Attempted U.S. coup televised
Voting rights still being eliminated

The public hearings of the House Committee to investigate the Jan. 6 attack have dramatically confirmed that Donald Trump, former president of the United States, attempted a coup d’état. Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, head of the committee and member of the Congressional Black Caucus, said clearly: “Any legal jurist you hear about ‘seditionary conspiracy,’ ‘obstruction of an official proceeding,’ ‘conspiracy to defraud the United States’ boils down to this: Jan. 6 was the culmination of an attempted coup.”
Thompson added: “It represented Trump’s last, most desperate chance to halt the transfer of power.”

This is unprecedented. An overt coup attempt has not happened in any of the imperialist powers in the last century and exposes the bare threads of capitalist democracy in the U.S. The coup attempt also revealed the stark instability in the U.S. ruling class.

The House hearings, however, conceal more than they reveal.

Pentagon played key role

The Pentagon played a key role in the Jan. 6, 2021, coup attempt, but the hearing has been silent on that.
The Pentagon was deeply involved. Members of the U.S. military, both active and veterans, as well as from numerous police forces across the country, were leading participants.

The “Insurrection Timeline – First the Coup and Then the Cover-Up,” published at “Moyers on Democracy,” details the central role played by Donald Trump and his new Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller.

Miller had been put at the head of the Pentagon on Nov. 9, 2020, six days after the election, in a departmental “regime change” that embedded three fierce Trump loyalists as top Defense Department officials.

Washington Post Bureau Chief Walter Ray Williams Jr. asked Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy — who reports to Miller — for more federal help to deal with the mob that had broken into the Capitol. McCarthy and Miller denied the mayor’s request and blocked deployment of the National Guard until hours later, after the insurrection had already been put down.

The New York Times reported: “President Trump initially rebuffed and resisted requests to mobilize the National Guard to quell violent protests at the Capitol, according to a person with knowledge of the events.”

“In the end, it was Vice President Mike Pence, defense and administration officials said, who approved the order to deploy. It was unclear why Mr. Trump, who is still technically the commander in chief, did not give the order.”

How then was it possible for Pence to deploy the troops, in opposition to Trump? That could only have been done if Trump had been secretly removed as commander-in-chief.

However, Trump and the Pentagon’s coup attempt shows that a section of the ruling class supported a presidential dictatorship. This is confirmed by the fact that Trump’s actions continue to have the overwhelming support of the Republican Party.

Promoting anti-Trump right wing

The House hearings on the Jan. 6 attack are a media spectacle through which they hope to restore some belieff in the U.S. government.
The Democrats have presented a program that’s primarily given voice to right-wing opponents of Trump. As one cartoonist put it, these hearings are biased; we’ve only heard from the Republicans.

At the head of the committee, side-by-side with Representative Thompson, is Wyoming Republican Liz Cheney, who sold out her lesbian sister, opposing gay marriage in order to win the Senate seat.

Previously Liz Cheney held a patronage post in the State Department where she promoted her father Dick Cheney’s lies for invading Iraq.

The hearings have exalted Mike Pence, William Barr, Judge J. Michelle Thompson, and other Republican operatives.

What about voting rights?
The hearings are about a coup attempt. But they do not confront the grave issue of voting rights that cannot be ignored. Jan. 6 was at root an attempt to halt the transfer of power.

By Sharon Black

Los Angeles — With 94% of the vote tallied, John Parker for U.S. Senate won over 97,000 votes in the California primaries on June 7. Parker ran openly as a socialist on the Peace and Freedom Party ballot, representing the Socialist Unity Party.

Election results are still being tallied. June 14 is the last day for mail-in ballots to be counted, and voting results will be certified on July 15.

At this writing, Parker is listed in 8th place among 23 candidates. The top two candidates compete in November’s general election.

Supporters of John Parker’s campaign were elated that so many votes were cast, despite the fact that Parker interrupted his campaign for over two weeks for an urgent war-fact-finding trip to Donbass and Russia, which made the results all the more outstanding.

Campaign organizer Maggie Vassenno explained: “We were worried on two levels: first for John’s safety at the front line in Lugansk; and second that he took time away from vital local campaign work to travel to Donbass and Russia. But he insisted on the importance of being able to bring back the truth of what was taking place in the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine.”

John Parker stated: “The issues in California, such as runaway inflation, evictions and homelessness, the outrageous cost of gas and food, even racism and police terror, are linked to the war. The Biden administration is spending $80 billion to continue the destruction abroad while people are suffering here at home.”

“While I was able to see with my own eyes and document in the field the fascist and neo-Nazis in the U.S./NATO war against the people of the Donbass region, Nazi propaganda is being proliferated by the fascist forces in Ukraine.

