Mariupol & Donetsk: a tale of two cities

By Greg Butterfield

In December 2014, a young Russian communist named Andrey Sokolov was visiting the newly formed Donetsk People’s Republic. He went to meet a friend who’d been driven into exile from Ukraine after the U.S.-backed far-right coup d’état in Kiev earlier that year.

Sokolov took a wrong turn and wound up at a checkpoint controlled by the Ukrainian Armed Forces. He was arrested and “disappeared” for nearly two years in the occupied city of Mariupol.

Sokolov was held for a long time in a bare cell in a secret prison. He was denied contact with the outside world, given little food, was tortured, and witnessed Ukrainian militants using cutouts of leaders from the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics for target practice.

Eventually supporters were able to track Sokolov down with help from locals. As reports seeped out about his case, and those of others “disappeared” by the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) and the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion, Sokolov was offered a plea deal, which he accepted, and a court ordered him released with time served.

Upon his release, though, he was kidnapped by goons in plainclothes and held captive in another location.

Ukraine’s government eventually felt obliged to allow a visit to Mariupol by human-rights investigators from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Sokolov’s captors debated what to do with him. He was probably closer to death at that moment than he had ever been during his ordeal.

Eventually the order came down from above: There was too much attention to Sokolov’s case to dispose of him permanently. Instead he was put in a taxi headed to the Russian border and given bus fare to Moscow. That was in the autumn of 2016—almost two years after his fateful wrong turn.

Mariupol and the Big Lie

Mariupol has been in the news a lot recently. It’s been a major hotspot in the joint military operation by the Donbass People’s Republics and Russia to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine.

The U.S. and other Western media mostly ignored Mariupol for the eight years it was under fascist occupation. They couldn’t have cared less for the workers and political activists like Sokolov who had to live under the thumb of the Azov Battalion and Ukrainian security forces.

Now that the Azov nazis are being routed by the Donetsk People’s Militia and Russian Armed Forces, newspapers, TV networks and social media are full of stories claiming “Russian war crimes” in Mariupol.

First there was a story about Russia attacking a maternity hospital. But as Russia’s First Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Dmitry Polyansky said at a press conference in Moscow: “There was too much at stake; there was too much to lose, so we had to destroy the pregnant women and the newborn babies.”

Later, Russian forces occupied the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics for target practice.

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The Emergency Campaign to STOP THE WAR LIES

By Solidarity with Donbass & Antifascists in Ukraine

The Emergency Campaign to Stop the War Lies is a grassroots effort to stop the lies and tell the truth about the U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass. It will kick off on March 20, the anniversary of the Iraq War, and culminate on the weekend of April 2 to 4, the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination.

March 20 to 27: Local outreach to communities, students and workers, including protests and picket lines, distributions of flyers and posters, street corner speak-outs, tabling in busy areas and banner drops.

March 27: “Expose the Lies” National Virtual webinar featuring Aleksey Albu from Borotba in Lugansk, Katya A. from Aurora Women’s group in Donetsk, and Kristina Melnikova, a journalist who has covered Ukraine’s war on Donbass for several years. Hear directly from the independent Donbass republics under fire from Ukraine and NATO.

Weekend of Sat., April 2 to Mon., April 4 – National protests on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King, who stood against war and racism.

Join us in demanding:
• No U.S./NATO war on Russia and Donbass!
• Jobs, education, housing, and healthcare, not war!
• Disband NATO, AFRICOM & AUKUS!
• Close Guantánamo and all U.S. military bases – bring the troops home!
• Feed the people, not the Pentagon! No to U.S. sanctions!

Initiated by Solidarity with Donbass & Antifascists in Ukraine and Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido

Partial list of endorsers: John Parker, Socialist Unity Party / Partido de Socialismo Unido candidate for U.S. Senate in California; Youth Against War & Racism; Mujeres En Lucha / Women In Struggle, Struggle-La Lucha newspaper; Communist Workers League; Workers Voice Socialist Movement; LA Black and Brown Unity – Los Angeles; Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice – Los Angeles; Peoples Power Assembly – Baltimore; Odesa Solidarity Campaign; Unemployed Workers Union; Anti-War West Sydney; Rhode Island Against White Nationalism – Providence.
GM and Intel aren’t heroes
By Stephen Millies

President Biden wants to be seen as a dragon slayer of wealthly Rus-
sian oligarchs. But he praised in-
...
March 2, the day after President Joe Biden delivered the State of the Union speech, 12-year-old Thomas Siderio was shot and killed by Philadelphia police. Investigators say that a bullet was fired into an unmarked police vehicle with four undercover police officers inside. Two officers got out of the car and fired at Siderio. One chased him, then shot him in the back while he was on the ground.

The Philadelphia police commission said the officer who killed Siderio will be fired at the end of his 30-day suspension due to violations of the use of force policy directive that prohibits shooting someone who is fleeing and not pointing a gun at the officer. The police say it is unknown who fired at the police car. News reports say the police suspect it was one of two young men they were following, not Siderio.

The Family and Friends of Siderio mourned the loss days after he was shot and killed by police. They are confused and looking for answers. Siderio’s former foster mom said, “I feel that I failed him, I admit it; we tried. I love him to death, and I will always miss him.” His biological mom hired a high-powered law firm to try his case.

President Biden in his speech, recounted his recent visit to the New York City Police Department days after the funeral of two police officers.

He went on to claim that the Justice Department is assuring police accountability, requiring body cameras, banning the choke hold, and re-counting no-knock warrants. That’s as, banning the choke hold, and requiring body camera and 30-day suspension due to violations of the use of force policy directive that prohibits shooting someone who is fleeing and not pointing a gun at the officer. The police say it is unknown who fired at the police car. News reports say the police suspect it was one of two young men they were following, not Siderio.

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Texas: Hands off trans youth!

