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Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:

Unite to fight racism, fascism and war

By Melinda Butterfield

As 2023 begins, it's undeniable that a dangerous, virulent fascist movement is spreading through U.S. society.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. famously said in 1967, "The bombs dropped on Vietnam explode at home." Malcolm X expressed something similar when he said, "Chickens come home to roost."

Feeding the U.S. war machine boomerangs by increasing repression, decreasing rights, and robbing people of desperately needed resources here at home. Promoting fascism abroad facilitates its growth here.

It's seen in the spread of hate-ridden protests against drag story hours, sometimes attended by armed neo-Nazis, who threaten children, parents, and LGBTQ+ communities, and in the bomb threats targeting medical facilities that provide gender-affirming care to trans children and abortion services to people who can become pregnant.

It takes the form of mass shootings, like the massacre of 10 Black people at Tops grocery in Buffalo, New York, five queer people at Club Q in Colorado Springs, and 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. We recognize it in the targeting of electrical grids from North Carolina to Washington state to sow fear.

At the local level, the fascist influence is evident in the rash of attempts by astroturfed "parents' groups" to ban books that expose the racist history of the U.S. or validate the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ people.

At the state level, we see it in the efforts by officials in Texas, Ohio, Florida, and elsewhere to eradicate trans health care, criminalize parents who support trans children, and create a lynch-mob atmosphere against women and others who choose to get an abortion.

At the national level, there is the far-right-controlled U.S. Supreme Court, which gutted voting rights, struck down the constitutional right to abortion, and seems poised to do the same to same-sex marriage.

Looming over it all is the shadow of Jan. 6, 2021, when an organized fascist mob attempted a coup d'etat at the



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

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Capitol in Washington, D.C., to keep Donald Trump in power – aided and abetted by a faction of the Pentagon.

Fascist tendencies have existed in the U.S. since it began its rise as an imperialist power in the late 19th century – from the Ku Klux Klan to the John Birch Society to today's Proud Boys and Oath Keepers. Sometimes the ruling class of bosses, bankers, and landlords keep them on a tight leash.

But when times are tough, when they fear the masses of poor and working people could unite and fight back against their unjust capitalist system, the fascists are let off their leash to spread division and, if necessary, physically exterminate those the rich and powerful fear most.

U.S. spread fascism in Ukraine

As top dog of the world imperialist powers – including Britain, Japan, and the European Union – the U.S. has long upheld fascists in its efforts to wring the maximum profits out of the world's people.

Washington has abetted fascist dictatorships or those with strong fascist aspects, from the Shah of Iran to Suharto in Indonesia, from Pinochet in Chile to Añez in Bolivia.

During the Cold War against the USSR, the U.S. encouraged the growth of violent fascist movements like the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and its post-World War II successors. The U.S. and Canada harbored its leaders, gave them money and weapons, and encouraged their hate propaganda against multinational Soviet socialism.

The many neo-Nazi movements in Ukraine today, like Right Sector and Azov Brigade, are descendants of this lineage.

But that's not all. The destruction of the USSR and European socialist camp 30 years ago brought economic devastation and plummeting life expectancies. Washington stepped into the ideological vacuum to spread division and prevent a revolutionary

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SoCal fights to bring Mumia Abu-Jamal home

By Gloria Verdieu

On Oct. 16, Judge Lucretia Clemons of the Common Pleas Court of Pennsylvania dismissed all the claims that political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal and his lawyers presented – critical evidence, withheld for over 40 years, that could overturn his 1982 conviction, exonerate him and bring him home to his family.

Mumia has been in jail for over 40 years – 30 of those years spent on death row. This may be his last opportunity to prove his innocence and gain his release. Mumia’s health is rapidly deteriorating, and he is not a candidate for compassionate release in the state of Pennsylvania.

By dismissing these claims and refusing to grant Mumia a new trial, Judge Clemmons is sentencing him to death through incarceration. Noel Hanrahan, legal director at Prison Radio, told Counterspin, “These were critical documents (just discovered 2 years ago) that many other people have gotten relief on.”

A video entitled “Healing the Wounds of Racism” by Judge Lucretia Clemons was released after the October hearing and posted on LoveNotPhear.com. The call from #LoveNotPhear was for people to listen to this six-minute video and send an audio message, an email post, or write a letter in response – what you wanted to tell Judge Clemons – to be



Left: San Diego letter-writing workshop, Dec. 6.

Below: Mumia solidarity rally at Leimert Park, Los Angeles, Dec. 15.