“The Azov Battalion’s symbol of the black sun was also used by the racist Buffalo shooter, who said that his inspiration came from a person in New Zealand who was in touch with those forces in Ukraine. This is what the imperialist West is propping up in a war not only against the people in Donbass but also aimed at Russia and then China,” proclaimed Parker.

Campaign organizers continue to meet with groups and individuals who were inspired by the campaign. Parker and the Socialist Unity Party plan a national speaking tour about his trip this summer and fall.

The campaign still needs your support and donations to cover campaign costs and the upcoming speaking tour. Readers can contribute here: https://johnparkergosenate.org/donate/
Resist capitalist ‘trans panic’ strategy

The Socialist Unity Party/Partido de Socialismo Unido and Struggle—La Lucha newspaper salute the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit community as we mark the 53rd anniversary of the heroic Stonewall Rebellion. The spirit of fightback exhibited at Stonewall is needed today as much as ever.

First of all, we offer our solidarity to the Black community of Buffalo, New York, where a white supremacist massacred to African American people on May 14. And we extend our hand to the Latinx community of Uvalde, Texas, where the grief from the tragic May 24 school shooting is compounded by Gov. Greg Abbott’s attempt to exploit it for his anti-immigrant crusade.

As we enter Pride Month 2022, the United States is in the grip of a “trans panic.” Like the “gay panic” that have come before, this is an attempt to divide workers and oppressed people at a time when the capitalist system is in crisis.

The anti-trans campaign is fueled by the rich and powerful, who are desperate to keep us divided by scapegoating the most vulnerable, who are using the attack on trans rights to fund their corporate social responsibility, to cash in on the anger and fear of the right wing and to attract the attention of the popula
cerea de que las per

El Partido de Socialismo Unido/ Socialist Unity Party and the periódico Struggle—La Lucha saludan a la comunidad lesbiana, gay, bisexual, transgénero, queer y de dos espíritus en el marco del 53º aniversario de la heroica Rebelión de Stonewall. El es-
píritu de lucha exhibido en Stonewall se necesita hoy más que nunca.

En primer lugar, ofrecemos nuestra solidaridad a la comunidad negra de Buffalo, N.Y., donde un supremacista blanco masacró a 10 personas afroamericanas el 14 de mayo. Y extendemos nuestra mano a la comunidad latinx de Uvalde, Tex-
as, donde el dolor del trágico tiroteo en la escuela el 24 de mayo se ve agravado por el intento del gobernador Greg Abbott de explotarla para su cruzada contra los inmigrantes.

A medida que ingresamos al Mes del Orgullo Gay 2022, Esta-
do Unidos se sume en un “pánico trans”. Al igual que los “pánicos ho-
ores ilustrados” que han sido producidos antes, este es un intento de dividir a trabajadores y oprimidos en un mo-
mento en que el sistema capitalista está en crisis.

La campaña anti-trans está impulsada por los ricos y poderosos, que están desesperados por mantenerlos divididos utilizándolos más y más como chivos expiatorios, convenciendo a quienes carecen de conciencia de clase de que las per-

Trans panic = more violence

State legislatures across the country have taken up more than 300 anti-LGBTQ2S bills so far this year, most of them targeting trans people and especially trans children.


Bodily autonomy, at the heart of trans people’s ability to live under this system, is at stake, as courts and legislatures work to turn back the clock to reinforce patriarchal capitalist norms that treat the bodies of women, children, people of color and LGBTQ2S people as the property of rich white cis men.

When Texas Gov. Abbott failed to get a law passed to criminalize gender- affirming care for trans kids he issued an executive order to open criminal investigations against parents, healthcare providers, teachers and anyone else who supports trans youth. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey signed a law to forcibly out and detransition trans children.

In Florida, the “Don’t Say Gay” law championed by Gov. Rick De-
Santis bans discussion of LGBTQ2S existence in state classrooms. Other states have banned trans youth from participating in sports or using school restrooms. Teachers may be forced to report trans students to their parents or are allowed to mis-

genre and leftover syn
cos extraídas junto a las vías del

Continued on page 4

El Partido de Socialismo Unido/ Socialist Unity Party and the periodi-
cos Struggle—La Lucha publish the following discussion on the capitalist system. For this anniversary of the May 24 shootings in Stonewall, the police has arrested the poorest of the poor, and the most vulnerable. Others still have not been able to resist capitalist pressures. The police arrest the poorest of the poor.

In Florida, the law “No digas gay” defended by the governor Rick DeSantis defends the discussion about gender in public schools.