By Greg Butterfield

Trans people, and especially youth, are under attack in state capit- als across the U.S. and the most egregious attack so far has come in a state that is a litmus test of the neo-fascist takeover of the Republican Party – Texas.

On Feb. 17, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a “nonbind- ing opinion” that gender-affirming treatment for trans children and youth amounted to “child abuse.” Paxton’s outrageous claim came on the heels of the failure of a bill with similar language to advance in the state legislature.

The very next day, Gov. Greg Ab- bott issued an executive order giv- ing Paxton’s “opinion” the weight of law, and ordering the Department of Family and Protective Services to begin investigating families and healthcare providers of trans chil- dren on suspicion of “child abuse.”

Abbott also ordered state employ- ees – including teachers and health-care workers – to report any movement to treat trans children to DFPS or face firing and prosecution themselves.

Texas immediately began an aggressive and very pub- lic campaign to threaten trans chil- dren’s families and health providers, including one mother who is herself an employee of the DFPS. She was placed on leave while an inquiry was opened into her 16-year-old’s case. A lawyer representing the family fled from investiga- tions on March 11 in response to a legal challenge brought by the family of a trans teenager. Abbott immediately appealed the decision.

Meanwhile, hospitals like UT Southwestern in Dallas have moved to end all gender-affirming care for trans children and youth, in the same way many public and private clinics and hospitals have ended re-productive care services for women out of fear of being prosecuted (and los-}

Gay communist on Russia, fascism and USSR’s legacy

By Gregory E. Williams

Some using the “Russia is an im- perialist power” line are also war- pianizing the fact of homophobia in Russia, as they do when referring to the Stalin period in the Sovi- et Union. This is in the same way that they stigmatize opponents as “tankies” and “Stalinists.”

Yes, I’m gay. And yes, I uphold the Soviet Union and its leadership as the bulwark that supported socialist and liberation movements throughout the world for the last 70 years. This was true even with a relative- ly conservative (socially and eco- nomicly) leadership at the head of the first lasting workers’ state. The Soviet leadership did retreat from the most progressive gender and sexuality advances made in the early years of the revolution, but they largely retreated from international revolu- tionary commitments.

But when push came to shove, the Soviet Union beat back fascism and especially its most virulent form, Nazism. Fascism was arguably the biggest organized threat to LGBTQ2S people in history, af- ter classical colonialism. And the Soviet Union provided crucial support throughout the world to national liberation movements, thereby being essential to the over- throw of direct colonialism almost everywhere.

The Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact ensured that there was no war in Europe from the late 1940s un- til well into the 1990s. The vibrant queer cultures in West Germany, not to mention the German Democratic Republic and elsewhere, were possi- ble in part because war and far-right movements were no longer ravaging the continent.

All of this — the gains made by socialism undermining the basis of various oppressions, including abol- ishing the root causes of imperialist war; defeating fascism and colonial- ism — were essential to every aspect of the gains made by LGBTQ2S liberation, and we are all the beneficiaries.

The main threat in the world to- day is the U.S. imperialist-led camp. Everywhere they have supported right-wing death squads, Islamists against progressive movements and governments, austerity that hurts and even kills the most vulnerable, including LGBTQ2S people.

Everything that the U.S. imperia- lists have supported worldwide has turned the tide against movements for liberation. They’ve bombarded the infrastructure of countries into non- existence and allowed for the return of warlordism and slave-markets.

The supposedly “good” countries of Eastern Europe (i.e., not Belar- sus) are a playground for neo-Nazi forces. In these countries, there has been an erosion of LGBTQ2S rights, through the period of alliance with the state

Russian sailors in the 1917 Revolution. After the October Revolution, the Bolsheviks scrapped all anti-LGBTQ2S laws.

Washington.

If capitalist Russia today has its internal problems with homo- mphobia and transphobia, this in no way negates the fact that U.S. imperialism is the biggest danger in the world today and that it is crucial to defeat the NATO/fascist advance in Eastern Europe.

Calling anyone who upholds the revolution in the USSR a “Stalinist” is also completely disingenuous. There are some of these homopho- bic elements in our camp, but plenty of LGBTQ2S people understand the importance of defending the various 20th century revolutions and that these revolutions are the backdrop to every contemporary advance in gender and sexuality politics.

So I really do not take seriously the superficial disclaimers in the form of, “Don’t you know that Sta- lin was socially conservative? That’s what you support whether you know it or not.”

Families and supporters of trans youth protest at the governor’s mansion in Austin, Texas, March 13.
Food, gas, rents soaring – never mind, Congress hires U.S./NATO war dollars

By Sharon Black

The chant “money for war, can’t feed the poor!” best describes the $1.5 trillion spending package passed by Congress and signed by President Biden on March 10. An astounding $782 billion went to the Pentagon and military spending, while $77 billion will go to “economic” spending areas. Domestic is in quotes because that doesn’t always mean spending on people’s needs.

Billionaire in extra aid to US/NATO war in U.S.

Congress added $3.6 billion in aid to Ukraine. This is not part of the Pentagon budget; it is above and beyond. It includes $2.5 billion in military equipment and $3 billion for deploying U.S. troops to the region. This aid also gives $2.65 billion to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), of which $120 million is slated for so-called activists, journalists, and so-called independent media to promote anti-Russia messaging.

The extra $13.6 billion is in addition to the $500 million for allies and partners in the region. This $500 million includes $80 million for the Baltic Security Initiative, $30 million for Poland, $50 million for Romania, $25 million for Bulgaria, and $50 million for Georgia.

That’s 12 times as much as the $37.5 billion stash of Russia’s billionaires. Wall Street’s empire controls vast areas that the Roman emperors never even knew existed. The U.S. Navy’s Seventh Fleet threatens China while throttling the Pacific Ocean like its Lake Michigan.