SLL photos

presented to her on Dec. 16, when she was scheduled to make her final decision as to whether Mumia would have his day in court.

(At the Dec. 16 hearing, Judge Clemmons announced that she would put off her final ruling for another 60 to 90 days. Read Struggle-La Lucha’s report from Philadelphia: tinyurl.com/48wt3crn.)

The Black Alliance for Peace, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and All Political Prisoners joined with thousands worldwide to answer the call by #LoveNotPhear to act on this gross miscarriage of justice. The groups shared #LoveNotPhear’s website on social media and organized letter-writing sessions in libraries and bookstores.

Activists also organized events leading up to the hearing. A rally was



held in Los Angeles on Dec. 15, and a political prisoners teach-in was held in San Diego on Dec. 16.

Southern California actions

Activists demanding a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal gathered for a speakout at Leimert Park in South Central LA Dec. 15. They brought literature on the latest news and his-torical background of his case.

Speakers included former Black Panther Harold Welton; Matyos Kidane of Stop LAPD Spying Coalition; John Parker of Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice; and Sylvester of The Love We Don’t See.

Natalie Matos of Black Alliance for Peace, who MC’d, began the rally with updates on Mumia’s case and opportunities to continue the struggle. Names were collected from community members interested in volunteering or receiving more information and updates on planned solidarity activities.

The San Diego letter-writing workshop was held on Dec. 6 at the Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center. The teach-in, hosted by the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and All Political Prisoners, was held at the San Diego Justice Center on Dec. 16.

The teach-in began with an email

message received from Philadelphia announcing that Judge Clemons had postponed her decision, followed by a video of the rally outside the courthouse, where the crowd chanted “Brick by brick, wall by wall, free Mumia Abu-Jamal.” In the video, Professor Johanna Fernandez announced that no decision being made sends the message that we won, and this is the moment to fight harder and make sure that light and justice prevail.

Speakers at the teach-in included Justine Mann of Party for Socialism and Liberation; Mary Lou Finley of Leonard Peltier Défense Committee; John Parker of Socialist Unity Party; Natalie Matos of Black Alliance for Peace; and

Denzel Draughn of Hands Off Uhuru/ Hands Off Africa Defense Campaign.

Participants discussed the fact that the U.S. has political prisoners, and why we believe all prisoners are political prisoners because of the racist, profit-motivated prison-industrial complex.

We discussed why we need to support political prisoners and become active in the fight to free them all, shut down the prison-industrial complex, end mass incarceration and abolish the death penalty, including death by incarceration.

The teach-in ended with another letter-writing session to continue urging Judge Clemmons to do the right thing. We have two to three months to continue to organize, mobilize, educate and spread the truth about Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners also hosted a screening of the film “Mumia Abu-Jamal: Long Distance Revolutionary” on Dec. 17 at the Malcolm X Library.

Mumia will be released. It’s up to us to make that happen.

#LoveNotPhear – spread love and challenge fear!

Release Mumia! Free them all!

Mary Lou Finley, Natalie Matos and John Parker contributed to this article.

‘End food apartheid in Baltimore’: Community protests closing of PriceRite Market



SLL photo: Sharon Black

By Sharon Black

Dec. 17: Residents of Pigtown in Baltimore and members of the Peoples Power Assembly and Unemployed Workers Union protested in front of the closed PriceRite Market to demand an end to food deserts and the reopening of a full-service supermarket in the neighborhood.

Participants are planning a city-wide protest on Jan. 16 to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy, as part of the campaign to end food apartheid in Baltimore.

Joyce Butler, Peoples Power Assembly representative, stated: “We will be uniting four different communities who suffer from lack of access to fresh, affordable groceries. These neighborhoods include not only Pigtown/Washington Village, but also Cherry Hill, Sandtown-Mat-

thew Henson, and Oliver/Broadway East/Johnston Square.

Butler added: “It is more accurate to call ‘food deserts’ food apartheid, because it is mostly Black, Brown and poor communities who are unable to access food. In addition, the increase in food prices is killing all workers.”

The Peoples Power Assembly regularly distributed free food at the Douglas Homes public housing project in Oliver/Broadway East from the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, as part of the “Food Is a Right Campaign.”

The Baltimore City Health Department defines a food desert as a community located more than a quarter-mile from the nearest supermarket, where more than 30% of the households lack access to a car and the median income is at or below the federal poverty level. 📌

Los Angeles activists tell Biden: Roll back prices now!

By Scott Scheffer

Los Angeles: Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice founder John Parker addressed shoppers and passers-by Dec. 18 in the first of a planned series of street meetings about the national wave of price-gouging by oil companies, grocery chains and other corporate thieves.