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Solidarity with Cuba, trans people at Queens Pride

By Melinda Butterfield

Thousands of people gathered in the multinational immigrant neighborhood of Jackson Heights in Queens, New York, for the 25th Queens Pride Parade June 5. For the past two years the event was held virtually because of the pandemic. Significantly, coming during the nationwide “trans panic” aimed at divesting the working class, solidarity with trans, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people was very visible at the march. This included a contingent carrying a massive Trans Pride flag. Parade organizers also handed out small trans flags along with rainbow flags to the crowd.

Supporters of the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha marched with the NY-NJ Cuba Si Coalition contingent. The response from those lining the streets was overwhelmingly positive, with many chanting “Viva Cuba!” or running up to take photos with the coalition’s banner. Activists distributed leaflets for the monthly Cuba solidarity caravan calling for the end of the U.S. blockade. On June 25, New York’s caravan will be held in Jackson Heights for the first time. For info visit US-CubaNormalization.org.

By Melinda Butterfield

Pride Month announcement from Struggle-La Lucha co-editor

Followings is a special announcement from the co-editor of Struggle-La Lucha, formerly known as Greg Butterfield.

Happy Pride Month! I have some personal news to share with Struggle-La Lucha readers. I’m proud to say that I am coming out as a trans woman. My name is Melinda. My pronouns are she/her/them.

There’s a particular quote from revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin that has always appealed to me. According to Romanian poet Valeriu Marcu, he said this during a conversation at a cafe in Zurich, Switzerland, shortly before the Russian Revolution began.

Perhaps it’s apocryphal or embellished, but it has the flavor of something Lenin might have said: “I don’t know how radical you are, or how radical I am. I am certainly not radical enough. One can never be radical enough, that is, one must always try to be as radical as reality itself.”

I have always tried to hold myself to that standard politically. But personally it was another matter. Until last year, I hid the “radical reality” of who I am even from myself. But now I’m finally ready to share it with the world.

Several things converged last year that forced me to seriously reckon with my gender after a lifetime of denial. That denial was rooted in an abused adolescent’s attempt to survive in a time and place where there were no words for what I was, and no chance of being accepted. I did such a thorough job of burying the real me that by the time I went to New York in my late teens and was befriended by trans revolutionary Leslie Feinberg, I had no clue that I was trans myself.

What I realized in 2021, after several months of intense introspection and learning, was that I needed to acknowledge my truth — first to myself, and then to the world.

A trans sister and comrade recently told me, “You picked a hell of a time to come out.” It’s true. The situation for trans, non-binary and gender-nonconforming people in the U.S. today is grim and increasingly dangerous. But for me, the hardest part has been resisting the urge to shout it from the rooftops during this awful “trans panic” and ongoing legislative attack on trans kids and youth.

I hope that by speaking about this, it might help others like me to see that they are not too old to embrace their own “radical reality,” whatever that may be. More than ever, the world and especially the youth who are under attack need us to raise our voices and organize, organize, organize.

It’s always been my conviction that the best way to grow solidarity is to show solidarity, and I believe that is true for LGBTQ2S people in the U.S. Our existence has been exploited by U.S. imperialism as a bludgeon against other countries, while the rulers here fight tooth and nail to deny us every hard-earned right.

The truth is, our struggles need each other. We are all part of the same historic, diverse, multifaceted global struggle of the working class against capitalism and imperialism. I’m committed to doing whatever I can to help unite our class in the fight to elevate us all.

I’m very proud to be part of the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha, a communist organization and publication in the tradition of Sam Marcy, Dorothy Ballan and Leslie Feinberg, which has always been in the vanguard of trans liberation and LGBTQ2S solidarity.

My name, pronouns and appearance may change, but my commitment to the revolutionary victory of the workers and oppressed will not.

Thank you for reading.

Solidarity forever,
Melinda Butterfield

Pelea como Sylvia Rivera

¿Cómo podemos contraatacar? Hay muchos ejemplos recientes de unión

d y lucha, especialmente por parte de estudiantes y jóvenes.

En toda América del Norte, desde Salt Lake City, Utah, hasta Des Moines, Iowa, hasta Terranova y Labrador, los estudiantes se han manifestado en gran número para protestar contra las leyes y las medidas represivas dirigidas a las perso-

nas trans. 

Necesitamos urgentemente una protesta nacional masiva como la Marcha en Washington en 1987 por los derechos de lesbianas y gays, celebrada en medio de la crisis del SIDA. Cuando la administración Reagan estaba atacando a los hom-

bres homosexuales, o la Marcha en Washington de 1993 por la igualdad de derechos y la liberación de transgén-

neros, gays y bisexuales de más de un millón de personas.