Fortunes are theft

The French novelist Balzac allegedly wrote that “behind every great fortune lies a great crime.” Gustavus Myers wanted to see if that was true. Apologists for the super rich claimed that they got their dough honestly by hard work and smart money. Myers found that the rise in “Wages and Wealth” of the Great American Fortunes, published a century ago. U.S. tycoons got to the top of the heap not only from slavery and child labor, low wages, broken strikes and dangerous working conditions. Myer’s investigation proved that just as crucial for the captains of industry was breaking laws and stealing from other capitalists.

John D. Rockefeller — the founder of Big Oil who became the world’s first billionaire — had his brother bomb a rival oil refinery in Buffalo, New York.

The Authors become the hemisphere’s biggest smugglers by taking the profits stolen from Indigenous nations in the far trade and investing it in New York City real estate. Also necessary was bribing Michigan territorial governor Lewis Cass. New York City council members were paid off in a waterfront land grab.

That’s just one reason the wealthy and powerful have been running the U.S. since before 1776. Nearly three out of four signers of the Declaration of Independence owned enslaved Africans.

The U.S. Constitution was largely written by those who had a financial interest in owning the suffering of those taking over the debts of the states. This was shown by historian Charles Beard in “An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States.”

Red, white and blue oligarchs are immensely richer than the Russian variety. The 600 richest U.S. billionaires last year had a total wealth of $4.5 trillion.

Russian oligarchs never would have been able to steal trillions of dollars of socialist property without Boris Yeltsin’s assault on the Congress of People’s Deputies. Hundreds of people were killed there in October 1993.

The U.S. media either applauded the massacre or were silent about it. Their attitude was much the same as the bloody U.S. wars against Panama, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Yet we’re supposed to believe them when they tell us the Russian Federation is committing war crimes in Ukraine. The 1993 massacre allowed a fire sale of Soviet assets that were gobbled up by the new Russian tycoons. One of the reasons the wealthy hate Belarus is that it was the only former Soviet Republic that didn’t give away the bulk of its nationalized property.

The Russian billionaires have invested hundreds of billions in London and New York City money markets. This flight of capital helped prop up the U.S. dollar and British pound.

The oligarchs in the former Soviet Republics are justly hated by the poor and working people there. The Western class that will have to deal with them like the workers did in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

We have our own oligarchs to deal with. They own half the earth and are the enemies of humankind.

Don’t let our struggle against racism and poverty be derailed by a war drive against Russia.
March 10 – The Ukrainian authorities, being in a state of shock and fear for their fate, organized a widespread witch hunt. Every day in the territories controlled by Kiev, there are detentions, abductions and torture of political activists and civilians who disagree with the policies of the central government.

People simply disappear and only a few days later, relatives or friends start sounding the alarm, it becomes clear that something has happened to them. Political activists and public figures who opposed the Ukrainian authorities are now recording uncharacteristic video messages to the Russian authorities and celebrating a widespread witch hunt. Every day, the authorities arrest people or keep them in a pre-trial detention center.

In Mariupol, the theater was a symbol of this. The city's theater claims to have been attacked with cluster bombs. Therefore, the Odessa massacre. His wife was wounded and captured by the Ukrainian Nazis, they called his wife a Russian war criminal. The victim Alexander Voskodoinov, they demand that the door be opened for them or they will knock it down. When the parents opened it, the nationalists went in with the weapons in their hands.

We have all witnessed the horrific footage of the torture of prisoners of war, including a military pilot. When he was wounded and captured by the Ukrainian Nazis, they called his wife from his phone and told her to look for her husband, hinting that they would kill him.

It is impossible to watch without tears the video in which Ukrainian emergency doctors, instead of providing medical care, mock patients by exerting moral pressure on them and filming it on cameras.

All these egregious facts testify to the widespread and gross violation of basic human rights. All these facts testify to the violation of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, adopted on August 12, 1949.

We must believe that the people of the U.S. and Europe need to know who their governments support. They should know that their taxes are spent on torture and abuse, on the maintenance of neo-Nazi organizations, which in many countries, including Russia, are considered illegal.

We urge you to go to the consulates and embassies of Ukraine and demand the release of illegally detained political refugees and journalists. Demand an end to the witch hunt. Demand respect for human rights and the rule of law.

They can still be saved!

Alexey Albu is a coordinator of Borotba (Struggle) and a survivor of the Odessa massacre. He was released in exile from Ukraine since 2014.

Translated by Greg Butterfield
By John Parker

War drives present avalanches of biased information, making difficult the discernment of reality vs what is simply wrenched propaganda. Our corporatized media, as in all war drives, switched gears from seemingly ob- jective reporting to robotic alle- giance to one narrative of the U.S. No person or organization wants to lose friends and support taking stands for truth in such an environment. But if we don’t, we will highlight the alternative media sources in Ukraine reporting a totally different story. And, in Europe, media sources to train and develop our own for truth in such an environment.

FUND THE POLICE – REALLY BIDEN?

Considering the entities of capital- ism, for example, the military and police – what are their functions in keeping capitalism alive. For those answers they also studied another revolution – Vladimir Lenin, leading the Bolsheviks here in Russia in 1917, a revolution that allowed, for the first time, working people – our class – to take control over the plants and factories and to utilize them for their benefit.

And, it’s good thing because it was the same path that ended up destruc- ting Nazi Germany during World War II because of its because of its root cause of this war – U.S. impe- rialism – and expose the rise of fas- cism, not coward and promote exc- uses they so desperately need to justify their proxy war. We must remain on the correct side of history.

John Parker is a leading member of the Socialist Unity Party and a longtime member of PFP. He is the PFP candidate for U.S. Sen- ate in Election 2022.

Source: https://www.peaceandfreedom.us/positions/pfp-chair-statements/pfp-statements-war-russia-ukraine-nato

Call for solidarity with Ukrainian leftists under repression

By Repression of the Left and Dissenters in Ukraine

Since the Russian intervention in Ukraine, representatives of the far-right and liberal milieu have been spreading calls for violence and even for the killing of those who had previously publicly advocated the implementation of the Minsk agree- ments, against “decriminalization” and for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Donbass. Activists of left-wing groups were the first to be threatened.

