Victory to anti-fascist forces of Donbass & allies!
U.S./NATO hands off Russia!

Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido statement on the military conflict in Ukraine

On Feb. 24, the anti-fascist Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, together with the Russian Federation, launched a military action with the goal of “demilitarization and denazification” of the U.S.-NATO coup regime in Ukraine. It is in the interest of poor and working people, anti-war and anti-imperialist forces, especially in the U.S. and other NATO countries, to take a clear and unambiguous position in solidarity with the anti-fascist forces. The real war danger comes from U.S. and NATO forces surrounding Russia. The government in Kiev is a proxy of these forces of war, with no regard for the people of Ukraine.

For eight years, the people of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass region have maintained their independence in the face of constant bombing, shooting and terrorist attacks by the Ukrainian government – a regime installed by a fascist coup orchestrated with bipartisan U.S. support. More than 14,000 people have died in Ukraine’s war on Donbass, according to the United Nations.

Since November 2021, the U.S. has pushed Kiev to launch a new murderous invasion of the Donbass, while claiming that the real threat was from Russia against Ukraine. Meanwhile, the U.S. and its NATO military allies poured weapons and “training” into Ukraine, and built up their own imperialist armies on Russia’s Western borders and throughout Eastern Europe. The U.S. rejected Moscow’s just demands to guarantee Ukraine’s neutrality and pull back NATO’s armies.

Russia officially recognized the independence of Lugansk and Donetsk on Feb. 21 — nearly eight years after the people of Donbass overwhelmingly chose independence in a democratic referendum, rejecting the rule of the pro-Western neo-fascist coup government in Ukraine.

The response of the U.S. and its allies was to impose new sanctions on Russia — an act of war — and to send still more troops and weapons to threaten the independent countries of the region. This included blocking the Nord Stream II gas pipeline project between Russia and the European Union, a major goal of Big Oil and Wall Street banks.

Washington and NATO deliberately and methodically pushed the Donbass republics and Russia into a corner, from which there were only two options: submit or fight back.

On the night of Feb. 23-24, the People’s Militias of Donetsk and Lugansk and their Russian allies launched a military action with the goal of reclaiming Ukrainian-occupied areas of Donbass and demilitarizing and denazifying the Ukrainian-NATO regime.

The People’s Militias are fighting to drive back the Ukrainian Armed Forces, including neo-Nazi battalions armed and trained by the U.S., Canada and NATO, that constantly threaten the lives of their residents. U.S. white supremacists have trained with the Ukrainian fascist gangs, something even admitted by the U.S. military that was engaged in military exercise fighting against Donbass which they bring back to attack oppressed communities here. They were key players in the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Va., and the murder of anti-racist activist Heather Heyer.

The Russian armed forces have carried out attacks on at least 74 military bases throughout Ukraine, many of them constructed and upgraded by NATO specifically to facilitate war against Russia. Russian, Donbass and the Ukrainian anti-fascist underground are also working to locate, capture or eliminate neo-Nazi forces, including the ringleaders of the 2014 Odessa massacre, when at least 46 people were killed at the House of Trade Unions.

The anti-fascist military action, forced on Donbass and Russia by the Western imperialist powers, principally President Joe Biden and the U.S. government, has exposed confusion and equivocation in the U.S.-anti-war movement, even among socialists and communists.

Let’s be clear: Modern capitalist Russia is not an imperialist country. It had no means to become one after the counterrevolution in the USSR. It is a regional power akin to India or Brazil, primarily an exporter of commodities, not capital. In order to maintain its independence, Russia had to ally itself with other countries in opposition to imperialism.

Ukraine’s coup regime, by contrast, is a pawn of U.S. imperialism that has been waging a brutal war on its neighbors in Donbass for eight years and offered itself as a base for NATO aggression against Russia.

We want to remind the movement of the principles laid down at the dawn of imperialism by V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution. Differentiating the communist position from the pacifists, who condemn all wars equally, Lenin said, “We understand that wars cannot be abolished until classes are abolished and socialism is created.”

If Iran attacked Saudi Arabia to stop the genocidal U.S. war on Yemen (carried out by Saudi Arabia at Washington’s behest), which also threatens Iran and its regional allies, we hope that anti-imperialists would recognize that this was a just war, despite some of our ideological differences with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Yet this is exactly what is happening in Ukraine today.

Our responsibility is to stop U.S. imperialism and its wars in all forms, and to stand in solidarity with those who fight against U.S. domination.

Victory to the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics and their allies!
Solidarity with the anti-fascist underground and exiles of Ukraine!

U.S./NATO: Hands off Russia! Get out of Ukraine and Eastern Europe!

Dismantle the imperialist NATO war machine – bring all the troops home now!
Brian Flores lawsuit exposes NFL racism
By Steven Ceci

Everyone in the sports world should unite in solidarity with Brian Flores for standing up against racism in the National Football League (NFL).

The NFL is being called out as a racist institution – particularly in its hiring practices of oppressed nationalities, specifically African Americans. Former Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores, who is Black, filed a class-action lawsuit against his former employer, the NFL, and two additional teams – the Denver Broncos and New York Giants.

Flores filed his case on the first day of Black History Month, accusing the NFL of systemic racism in the hiring of coaches and executives. Flores also dismissed the Rooney Rule, the league directive by which NFL owners are compelled to interview one “minority” candidate per head coach vacancy, as a sham that has served nothing except unconvincing window dressing.

Besides being a clarion call for other coaches of color to join in, the Flores lawsuit pays homage to those who sacrificed and challenged discrimination and racism.

In his preliminary statement, Flores said, “As this Class Action Complaint is filed on the first day of Black History Month, we honor the brave leaders that fought so hard to help break down racial barriers of injustice. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass, Jackie Robinson and Mammie Till, to name only a few.”

In the 58-page lawsuit, Flores alleged that “the NFL remains rife with racism, particularly when it comes to the hiring and retention of Black Head Coaches, Coordinators and General Managers.”

Flores – who was fired by the Dolphins in January, despite a record—winning three seasons – also claims that he was subjected to sham interviews for head coaching positions by both the New York Giants this offseason and by the Denver Broncos in 2019. Flores says the interviews were only meant to satisfy the league’s quota for interviewing candidates of color before the teams ultimately hired white men.

Flores has recently been on the losing end of the lie that the NFL cares about diversity. He just completed his second consecutive winning season in Miami. It marked the first time that the hapless Dolphins have had consecutive winning seasons in almost 20 years. Flores even brought the team back from a 1-7 start to a winning record, the first NFL coach to accomplish that feat. And yet he was fired. Flores finally had enough and filed his lawsuit, after a phony Rooney Rule interview with the New York Giants – an organization that has never hired a Black head coach.

Flores realized that his interview was a sham when his former mentor Bill Belichick texted him by accident. Belichick tried to congratulate Brian Abdollahi for landing the Giants job, but texted the wrong Brian.

The Giants had seemingly decided to hire a white coach that had never been a head coach, even before Flores was interviewed. Flores decreed the fact that the league has only one Black head coach while 70% of players are Black.

What has really upset the NFL’s defenders is that Flores describes the NFL as being managed like a plantation.

Flores recognizes that by undertaking his lawsuit, he will be white-balled from the league just like Colin Kaepernick was for kneeling against police terror. But he also sees the importance of challenging this racist institution for the sake of other Black coaches and players.

A victory! Professor Rabab Abdulhadi wins second grievance at SFSU
By the International Campaign to Defend Professor Rabab Abdulhadi

A faculty panel has unanimously sided with Professor Rabab Abdulhadi at San Francisco State University (SFSU) in a grievance she filed through her union, the SF Faculty Association chapter of the California Faculty Association. Dr. Abdulhadi’s grievance reiterated her demand for SFSU to fulfill its endowment to AMED to create and uphold AMED’s independence and developmental – had it not been thwarted AMED Studies and turn it into a token, one-person operation serving to thwart AMED and AMED, and ending the creation of the hostile work environment to which Dr. Abdulhadi has been subjected for at least 13 years for her directorship of AMED and her refusal to abandon it.