Pero simplemente salir en grandes cantidades no es suficiente. Debemos aprender de lo que el Grito de la Ciemci-
dad. Esta ocupación para resistir la legislación antisuicidal energizó a los trabajadores de costa a costa, muchos de los cuales viajaron a Madison o recaudaron dinero para apoyar a los mani-

festeros. Si bien la ocupación no ganó en el corto plazo, sentó las bases para la ola de huelgas de docentes que se estima que el 15 de junio de 2022.

Paralelamente, la ocupación por el derecho a marchar en Washington, D.C., el 30 de junio, fue un paso importante en nuestra lucha por el derecho a marchar en público. Esta ocupación, que duró varios días, fue un ejemplo de cómo podemos unirnos en una lucha colectiva por los derechos de las personas transgénero.

Importan, los inmigrantes y los trabajadores, ocupando el capitolio en Texas, Florida u otro estado que ataca las vidas trans!

También debemos reconocer que las guerras y sanciones reaccionarias de EEUU en todo el mundo alimentan los ataques anti-LGBTQ2S en casa.

Cada bomba que el Congreso envía a Ucrania, Israel y Arabia Saudita para las guerras de poder de EEUU estalla aquí, aquí. En el corto plazo, sentó las bases para la ola de huelgas de docentes que se estima que el 15 de junio de 2022.

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The real ‘great replacement’

By Stephen Millies

The most dangerous poison is racism.

This toxic flow filled Paul
Gendron’s bloodstream as the gun-
man went to Buffalo, New York, to
kill Black people.

The latest version of this poison is
the claim that white people are be-
ing “replaced.” Tucker Carlson tells
his Fox News audience that they’re
being pushed aside by immigrants as
well as by all Black, Brown and
Asian people.

This lie was emphasized by the murdere-
r Paul Gendron in his 180-page
“manifesto.”

It wasn’t immigrants that closed
nine of the ten GM plants in Flint,
Michigan, destroying more than
70,000 union jobs between 1980 and
2006. Capitalism committed this
mega job theft.

But in the United Auto Work-
ers union, Flint used to have the
highest average wages in the
United States. Now because of plant clos-
es, 60% of Flint’s children live be-
low the miserably low official pov-
erty level.

To save money, children in the
Black-majority city were deliber-
ately lead-poisoned. Heavily pol-
uted water from the Flint river was
substituted for the clean drinking
water that had come from the Great
Lakes.

That’s a real replacement that
Tucker Carlson won’t talk about.

It isn’t Black or Latinx people who
are responsible for the inflation-ad-
justed wages of over-the-road truck
drivers falling 55% between 1980 and
2021. It was government dereg-
ulation and union-busting attacks
against the Teamsters union that
committed this crime.

The last 50 years has been one
long holiday for the rich. Real aver-
age wages rose just 3% between 1979 and
1989. Meanwhile productivity has
zoomed. Between 1980 and 2021 there were 735 bil-
nion and 2018. Meanwhile productivity
fell.

This was a real great replacement.

The banksters and billionaires were
determined to get rid of their depen-
dence on Black labor in heavy indus-
try.

Back in 1968, a quarter of all auto
workers and steel workers in the U.S.
were Black. That was double the Black
percentage of the population. (‘Or-
ganized Labor and the Black Worker,
1639-1981’ by Philip S. Foner.)

Among them were thousands of
Black workers employed at Bethle-
hem Steel’s Lackawanna works loc-
ated just outside Buffalo. Almost all of
these jobs were destroyed. Buffa-
lo’s Black Community never recov-
ered from the loss.

Using a bankruptcy to make a
profit of $300 million, Trump’s Com-
merce Secretary Wilbur Ross
robbed Bethlehem Steel retirees of
their medical benefits.

White workers were a majority of
those cut off.

The return of Tucker Carlson, who takes home
$35 million per year, won’t mention this
robbery.

Capitalism continually replaces
workers through automation. The
number of railroad workers fell from
1.5 million in 1947 to just 145,000 today.

Black workers are the first
victims of automation. In New York
City alone, installing automatic ele-
vators following World War II threw
20,000 workers out of a job.

Throughout the United States, op-
erating elevators was considered a
“menial occupation” and was gen-
erally reserved for Black men.

A Phillip Randolph attempted to or-
ganize them in New York during the
early 1920s.

