included," according to the Post. "The U.S. Embassy in Kiev said late Friday that a first shipment of nearly 200,000 pounds of lethal aid had recently arrived in Ukraine. ...

"British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace told Parliament on Monday that a 'small number' of British personnel would join an existing British operation to build up Ukrainian military capacity. 'Light, anti-armor, defensive weapon systems' also will

be supplied ...

"Canada also has a military training program with Ukraine, and Ottawa recently sent a small contingent of special forces to assist Kiev, according to Canadian media. The Department of National Defense declined to comment on potential troop deployments, citing operation sensitivity.

"The Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia also have received permission from the Biden administration to send U.S.-made weapons, such as Stinger air defense systems and Javelins, to Ukraine, the countries' defense ministers said Friday.

"Turkey, which has a sizable weapons manufacturing industry, has previously sold Bayraktar TB2 drones to Ukraine. The weapon has been used to strike Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine [That is, the Donbass republics — including the murder of 5-year-old Vladik Shikhov by drone strike last April — GB].

"The Netherlands and Spain also have deployed warplanes and warships, respectively, to the region to support NATO," the Post concluded.

"The United States and its allies have already delivered billions of dollars in military assistance to Ukraine, with Washington alone contributing about \$400 million in 2021 alone," Sputnik News noted on Jan. 18. "Total U.S. outlays have topped \$2.5 billion since 2014, and have included 'non-lethal' items, such as Humvees and artillery-locating mobile radar, as well as lethal systems like U.S.-made sniper rifles

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In response to capitalist economic turmoil, war funding soars

By Gary Wilson

Wall Street and the stock market have been like a roller coaster.

On Jan. 24, stocks were falling, with the S&P 500 Index down 3.8%, the Dow Industrial Average down 2.7% and the Nasdaq Composite down 4.5%. The widespread sell-off for the Dow and the S&P 500 started on the second trading day in January; and for the Nasdaq in November. The Nasdaq is down nearly 20% from its high in November.

Early 2022 is now, officially, the worst-ever start in the history of the S&P 500, which goes back to 1929.

Part of the stock market volatility is that inflation keeps jumping upward, pushing wages to new lows. “Although average hourly wages rose 4.7% last year, overall wages fell 2.4% on average for all workers, when adjusted for inflation, according to the Labor Department,” the Jan. 22 Washington Post reported.

Cryptocurrency vaporized

Also part of the turmoil is the cryptocurrency crash. The dramatic sell-off in bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies has been even steeper than the stock market fall. Bitcoin lost more than 12% on Jan. 21, with Ethereum losing 15%.

The two largest cryptos now trade at 50% below from their all-time highs. As the Washington Post reported, “A two-month slide in the global cryptocurrency market has vaporized \$1.4 trillion.” The losses are tremendous.

The capitalist economy was pushed into a steep downturn by the pandemic.

At the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, shutdowns swept the capitalist world economy in a frantic and failed attempt to bring the pandemic to a halt.

Much like what happens when a country goes into a war economy, normal capitalist production stopped. Industrial production in the U.S. suffered the most severe plunge on record.

The Federal Reserve reported on May 15, 2020, that its industrial production index tumbled a record 11.2% in April 2020. Manufacturing output also posted a record drop — 13.7% — as the production of cars, trucks and auto parts plummeted more than 70%.

Production of aerospace and other transportation products, metals and furniture fell around 20%. Output dropped 6.1% at mines and 0.9% at utilities. The implosion of the U.S. industrial sector was known, but the scale of the collapse was stunning.

Industry was running at 64.9% of capacity in April 2020, shattering the previous record low set in the Great Recession years of 2007–09. Factory capacity utilization also hit a record low of 61.1%.

Industrial production remained depressed throughout 2020.

This was not a capitalist crisis of overproduction, the usual boom and bust cycle of capitalism, but instead capitalist production crashed because of the shutdown to fight the pandemic.

The coronavirus depression

This sudden cutback in production threatened to cause a deeper

crisis. That’s when the Federal Reserve central bank “expanded” the money supply, printing more money. That stalled a general collapse.

Congress distributed some of this newly-created money to the general population with stimulus checks. The IRS issued three stimulus checks, one in April 2020, a second in December 2020–January 2021, and the last one in March 2021.