Issued yesterday by the three-person Faculty Hearing Committee that adjudicated Dr. Abdulhadi’s grievance on February 4, a report agreed with Dr. Abdulhadi’s claims that SFU breached her hiring contract and fostered a hostile work environment to pressure her to give up AMED Studies. The Faculty Hearing Committee supported Dr. Abdulhadi, and upheld AMED’s independence and integrity.

The statutory grievance filed by Dr. Abdulhadi documented SFSU’s refusal to honor the original Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the university signed when it recruited Dr. Abdulhadi to create and direct the AMED program in 2005. That MOU stipulated that two additional tenure-track positions would be hired along with Dr. Abdulhadi to ensure a full and sustainable academic, communal and advocacy multi-site space on the history, politics, cultures and social movements of Arab, Muslim and Palestinian communities as they intersect with and contribute to the indivisibility of justice within and outside of the College of Ethnic Studies at SFSU.

The fact that those faculty positions were never filled served to thwart AMED Studies and turn it into a token, one-person operation without possibility of growth and development – had it not been for Dr. Abdulhadi’s tenacity and determination to resist such designs. In addition, the grievance detailed how the university created a hostile work and study environment on campus for Dr. Abdulhadi and her Arab, Muslim and Palestinian students and their allies, including anti-Zionist Jewish students, staff and colleagues. These efforts have been publicly decryed by numerous scholars and academic organizations, including the SF Chapter of the California Faculty Association.

The February 4 Faculty Hearing Committee rejected the university’s claims, including several bad faith actions that sought to undermine the transparency of the grievance hearing.

Academics, public intellectuals, and the broader Palestine justice movement welcome yesterday’s ruling and congratulate members of the Faculty Hearing Committee, Dr. Abdulhadi and the SFSU chapter of the California Faculty Association for their persistence in protecting faculty rights and refusing to join the SFSU Administration in its collusion with Zionist Jewish students, staff and colleagues. For more information, write to Team@professorabdulhadi@gmail.com.
Plans to build at the port at Oakland threaten thousands of union jobs

By Lallan Schoenstein

On Feb. 17, Struggle-La Lucha interviewed Clarence Thomas, a third-generation longshore worker, retired member of ILWU Local 10, and International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 and author of “Mobilizing In Our Own Name: Million Worker March.” The book is about the struggles of ILWU Local 10, one of the most radical unions in the country and maybe the world. It is an anthology based on articles and interviews, photographs, and posters, with Thomas’ introductory analysis containing vital lessons for today’s labor movement.

Struggle-La Lucha: It’s great to be talking with you as Local 10 and the Oakland teachers, along with other community members, rally in Oscar Grant Plaza to stop the privatization of Howard Terminal and the closure of eleven Oakland schools.

Clarence Thomas: At present, the City Council of Oakland is voting to certify an Environmental Impact Report presented by John Fisher, owner of the Oakland A’s baseball team, in his quest to gentrify the Port of Oakland with a waterfront ballpark and development at Howard Terminal.

The Port of Oakland is the third busiest port on the West Coast, an economic engine for the entire region of California. SLL: Каковы преимущества строительства стадиона на территории местного порта? CT: Local 10 is the largest labor force at the Port of Oakland. It has a long, militant labor history.

SLL: What is the history of the ILWU Local 10 so important in this struggle?

CT: In the 1934, San Francisco General Strike, dock workers led by the legendary union leader Harry Bridges won control of the hiring hall and ended discriminatory hiring practices, known as the “show-up.”

During the following years, ILWU Local 10 — with African American leaders, became recognized as one of the most democratic and radical trade unions in the U.S.

SLL: I’ve heard Fisher’s project described as building an “amusement park” on top of an assembly line.

CT: There are currently two Oakland teachers at Westlake Middle School — Andre Itayi and Moses Olanrewaju Omolade — who are on a 17-day hunger strike. These teachers are demanding that the state mandate more education and not in closing schools. They say they will end their hunger strike if California Gov. Gavin Newsom, the superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, and the School Board members, meet with them.

SLL: As a member of ILWU Local 10, what do you see as the most important reasons why ILWU Local 10 and the teachers are supporting Fisher’s project? The reason is because of the very large membership of the Building Trades Unions. The Building Trades also have a lot of money and they support Democratic politicians. If we are to be very truthful, the Building Trades have been educated by a history of racism and exclusion of people of color in their ranks. They say that the project will generate jobs. Yes, it will, but the entire working class.

SLL: How did you become a member of ILWU Local 10?

CT: Most of the unions represented by the Alameda County Central Labor Council are supporting Fisher’s project. The reason is because of the very large membership of the Building Trades Unions. The Building Trades also have a lot of money and they support Democratic politicians. If we are to be very truthful, the Building Trades have been educated by a history of racism and exclusion of people of color in their ranks. They say that the project will generate jobs. Yes, it will, but the entire working class.

SLL: I’ve heard Fisher’s project described as building an “amusement park” on top of an assembly line.

CT: Fisher wants to shut down Howard Terminal and replace it with a 33,000 seat ballpark, including 3,000 skybox condominiums for the wealthy, where you can watch a baseball game from your condo, a 400-room luxury hotel, and 1.8 million square feet of retail and commercial space.

Fisher believes there is no infrastructure for public traffic at all at the port. Two railroad lines run right in front of the Howard Terminal. One is the Transcontinental and Western Amtrak route, and the other is the Union Pacific railroad which at times carry hazardous material.

There are good reasons why ports and other maritime facilities have zoning laws; which says that no new housing, school, or dormitory can be built where the longshore workers have resided for over a hundred years. SLL: Who is John Fisher?


First of all, I’d like to call attention to another important reason why ports are not the right place for a building project.

SLL: Why is the history of the ILWU Local 10 so important in this struggle?

CT: What I see that Local 10 and the Oakland teachers have joined forces is the genuine social justice plan possible.

SLL: How did you become a member of ILWU Local 10?

CT: My grandfather migrated from Louisiana and went to work in a shipyard in Oakland in 1943. One year later he became a member of the ILWU. Some years later in 1963 — the year of the March on Washington — my father became a member of ILWU. In 1965 my great uncle Robert Robinson became a member of Local 10. After the passing of my father, while an active member of Local 10 in 1985, I became a member of Local 10.

Trent Willis, who just completed his second term as ILWU Local 10 President, is a third-generation longshore worker. His father went on to work on the waterfront the same year as my dad.

Leo Robinson, the rank-and-file leader of ILWU who was responsible for writing the historic resolution calling for the boycott of South Africa’s apartheid cargo — also became a member of Local 10 in 1963.

I am mentioning this because it is so important to understand what the ILWU meant to people who reside in the Bay Area and the impact that they’ve made, not only in the Bay Area but across the country and around the world.

Former Oakland mayor and U.S. Congress member Ron Dellums, whose father was a longshore worker, attended Westlake Middle School where the teachers are currently on a hunger strike. Reg. Dellums played a critical role in Congress in advocating for sanctions against apartheid South Africa.

Pelican President Robinson, and I all graduated from Oakland Technical High School. It is not a coincidence that all of our social justice activism was in some way influenced by our fathers’ membership in ILWU Local 10, one of the most democratic and militant rank and file unions.

In conclusion, during the years when there has been turmoil in the fight to end segregation and apartheid in the U.S., the ILWU Local 10 and other union leaders have meant so much to many in the working class. Not the working class in the city? Not the working class.