Lists of unreliable activists have emerged. Some “left-wing activists” also start- ed compiling lists of “wrong leftists.” Such lists, such as the one published by March 3, offer levies to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), which is typical for him are appearing in his social media. This is when the police keep us in fear and target the most exploited as the system pushes us further into poverty.

That right arm of capitalism – the police who protect the haves from the have-nots – will never be negoti- ated with. Left-wing activism exists, unless the ruling class is forced to disband them by a mightier force than their own police and military. We have the potential to become that force by understanding our government, led the war crimes against the people of Donbass for the past 6 years, costing 16,000 lives.

Last November’s appointment by President Zelensky of Nazi leader Dmitro Yarosh as adviser to Com- munist leader Ksenia Sobchak ex- plains why Luhansk and Donetsk, now independent republics, had every right to ask for Russia’s help. And it was also Russia’s right to stop an existential threat on its borders – including the real possibility of a Nazi-led, white supremacist mili- tary possessing NATO weaponry. This war will only stop and es- calate when the U.S. is forced to end the expansion. We must target the root cause of this war – U.S. impe- rialism – and expose the rise of fas- cism, not coward and promote ex- uses they so desperately need to justify their proxy war. We must remain on the correct side of history.

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On March 7, journalist Dmitriy Dzhangirow, a member of the New Socialism party, Vasyl Volha, a former leader of the Union of Left Forces, journalist Yury Dudkin and publicist Aleksandr Karevin were detained in Kiev. Karevin managed to post a video of him, possibly under physical duress, saying things that are not typical of him.

On March 11, left-wing activist Spartak Golovachev disappeared in Kharkiv. “The door is being broken down by armed men in Ukrainian uniforms. Goodbye,” he managed to write on social media.

It should be noted that there is fighting for Kharkiv, but in general it is under the control of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On March 11, in Odessa, the SBU detained Elena Lysenko, the daughter of Mikhail Vyacheslavov, who died on May 2, 2014, in the fire at Odessa House of Trade Unions. On March 12, she was released, hav- ing previously recorded a video in which she slanders her husband.

On March 13, in a village near Odessa, neighbors with nationalist sentiments burned down the house of left-wing activist Dmitry Lazarev. The whereabouts of several mem- bers of the left-wing New Socialism and Derzhava parties are also unknown. They have stopped making contact or writing anything on social media. They may be in hiding, but they may also have been detained. All indications are that as the military operations intensify, the repression of dissenters and leftists will continue. Our capacity to defend the rights of the politically repressed in Ukraine is now very limited. And solidarity with Ukrainian political prisoners by the left and human rights defenders in all countries is very important to us.
Ukrainians granted Temporary Protected Status by the U.S., the country that displaced them

By Bayani

On March 3, the Department of Homeland Security designated Ukraine for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months.

What is Temporary Protected Status?

TPS gives exemption from deportation, eligibility to apply for work authorization, and the possibility to begin a path to citizenship. In the U.S. it does not prevent you from filing for residency or citizenship.

The Department of Homeland Security decides what countries are eligible for Temporary Protected Status. They say they base their decision on what they call “temporary conditions” – an ongoing armed conflict or an environmental disaster, for example.

So is Ukraine being granted TPS a bad thing?

Of course not. The U.S. and NATO engaged in conflict with Russia through Ukraine. The least they could do is offer Ukrainians some measure of safety passage. (Of course, leave it to the fascist elements of the Ukrainian military and police to halt, harass, and murder non-white, non-Christian refugees at the border.)

What’s the problem then?

At issue is the double standard upheld by U.S. imperialism. In a better world, migrants and refugees would not need to rely on whether their country is eligible for Temporary Protected Status – we could travel and begin a path to citizenship anywhere in the world, for any reason.

After all, multinational corporations have that freedom now.

Further, the countries currently designated for TPS are countries either directly or indirectly under attack by U.S. imperialism. Myanmar, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen are on the list of eligible countries.

The U.S. military, via AFRICOM, occupies and bombs Somalia, for example. Somalia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen are under the attack of U.S. sanctions, that is, economic warfare. Saudi Arabia, with the help of U.S. funding and arms, bombs Yemen regularly. El Salvador is still struggling decades after the U.S.-backed coup. And, of course, Syria has been the target of a U.S.-backed war campaign for nearly a decade. And so on and so on.

Meanwhile, there are still plenty of nations either under attack or reeling from intervention by the U.S., whose people now struggle tooth-and-nail to be able to live in the U.S., the nation that caused their displacement in the first place.

Undocumented students and workers have led numerous struggles for extending and maintaining TPS, for the DREAM Act, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), in many cases successfully. Migrants from all over the world fight to claim asylum, being forced to prove to the same system that displaced them that they qualify for asylum. Even Iraqis and Afghans, promised a life in the U.S. in exchange for military cooperation, have trouble proving their case.

That Ukraine has gained Temporary Protected Status, after having its fascist coup and fascist military and police being backed and funded by the United States, is yet another page in the book against U.S. imperialism.

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How socialist Cuba helped Ukrainian children

By Stephen Milews

The United States Congress just cut $7.6 billion in coronavirus aid from a budget bill. It did so to ship nearly $14 billion in weapons and other war supplies to Ukraine. Other NATO countries have also sent billions of dollars in deadly arms.

But where was the U.S. government and its NATO allies when Ukrainians desperately needed medical help following the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster?