In the initial \$4 trillion “relief” package passed by Congress, \$884 billion went to workers and their families; that is less than one-fifth of the money. The rest went to businesses, primarily major corporations like the airline industry that are part of the military-industrial complex, not just to producers of consumer goods and services.

One of the effects of the stimulus checks, however, was a surge in consumer spending. This surge meant the industrial and merchant capitalists had to rebuild inventories, as well as rebuild raw material supplies and parts. This created a demand for commodities throughout the capitalist world, which turned out to be highly inflationary.

Coming out of the coronavirus depression has been bumpy in the U.S. The shutdowns ended prematurely, with industry reopening without controlling the spread of the coronavirus. With each reopening there has been a new wave of COVID-19 infections, followed by temporary restrictions and mandates that have so far failed to bring an end to the pandemic in the U.S.

Putting business demands first has proven to be bad for public health. In China, using a broad, socialist public health system, the coronavirus is under control. China has not turned over its healthcare system to the pharmaceutical industry and therefore has not made vaccinations its only way to fight the coronavirus.

In fact, China has no vaccine mandate — everyone can get the vaccine and most do because they want to protect themselves and everyone around them.

China has taken a broad and vigorous approach to fighting COVID-19 that includes easy testing, physical distancing and full meal delivery to anyone requiring isolation, masks, good ventilation, and full contact tracing as well as vaccines.

Build back better?

As with any capitalist depression, the economic impact has been hardest on the working class.

The official unemployment rate reached 14.8% — or really 33.2% according to the Ludwig Institute — in April 2020 after industrial production was shut down. That was the highest since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In October 2021, reports indicated that almost 10% of adults in the U.S. reported that their households didn’t have enough to eat.



U.S. military convoy at the Polish-German border in Olszyna, Poland.

The unemployment figures given by the Labor Department and reported in the big business media don’t include part-time workers who want full-time jobs or so-called discouraged workers who have been unable to find a job. The true rate of unemployment right now is 23.3%, says the Ludwig Institute.

While there are misleading reports about “labor shortages” in the big business media, the jobs that aren’t being taken are at poverty-level wages and most often are dangerous to personal health and well-being, mainly from exposure to COVID-19.

To help revive the economy, President Joe Biden and the Democrats have proposed a set of legislative packages that together they call “Build Back Better,” at a projected cost of \$2.2 trillion over 10 years. So far, they have been unable to enact any of this legislation, mainly because of two Democratic senators.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WVa) got a surge in donations from “corporations, business leaders and outside groups” including Verizon, Union Pacific, Wells Fargo as well as the Koch network, CNBC reported, to oppose Build Back Better.

The other is Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), who got contributions from over 50 billionaires, including several Trump supporters, to oppose Build Back Better.

Meanwhile the Democrats have been able to super-size the Pentagon’s budget to \$768 billion for 2022. According to a projection by the Congressional Budget Office, military spending over the next decade will be about \$8.5 trillion.

On Jan. 25, The Intercept reported that House Democrats are looking to bypass typical procedures and fast-track a vote on legislation that would send \$500 million in military aid to Ukraine.

Why is Congress increasing military spending, when the alleged reason to block “Build Back Better” was because it was excessive?

The Pentagon buildup is a political manifestation of the capitalist economic drive to war caused by the need to subordinate other countries and peoples to the profit-making activities of U.S. big business.

The demands of imperialism are what’s driving Congress, determining what gets funded and what’s put aside.

Right now, the U.S. sees the confrontation with Russia as a way to cut Europe off from Russian gas — and force it to buy U.S.-controlled gas — as well as blocking the “Silk Road” overland trade with China. That’s why the Democrats can pass the biggest Pentagon budget increase ever but can’t manage to fund Build Back Better. [R](#)

No war! U.S./NATO hands off

Continued from page 4

and Javelin anti-tank missiles.

“NATO allies have provided hundreds of millions of dollars more, including Turkish Bayraktar drones, British-made Saxon armored common centers, Czech 152 mm howitzers and Italian and German engineering and medevac vehicles.”

Stop a new war!