The union jobs allowed dock workers in the community to buy homes, to send their children to college, even though some of the youngest members had no higher education at all. It enabled them to effectuate political change in the Bay Area. When Nelson Mandela was released from prison and did a worldwide tour, he came to Oakland where the longshore workers had re-fused to unload South African cargo.

Mandela spoke to thousands at the Oakland Coliseum where the Oakland A’s currently play baseball.

Order online at MillionWorkerMarch.com
A century of lies for war, about Russia

By Stephen Millies

Before the planes can drop the bombs, capitalist newspapers and TV networks have to spread the lies. In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson claimed that Russia had weapons of mass destruction. The hundreds of thousands of Iraqi people whose families were killed certainly can’t remember. Now the target of war propaganda is the Russian Federation. An elected Ukrainian government was overthrown eight years ago with the assistance of fascist gangs. The 2014 coup was greased by $5 billion in U.S. payoffs since 1991.

The CIA was behind the Ukraine coup just as it pulled the strings in overthrowing Chile’s elected President Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973. Communist organizations were outlawed in both Chile and Ukraine. The U.S. Navy was hatched by the German Kaiser. This was the “Internationale,” which was supposed to bring about the singing of the revolutionary anthem “The Internationale,” was killed in that dirty war, including 58,000 GIs.

The sensational article — first of a series — claimed Bolshevik leaders Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky were “German agents” and “the Bolshevik revolution was arranged for by the German General Staff.” According to the Times, the millions of people from dozens of nationalities that rose up in a socialist revolution, was just a conspiracy hatched by the German Kaiser. This is like John Birch Society members who claim the Black Lives Matter movement or the French Revolution are and were the result of conspiracies.

The 1898 Big Lie was based on 70 documents provided by U.S. government agent Edgar Sisson. The problem was the “Sissons Documents,” supposedly originating from different locations, were almost all typed on the same manual typewriter. It was an obvious fraud that swiftly boomeranged. In the 1950s, retired U.S. Ambassador George Kennan — himself a Cold War architect pronounced them forgeries.

Lying in order to invade Russia

It’s not new for capitalist newspapers to lie about Russia. “Documents” prove Lenin and Trotsky hiked by Germans” was the New York Times’ front-page headline on Sept. 15, 1918. The sensational article — first of a series — claimed Bolshevik leaders Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky were “German agents” and “the Bolshevik revolution was arranged for by the German General Staff.”

The Kiev government, used as “bait” for Russia to “take the bait” of the West and provoke a war, seems to be disappointed by so many lies and manipulation of those who have promised it NATO membership and the guarantee of its security in the face of a possible reaction from Moscow.

Now the target of war propaganda is the Russian Federation! Our enemies are the landlords who are jacking-up rents by as much as 400% in the U.S. and the Black Lives Matter movement, thousands of statues of revolutionaries and Red Army leaders have been destroyed in Ukraine. Meanwhile, the Ku Klux Klan, it was a defeat for nuclear-armed Russia. They didn’t vote for a war against the Russian Federation.

Cuba: Ukraine and the spark of Donbass

By Elson Concepción Pérez

February 20, 2022

In a tweet, the member of the Political Bureau and Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parreño mentioned the following: “We strongly reject the propagandistic and communication-al hysteria unleashed by the U.S. government against Russia and we firmly oppose the expansion of NATO to the borders of that brother country.”

The first week — that of the Russian “invasion” of Ukraine, fabricated by Washington — ended, and with it even the Russian military maneuvers which were advanced in advance, began in the timeline for the return home of those involved.

Both the President of the United States, Joe Biden, as well as the highest exponents of NATO and some European rulers or subordinates were left wanting the shots to ring out and insisted on new lies on the same subject, but now more towards the inside of Ukraine than in the foreign environment.

The Kiev government, used as “bait” for Russia to “take the bait” of the West and provoke a war, seems to be disappointed by so many lies and manipulation of those who have promised it NATO membership and the guarantee of its security in the face of a possible reaction from Moscow.

However, with these actions, the only thing they have caused Ukraine is a substantial economic loss that already exceeds $3 billion, without counting the bills that will be passed on later for the “aid” in weapons of all kinds that they are providing it with. But where are the shots and the supposed casualties caused by the Russian invasion? Where did the tanks and artillery that Washington announced would reach Kiev come in.

Then they remembered a key piece in this puzzle: the separatist republics of Donbass with their territories of Donetsk (DPR) and Lugansk (LPR), in Ukraine, became, overnight, the spark of a new provocation against Moscow.

Kiev, with its army, is staging a montage that cannot be sustained, but which already this weekend left some civilians dead and more than 40,000 people of Russian origin were forced to cross the border and take refuge in the Russian region of Rostov.

In view of the heated warlike mood, both Russia and Belarus, which had already ended their joint military maneuvers, have decided to prolong them. Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin described the current scenario as “a strong smell of gunpowder” in the region, with the possibility of “Europe becoming a battlefront” and neighboring countries are accumulating more advanced weapons, according to RT.

Russia reiterated that the goal of the Russian and Belarusian maneuvers remains the same: “to ensure a secure European response and de-escalation of tensions in Europe.”

In the meantime, the spark in Donbass may become, with the help of the West and the mainstream press to use its asset, a detonator that will make what Russia and the international community want to avoid — a war — a reality.

Source: Walter Lippmann/Granma

Triumph and defeat

The Soviet Union that resulted from the Bolshevik Revolution lifted up people from more than 100 nations. They defeated the world’s first and largest affirmative action programs that fought for equality. Ukraine is a good example. Between 1915 and 1965, the number of students in Ukraine more than tripled. In the same period the number of college students increased twenty times. (National Languages in the USSR: Problems and Solutions) by M. I. Ieyas.)

These students were taught primarily in Ukrainian. Compare that to the mission schools in the United States and Canada where Indigenous youth were beaten if they spoke their own languages. Many died.

Never forget that 27 million Soviet people, including millions of Ukrainians, died defeating Hitler. It was the Red Army that liberated Auschwitz. The killer of Red Army general who did the job was the Ukrainian woman sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko who killed 309 Nazis.

Tragically the Soviet Union was overthrown 30 years ago. Like Reconstruction’s bloody overthrow by the Ku Klux Klan, it was a defeat for all poor and working people.

While monuments to Confederate slave masters have been toppled by the Black Lives Matter movement, thousands of statues of revolutionaries and Red Army leaders have been destroyed in Ukraine. Meanwhile, statues of the Nazi collaborator Stefan Bandera, whose followers slaughtered thousands of Jewish and Polish people, have been erected.

Eighty-one million people voted against Trump and racism in 2020. They didn’t vote for a war against the Russian Federation.

Our enemies are the landlords who are jacking-up rents by as much as 400% in the U.S. and the Black Lives Matter movement, thousands of statues of revolutionaries and Red Army leaders have been destroyed in Ukraine. Meanwhile, the Ku Klux Klan, it was a defeat for nuclear-armed Russia. They didn’t vote for a war against the Russian Federation.

“Remember the Maine!” newspaper lies were used to launch a war.

February 20, 2022

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Biden gives Big Oil a win, gas prices going up

By Gary Wilson

On Feb. 22, President Joe Biden announced new sanctions on Russia and on the company that built Nord Stream 2 and its German CEO. These sanctions will mean higher gas prices in the U.S. as well as in Europe.

“As I said last week, defending freedom will have costs, for us as well and here at home,” Biden said. “We need to be honest about that.”

Biden added that he will take measures to “blunt” gas price increases, “to limit the pain the American people are feeling at the gas pump.”

Biden said he’s doing this in coordination with the major oil producing countries, noting that there’s really no limit planned. It’s a signal of support to Big Oil profits, particularly in the heating gas market in Europe.

An inflation rate in the U.S. at 75% — higher prices for gas, food and gas has been a severe wage cut for all workers here. At the same time, corporate profits have reached a 70-year high.