The 1934 organizing drive of
building workers in New York City
was enough to push Robert Moses, the
service operator, Thomas Young, who was fired for not saying “down,
people,” into bankruptcy. The
Service Employees International
(‘SEIU’) was born in this strug-
gle. (“Local 32b-32j: Sixty Years of
Progress”)

The biggest replacements of all
time

Telling poor people that they’re being replaced by other poor people
is old and stale. In the 1970s, Feder-
alis in Philadelphia blamed Irish
immigrants for their election loss.
(‘Philadelphia — The Federalist City,’ by Richard G. Miller)

Catholics were accused of wanting
to replace Protestant founders. In
the 1920s, bigots claimed that im-
igrants from Eastern and South-
ern Europe were replacing “old
American stock.”

Italians, Poles, Hungarians and
other immigrants were blamed for
stealing union supporters in the strike
wave that followed World War I. A
special target of the 1924 immigra-
tion act were Jewish people.

African and Asians were entirely excluded.

While the occupation didn’t
win in the short term, it laid the groundwork for the wave of teacher
strikes that swept the country in
2018-2019 and today’s upsurge in
organizing at Amazon, Starbucks
and other anti-union behemoths.

Imagine the power of LGBTQ2S
people and allies from the reproduc-
tive rights struggle, Black Lives
Matter movement, immigrants and
labor, occupying the capitol in Texas,
Florida or another state targeting
trans lives.

We must also recognize that
reactionary U.S. wars and sanctions
around the world fuel anti-LGBTQ2S
attacks at home.

Every bomb Congress sends to
Ukraine, Israel and Saudi Arabia for
U.S. proxy wars explodes here, as do,
Martin Luther King Jr. said during
the Vietnam War. The more desper-
ately needed resources are siphoned
off for the expansion of the U.S.
empire abroad, the more the system
scapegoats us to ensure workers
remain divided and powerless.

Our community cannot effectively
fight the anti-trans, anti-people
offensive at home while supporting
U.S. aggression abroad. When people
struggling against U.S. dominance are
seen by union supporters in the strike
amnesty for Rights are strengthened.

When we extend our solidarity
to those resisting U.S. imperialism, we
open up the opportunity for greater
understanding and participation by
LGBTQ2S people everywhere.

Let’s combine the power of
ACT UP, Queer Nation and those who
fought militantly against the “gay
panic” of the 1980s. Let’s imbue our
struggle with the rage of those people that fueled the Stonewall Rebel-
ion — an uprising led by the most
oppressed Black and Brown, work-
ers, queer, transgender, revolutionary trans and
queer youth.

Resist capitalism’s trans panic
strategy! Fight for socialism — a
system that puts people’s needs
first! [1]
eliminate voting rights. The 2020 presidential election had set the re-


cord, the highest voter turnout in 120 years – a massive popular vote to

throw out Trump.

That was a real Constitutional cri-

sis. The U.S. Constitution was writ-

ten by wealthy landholders and bank-

ers, many of them slaveholders, to

insure the survival of Capitalism. The Con-

stitution decrees that enslaved peoples

are not fully people and excludes the

Indigenous Peoples.

At the time, voting rights were

given only to white men who owned

property. Not until 1919, with the

passage of the 19th Amendment to the

U.S. Constitution, women won the

right to vote.

To protect the slavery, the Con-

gress had created an Electoral College

that chooses the president, not the

populr vote. The slavocracy’s Electoral

College was a form of voting protection

that’s continued to this day. In fact, the coup attempt

used the legal vagaries of the Elec-

trical College as part of its tactics.

With Wall Street, there will be no call to

the Democrats to abolish the anti-dem-

ocratic Electoral College.

Wage and price crisis

The House hear-

ings has been an engaging TV

show, Congress is doing nothing

about the crises of war, racism, rac-

ist violence, sexual and gender

repression and immigrant oppres-

sion. The economy is in crisis, with

the threat of a recession or worse.

The people who have no goal other than to expose what is al-

ready known about Trump. They are
determined to defeat the failure to implement any of the mildest solu-

tions promised by the Biden cam-

paign in the struggle for food, hous-

ing, education, health care, livable

incomes and the right to organize workers’ unions.

Replacement

Continued from page 4

The Tucker Carlsins of the 1930s

weren’t usually attacking Islam. They

were instead fighting to keep Jewish

refugees out of the Unite-

ed States. Anne Frank died in a Nazi

concentration camp because her

family was denied a visa to come to

the United States.

Never forget that land belonging
to Indigenous nations was stolen by

one massacre after another, start-

ted by the Pilgrims. That’s a real re-

placement.

Joe Biden needs to replace Leonard

Pettier’s jail cell with freedom. The

American Indian Movement leader

has spent 45 years in jail.

That’s a real re-

placement.

Joe Biden needs to replace Leonard

Pettier’s jail cell with freedom. The

American Indian Movement leader

has spent 45 years in jail.