Significantly, Germany blocked Estonia from transferring German-manufactured artillery to Ukraine, as an incensed Wall Street Journal reported Jan. 21. NATO member Germany, the economic powerhouse of the European Union, is reliant on Russian gas and heating oil, and is eager for the completion of the NordStream2 pipeline to increase the flow of affordable fuel from the east — something the U.S. is desperate to stop.

Russia has made it clear that Ukraine’s takeover by NATO is a red line for its security and independence. Washington refuses to even negotiate on the issue of NATO’s further eastward expansion, despite the promise made by U.S. officials at the end of the Cold War not to do so — some 14 new NATO members ago!

Poor and working people are

wracked with crisis after crisis here at home. Rampant spread of COVID and the deliberate dismantling of public health measures to control the pandemic. Wages slashed by inflation. Capitalism’s climate destruction intensifies by the month. The end of eviction moratoriums threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands of families in the dead of winter. Far-right attacks, from the streets to state legislatures to the Supreme Court, against voting rights, reproductive rights and trans rights.

U.S. war threats against Donbass and Russia are a greedy grab for profits and continued Pentagon military dominance. But they are also an ugly, xenophobic attempt to distract workers in the U.S. from fighting the bosses’ attacks on them, and instead turn us against people in other countries. The billionaires who dominate both the Democratic and Republican parties rely on this divide-and-rule strategy to maintain their power.

Don’t fall for it. Let’s fight for the things we need here at home — and fight to stop another bloody war.

Tell Biden and Congress: Sign Russia’s proposed defense agreement! Withdraw all U.S. troops and weaponry from Eurasia! Dismantle NATO! [R](#)

China successfully battles COVID

While the U.S. targets China and loses the battle against COVID

By Scott Scheffer

The U.S. media is spreading a message that the omicron variant of COVID-19 may be the final wave in the pandemic that has taken 5.63 million lives globally, and 875,000 in the U.S. – the U.S. has the highest death toll in the world.

Even as the death count in areas of the U.S. is rising as predicted by epidemiologists and virologists, a pro-business push to herd people back to work and students back to in-person classes is underway. The push has been embraced by the Centers for Disease Control, and by Biden's Chief Medical Adviser, Anthony Fauci.

While omicron's symptoms may be less severe than the delta variant, it is still a killer and is currently averaging 2,200 deaths per day throughout the country. Because it infects people so much more efficiently than previous variants, according to a Jan. 24 Reuters article, "The omicron death toll has now surpassed the height of deaths caused by the more severe delta variant when the seven-day average peaked at 2,078 on Sept. 23 last year."

In the year 2021, there were 476,863 deaths from the disease in the U.S. During the same year, in China there were only two coronavirus deaths.

Comparing population figures of the United States and China to the respective numbers of COVID-19 deaths, one arrives at a jaw-dropping conclusion. In China, 0.00041%

of the population died, while in the U.S. 0.26596% of the population died. You would have to multiply China's percentage by 653 for it to have been as bad as the death toll in the U.S.

This yawning gap of a difference has had the U.S. propaganda machine – from intelligence agencies, to the White House and State Department and the multi-millionaire spokesmodels that serve as newscasters – spinning a defensive web of lies and all manner of slander against every aspect of China's "People's War" against the virus. The bogus "lab leak" theory has lost steam, but the latest tirade is to rally around the case of Zhang Zhan, a right-wing, anti-communist crusader, championed by the Western media and by Amnesty International.

At the beginning of the pandemic

Zhang, who calls herself a "citizen journalist," was arrested by Chinese authorities in May of 2020. She had traveled to Wuhan in February 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic. She didn't go there to help in the way that tens of thousands of Chinese volunteers did at the risk of their own health. Instead, she went to record and publish video to opportunistically show the suffering and bolster the U.S. cold-war propaganda that was already underway before the pandemic.

Zhang recorded video at crematoria in Wuhan and at overcrowded hospitals that were in crisis mode. She posted videos on YouTube accus-

ing the government of "intimidation and threats" and claiming that people were going hungry and being neglected. She did all of this as scientists and government leaders were scrambling to understand and gain control of the virus. If she had arrived several weeks later she would have witnessed the beginning of the end for the initial short-lived torrent of death. For nearly two years now, only 3 people have died of Covid in China.