The sanctions on the most profitable oil and gas companies — a group that includes Shell, BP, ExxonMobil and Chevron — recorded $72.9 billion in net income in the third quarter of 2021, reports Common Cause. “Big Oil’s soaring profits come as gasoline prices have hit a seven-year high in the U.S. — with Americans now paying about $3.40 for a gallon of fuel compared with around $2.10 a year ago.”

The sanctions on Russia and Nord Stream 2 — the ones that will drive gas prices even higher, with some predicting prices going up to $7 a gallon are driven, in part, by the demands of Big Oil. The sanctions were announced after Russia gave recognition to the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Lugansk People’s Republic in Donbas. Biden calls this an invasion of Ukraine, which it is not.

If the goal of U.S. sanctions was really for peace in Ukraine, why didn’t the Biden administration demand implementation of the 2015 Minsk 2 agreement, which is the policy supported by both France and Germany? Minsk 2 requires Ukraine to negotiate with the two Donbas republics on the territory, but no serious negotiations have been held.

EU gets gas from Russia

The European Union imports 40% of its gas from Russia. The primary route for gas from Russia is through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to Germany. Nord Stream 2 was built to provide a more secure and stable pipeline that has at least double the capacity.

Biden really spelled the beans earlier when he indicated that he wanted to block Nord Stream 2, a pipeline built to bring Russian gas under the Baltic Sea directly to Germany. On Feb. 7, Biden threatened to take control over the German-Russian project that the U.S. has no relation with. From the White House transcript:

“[By previous arrangement, the first question went to a Reuters reporter.]”

Q: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Chancellor Scholz. Mr. President, I have wanted to ask you about this Nord Stream project that you’ve long opposed. You didn’t mention it just now by name, nor did Chancellor Scholtz. Did you receive assurances from Chancellor Scholz today that Germany will, in fact, pull the plug on this project if Russia invades Ukraine? And did you discuss what the definition of “invasion” could be?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: The first question first. If Germany — if Russia invades — that means tanks or troops crossing the — the border of Ukraine again — then there will be — we — there will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it.

Q: But how will you — how will you do that exactly, since the project and control of the project is within Germany’s control?

PRESIDENT BIDEN: We will — I promise you, we’ll be able to do it.

Blocking Nord Stream 2 has been a goal of Big Oil and therefore of the U.S. government. It was near the top of Donald Trump’s agenda. Despite what reports may say, the record of the Trump administration is a long series of sanctions and hostile actions against Russia, as the Brookings Institution has detailed. Mostly unknown here, Trump worked overtime to block the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. In 2018, Trump got German Chancellor Angela Merkel to agree to spend $1 billion building a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) port to import highly priced U.S. LNG. The plan was canceled after Trump lost the election and Merkel left office.

With the U.S. pushing a NATO expansion to Russia’s borders and supporting a coup government in Ukraine, the Biden administration found another way to block Nord Stream 2. As Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland explained in a State Department briefing on Jan. 27, “If Russia invades Ukraine one way or another Nord Stream 2 will not move forward.”

On Feb. 22, when Biden announced his sanctions on Russia, Germany announced it was halting the certification process for Nord Stream 2. The Nord Stream 2 project was finished in Sep. and the giant pipeline will be ready for operation pending certification by Germany and the EU.

Dmitry Medvedev, Russia’s former president and now deputy chairman of its Security Council, tweeted: “Welcome to the new world where Europeans will soon have to pay 2,000 euros per thousand cubic meters!” — suggesting prices were set to double.

Granma: Ucrania: la chispa de Donbás

Por Elson Concepción Pérez

20 de febrero de 2022

En un tuit, el miembro del Buró Político y canciller cubano, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, escribió: “Rechazamos energéticamente la historia propagandística y comunicacional que desata el Gobierno de EE. UU contra Ucrania y nos oponemos firmemente a la expansión de la OTAN hasta las fronteras de ese hermano país”.

La última semana –la de la “invasión” rusa a Ucrania, facilitando. Pero, y los tiros y las suyas. Entonces recordaron una pieza clave en este rompecabezas: las repúblicas separatistas de Donbás con sus territorios de Donetsk (RDP) y Lugansk (RPL), en Ucrania, se convirtieron, de la noche a la mañana, en la chispa de una nueva provocación contra Moscú.

Kiev, con su ejército, está escenificando un montaje incapaz de sostenerse, pero que ya este fin de semana dejaba algunos civiles muertos y más de 40 000 personas de origen ruso se vieron obligadas a cruzar las fronteras y guarecerse en la región rusa de Rostov.

Ante lo caudalizado de los ánimos bélicos, tanto Rusia como Bielorrusia, que ya terminaban sus maniobras militares conjuntas, han decidido prolongarlas. El ministro de Defensa ruso, Sergei Shoigu, explicó en la prensa internacional que su plan fue cancelado cuando el presidente de EEUU, Joe Biden, anunció nuevas sanciones a Rusia el pasado 22 de febrero.

El ministro ruso, en declaraciones a la agencia de noticias RIA Nóvosti, afirmó que Biden encontró otro camino para bloquear el proyecto Nord Stream 2. El ministro ruso mencionó que el plan “es una coartada de la región, con la posibilidad de que la comunidad internacional quiera evitar: una amenaza para Rusia, un testimonio de la presencia de EEUU en Europa, que siempre querría eliminar los principales competidores de la OTAN en el entorno de belleza de la región”.}

Russia estima que más de 40 000 personas de Donbás ya están en su territorio.

FOTO: SPIEGEL

Fuente: Granma
**War crisis: Donbass resists U.S.-planned attack, needs solidarity**

By Greg Butterfield

Feb. 21 — Before dawn on Feb. 20, the 79th Airborne Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces attempted to cross the Seversky Donets River in Lugansk, near the Russian border, and attack positions of the People’s Militia of the Lugansk People’s Republic (LPR). The anti-fascist militia soldiers drove back the Ukrainian troops. As they fled, the Ukrainian soldiers fired on the village of Pionerskoye, destroying five homes and killing two civilians.

Since Feb. 18, the independent republics of Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbass mining region have come under heavy attack from Ukraine. There have already been multiple attempts by the Ukrainian military to break through the 200-mile “line of contact” with the Donbass — poised on the rough border of Ukraine and Russia — and attack positions of the People’s Militia of the Lugansk People’s Republic (LPR), near the fast-occupied city of Mariupol.

The attacks are the most intense the region has seen since the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Militias defeated a Ukrainian invasion in February 2015 at the Battle of Debaltsevo. The renewed assault by the U.S.-supported government in Kiev is in flagrant violation of the 2015 Minsk II ceasefire accords, to which Ukraine is a signatory.

Since 2014, more than 14,000 people have died in Ukraine’s war on Donbass. The illegal Ukrainian attacks are carried out with hundreds of tons of weapons supplied by the United States and other countries of the NATO military alliance. Many of these weapons are in the hands of neo-Nazi battalions who have pledged to ethnically and politically “cleanse” the Donbass of its Russian-speaking and other “foreign” residents and leftist Ukrainians.

More than 350,000 Ukrainian troops, or roughly two-thirds of the country’s military, is currently stationed on the line of contact, poised to invade. Strategic points are occupied by the Right Sector, Azov Battalion and other fascist groups that have been officially incorporated into the Ukrainian Armed Forces and received military training from the U.S., Canada and Britain.

As Struggle-La Lucha has frequently explained, the true danger of invasion is not coming from the Russian Federation against Ukraine, but from Ukraine against the people of Donbass. Washington has been relentlessly pushing the government of Ukrainian President Zelensky to attack Donbass for months in hopes of provoking a confrontation with Russia.

As it has done before every major war in its history, U.S. imperialism is lying about the real causes of the war crisis in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Like the claim of “weapons of mass destruction” 20 years ago that preceded the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the lie and cries from Washington and the corporate media about an “imminent Russian invasion” stands reality on its head.