The African Holocaust is a cen-
turies-long replacement that along

with the Indigenous Holocaust jump-started the capitalist world-

market. Wall Street became the fi-

nancial center of the United States

because it was the banking house of the

U.S. oil oligarchy.

Capitalism is cooking the earth.

We need to replace it with socialism.

The step first towards a revolu-

tion is to replace the lies of Tucker

Carlson and every other racist with

working class truth.
Peoples Summit opens with a resurgence of solidarity

By Bill Hackwell

On its first of 3 days, the Peoples Summit for Democracy in Los Angeles opened by surpassing expectations in numbers attending and unity. The significant organizational challenges of the event being held at the LA Trade Tech College went smoothly thanks to a committed group of mostly young volunteers who organized everything from the 9 panels that were presented to a large tented area set up to accommodate many of over 250 organizations that represented social justice groups, veterans, students, community-based artisans, unions, women's rights, Latin American solidarity groups and many more.

Organizers reported that of the 1,000 people who had registered over 750 showed up on the first day. In the opening plenary entitled, “Democracy for Who?” it was obvious that this was a serious crowd who had come to learn and connect with others. The urgency connected to the decline of the U.S. in the eyes of the world and its inability to meet even the most basic of needs of the majority of people was obvious. Mono- lo De Los Santos, a key organizer of the Peoples Summit, reminded the crowd that, “this cannot be a one-time event. We have to keep in mind that we must forge unity with all those who are oppressed, exploited and victimized by this system whose time is up.”

Cuba who, like Venezuela and Nicaragua was not invited to Biden’s Summit of exclusion was brought up time and again as an example of a collective society that, despite the over 60 years of blockade and a mountain of sanctions that are now Biden’s responsibility, continues to stand up to empower unified and never wavering dignity. In most panels, the dignity of Cuba was intertwined in the discussion regardless of the topic.

In the panel entitled, Let Cuba Live: Young Voices against the Blockade, moderated by Cheryl La-Bash, co chair of the National Network on Cuba, 3 young women who had recently returned from Cuba explained not only how heart-warming their experience was but how much they learned. There was a separation of belief from everything that they had been told from the official U.S. narrative against Cuba their entire lives and the rich expe- rience of cooperation in sharing and commitment for the common good that they witnessed on the island. The forming of this critical view will not extend to everything else they have been told about the so-called greatest democracy ever.

Danaka Katovich, national co-director of Code Pink expressed the sentiment of the panel by pointing out, “The U.S. never consults with me about my rights as a woman, I can’t even vote on it, where in Cuba women are involved on every level. The whole point of the U.S. block- ade against Cuba is based on cruelty so the U.S. has no right to lecture us about human rights and democracy.”

Perhaps the area where the most discussion and organizing was tak- ing place was on the information- al tables outside where people were signing up and getting into lively conversations about activism and strategies. On our Resumen Latinoamericano table, people were sign- ing up eagerly as one woman said, “I just need to get information from new sources.”

Source: Resumen Latinoamericano – English

Storms at the Summit of the Americas

By Rosa Miriam Elizalde

June 7 was a bad day for Luis Almagro, secretary-general of the Or- ganization of American States (OAS). During the ninth Summit of the Americas, a young man declared to him what he is: an assassin and puppet of the White House, instigator of the coup in Bolivia. He said that Almagro cannot go to give lessons on democracy when his hands are stained with blood. In another room at the summit in Los Angeles, Secretary of State Antony Blinken seemed to be doing no better: several jour- nalists rebuked him for using free- dom of the press to provide cover for the murderers of journalists and for sanctioning, naming and excluding certain countries from this meeting. “De- mocracy or hypocrisy?” could be heard over the loudspeaker that day.

In reality, this stormy summit be- gan with a large diplomatic stumble for the United States, when several Latin American presidents announced they would not participate in the summit because of the exclusion of Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, as well as the White House, while the U.S. State Department still claims the open and unrestricted nature of the meeting’s call. Its website says, “Throughout the United States has demonstrated, and will continue to demonstrate, our commitment to an inclusive process that recognizes input from people and institutions that represent the immense diversity of our hemisphere, and includes Indigen- ous and other historically minor- alized voices.”

Hypocrisy seems to be the glue of this summit, and mainstream U.S. media and analysts declared the June 6-10 meeting a failure before it even started. On June 7, the Washing- ton Post assured readers that “This week’s Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles will be remembered for its absences rather than its potential agreements,” focusing its attention on Mexican President Andrés Manu- el López Obrador, who was the most mentioned political figure in U.S. networks and media on June 7 and 8, even more than U.S. President Joe Biden, according to statistics from Google Trends. Richard N. Haass, who was the adviser to former Sec- retary of State Colin Powell and di- rector of policy planning for the State Department, summed up the disaster superbly in a tweet: “The Summit of the Americas looks to be a debacle, a diplomatic own goal. The U.S. has no trade proposal, no immi- gration policy, and no infrastructure package. Instead, the focus is on who will and will not be there. Unclear is why we pressed for it to happen.”