Zhang is a longtime participant of the U.S. system that churns out lies and foments counterrevolutions. The National Endowment for Democracy and other neo-CIA organizations have nurtured "protest" groups in Hong Kong and Taiwan and have supported the "Weiwan movement" in mainland China, which Zhang is a participant in. They spout the usual laundry list of "issues" against the Communist Party leadership. Sometimes their message is not subtle criticism. While the U.S. pushed the anti-communist "protest" movement in Hong Kong in 2019, Zhang held up an umbrella in Shanghai emblazoned with the words "End socialism, Communist Party down."

Her case has garnered sympathy from organizations that are based on anti-communism as they stand as opponents of human rights abuses. Her history of engaging in "hunger strikes" gives her a façade that appeals to "liberal" media outlets like the Guardian and the New York Times, and nongovernmental organizations like Amnesty International-



A medical team from Jiangsu province departs after participating in the fight against COVID-19 in Wuhan, March 2020.

al, as well as the the United Nations human rights office.

Zhang's mother told the press that she's very concerned because her daughter is only eating fruit and cookies. Admittedly, that is not the healthiest diet and that would concern any mother, but it is not a hunger strike. Zhang is not anything like Bobby Sands or the other Irish republican hunger strikers in the struggle against British imperialism or any of the Palestinian hunger strikers protesting their imprisonment without trial by the Zionist occupation regime of Israel.

China has literally saved millions of lives through their "People's War" and their continuing zero-COVID campaign. China's international medical solidarity, and their call for global cooperation to aid Africa, Asia and Latin America, points the way forward to end the pandemic. Regardless of whatever media campaign they are using, the U.S. will never be able to drive a wedge between the Chinese people and the Chinese Communist leadership. ☐

China expands international medical solidarity

By Scott Scheffer

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has overseen a failed effort to combat COVID-19, and in fact, appears to have thrown up its hands in surrender. As of this writing, 843,000 people in the U.S. have died, and the omicron variant is now overloading hospitals with COVID patients, including thousands of children.

The symptoms may or may not be less severe – assessments in the media are contradictory. But in Chicago, Boston and New York City, where the earliest surges of omicron took place, patients are dying on only a slightly smaller scale than during previous waves of infections – because of the sheer number of cases.

In spite of all this, capitalist government institutions are pulling back control efforts. Millions of parents are worrying that the premature return to in-school studying will send their children to the hospital.

Two weeks ago, just days after a Dec. 21 letter from the CEO of Delta Airlines requesting that the isolation period be lessened, the CDC did exactly that. The isolation guidelines were lowered from 10 days to five days.

Had there been a higher level of global cooperation early in the pandemic, it's questionable whether omicron would have even come into existence.

U.S. capitalists block cooperation

The means to vaccinate the world

through a cooperative international plan existed, and as the U.S. spewed hateful propaganda and anti-communist conspiracy theories, the Chinese government repeatedly called for a cooperative effort. But the chance to move forward was squandered by capitalist greed and vaccine nationalism promoted by U.S. big money.

Giant corporations that own health insurance companies, hospital chains and drug manufacturers, as well as the banks that invest in them, are so dominant in the U.S. economy that the availability of health care has historically compared miserably even to other major capitalist countries.

That U.S. capitalism produced one of the most resourceful scientific and medical communities in history didn't help, because it also has commodified all of science to an extent never seen before. Life-saving medical care and even preventive medicine is a privilege that communities of color and poor people in general are often denied.

Further, instead of going all-out to produce and distribute vaccines globally, the U.S. ruling class' nationalist and genocidal hoarding of life-saving science is what gave SARS-CoV-2 all the time it needed to mutate and for the omicron variant to emerge in Africa, where the vaccination rate is in the single digits.

Even the design of the mRNA vaccines – whose development and

production was funded by the U.S. government – points to the nationalist orientation of giant capitalists. Regardless of how effective they are, the required cold storage and transportation makes them impractical for a global vaccination campaign.

That didn't have to be the case. For instance, once the science, research, development and manufacture of the vaccines was accomplished, redirecting the resources normally devoted to the U.S. imperialist war machine might have made short work of COVID-19.

Many other countries with far fewer advantages than the United States have done a much better job protecting lives and controlling the spread of the disease.