These capitalist regimes didn’t do much as Ukrainians suffered and died from radiation poisoning. It was like President Bush letting Black and poor people drown and starve in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

The April 26, 1986, Chernobyl tragedy was a global disaster and a turning point in the capitalist world market. The United States Congress just cut $7.6 billion in coronavirus aid from a budget bill. It did so to ship nearly $14 billion in weapons and other war supplies to Ukraine. Other NATO countries have also sent billions of dollars in deadly arms. The year after Chernobyl, Gosplan—the agency that guided the Soviet Union’s planned socialist economy—was dissolved. So was the socialist state’s control of its foreign trade—two-thirds of the island country’s commodity to make profits from like in the capitalist United States.

The year before Chernobyl, in a sharp turn to the right, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party. The country of 280 million people that defeated Hitler was starting to go down a swift slope towards the overthrow of its socialist system.

The year after Chernobyl, Gospolz—another instrument of the Soviet Union’s planned socialist economy—was dissolved. So was the socialist state’s control of its foreign trade. The year before Chernobyl, in a sharp turn to the right, Mikhail Gorbachev was elected General Secretary of the Communist Party. The country of 280 million people that defeated Hitler was starting to go down a swift slope towards the overthrow of its socialist system.

Fidel welcomes the children

Socialist Cuba stepped up to help. The small country treated 26,000 children from the former Soviet republics between 1990 and 2011. A large majority were Ukrainian.

The first plane of children arrived at Havana airport from the then existing Soviet Union on March 29, 1990. Even though it was late at night, Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz was there. He sympathetically greeted each of the 139 children who came.

Fidel, the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, described how this vast program came about: “This was a request from the Leninist Youth of Ukraine and later coordination with the authorities of Ukraine and the Soviet Union. We said ‘yes’ immediately and took all the necessary steps in the shortest time. I believe that we can give optimum attention to these children here. We have the necessary conditions and I hope that we can be as successful as possible.”

Tarará, a beautiful resort village on the eastern edge of Havana, was taken over to treat the children. The program lasted until the year 2005.

During these 21 years, 26,114 children received care. The vast majority of children were saved. Over 21,000 were under 15 years old.

Thousands of surgeries were performed. The 170,000 clinical studies became an invaluable database on radiation-caused diseases in children. It was shared with the rest of the world.

No one was asked if they had insurance. In socialist Cuba health care is considered a human right—not a commodity to make profits from unlike in the United States.

Soon after the first children arrived Cuba was thrust into what it called a “special period.” More than two-thirds of the island country’s foreign trade was cut off as counter revolutions swept the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The U.S. continued trying to strangle the Cuban Revolution. It tightened its economic blockade, and American warships passing the Helms–Burton bill.

Yet not a single Cuban hospital or school was closed. Cuba continued to treat Chernobyl survivors at no cost to their families.

Sacha’s story

Many of the sick children stayed

From the Cuban documentary film “Sacha, A Child of Chernobyl.”

These reactionary measures unraveled the socialist economy that had been built by the working class through a dozen five-year plans. The first victim was the solidarity between different nationalities and peoples.

This friendship was forged by the 1971 socialist revolution that led to the world’s first and largest affirmative action program. It was further strengthened during World War II when 27 million Soviet people saved a hundred nations and saved the world from the Nazis.

Now it was everyone for themselves. Health care suffered as sectors became privatized.

Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian, as well as Belarusian and Russians, fell ill from the Chernobyl meltdown and explosion. Many died. Most heartbreakingly were the children who developed cancers and other diseases.

People wait for transportation after crossing the Ukrainian border into Poland, in Medyka, eastern Poland, on March 11.
Cuba helped Ukrainian children.

By Stephen Millies

On March 16, President Joe Biden called Cuban diplomats from Foreign Minister Vladimir Putin a war criminal. How is this different from the white-supremacist Sen. Lindsey Graham denouncing Putin’s assassination?

One week later, Biden ordered flags lowered to half-mast across the United States upon the death of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Albright has been called an unindicted war criminal. Albright was a member of the Bush family.

In the former Yugoslavia, the 1998–1999 conflict there is called by some “the only war in which America didn’t kill all the children”. A member of the Clinton administration, championed the 78-day bombardment of Yugoslavia by NATO — that started exactly 23 years ago this month.

Children died because war was forbidden by sanctions to import so-called dual-use items like chlorine, which is used to purify water and treat sewage. As a result typhoid and other water-borne diseases soared.

The notorious interview tour of the world for its defense of mass murder. But you won’t find any mention of it in the New York Times’ obituary of Albright.

This is the great, liberal New York Times, that claims to include “all the news that’s fit to print.” Nobody should trust its coverage of the war drive against Russia.

The 81 million people who voted against Trump and racism shouldn’t trust Joe Biden, either. Racist Lindsey Graham is trying to stop Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson from becoming the first Black woman on the U.S. Supreme Court.

But when it comes to Russia, Biden and Graham see eye-to-eye.

Why isn’t Kissinger, Cheney & Bush arrested?

If Biden is so concerned about war criminals, why hasn’t he had Henry Kissinger arrested? The former Secretary of State & National Security Advisor committed war crimes on three continents.

Millions more people were killed in Cambodia under Pol Pot and in Iran because Kissinger and Nixon refused to sign a peace treaty until 1973. If they had signed the same treaty in 1969 — as Vietnam asked for — 20,000 less GIs would have come home in a box.

Kissinger gave the go ahead for the original 9/11, the bloody overthrow of the elected socialist Chilen president Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973. “I don’t see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its people,” said Kissinger. “The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves.”

That self-determination according to the U.S. State Department and Wall Street.

“You did a great service to the West in overthrowing Allende,” Kissinger told the dictator Pinochet, who had thousands tortured to death.

Kissinger also gave a green light for the United States and Iran to invade East Timor. One out of three people in East Timor were killed.

Yet Congress wanted to invade Cuba for its military support of the People’s Republic of Angola in defeat-

The shooting of a passenger train in Serbia after being hit by two missiles launched from a NATO F-15, April 12, 1999. At least 20 commuters were killed.

ing the Nazi army of then- apartheid South Africa.