As can be expected of a meeting for which the invitation list had not been declared just 72 hours before it began, apathy seems to dominate the debate rooms, to which almost no one goes, according to witnesses. Even so, the United States govern- ment did not miss an opportunity to secure the appearance of partic- ipation by the civil society groups on which it bets, and it met with the envoys from Miami, paid for by US- AID, and awarded them with more money. During the summit, Blinken promised a new fund of $9 million to support “independent journalism” to those who already receive $20 million a year for promoting “re- gime change” in Cuba.

This political pageantry is hap- pening in what is essentially a bun- ker, because the Los Angeles Police received more than $15 million to police the summit and militarize a city famous for its homelessness and belts of poverty. The U.S. Democratic Party elite, meanwhile, remain out of touch with the reality of their own country, shaken by daily massacres, increasingly powerless to meet the expectations of citizens, and with most decisions and legislative proj- ects stalled. They are replicating the clichés of the Monroe Doctrine—America for the Americans—and demonstrating what appears to be a commitment to isolationism with respect to Latin America.

The United States rarely takes into account the differentiating fea- tures of its Latin American neigh- bors: cultural, linguistic, religious, and traditional—in short, those that grant and promote a genuine way of understanding life and its miracles. It might seem incomprehensible at this point, but the U.S. foreign policy...
By Stephen Millies

Celebrating African liberation in Brooklyn

Frederick Douglass Square in Brooklyn, New York, celebrated African Liberation Day on May 28. People gathered outside Sistas’ Place to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic 1972 S.A.L.D marches in San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

As many as 60,000 people marched in Washington, while thousands demonstrated in San Francisco.

Fifty years ago much of Africa was still under white minority rule. Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger worked overtime to keep Black people in South Africa and Namibia in chains under apartheid.

The white settler “Rhodesia” regime occupying Zimbabwe was given a life line by the segregationist Strom Thurmond and his fellow U.S. senators. They voted to allow chrome to be imported from “Rhodesia”—in violation of United Nations sanctions—to retaliate against African countries that voted to admit the People’s Republic of China to the U.N.

Africans had picked up the gun and were waging guerrilla war against Portuguese colonial rule in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

African Liberation Day became another front in this freedom struggle. War criminal Kissinger later admitted that the U.S. couldn’t send troops to Zimbabwe.

Speaking to the people


Roger Wareham, a member of the December 12th International Secretariat and a human rights attorney fighting for reparations, chaired the event.

Starting off the rally were drummers, two of whom were from Côte d’Ivoire. A large banner proclaimed “Pan-Africanism Rising!!” Of the 13 freedom fighters whose photos were featured on it, six had been assassinated.

A recording was played of the Honorable Marcus Garvey speaking. The Black leader and immigrant who led millions was framed, imprisoned and then deported to Jamaica by the U.S. government.

A wonderful video was shown of the African Liberation Day march in 1972. It was produced by Roy Campanella Jr., son of the legendary baseball catcher for the Baltimore/ Washington Elite Giants as well as for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The historian Walter Rodney, author of the classic “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” was shown speaking in San Francisco. Rodney was assassinated in 1980, a rubout that had CIA fingerprints.

Also shown on the video was the late Pan-African teacher, organizer and D12 leader Elombe Brath, Black Panther Party member Elaine Brown and the revolutionary poet and playwright Amiri Baraka.

The rally’s first speaker was D12 member Abdul Haqq, who gave a fiery talk about the need to fight.

Other speakers attacked Black elected officials who are being used in the anti-Russia crusade. Among them is representative Gregory Meeks from Queens, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

There was also sad news to report. Former political prisoner James Haskins announced that his friend Thomas “Blood” McCleary, who had been a member of SNCC, the Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army, had passed. [Presente!]

This writer for Struggle-La Lucha newspaper spoke of how African liberation fighters also brought freedom to Portuguese workers, who had lived for decades under a fascist regime.

Zayid Muhammad of the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee reminded people how in 1998 former Mayor Rudy Giuliani had police helicopters attack the Million Youth March in Harlem. Zayid Muhammad was given a plaque to honor his longtime work.