The Harriet Tubman Center joins activists from Baltimore’s People’s Power Assembly in calling for President Joe Biden to issue an executive order to roll back prices. Biden has been quick to spend some \$70 billion in weapons and other aid for the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine this year – but millions of people here at home need relief.



SLL photo

The failure by the White House to do anything about price hikes is making the holidays particularly hard for workers across the U.S.

Activists in San Diego are also planning street meetings. 📌

Buffalo's real bomb cyclone: Racism, capitalism & poverty

Capitalist gov't failure requires workers' organization and action

By Sharon Black

As of Jan. 5, at least 60 people nationally and 39 people in Erie County, New York, have been reported dead from Winter Storm Elliott.

The majority of deaths – 31 – are from Buffalo, the third poorest city in the United States. Most of those who died were people of color.

Forecasts of a “bomb cyclone” were made far in advance of the storm, as early as Dec. 19. By Dec. 21, meteorologists reported “a once-in-a-generation storm” would arrive.

Despite these warnings, there was no plan to save lives, either on the local, regional or national level.

Individuals and families were left to fend for themselves. There were not adequate provisions for emergency shelter, delivery of food and supplies to people living in food deserts, or support for those freezing from lack of electricity and fuel.

Lack of travel ban forced workers to report to jobs

A travel ban was not issued until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, after most workers had already left for their shifts. Many workers, especially low-wage workers, live paycheck to paycheck. Without the needed travel ban, they faced firing or write-ups if they didn't report to work.

Meager wages also meant that there was little possibility of stocking up on food or preparing.



Buffalo: Cars stranded in snow during Winter Storm Elliott.

People quickly became stranded in their vehicles, leading to at least four deaths. Seventeen people were found dead in snow drifts, succumbing to hurricane-force winds and brutal cold.

Nine people died in homes without heat after electricity and power had failed. Snow drifts of up to 12 feet trapped residents inside drafty and aging homes.

Buffalo's aging infrastructure could not bear the stress.

Topping the miserable deaths, residents of Buffalo's primarily Black Eastside neighborhood complained bitterly of the lack of snow removal and resources in their neighborhood compared to Kenmore, a wealthy, predominantly white area.

White supremacy and war

Last year, on a speaking tour after his fact-finding trip in Donbass, John Parker of the Socialist Unity Party visited the site of the racist

massacre at Tops Supermarket in Buffalo.

In the aftermath of Winter Storm Elliott, Parker told Struggle-La Lucha: “The racist and anti-working class disaster in Buffalo could have been prevented. Over \$100 billion to date has been poured into the U.S. proxy war against Russia and Donbass.”

“In a matter of hours, Washington can ship arms to Ukraine, but not equipment and resources to deliver food, provide shelter and emergency health care to the people of Buffalo, especially to the Black community, to workers and the poor.”

Parker added: “Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown's victim-blaming remarks calling ‘looters the lowest of low’ are not surprising. In the midst of the crisis, he diverted police from emergency assistance to protect businesses.”

In the most recent mayoral race, Brown ran as a write-in candidate,



Photo: Peoples Power Assembly

Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly organized “snow brigades” in 2016 to deliver needed food and shovel out seniors and poor residents of public housing when the city administration and the Housing Department failed.

with the full support of the Democratic and Republican party machines and the Police Benevolent Association after India Walton, a young Black woman from Buffalo's Eastside, a supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement and self-proclaimed “democratic socialist,” won the Democratic Party primary.

Cuba's ‘Tarea Vida’ an example of what's needed

Cuba, a small island which has suffered deeply from a criminal, six-decade-long U.S. blockade, is also disproportionately affected by climate change. Up to 10% of Cuba could be submerged by the end of this century, wiping out coastal towns, polluting water supplies and forcing 1 million people to relocate.

The major object of Cuba's Tarea Vida (Life Task) initiative is to protect lives and the resources people depend on.

Tarea Vida is divided into two parts: one to address the immediate climate crisis, and another lon-

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Fighting inflation trickery: Capitalists cut jobs rather than bring down prices

By Gary Wilson

The year 2022 will be remembered as a year of inflation shock.

Energy (oil, gas, electricity) prices are up a painful 17.6%.

Food-at-home prices have increased by 10.9%. Eggs are now 25.6% more expensive than they were in 2021. Milk prices are up 15.1%. Meat is up 8.9%.

Transportation services are up 15.2%.

The price of shelter (rent, mortgages) is up 6.9%, with rent increases more than doubling.