Angola saved thousands of African lives by sending the CIA mercenary Costas Georgiou to the firing squad and thus intimidating other killers for hire.

U.S. and NATO-paid mercenaries have flocked to Ukraine. Alongside fascist gangs like the Azov Battalion, they are propping up Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who has banned every political party except his own.

Let’s not forget the war crimes of Dick Cheney and the Bush family.

Former Vice President Cheney called the torture of thousands of Muslims to be “enhanced interrogation.” Cheney’s sidekick — bemeddled White House occupant George W. Bush — presided over a million people killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

George’s dad — President George H.W. Bush — invaded Panama. The Pentagon never revealed the number of people killed there.

Earlier as CIA director, Daddy Bush had Cuba de Aviacion Flight 455 bombed on Oct. 6, 1976. All 73 people on board were killed; it was a re-venge murder for Cuba’s support of African liberation.

Capitalism built on war crimes

War crimes started America “great.” Over a hundred Indigenous nations were invaded.

Massacres started with the Pilgrims and extended beyond Bound- ed Knee. Keeping the political pris- oner-of-war Leonard Peltier in jail for 46 years is a war crime.

The African Holocaust never stopped either. U.S. and world capi-
talism was built upon it.

Wall Street became the country’s financial center by being the bank-
ing house for Southern slave owners. While today New York City has nu-

merial green money banks, it once oper-
ated a slave market on Wall Street.

By recognizing Belgian King Leo-
pold’s “Congo Free State,” U.S. Presi-
dent Chester Arthur provided po-

tical cover for murdering 8-to-15

lenn from the Indigenous Peoples and


Ending the U.S. occupied and took all or most of the parts of the current states of California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona. Millions of acres of Mexican land were stolen from the Indigenous Peoples and Mexican farmers who lived there; more than a hundred thousand died. South Carolina’s John Calhoun, speaking in praise of the seizure of the Mexican land, declared, “Ours is the government of the white man!”

A ren of Yugoslavia?

President Biden was directed to call President Putin a war criminal because the Pentagon wants a ren of the Yugoslavia tragedy.

NATO planes bombed Yugoslavia, the last socialist country in Europe, for 78 days in 1999. Yugoslavia’s elected President Slobodan Mi-

lošević was kidnapped and framed on war crimes charges because he resisted NATO.

Milošević died suddenly just as it looked like he could win an appeal. For some observers this was remi-

nient of Lee Harvey Oswald’s as-

sassin Jack Ruby dying suddenly af-

2002 after he was granted a new trial.

The Pentagon wants to give Presi-
dent Putin the same treatment or just be assassinated. To the bank-

ers that run the United States, it’s intolerable that the six million square miles of the Russian Feder-

ation isn’t occupied by U.S. and NATO troops.

Neither Joe Biden nor the New York Times has ever denounced the deaths of over 14,000 people in the Donbas.

This real war crime was committed at the hands of a Ukrainian regime supported by the U.S. and NATO.

The Russian Federation is giving indispensable help to anti-fascists in Ukraine. Don’t be fooled by the capitalist media. Hands off Ukraine and the Donbas!”
Stop NATO! No war on Russia and Donbass

By John Parker

If you happen to be in downtown Los Angeles and come across Skid Row, everywhere you look there is evidence of suffering from the humanitarian war crime of capitalism and homelessness. I’m reminded of the tens of thousands facing due to low wages, joblessness, rents driven up by perfectly legal exorbitant increases. If you’re not already homeless, you may be soon if this economic war against us continues. And this is like a unverified virus enabled by capitalism. The 79% inflation rate doesn’t help. The big money, to serve rent and especially – thanks to the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine – not only that, the $16 billion covid-relief fund was cut for this war.

But, no problem. Working-class folks, even those facing desperate circumstances, understand sacrifice for the sake of others, especially children’s lives.

The reality, however, is that our sacrifices are for the endless wars in Afghanistan and Columbus, for the profits of those in the U.S. whose existence depends on the expansion of war and misery.

But what about all the news reports of civilians being targeted by the Russians and that “crazy” Putin? This is what happens when plans for imperial war are finally implemented (see Ukraine: It was all written in the Rand Corp plan 3 years ago). See the latest targets of U.S. imperialism, and the individuals that represent those targets.

First, then Britain wanted to escalate war with Germany during World War I, they launched the British cruise liner Lusitania, traveling from New York to Liverpool, England, through a declared maritime war zone. Germany had already made it very clear that vessels in that zone would be considered an enemy vessel and would be attacked. So, it was calculated that the U.S. would not join the war. The tragedy was used to justify the U.S. entrance into the war two years later. The known victims of this mass murder were permanently featured photos of those killed. The U.S. used this coverage as a primary tool for propaganda and military recruitment.

After World War I, it was exposed that the sunken Lusitania was also carrying 50 tons of ammunition. This kind of tactic is being used now, with 50 tons of ammunition.

Now the British didn’t want war with Germany, nor was it anything like the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine – “We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, the Russians have killed thousands. Here’s a photo of Ukraine. And, you know, is the price worth it?”

Albright replied only: “I think the price is very high, but the price – we think the price is worth it.” This based on evidence her administration knew was a lie and the definition of evil in the Merriam-Webster dictionary is “something that brings sorrow, distress, or care.” Even the Webster’s definition of a word to describe U.S. imperialism and its enablers.

Today, along with the corporate media, talk-show hosts, Hollywood scripts, misinformation passed off as truth, an essential part of the Pentagon, the mainstream media, Congress is again playing to the American people, instead of reporting coverage favorable to the Ukrainian government. This information came out in Ukraine exposing the Azov Battalion when they took over hospitals, schools and apartment buildings in Mariupol that were then shown in the U.S. media as civilian buildings and not Azov Battalion outposts. Doctored and mislabeled videos and photos were prevalent during the beginning of the Russian intervention, even showing Israeli bombings and Palestinian resistance as “evidence” of Russian brutality and Ukrainian resistance.