Frederick Douglass declared that “without struggle, there is no progress.” Brooklyn’s African Liberation Day rally points the way forward.
A un año de la mafiosa Luma Energy

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia,
Esta semana se cumplió un año desde que la privatizador estadounidense-canadiense Luma Energy tomara el control de la Transmisión y Distribución de la energía en Puerto Rico. Esta compañía fue impuesta por el Congreso de los Estados Unidos y su Junta de Control Fiscal que vino a gobernar a Puerto Rico, con la indignante colaboración del gobierno de Pedro Pierluisi.

Y esto hay que tenerlo muy claro como un ejemplo de la falta absoluta de soberanía de una colonia que permite imponerle al pueblo entidades incompetentes y mafiosas como Luma a pesar del rechazo popular. Los desastres causados a negocios, industrias y residencias del pueblo por la incapacidad de esta compañía no tienen precedente aquí y ya el pueblo está verdaderamente harto.

Por eso el primero de junio se realizaron manifestaciones alrededor de la isla en repudio a este contrato leonino.

Quisiera darle a la audiencia sólo algunos datos que ilustran lo mafioso de esta compañía.

- Un contrato que dura 15 años con un valor de 1,500.0 millones de dólares que puede hacer lo que le venga en gana porque no está supervisado.
- Que despidió a 4,000 trabajadores boricuas con experiencia para destruir un sindicato de clase como la Utier.
- Y por eso se ve obligada a subcontratar trabajadores de afuera sin experiencia en nuestra geografía montañosa.
- Que se ha excedido por millones en gastos en contratistas a quienes le paga viviendas, hoteles, transporte y comida. Y estos incluyen a decenas de vicepresidentes que no se sabe ni qué hacen, y a ingenieros sin licencia, lo que está prohibido bajo las leyes locales.
- A todo esto, no tiene que invertir ni un centavo.
- Desde que comenzaron prometiendo que no subiría la tarifa de luz, han pedido ya 6 aumentos. Han ocasionado cientos de apagones y explosiones por falta de mantenimiento, lo que ha reducido en daños de equipos y pérdidas millonarias para negocios, industrias y al pueblo en general.

Y esto mucho más son las agresiones de Luma y las organizaciones de soberanía de una colonia que periten la independencia de Cuba. Fue abolicionista y médico que luchó contra la epidemia del cólera del 1856. Saber sobre sus contribuciones durante ese mismo trabajo salubrista nos ayudaría mucho ahora, porque se podrían poner en práctica medidas por la pandemia del Covid. Gracias al constante trabajo de historiadores e intelectuales independentistas, esta historia queda recogida en libros, documentos y videos. Sin embargo, el gobierno rehísa utilizar y promoverlas.

Esto, compañeras y compañeros de la audiencia, es uno de los obstáculos que tenemos que librarnos constantemente.

Protesta contra Luma Energy, 1 de junio.

Promesas, la membresía de la Utier, Mujeres contra Luma y el pueblo en general seguirán insistiendo en la anulación de este contrato leonino. ¡Fuera Luma mafiosa!!

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

Colonialismo e identidad nacional

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia,
Hoy quiero comentar sobre un aspecto fundamental del colonialismo que intenta transformar la población en seres sin identidad ni orgullo patrio para así facilitar su dominio y explotación. Este aspecto es el de borrar o transformar a personajes importantes de nuestra patria, restándoles su valor histórico como entes altamente honorables, defensores de la independencia, con gran calibre humano y con repercusión internacional.

Esta semana, después de cincuenta años del fallecimiento de Roberto Clemente en un accidente aéreo cuando se dirigía a Nicaragua el 31 de diciembre del 1972 para llevar ayuda luego del devastador terremoto, es que el gobierno de PR anuncia que se convirtió en ley la celebración del Día de Roberto Clemente el 18 de agosto. Lo peor del caso es que este tardío reconocimiento lo anunciaron con bombos y platillos, no por el gran gesto de humanidad de Clemente, ni por su eloquencia al denunciar el racismo en los Estados Unidos, ni por su ejemplo de dignidad para la juventud, sino porque hace 50 años rompió el récord de los 3000 hits en el juego de pelota estadounidense.

Así es como tratan a todas las figuras insignes de nuestra historia, ocultándoles su verdadero valor, silenciándolas, omitiendo sus referencias en la educación pública. Un ejemplo sumamente vergonzoso es lo que han hecho con el Padre de la Patria, Ramón Emeterio Betances, conocido como EL Antillano por haber luchado por la unión de las Antillas. Gestor del Grito de Lares por la independencia de PR frente a España en 1898 y colaborador en la lucha por la independencia de Cuba. Fue abolicionista y médico que luchó contra la epidemia del cólera del 1856. Saber sobre sus contribuciones durante ese mismo trabajo salubrista nos ayudaría mucho ahora, porque se podrían poner en práctica medidas por la pandemia del Covid.

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