Socialist countries' achievements

Cuba and China have stood out as models of how a pandemic should be dealt with.

Every revolution of the 20th century that set out to build socialism, at its onset, exhibited an all-out effort to improve health care. This history of prioritizing health instead of profit is the foundation of the remarkable achievements by both countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

China and Cuba used every resource possible to produce vaccines and treatments to protect their own populations. At the same time – because a pandemic cannot be ended by vaccinating within the borders of one country – they both have shared

medical teams, vaccines, treatments and supplies internationally, even while combating the disease at home.

When the 1949 Chinese Revolution ended what they called the "century of humiliation," the early days in the process of rebuilding saw an unprecedented determination to eradicate diseases that were associated with deep poverty.

Beginning in 1949 and growing during the Cultural Revolution, Mao Zedong's army of "barefoot doctors" received basic medical training and set out for the countryside to promote preventive care and treat common illnesses.

Over the decades, China has beaten back or eliminated numerous communicable diseases that had run rampant throughout the country, such as plague, smallpox, cholera and typhus. In addition, cases of malaria and schistosomiasis have been reduced dramatically.

Schistosomiasis – a parasitic disease from freshwater snails – infected 10 million Chinese people in the mid-1950s. Mao was so elated as the eradication campaign began showing signs of success that he wrote poetry about it and spoke about it frequently.

China's Health Silk Road

While it is true that the Communist Party of China has prevailed on many capitalist corporations operating there to contribute to health

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HONDURAS inaugurates Xiomara Castro

Continued from page 1

sistance. In the presidential election held in November 2021, the popular resistance overwhelmed the vote, with a 53% vs. 34% victory for President Xiomara Castro. And, as our delegation witnessed in arriving at the airport, her win and the movement's growth go far beyond the elections or electoral battles only.

Some in the international delegation had previously witnessed the brutal repression in 2009 by the military after the coup and had faced dangerous situations, forcing them to flee because of the repression. Now the delegates were met at the airport by escorts from the presidency who whisked us through customs and had us on our way to do interviews, meet with local Libre Party cultural activists and more.

The inauguration on Jan. 27 is sure to also be a qualitative change from the ceremony after the November 2013 election of coup supporter Juan Orlando Hernandez, whose government continued the policies of privatization, militarization and added drug corruption. On Jan. 27, 2014, the city saw protests and boycotts, not celebrations.

The mood today can be seen on some walls in Tegucigalpa with graffiti cheering the end of Hernandez as president. [📍](#)

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care and the general welfare of the population, the Chinese health care system itself is almost wholly state-owned, and the "Health Silk Road," as China's international medical solidarity has come to be called, is a longtime CPC initiative.

Notably, and to great praise by international health agencies, China has been working hard to replicate this success against diseases of poverty as part of the Health Silk Road, particularly against schistosomiasis in Africa, where 90% of cases exist today.

This drive to help spread health care internationally has ramped up during the pandemic. When COVID began killing people in droves during March 2020, Chinese medical teams went to hard-hit Iran and Italy. By June 2021, the foreign ministry announced that China had delivered more than 350 million vaccine doses to more than 80 countries.

Last August, President Xi Jinping pledged a \$100-million donation to Covax, an international agency coordinating global vaccine distribution, but added a pledge of 2 billion vaccine doses to be provided internationally outside of Covax.

By October 2021 the China International Development Cooperation Agency reported that over 1.5 billion doses have already been delivered to 106 countries, focusing on Africa, Asia, Latin America and the South Pacific.

While there is still much to be done to safeguard the Global South from this deadly disease and possible new variants, China continues its own medical internationalism and its call for global cooperation instead of Cold War slander and capitalist greed. [📍](#)

Youth movement organized for social change in Honduras

By John Parker

Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Jan. 27 — Hector Ulloea — a former student leader and member of the Libre Party — spoke at the College of Middle Education Professors in Honduras (COPEMH) to an international delegation that had been invited by President-elect Xiomara Castro to witness her inauguration.

Ulloea spoke of the overwhelming support that Castro has, especially amongst the youth of today and those who were youth when the coup of 2009 occurred. In fact, he said, much of the anger of those youth who witnessed the denial of elected former President Manuel Zelaya to remain in office in 2009 fueled their passionate support for Castro.