The bombing by Nazi-led forces (NATO) - the air war that killed 500,000 children: “My job isn’t to assess the government’s information and be an independent intelligence analyst myself. My job is to help do the job of The New York Times what the government thought about Iraq’s arsenal.”

In that “apology” from the editors of the Times they correctly stated that the fault was not just of the journalists reporting the story. This was a very important lesson – a process that accepted without question information lining up to support the State Department. Unfortunately, like racism, that process is very much a component of the military-industrial complex.

In 1996 Lesley Stahl of 60 Minutes interviewed then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright about the death of children in the NATO war on Yugoslavia: “We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, the Russians have killed thousands. Here’s a photo of Ukraine. And, you know, is the price worth it?”

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On the 19th anniversary of Iraq War:

The U.S. government lied about Iraq – it’s lying about Russia & Ukraine

EXPOSE THE LIES

March 20 marks 19 years since the U.S. invasion of Iraq, based on a lie about “weapons of mass destruction.” The U.S. always lies about its wars. Here’s how Washington and NATO provoked the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

Lie #1: Russia is the aggressor against Ukraine

Russia didn’t start the war. Ukraine has been at war for eight years against the Donbass republics, Donetsk and Lugansk. Ukraine’s war has cost over 14,000 lives in Donbass. Like Yemen, U.S. media ignored the human toll and U.S. role in the conflict. For months, Washington pushed Ukraine to invade Donbass again. Russia only intervened to stop a bloodbath and end the war, as well as to ensure the neutrality of its neighbor. Ukraine continues to commit daily war crimes in Donbass, including a March 14 missile attack that killed more than 20 people in Donetsk.

Lie #2: Ukraine is a democracy that must be defended

In 2014 a violent coup overthrew the legally elected government of Ukraine, which tried to maintain friendly relations with both the West and Russia. The coup was supported by U.S. officials and both Republican and Democratic politicians. The new government banned political parties, kept national minorities from using their languages, and engaged in repression against journalists and oppositionists. Neo-Nazi groups played a major role in the coup. Today they infest the Ukrainian state from top to bottom. These groups work with white supremacists in the U.S. and Europe and pose a danger to people everywhere.

Lie #3: The U.S. is an innocent bystander

The U.S. poured the gasoline, lit the match and fans the flames of war. Biden sent hundreds of tons of weapons to Ukraine and pushed Russia into a corner. Why? To justify further expansion of NATO, undermine Russia’s sovereignty and increase profits by sanctioning Russian exports. Washington ignored Russia’s serious concerns about Ukraine’s neutrality and NATO expansion for decades. The U.S. sabotaged the Minsk agreements meant to make peace in the region. It pressured its “socios” to sink a pipeline agreement with Russia for the benefit of U.S. Big Oil and Wall Street banks.

Lie #4: Poor and working people should sacrifice

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi justified torpedoeing money to fight COVID from the budget because “We’ve got a war going on in Ukraine.” Congress agrees: There’s plenty of money for war. Meanwhile prices of gas, food and rents are skyrocketing. Public schools are in crisis. Millions face eviction with the end of pandemic protections, while money continues to fund state-sponsored white supremacy. Police brutality and repression against immigrants continues unabated, while President Biden pushes racist violence with calls to “Fund the police,” in the same breath as he funds Nazi-led armed forces in Ukraine. We reject the bipartisan policy of war against people at home and abroad.

Help expose the lies.
Build a movement for people’s needs, not war!

En el 19° aniversario de la Guerra de Irak:

El gobierno de EUA mintió sobre Irak y miente sobre Rusia y Ucrania

EXPONGAMOS LAS MENTIRAS

El 20 de marzo se cumplen 19 años desde la invasión estadounidense de Irak, basada en una mentira sobre “armas de destrucción masiva.” Estados Unidos siempre miente sobre sus guerras. Aquí se muestra cómo Washington y la OTAN provocaron el conflicto entre Ucrania y Rusia.

Mentira #1: Rusia es el agresor contra Ucrania

Rusia no empezó la guerra. Ucrania ha estado en guerra durante ocho años contra las repúblicas del Donbass, Donetsk y Lugansk. La guerra de Ucrania ha costado más de 14,000 vidas en Donbass. Al igual que en Yemen, los medios estadounidenses ignaron el costo humano y el papel de EUA en el conflicto. Durante meses, Washington presionó a Ucrania para que volviera a invadir Donbass. Rusia solo intervino para detener un baño de sangre y poner fin a la guerra, así como para garantizar la neutralidad de su vecino. Ucrania continúa cometiendo crímenes de guerra diarios en Donbass, incluyendo un ataque con misiles el 14 de marzo que mató a más de 20 personas en Donetsk.

Mentira #2: Ucrania es una democracia que debe ser defendida

En 2014, un violento golpe de Estado derrocó al gobierno elegido legalmente de Ucrania, que intentaba mantener relaciones amistosas tanto con Occidente como con Rusia. El golpe fue apoyado por funcionarios estadounidenses y políticos de ambos partidos políticos. El nuevo gobierno prohibió los partidos políticos, impidió que las minorías nacionales usaran sus idiomas y emprendió la represión contra periodistas y opositores. Los grupos neonazis jugaron un papel importante en el golpe, y hoy infestan el estado ucraniano de arriba abajo. Estos grupos trabajan con supremacistas blancos en UEA y Europa y representan un peligro para las personas en todas partes.