It is the four million residents of the Donbass — who have lived under the shadow of war and blockade for nearly eight years — who are facing the U.S.- supplied troops on their doorstep. They continue to resist. They need our solidarity now more than ever.

**Evacuation ordered**

On Feb. 17, as a gesture of goodwill after meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the pullback of some Russian troops from their defensive positions on the country’s western border.

Instead of accepting Moscow’s olive branch, Washington and Kiev took this as the opportunity to launch a major attack on the small republics near Russia. President Joe Biden once more declared that Putin had “decided to invade Ukraine.” This shows that Biden & Co. had no interest in preventing a war, only inciting it.

On Feb. 18, with the intensification of Ukraine’s attacks and the clear preparations for invasion, Denis Pushilin and Leonid Pasechnik — heads of state of the DPR and LPR — announced the voluntary evacuation of civilians to Russia. Priority is given to elders, children and parents. So far more than 53,000 people have been evacuated to hastily prepared refugee centers in Rostov-on-Don and other cities in the western Republics.

Soon after, Pushilin and Pasechnik ordered the full mobilization of the male population between the ages of 18 and 55 for service in the People’s Militia to defend their embattled homeland. Many other Donbass residents of all genders and ages, including political exiles from Ukraine, have decided to stay and resist, including workers responsible for the upkeep of infrastructure and vital services, healthcare workers and political activists.

On the night of Feb. 20-21, as Ukrainian shock troops attempted to break through the DPR’s southern border near Russia, shelling by Kiev’s military knocked out the pumping station that provides drinking water for 21,000 residents. The Donetsk News Agency reported that a Ukrainian saboteur blew himself up attempting to place a bomb at the railway station in Donetsk, the capital city. Two schools were reported damaged by shelling.

Meanwhile, in a stark provocation, fire from Ukrainian-controlled territory destroyed a border outpost on Russian territory. Earlier, two Ukrainian shells were reported to have hit fields in Russia’s Rostov region.

**Voices from Donbass**

After a Ukrainian projectile exploded outside her home, Anzhela Martynenko, a resident of the Petrovsky district of Donetsk, told a News Front reporter: “The shelling has started since yesterday. The child and I did not sleep, the child was frightened.”

**Why Russia recognized the Donbass republics**

Ukrainian attacks soon resumed, including a bomb attack on the Donetsk television center and the killing of two Lugansk civilians by a Ukrainian anti-tank missile Feb. 22.

**What Washington wants**

Since November 2021, Washington has relentlessly pushed Ukraine to launch a major attack on the Donbass in hopes of drawing Russia into a conflict to justify further NATO expansion and shut down Russian fuel exports to Western Europe.

For three decades, the bipartisan goal of U.S. capitalism has been to break up Russia and bring it firmly under Washington’s control — something Putin acknowledged in his Feb. 21 address to the Russian people.

On Feb. 22, Biden and “Defense” Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the deployment of thousands more U.S. troops, attack helicopters and fighter planes to Eastern Europe.

Biden imposed broad new sanc tions on Russia, including individual sanctions on parliamentarians who supported the decision to recognize the Donbass republics. Other imperialist countries and U.S. puppet regimes quickly followed suit.

Prosecution of Russia’s most important gas pipeline that was set to significantly increase the flow of fuel from Russia to the European Union.

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Continued on page 1
Por qué Rusia reconoció las repúblicas del Donbas

24 de febrero de 2022
por Greg Butterfield

Para tener hoy una clara posición contra la guerra y el antiparlamentarismo, los/as trabajadores con conciencia de clase deben comprender el significado del 21 de febrero de la Federación Rusa de reconocer a las repúblicas Donetsk y Lugansk del Donbass como países independientes y soberanos, casi ocho años después de que declararan por primera vez su independencia de Ucrania.

Luego de una transmisión en vivo sin precedentes de la reunión del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional de Rusia, el presidente Vladimir Putin anunció: “Consideré necesario tomar una decisión que debía haberse tomado hace mucho tiempo: reconocer de inmediato la independencia y la soberanía de la República Popular de Donetsk (RPD) y la República Popular de Lugansk (RPL)”.

Putin firmó decretos presidenciales reconociendo las repúblicas, estableciendo tratados de amistad y cooperación mutua entre ellos, y autorizando el despliegue de fuerzas de paz de Rusia para la zona del Donbass.

Estos indican que el Pentágono, con la friolera de 119 bases militares en Europa, no ha logrado su objetivo de “limpiar” la región del Donbass, como lo que quiere Washington.

Los líderes de la RPD y la RPL, Denis Pushilin y Leonid Pasechnik, firmaron decretos reciprocos.

Estados Unidos y las/osNil globales denunciaron la decisión.

La decisión de Rusia se produjo después de varios días de intensos ataques militares ucranianos contra las dos pequeñas repúblicas. Dos terceras partes de las fuerzas militares ucranianas, armadas y entrenadas por EEUU, se enfrentan en la “línea de contacto” de aproximadamente 200 millas con Donetsk y Lugansk, cerca de Rusia. Mientras tanto, unas 14.000 tropas de la OTAN también están estacionadas en la frontera occidental de Rusia.

Cientos de ataques de artillería, tiroteos y actos terroristas ucranianos se han llevado a cabo desde el 17 de febrero, matando e hiriendo a civiles y militantes de las repúblicas del Donbass, destruyendo hogares y dañando infraestructura vital como plantas de filtración de agua, tuberías de gas y escuelas.

Las evacuaciones masivas de civiles de Donetsk y Lugansk comenzaron el 18 de febrero. Todos entendieron que una invasión ucraniana era inminente, a pesar de que la administración Biden, tergiversando la realidad, respetaba que Rusia planeaba invadir Ucrania.

Aunque el bombardeo de Donetsk, capital de la RPD, disminuyó brevemente después del anuncio de Rusia, pronto se reanudaron los ataques ucranianos, incluyendo un bombardeo en el centro de televisión de Donetsk y la muerte de dos civiles de Lugansk por un misil antitanque ucraniano el 22 de febrero.

Lo que quiere Washington

Desde noviembre del 2021, Washington ha presionado persistentemente a Ucrania para que lance un gran ataque contra el Donbass con la esperanza de involucrar a Rusia en un conflicto y así justificar una mayor expansión de la OTAN y cerrar las exportaciones de combustible ruso a Europa Occidental.

Durante tres décadas, el objetivo bipartidista del capitalismo europeo era dividir a Rusia, algo que Putin reconoció en su discurso del 21 de febrero al pueblo ruso.

El 22 de febrero, Biden y el secretario de “Defensa”, Lloyd Austin, ordenaron el despliegue de miles de tropas más, helicópteros de ataque y aviones de combate estadounidenses y sus aliados en Europa.

Putin impuso nuevas y extensas sanciones a Rusia, incluidas sanciones individuales a los parlamentarios que apoyaron la decisión de reconocer a las repúblicas del Donbass. Otros países imperialistas y regímenes títulos de EUN a Ucrania llegaron con nuevas sanciones.

Quizás lo más importante fue cuando Alemania anunció el 22 de febrero que detendría la autorización del recién terminado gasoducto Nord Stream 2 que estaba destinado a aumentar significativamente el suministro de combustible de Rusia a la Unión Europea.

Cortando esta relación, obliga a que Europa compruebe productos de gas y petróleo de fuentes controladas y de propiedad estadounidense, dirigiendo las ganancias a los bancos de EUN. Este fue un objetivo principal de la campaña contra Rusia de Washington. Justo entonces, los precios del petróleo y el gas subieron a niveles más altos, precisamente después de que el petróleo de Estados Unidos superara el barril de $100.