Those youth and the youth of today, he said, have organized into a powerful force for social change. That change Ulloea spoke of had to overcome the U.S.-supported coup leaders and their collaborators and, in spite of that, successfully made way for the will of the people. Xiomara Castro is the first woman and the first pro-socialist elected in Honduran history and also the first candidate to receive 1.7 million votes in an election, the biggest victory ever.

"A large amount of the youth who were shaped by events of the

coup are now a formalized alliance and now a continuation of the process that was started in 2009," said Ulloea.

The University Student Movement (MEU), which Ulloea belonged to, is not new to the struggles against the coup leaders of 2009 and waged a powerful campaign to keep the National Autonomous University from being privatized, like much of industry in the years after the coup. The students faced massive repression but remained steadfast and determined. Because of the repression, Ulloea said he was forced to leave Honduras in 2019 and just returned three weeks ago to continue his work here on the new government transition.

"These groupings absolutely trust Xiomara and make up those that wanted retribution against the narco dictatorship. The 1.7 million votes shows Xiomara's ability to unify the opposition against reactionaries," said Ulloea.

Ulloea mentioned three areas of concentration for the government now as a result of the debt that Honduras is in and the destruction of the economy by the leadership of the government after Zelaya, which sabotaged public industries, destroyed water sources for the people and increased poverty with austerity programs.

"We can't trust the statistics and reporting of the outgoing government," said Ulloea. As a result, he said they are forced to gather that information regarding issues like national debt and relative health of various sectors of the economy in order to make budget decisions.

In addition to questions of the budget, they also must consider the needs and demands of the people with the understanding that "we are a socialist government so we cannot cut social services to balance the budget, we must find other means," declared Ulloea. This refreshing unwillingness to use austerity against the people should help any honest critiques of Xiomara Castro take into consideration the difference between those governments keeping their economies tied to capitalist economics with further privatization and depletion of social welfare programs and those moving toward socialist economics, as Castro has promised in continuing the programs like wage increases and expanded social programs that Manuel Zelaya began shortly after becoming president.

Finally, Ulloea said, the functioning of the government is another one of the three priorities to ensure that people begin to get their lives back and counter the last 12 years of dysfunction, poverty and repression. [📍](#)



Struggle-La Lucha correspondents John Parker and Berta Joubert-Ceci at educational center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Struggle-La Lucha correspondents land in Honduras for presidential inauguration

Two correspondents for Struggle-La Lucha have traveled to Honduras to be part of the U.S. delegation attending the inauguration of newly elected President Xiomara Castro of Libertad y Refundación, referred to as the Libre Party.

One of the correspondents, John Parker, is himself a candidate for the U.S. Senate on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket in California. He is also a founder of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice

and active in his neighborhood with the Harvard Blvd Block Club in Los Angeles.

The other correspondent is Berta Joubert-Ceci, who was an initiator of the historic October 2018 "International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes Against Puerto Rico." Joubert-Ceci writes regularly on struggles in Puerto Rico and the Global South and is also a regular commentator on Radio Clarin of Colombia from her home in Puer-

to Rico. Joubert-Ceci is a founding member of Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha.

Both are organizers with the Socialist Unity Party.

They are traveling to Honduras in the midst of a struggle that has broken out between the left forces of the Libre Party and more conservative elements who are attempting to stand in the way of substantial reforms promised by President Xiomara Castro and Libre. [📍](#)

Aprobado Plan de Ajuste de Deuda

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El martes pasado la jueza federal de bancarrota Laura Taylor Swain, con todo el cinismo del mundo, anunció que aprobó el Plan de Ajuste para reestructurar la deuda pública de PR, de 70 mil millones de dólares, recalando que había tomado en consideración las muchas peticiones de personas jubiladas que le habían escrito objetando ese plan.

Muchos achichincles del gobierno local celebran esa aprobación porque según ellos nos ahorrará el 80% del monto de la deuda de 70 mil millones.

Lo que no dicen es que este plan llevará a PR a un desastre económico peor del que ya estamos viviendo, y a una segunda deuda mucho más peligrosa, porque aquí no hay la capacidad para pagar los 3.150 millones al año que se requieren.