Saying that it is fighting inflation, the U.S. Federal Reserve has been raising interest rates. On Dec. 14, CNBC reported that the benchmark interest rate has been raised to its highest level in 15 years. “During a news conference, Chairman Jerome Powell said it was important to keep up the fight against inflation.”

But this hasn't been done to reverse inflation; it will not bring down prices. Instead, the Federal Reserve's tight money policy (rais-



UNITE HERE Local 26 hotel workers on strike in Boston.

ing interest rates) stops businesses from expanding so that production is cut and workers are laid off.

The current inflation isn't just in prices. It's inflation of production — overproduction. And the Fed's tight money is in response to a capitalist crisis of overproduction.

Today's overproduction boom is not an ordinary cyclical capitalist boom but results from the shortages of commodities caused by the COVID shutdowns.

Responding to the COVID pan-

demic, the government ordered the shutdown of much of the economy in March 2020. The shutdown wasn't enough, and therefore failed to stop the spread of the virus. But much production stopped, and business inventories shrank drastically.

Business inventories are unsold commodities, which means there's no profit until they are sold.

During the COVID shutdown, the government borrowed and spent a vast amount of money to support spending to the extent possible under lockdown conditions. At the same time, the Federal Reserve greatly expanded the quantity of U.S. dollars to prevent a collapse of the credit system because of the business shutdowns.

The combination of a shrinking supply of commodities and an explosion in the quantity of central bank-created money is inflationary, explains Marxist economist Sam Williams. The inflation takes effect as the economy reopens and capitalist industry and retail merchants rebuild their inventories.

Whenever many capitalists si-

multaneously build up inventories, an accelerator of increased business investment is triggered. As the accelerator takes effect, what was an inventory shortage becomes overproduction.

The only capitalist solution to overproduction is to cut back production to allow glutted markets to clear. Underproduction primarily means cutting jobs. Unemployment is what the Fed's tight money policy will create.

Since March, most real job growth has been stagnant. Full-time jobs are disappearing while part-time jobs are surging; the number of workers with multiple jobs has soared.

Put simply, the number of workers employed remained the same in 2022, but workers are losing their full-time jobs and switching to much lower-paying, benefits-free part-time jobs, forcing many to take on more than one job.

While the Federal Reserve has the capitalist solution, it's not the workers' solution.

As long as there is capitalism, the answer to inflation and job cuts is to fight for union jobs and liveable wages. 📌

‘Challenge the U.S. justifications

By John Parker

Talk given at “Pushback Against Empire,” a holiday party and fundraiser for CovertAction Magazine in New York City on Dec. 1.

If you like horror stories, here’s one for you. It’s the 2022 National Defense Strategy document from the U.S. secretary of defense. This document was blessed by President Biden, who is quoted in the introduction.

Right out of the gate, it calls China, Russia, Iran, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea threats to U.S. national security. And this threat must be met by making NATO even more powerful and nuclear-capable, especially surrounding Russia.

But in terms of priorities, China is the number one target. This will be done, the document declares, by provoking altercations in the In-

do-Pacific region using Japan, South Korea, Australia, and any Southeast Asian countries Washington can recruit to launch a war from the South China Sea to the East China Sea. This week there was a very serious altercation in the South China Sea between the U.S. and China due to U.S. war games there.

As if that’s not enough, the document says the U.S. should begin training and arming Taiwan in asymmetrical warfare (or guerrilla war) against China. So get your tax dollars ready to fund another war costing, this time, hundreds of billions of dollars. And unfortunately, we may have to counter an anti-war movement in the U.S. that will probably blame China when that country is forced to respond to the provocations and threats to its security and sovereignty. That’s what happened with Russia.

What should we learn from this document and the Rand Corporation strategy published three years ago planning the provocations against Russia? It didn’t matter what Russia did – the imperialists had a plan of action that was determined to cause war by any means, regardless of Russia’s actions.

Ukraine’s Nazi problem

While investigating the war in Ukraine in the Donbass region last May, I visited a tuberculosis hospital in Krymskoye that had been retrofitted for war by the Ukrainian military. They were forced to leave a week or so prior by the Lugansk People’s Militia and Russian soldiers.

I observed the 122mm shells used by Kiev to make Swiss cheese of the houses just a mile away in Solkynki. These shells were also used to target the families I interviewed to the

north in Rubizhne, in a shelter that had housed 350 people fleeing the Ukrainian military assault on their apartment buildings.

Although the loud noise I heard often from the continued shelling by Ukrainian forces was disturbing, the people in that shelter told me they felt much safer than before now that the Russian troops were protecting them and providing water, food, and other essentials for survival.