Mentira #3: Estados Unidos es un espectador inocente

Estados Unidos echó gasolina, encendió el fósforo y avivó las llamas de la guerra. Biden envió cientos de toneladas de armas a Ucrania y arrojó a Rusia. ¿Por qué? Para justificar una mayor expansión de la OTAN, socavar la soberanía de Rusia y aumentar las ganancias sancionando las exportaciones rusas. Washington ignoró las serias preocupaciones de Rusia sobre la neutralidad de Ucrania y la expansión de la OTAN durante décadas. Estados Unidos sabotó los acuerdos de Minsk destinados a mantener la paz en la región. Presionó a sus “socios” de la UE para destruir un acuerdo de oleoducto con Rusia y así beneficiar las grandes petroleras estadounidenses y los bancos de Wall Street.

Mentira #4: Las/os pobres y las/os trabajadores deberían sacrificarse

La presidenta de la Cámara de Representantes Nancy Pelosi, justificó cortar dinero del presupuesto para luchar contra COVID porque “tenemos una guerra en Ucrania.” El Congreso coincide: hay mucho dinero para la guerra. Mientras tanto, los precios de la gasolina, la comida y los alquileres se están disparando. Las escuelas públicas están en crisis. Millones se enfrentan al desalojo por el fin de las protecciones contra la pandemia, mientras que el dinero continúa financiando la supremacía blanca patrocinada por el estado. La brutalidad policial y la represión contra las/os inmigrantes continúan sin cesar, mientras que el presidente Biden impulsa la violencia racista con llamados a “financiar a la policía”, al mismo tiempo que financian las fuerzas armadas dirigidas por los nazis en Ucrania. Rechazamos la política bipartisan que destruye las personas en este país y en el exterior.

Ayudemos a exponer las mentiras.
¡Construyamos un movimiento para las necesidades de las personas, no para la guerra!

The Enlargement of NATO, 1949-2018

1949-1955
1955-59
1960-66
1967-72
1973-77
1978-84
1985-90
1990-97
2000-present

PARTIDO DE SOCIALISMO UNIDO
Socialist Unity Party
Struggle-La-Lucha.org

March 28, 2022
¿Nueva era en Puerto Rico? De miseria y lucha

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

El pasado 14 de marzo, las televi- soras boricuas publicaron un corto mensaje pre grabado del goberna- dor Pierluisi donde anunciaba con bombos y platillos una Nueva Era para Puerto Rico. Supuestamente ya no estamos en quiebra y se abre ¡Una nueva era de prosperidad!

Eso, porque el próximo día se cumpliría el plazo para la imple- mentación del Plan de Ajuste de la Deuda – ilegal y odiosa – impuesto por el Congreso estadounidense a través de su Junta de control Fiscal.

Tanto el ejecutivo como la legis- latura hicieron todo lo posible para desviar los reclamos del pueblo y obe- dence cieran ciegamente a la JCF y ese 15 de marzo comenzó a regir la priori- dad de pagarle a los bonistas mucho más de lo que habían pagado inicial- mente por los bonos, antes que cub- bir las necesidades del pueblo.

Comenzó la destrucción del país: comenzó el aumento masivo en el costo de vida que ya de por sí es in- sostenible. Los recortes en pro- gramas que benefician a las personas con más desventajas, la reducción de pensiones, como por ejemplo del magisterio que han llevado a que 2,800 educadores se retiren ahora para poder conservar su jubilación, porque de lo contrario vivirían en una miseria absoluta después de 30 años de servicio al país.

Decenas de los 78 municipios ex- istentes que son quienes ofrecen los servicios a su población en situa- ciones de emergencia podrían cerrar. Hasta la Escuela pública de Medicina – en medio de una pandemia – per- diera su acreditación por los recortes tan profundos que se la ha impuesto. Por eso aquí no queda más que ir contra el gobierno y sus lacayos y contra la dominación yanqui.

Fund racial justice, not the police!

Continued from page 3

havór or not.

George Zimmerman, the vigilan- te who killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, believed he was providing a needed service to his neighborhood. So did the two vigilantes, Gregory McMichael and Travis McMichael, who killed 25-year-old Ahmaud Al- bery while William Bryan recorded the fatal shooting. The McMichaels reported the murder; Bryan turned in the video footage and was sent home, no arrests made. Two months later a local attorney published Bry- an’s video and it went viral. The Mc- Michaels were arrested and Bryan was arrested shortly after. If this is the way it works for non-police, imagine what the racist police of- ficers get away with daily. The fre- quency of police murders and the intense racist, corrupt criminal jus- tice system makes it evident that the whole criminal justice system needs to go.

The greatest purveyor of violence

The words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are as true today as they were when he said them 55 years ago: “Gentlemen, youSunday, March 27, 2022

Continued from page 10

in Dnipropetrovsk (Dnipro), or the 37 other journalists detained in ear- ly March, have been jailed. In Kiev, arrests began even earlier. On Feb. 27, brothers Mikhail Kononovich and Aleksandr Kononovich, leaders of the Ukrainian Communist Youth, members of the World Federation of Democratic Youth as well as ethnic Belarusians, were seized and are be- ing imprisoned along with members of other organizations we in the So- cialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha have been working with in Donbass. Last week I was commu- nicateing with someone from one of those organizations. All of those detained are held on dubious charges with little explana- tion from authorities and are being denied legal representation. The children who died in Iraq are just the tip of the iceberg of victims of U.S. and NATO wars where the millions killed in Vietnam, Korea, Yugoslavia, Libya and Yemen. Now in Libya, because of the war by the Obama administration and destruc- tion of civil society, slavery exists – a reality that undoubtedly is de- stroying the lives of children. In Ye- men, the U.S. proxy war led by Saudi Arabia is now causing the starvation of millions of children, according to UN estimates.

If only those corporate editors of the media were as dedicated to ex- posing the war on children as they are in pushing for illegal and inhu- mane wars and proxy wars by the U.S., like the war in Ukraine now. John Parker, of the Socialist Unity Party, is on the ballot as a candidate for the U.S. Senate from California in the June primary of Election 2022...