De todos los imperialistas de la OTAN, Alemania fue el país que más se detuvo en apoyar la campaña de guerra en Ucrania. Pero es importante recordar que Alemania, aunque es la potencia económica más fuerte de Europa, siempre ha sido un aliado de Rusia, reconociéndola como uno de los grandes actores de la política internacional. Pero con EUN, Rusia tiene que defenderse de la ocupación neo-nazi y la OTAN.

Los líderes de la RPD y la RPL, Denis Pushilin y Leonid Pasechnik, firmaron decretos de reconocimiento y la República Popular de Lugansk (RPL).

Putin firmó decretos de reconocimiento y la República Popular de Lugansk (RPL).

Real significado de reconocimiento

Rusia’s recognition of the Donetsk and Lugansk republics was greeted with great enthusiasm by Donetsk residents, who have lived dependent and sovereign, almost 8 years of war and sanctions, at the cost of more than 14,000 lives. It was an important step in the progress towards the implementation of their democratic decision in the referendum of May 11, 2014, and the sacrifices they have made to defend their home.

They understand, as do the Ukrainian fascists that seek to “cleans” the Donbass region, that further action by Russia means a military confrontation with Russia. Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky fears this, but a willing tool of Washington has no power to resist.

At the same time, Russia had little choice but to take this step, which was forced upon it by Washington. Between the 2014 coup in Kiev, Moscow has parried numerous Western attempts to draw Russian forces into a fight with Ukraine. But it has become apparent that room to maneuver has run out.

Among the Russian people there is deep-rooted partnership of the two small republics. Two small states, Donetsk and Lugansk. It’s doubtful that the Putin government could have survived a military confrontation of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Putin’s televised address combined a clear-eyed assessment of the stakes of the current confrontation for Russia with an analysis of Ukrainian history severely distorted by anti-Sovietism and Russian nationalism. We must honestly acknowledge that this is an impediment to rebuilding solidarity between Russian and Ukrainian workers.

But the true significance of Russia’s decision to recognize the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics goes much deeper. It’s an acknowledgement of the deeply rooted traditions of anti-fascism and internationalism of the multinational Soviet working class, even three decades after the socialist USSR was broken up.

The real meaning of the recognition is that the workers and oppressed of the U.S. and the world must reject the lies of Washington, Wall Street and the corporate media. No war with Russia! Biden, recognize Donetsk and Lugansk! U.S. out of Ukraine!
The Western allied nations bully the world while warning of threats from China and Russia

By Vijay Prashad

On January 21, 2022, Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach attended a talk in New Delhi, India, organized by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses. Schönbach was speaking as the chief of Germany’s navy during his visit to the institute. “What he really wants is respect,” Schönbach said, referring to Russia’s President Vladimir Putin. “And a lot of being someone respect is low cost, even no cost.” Furthermore, Schönbach said that in his opinion, “it is easy to even give him the respect he really demands and probably also deserves.”

The next day, on January 22, UK Defense Secretary Dmytro Kuleba summoned Germany’s ambassador to Ukraine, Anka Feldhusen, to Kiev and “expressed deep disapproval of the deliver of German weapons provided to Ukraine” and also about Schönbach’s comments. In Delhi, Vice Admiral Schönbach released a statement soon after, saying, “I have just asked the Federal Minister of Defense [Christian] Lindner to remove me from my duties and responsibilities as inspector of the navy with immediate effect.” Lambrecht did not wait long to accept the resignation.

Why was Vice Admiral Schönbach sacked? Because he said two things that were unacceptable in the West: first, that the “Crimean Peninsula is gone and never [coming] back” to Ukraine and, second, that Putin should be treated with respect. Schönbach’s affidavit is a vivid illustration of the problem that confronts the world: the more resources are wasted in the manufacture of military hardware, the more civilized societies are reduced to barbarism. Schönbach isRoutine of imminence described as “aggression” and where the idea of giving “respect” to Russia is disparaged.

Aggression

U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration began to use the word “imminent” to describe a potential Russian invasion of Ukraine toward the end of January. On January 18, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki did not use the word “imminent,” but implied it with her comment: “Our view is this is an extremely dangerous situation. We are seeing at a high level when Russia could at any point launch an attack in Ukraine.” On January 25, Psaki, while referring to the possibility of imminent Russian invasion, said, “I think when we said it was imminent, it remains imminent.” Two days later, on January 27, when she was asked about her use of the word “imminent” with regard to the invasion, Psaki said, “Our assessment has not changed since then.”

On January 17, as the idea of an “imminent” Russian “invasion” escalated, Washington, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov rebuffed the suggestion of the “so-called Russian invasion of Ukraine.” Three days later, on January 20, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his counterpart Maria Zakharova denied that Russia planned to invade Ukraine, but noted that the talk of such an invasion allowed the West to intervene militarily in Ukraine and threaten Russia. A modicum of historical memory could have improved the debate about Russian military intervention in Ukraine. In the aftermath of the Georgian-Russian conflict in 2008, the European Union’s Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia, headed by Swiss diplomat Heidi Gasoline, found that the information war in the lead-up to the conflict was inaccurate and inflammatory. Contrary to Georgian-Western statements, Tagliavini said, “There was no massive Russian military invasion underway, on which had to be stopped by Georgian military forces shelling Tskhinvali.” The idea of “aggression” identified in 2014 and has been mentioned in recent months, while referring to the possibility of Russia invading Ukraine, replicates the European Union’s (EU) and U.S. version of the conflict between Georgia and Russia, which was another dispute about old Soviet borders that should have been handled diplomatically.

Western politicians and media outlets have used the fact that the United States and Russia have been stationed on Ukraine’s border as a sign of “aggression.” The number—500,000—sounds threatening, but it has been taken out of context. To invade Iraq in 1991, the United States and its allies amassed more than 700,000 troops as well as the entire ensemble of U.S. war technology located in its nearby bases and on its ships. Iraq had no allies and a military force depleted by the decade-long war of attrition against Iran. Ukraine’s army—regular and reserve—number about 500,000 men, including nearly 40,000 full-fledged troops in NATO countries. With more than a million soldiers in uniform, Russia could have deployed significantly more troops at the Ukrainian border and would need to have done so for a full-scale invasion of a NATO partner country.

Respect

The word “respect” used by Vice Admiral Schönbach is key to the discussion regarding the emerged of both Russia and China as world powers. The conflict is not between Russia and Ukraine, just as the conflict in the South China Sea is not merely about Taiwan. The real conflict is about the West currently, where Russian behavior is routinely described as “aggression” and where the idea of giving “respect” to Russia is disparaged.

The United States made it clear during the administration of President Barack Obama that both Russia and China must stay within their borders and know their place in the world order. An aggressive policy of NATO expansion into Eastern Europe was a clear message. Australia (Australia, India, Japan and the United States) drew Russia and China into a security alliance that has only strengthened over time. Both Putin and China’s President Xi Jinping recently agreed that NATO’s expansion eastwards and westwards is not acceptable to them. China and Russia see the West’s actions in both Eastern Europe and Taiwan as provocations by the West against the ambitions of these Eurasian powers.

That same Russian diplomat to whom I spoke in Beirut in 2015 said something to me that remains pertinent: “When the U.S. illegally invaded Iraq, none of the Western press called it ‘aggression.’” This article was produced by GlobalResearch. Vijay Prashad is an Indian historian, writer, editor and activist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at Globetrotter. He is the chief editor of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research. He is a non-resident fellow at Chongyang Institute for Strategic Studies at Renmin University of China. He has written more than 20 books, including The Darker Nations and The Poorer Nations. His latest book, The Front Line: the story of the U.S. government encouraged the looting of resources of those of whom now reside in the West—and defined its own foreign policy by what it did there. In February 1994, “Russia became the first country to join NATO’s Partner Status. For peace,” and that same year, Russia’s foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, declared the Group of Seven, which in 1997 expanded into the Group of Eight. Putin insisted the Group of Eight was a platform of major powers. China and Russia’s access to its two warm-water ports—in Sevastopol, Crimea, and in Tartus, Syria; it was in reaction to these provocations, he said, that Russia acted in both Crimea (2014) and Syria (2015).