Tampoco dicen que todo este manejo de la deuda se hizo a espaldas del pueblo; que la Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta en el 2016 por el Congreso de EUA bajo la Ley PROMESA, rechazó auditarla – considerando que mucha parte de esos bonos fueron emitidos ilegalmente. No di-



cen que rehusaron establecer cuáles son los servicios esenciales como salud, educación, vivienda y seguridad que deben estar resguardados en todo proceso de quiebra.

Este Plan en contra del pueblo suspende 40 leyes para poder imponer su austeridad y ahondará la división entre ricos y pobres. Y aunque no recorta las pensiones ahora, no se po-

drán ajustar para compensar el alza en el costo de vida por los próximos 10 años. Incluso, prohíbe que la legislatura local legisle sobre las pensiones por esos 10 años. ¡Esto es lo que significa ser colonia!

Por eso, la agenda del movimiento tiene que ser por obligación la descolonización!

¡Que viva Puerto Rico Libre!



Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

National Days of Action Feb. 4-12, 2022: No war with Russia and Donbass! U.S./NATO out of Ukraine!

By Solidarity with Novorossiya & Antifascists in Ukraine

The Biden administration has put 8,500 U.S. troops on standby for deployment, on top of 64,000 already stationed in Europe. Millions of dollars in U.S. “lethal aid” (weapons) is arriving daily in Ukraine. Biden claims that there is an imminent threat of a Russian invasion. But the real invasion threat stems from U.S.-allied Ukraine against the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, near Russia’s western border.



U.S. tanks arrive in Estonia as part of the NATO buildup on Russia’s borders.

Washington and its NATO partners have been pushing Ukraine’s government to invade Donbass, hoping to provoke a response from Russia that can cover further NATO expansion. Ukraine has deployed 125,000 troops to the ceasefire zone, including battalions of neo-Nazis, armed with NATO weapons. Donbass residents have already suffered eight years of Ukrainian war and Western blockade. More than 14,000 people have perished in that conflict.

Despite a U.S. promise not to expand NATO eastward at the end of the Cold War, the alliance has added 14 members since. Russia has made it clear that a NATO takeover of Ukraine – the largest country on its European border – is an unacceptable threat to its national security. Biden has continued Trump’s war drive worldwide, from Yemen to Syria, Venezuela to Palestine, Iraq to the South China Sea.

Why is Washington provoking Russia? The U.S. under both Democrats and Republicans has long sought to dominate and plunder the entire former Soviet Union economically, politically and militarily. Today U.S. Big Oil companies and banks urgently want to stop the flow of Russian

gas and oil to Western Europe, including the new NordStream2 pipeline, so U.S. allies will be forced to buy from them. Biden, who has betrayed the urgent needs of workers and oppressed communities that elected him, is desperate to funnel people’s anger at a foreign enemy.

We say no! Poor and working people are wracked with crisis after crisis here at home: rampant spread of COVID; deliberate dismantling of public health measures to control the pandemic; wages slashed by inflation; capitalism’s climate destruction intensifying; the end of eviction moratoriums; racist police terror; bans on anti-racist education in schools; far-right attacks from the streets to the Supreme Court on people’s basic democratic rights.

We need a struggle to end racism and poverty at home, not another criminal war abroad!

We call for antiwar, workers’ and people’s organizations across the U.S. to hold rallies, pickets, mass leafleting, banner drops and other activities from Feb. 4-12. We must act now to stop another war before it starts.

Tell Biden and Congress:

No war on Russia and Donbass

Stop military aid to Ukraine – withdraw all U.S./NATO advisers, trainers and mercenaries

Sign Russia’s draft statement on European security – end NATO’s eastward expansion.

No new deployment of U.S. troops – bring all the troops home

Disband NATO

Called by (list in formation):

- Solidarity with Novorossiya & Antifascists in Ukraine
- Women Against Military Madness (WAMM)
- Alan Dale, Minnesota Peace Action Coalition*
- Communist Workers League
- Anti-War Committee
- Socialist Unity Party / Struggle-La Lucha newspaper
- Youth Against War & Racism
- Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice (Los Angeles)
- Peoples Power Assembly (Baltimore)
- Workers Voice Socialist Movement (New Orleans)
- Women in Struggle / Mujeres en Lucha

*For identification only

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