The United States made it clear during the administration of President Barack Obama that both Russia and China must stay within their borders and know their place in the world order. An aggressive policy of NATO expansion into Eastern Europe was a clear message. Australia (Australia, India, Japan and the United States) drew Russia and China into a security alliance that has only strengthened over time. Both Putin and China’s President Xi Jinping recently agreed that NATO’s expansion eastwards and westwards is not acceptable to them. China and Russia see the West’s actions in both Eastern Europe and Taiwan as provocations by the West against the ambitions of these Eurasian powers. That same Russian diplomat to whom I spoke in Beirut in 2015 said something to me that remains pertinent: “When the U.S. illegally invaded Iraq, none of the Western press called it ‘aggression.’” This article was produced by GlobalResearch. Vijay Prashad is an Indian historian, writer, editor and activist. He is a writing fellow and chief correspondent at Globetrotter. He is the chief editor of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research. He is a non-resident fellow at Chongyang Institute for Strategic Studies at Renmin University of China. He has written more than 20 books, including The Darker Nations and The Poorer Nations. His latest book, The Front Line: the story of the U.S.
The occupation of Ottawa is a far-right assault on labor and democracy

By Stephen Gowans

Ottawa, Feb. 10 — Some people believe the occupation of Ottawa is a leftwing, pro-working-class phenomenon, but that’s hardly the view of trade unions, community organizers, activists and frontline workers here in the city.

We see, feel, hear, and experience the occupation differently: not as a leftwing phenomenon with democratic expression, but as a far-right movement of racists, evangelicals, union-haters, and conspiracy-minded lunatics, inspired and supported by the likes of Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Elon Musk.

To be sure, you don’t have to live in Ottawa to grasp the true nature of the occupation.

Teamsters Canada opposes the occupation and calls COVID-19 “the real enemy of truckers.”

Pierre LeBlanc, a local activist, recently wrote to Matt Taihbi, who has written an substack article de- scribing the occupation as Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau’s Ceausescu Moment.

In his letter to Taihbi, LeBlanc summed up quite effectively why the Ottawa occupation is an anti-labor, far-right phenomenon:

Dear Matt,

I regularly read you and find much of your writings instructive. This time, you have overreached to cartoonish effect. Attempting to link Trudeau to Ceaus- escu was gross, baseless hyperbole at its worst. And it seriously erodes your credibility.

I despise Biden, the Clintons and Trudeau as much as you do, and you have often said so in your writings, but you to- tally and completely misrepresent what is going on here.

What is going on here in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada is a full-on assault on Canadians by organised cadres of the extreme, fundamentalist, right-wing evangelicals, recently or forcefully retired RCMP and other police officers, one of Trump’s advisors and a whole raft of Canada’s far-right conser- vatives and rightwing wingnuts. Much of it financed by American so-called do- nors and whipped-up by Fox News and other yahoos of the U.S. oligarchy/billionaire club (Elon Musk, etc., and the military complex deep-state agents).

Collectively, they are highly experienced in sabotage, artificially creating in- structure and economic gridlock to bring a society to its knees and whip- ping up disaffected and naive citizens as their film extras, blackshirts and peons.

But you surely know all of this, Matt; you’re a student of capitalists/imperial- ist/fascist history. What I don’t under- stand is what motivates you to such a drive. Unless it is some kind of nihilistic desire to replace Canada’s capitalist, racist, colonialist system by any means, even if that means creating an even more fascist state.

You’re either naive, seeking engagement or a classic disruptor, consequences and massive suffering be damned.

Pierre LeBlanc

The lunatic far-right People’s Party is four-square behind the occupation, as are the interim leader and likely future leader of the country’s Conserv- ative Party. When have anti-union, pro-business, social conservative parties ever embraced an authentic, pro-labor, left-wing movement?

The Ottawa police have done nothing to liberate the city, preferring to avoid confrontation and hob-nob with the occupiers, or avoid them altogether. The city’s chief of po- lice, Peter Sloly, is an endless source of excuses for why he and his offi- cers cannot act. Early on he declared “there may be no policing solution.”

The chief’s inaction has led to calls for his resignation, along with that of the city’s mayor, Jim Watson, dubbed Mayor Milqueauto by a local newspaper columnist for offering nothing more than impotent pleas for the occupiers to go home. With what genuine leftwing, pro-worker, movement has the police ever been complicit?

A coalition of local labor unions, community organizations, and res- idents will hold a rally this Saturday in solidarity with frontline workers and Ottawa residents affected by the occupation.

It will:

- Call for an end to the occupation
- Show support for frontline workers.
- Say no to white supremacy, misogynoy, homophobia, transphobia and all other forms of hate that the convoy has directed at communities.
- Call for public health measures that protect our communities.

Call for immediate support for workers who have lost income due to the convoy, 14 paid sick days for all workers, decent pandemic pay, an end to the crisis in long-term care, and a strong public health-care system.

A majority of Canadians and U.S. Americans support COVID-19 re-strictions. Occupy Ottawa is not a grassroots working-class move-ment, but an astroturfed corruption of far-right billionaires whose aim is to pressure governments to lift all COVID-19 restrictions and return to business-normal.

As The Wall Street Journal, the mouthpiece of the hard-right billionaire class put it, “the message of Canada’s truck-er protest” is that “it’s time for the pandemic emergency orders to end.”

(How many legitimately leftwing, pro-worker, pro-democracy move-ments were ever endorsed by The Wall Street Journal?) If the far-right elite and its occupation shock-troops have their way, governments will transition from COVID-19 mitigation measures to a “living with COVID” strategy, more aptly dubbed “dying with COVID” — over the opposition of a majority of their citizens.

The Journal acknowledged that most Canadians oppose the occupa- tion of their capital. Musk, Trump, the Journal, Canada’s far-right par-ties and the occupiers care not a fig for democracy, not one jot for the well-being of others, and not one iota for the welfare of labor. Their sole concern is to lift COVID-19 restric- tions, and they appear ready to go to great lengths to achieve their aim, no matter how reactionary their goal and no matter how anti-democratic and thuggish their methods.

The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

By Stephen Millies

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Call Biden @ 202-444-1111
¡Victoria a las fuerzas antifascistas del Donbas y sus aliados! ¡EUJA/OTAN, saquen sus manos de Rusia!

Comunicado del Partido de Socialismo Unido sobre el conflicto militar en Ucrania

El 24 de febrero, las Repúblicas Populares antifascistas de Donets y Lugansk, junto con la Federación Rusa, lanzaron una ac- ción militar con el objetivo de de- militarizar y desnazificar el régimen golpista de Estados Unidos y de la OTAN en Ucrania. En el interés de las/los pobres y trabajadores, fuerzas contra la guerra y antiimperialistas, especialmente en EUA y otros países de la OTAN, tener una posición clara e inequívoca en solidaridad con las fuerzas antifascistas. El verdade- ro peligro de guerra proviene de las fuerzas estadounidenses y de la OTAN que rodean a Rusia. El gobier- no de Kiev es un representante de esas fuerzas imperialistas, y su propia existencia depende en cuenta al pueblo de Ucrania. Durante ocho años, las/habitan- des de Donets y Lugansk en la región de Donetsk han mantenido su independencia frente a los constantes bombardeos, disparos y ataques ter- roristas del gobierno ucraniano, un régimen golpista creado por la repre- nsión contra los obreros y trabajadores y por la conciencia antifascista de Ucrania.

La respuesta de EUA y sus aliados fue imponer nuevas sanciones a Ru- sia, un acto de guerra, y enviar aún más tropas y armas para amenazar a los países independentes de la región. Esto incluyó el bloqueo del proyecto de gasoducto Nord Stream II entre Rusia y la Unión Europea, un objetivo importante de los bancos de Wall Street y las grandes petroleras.

Washington y la OTAN empuja- ron deliberadamente y metódicamente a las repúblicas del Donbas y Rusia a un ámbito imperialista, y en cada uno de estos países se inician las mismas opciones para salir: someterse o contraatacar.

En la noche del 23 al 24 de febrero, las Milicias Populares de Donets y Lugansk y sus aliados rusos lanzan- ron una acción militar con el obje- tivo de recuperar áreas en territorio ucraniano incluidas las armas y entrenadores por Ucrania en el Donbas y desmil-itarizar y desnazificar el régimen ucraniano-OTAN.

La respuesta de EUA y sus aliados de USED fue imponer nuevas sanciones a Rusia, un acto de guerra, que fue presentado como base para la agresión de la OTAN contra Rusia. Queremos recordar al movimien- to los principios establecidos en los albores del imperialismo por V. I. Lenin, al líder de la revolución bol- chevique. Al diferenciar la posición comunista de la de los pacifistas, que condenan todas las guerras por igual, Lenin dijo: “Entendemos que las guerras no se pueden abolir hasta que se acaben las clases y se cree el socialismo”.

Si Irán atacó a Arabia Saudita para detener la guerra genocida de Esta- dos Unidos contra Yemen (llamada a cabo por Arabia Saudita a instancias de Washington), que también amenaza a Irán y sus aliados regio- nales, esperamos que los antiimpe- rialistas reconozcan que esta fue una guerra justa, a pesar de algunas de nuestras diferencias ideológicas con el gobierno de la República Islámica de Irán. Sin embargo, esto es exacta- mente lo que está sucediendo hoy en Ucrania.

Nuestra responsabilidad es detener el imperialismo estadounidense y sus guerras en todas sus formas, y solidarizarnos con quienes luchan contra la dominación estadounidense.

¿Quién es ese que se escucha? Es el pueblo en pie de lucha.

Granma: Ucrania y la chispa de Donbass. Por qué Rusia reconoció las repúblicas del Donbass.

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Una colonia existe únicamente como una nueva invasión asesina del Donbas, el tiempo que afirma que la verdade- ra amenaza viene de Rusia contra Ucrania. La lucha de las/habitan- des de Donets y Lugansk y sus aliados militares de la OTAN ver- tieron armas y “entrenadores” en Ucrania y construyeron sus propios ejércitos imperialistas en las fron- teras occidentales de Rusia y en toda Europa del Este. Estados Unidos re- chazó las justas demandas de Moscú de que se detengan los ataques a Ucrania y retirar los ejércitos de la OTAN.

Rusia reconoció oficialmente la independencia de Lugansk y Don- netsk el 21 de febrero, casi ocho años después de que el gobierno de Don- netsk y Lugansk firmara su independencia en un referéndum democrático, rechazando el régimen del gobierno golpista prooccidental y neonazi en Ucrania.

La respuesta de EUA y sus aliados fue imponer nuevas sanciones a Ru- sia, un acto de guerra, y enviar aún más tropas y armas para amenazar a los países independentes de la región. Esto incluyó el bloqueo del proyecto de gasoducto Nord Stream II entre Rusia y la Unión Europea, un objetivo importante de los bancos de Wall Street y las grandes petroleras.

Washington y la OTAN empuja- ron deliberadamente y metódicamente a las repúblicas del Donbas y Rusia a un ámbito imperialista, y en cada uno de estos países se inician las mismas opciones para salir: someterse o contraatacar.

En la noche del 23 al 24 de febrero, las Milicias Populares de Donets y Lugansk y sus aliados rusos lanzan- ron una acción militar con el obje- tivo de recuperar áreas en territorio ucraniano incluidas las armas y entrenadores por Ucrania en el Donbas y desmil-itarizar y desnazificar el régimen ucraniano-OTAN.

La respuesta de EUA y sus aliados de USED fue imponer nuevas sanciones a Rusia, un acto de guerra, que fue presentado como base para la agresión de la OTAN contra Rusia. Queremos recordar al movimien- to los principios establecidos en los albores del imperialismo por V. I. Lenin, al líder de la revolución bol- chevique. Al diferenciar la posición comunista de la de los pacifistas, que condenan todas las guerras por igual, Lenin dijo: “Entendemos que las guerras no se pueden abolir hasta que se acaben las clases y se cree el socialismo”.

Si Irán atacó a Arabia Saudita para detener la guerra genocida de Esta- dos Unidos contra Yemen (llamada a cabo por Arabia Saudita a instancias de Washington), que también amenaza a Irán y sus aliados regio- nales, esperamos que los antiimpe- rialistas reconozcan que esta fue una guerra justa, a pesar de algunas de nuestras diferencias ideológicas con el gobierno de la República Islámica de Irán. Sin embargo, esto es exacta- mente lo que está sucediendo hoy en Ucrania.

Nuestra responsabilidad es detener el imperialismo estadounidense y sus guerras en todas sus formas, y solidarizarnos con quienes luchan contra la dominación estadounidense.

¿Victoria para las Repúblicas Populares de Donets y Lugansk y sus aliados? ¡Solidaridad con la clandestinidad antifascista y los exiliados de Ucrania! EUJA/OTAN: ¡Fueran sus manos de Rusia! ¡Fueran de Ucrania y Europa el Este!

¡Desmantelamiento de la maquinaria de guerra imperialista de la OTAN – que regresen todas las tropas a casa ahora!

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Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Una colonia existe únicamente para el lucro del poder invasor impe- rial. Y hoy Puerto Rico se encuentra en la mayor crisis de explotación en nuestra historia.

Aparte de todos los planes de aus- teridad y robos de recursos impuestos por el Congreso de los EUA a través de la maldita Junta de Control Fis- cal, el puñal lo han clavado justo en el corazón del pueblo, su clase obra- rera, la que forma la mayoría de nues- tra población, ya esté organizada en sindicatos, o no. Los ataques están dirigidos a empobrecer tanto esta clase que no tenga más remedio que emigrar o morirse lentamente sin recibir una paga digna.

Pero esa clase, indignada y rebel- de, está en constante pie de lucha para defender sus derechos lab- orales, sus salarios y pensiones que les permita vivir dignamente. Exi- gen el cese de las privatizaciones que tanto corrupción y malos servicios han traído al pueblo.

Comenzaron por el sector del magisterio y de energía y se han su- mado casi todos los sectores de ser- vicio público, estudiantes y hasta meseros y meseras que reclaman un justo salario y a los 25 mil que reci- ben desde hace treinta años.

El magisterio en lucha está repre- sentado por FADEP, Frente Amplio en Defensa de la Educación Pública. Son sindicatos militantes que el gobier- no no legitima porque solo avala el “representante exclusivo” la Asocia- ción de Maestros, un sindicato pa- tronal aliado al imperio y al sindicato estadounidense de maestros, la AFT. Sin embargo fue la FADEP la que llegó de multitudinarias manifesta- ciones obligó al gobierno a sentarse a negociar, obteniendo una victoria parcial, el aumento de $1000 dólares al mes. Pero lo más importante, un retiro digno que representa un 75% de su paga como es actualmente, tanto la Junta como el gobierno se niegan a conceder. Prefieren usar ese dinero para pagar a los bonistas buitres, acree- dores de una deuda ilegal que ni siquiera se ha auditado.

La lucha sigue creciendo y se es- tán creando comités de huelga en los sitios de trabajo para adelantar un posible paro nacional en el futuro cercano.

Mientras tanto, la concientización del pueblo va aumentando y todos los días hay manifestaciones alrededor de la isla donde se oye decir ¿quién es ese que se escucha? Es el pueblo en pie de lucha.