I should mention that at that tuberculosis hospital, there was a giant swastika painted on the wall, and next to it, the sonnenrad, a symbol appropriated by the Nazis in World War II and used today by the Ukrainian Azov Battalion.

When some people say that Ukraine’s Nazi problem is “minor,” they callously ignore the 10 Black people killed at the Tops Supermarket in Buffalo, New York, by an

Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: Unite to fight racism, fascism and war

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response to the cataclysm.

One way it did this was by spreading U.S.-style white supremacy through the capitalist media. Another was to encourage far-right U.S. evangelical movements to spread anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-woman hate.

This happened under both Democratic and Republican administrations and prepared the ground for the growth of fascist movements and reactionary government policies in Eastern Europe that plague the region today.

Donbass resists fascism

I’ve been writing about Ukraine since the U.S.-backed Maidan coup toppled the elected government in early 2014. Fascist groups were at the heart of this “revolution of dignity.” They hobnobbed with the likes of the late Republican Senator John McCain and Democrat Victoria Nuland, who today is Joe Biden’s Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

I’ve interviewed, spoken to, and visited courageous Ukrainian anti-fascists who resisted. Many were forced to flee east to avoid death. Others were imprisoned and later traded in exchanges for captured Ukrainian soldiers. Today many of them are fighting on the side of the Donbass and Russia.

The neo-Nazis who provided the



Photo: Borotba

A protest in Kharkov, eastern Ukraine, in the spring of 2014. Soon after, anti-fascists in the city were forced to flee into exile or go underground.

backbone of Maidan went on to massacre 48 unarmed activists at the Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, 2014. None of the perpetrators have been punished. Many survivors, however, were jailed or driven into exile.

Washington preferred its new puppet regime in Kiev to be fronted by more media-friendly faces like oligarch Petro Poroshenko or TV comedian Volodymyr Zelensky. But it made sure the fascists became integral to the repressive bodies of the

state, including the Armed Forces of Ukraine, providing them extensive training in the use of Western-supplied weapons.

These neo-Nazis, under various names, also set the tone for the new regime’s virulently anti-Russia and anti-communist ideology. One of the government’s first acts was to ban the use of the Russian language – the daily language of those living in eastern Ukraine. They spoke of working-class residents of the east – especially in the Donbass mining region – as “insects” and “subhumans” to be cleansed.

The writing was on the wall. People in the east – and antifascists throughout the whole of Ukraine – rose up. In most places, they were violently suppressed. But in the Donbass regions of Donetsk and Lugansk, the people seized power and declared themselves independent anti-fascist republics.

Ukraine – with the backing of the U.S. and the NATO military alliance – then waged war on the people of

Donbass for eight years, killing more than 14,000 people and setting the stage for the escalation of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia in early 2022.

Fascism must be fought

For a few years in the late 2010s, articles sometimes appeared in the U.S. corporate media highlighting Ukraine’s “Nazi problem.” Some even exposed links between the Ukrainian far right and white supremacist groups in the U.S., like the Rise Against Movement, which participated in the white supremacist riot in Charlottesville, Virginia, where anti-racist protester Heather Heyer was murdered in 2017.

This is not surprising. It’s common practice for U.S. media to be used to keep dependent regimes in line, to remind them that “we made you, and we can break you.”

But when Washington, Wall Street, and Big Oil decided in 2021 that it was time to go full-speed ahead with a proxy war against Russia, those

Buffalo’s real bomb cyclone

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ger-term plan. Dr. Helen Yaffe’s recent documentary, “Cuba’s Life Task: Combating Climate Change,” outlines this.

Much can be learned from Cuba’s planning.

Workers and oppressed communities urgently need to organize and act. Our lives depend on it.

This includes demanding that warehouses, schools and workplaces be fortified in tornado zones, and that adequate evacuation, food, housing and health care be organized in the Gulf of Mexico and coastal areas from Florida to Maine.

Unions and workers’ organizations must take up these demands now and deepen mutual aid work to

save lives. During Winter Storm Eliott, the Buffalo Mutual Aid Group was one of the organizations that did its best to get out information, distribute food and provide a forum to communicate.

What happened in Buffalo is not an isolated incident, nor is it an “act of god or nature.” Disasters like this will continue and become more frequent, affecting millions across the U.S. Nor is it confined to this country.

In fact, the climate crisis, directly rooted in the profits-before-people system of capitalism, is being felt globally – from devastating floods in Pakistan to deadly heat waves and droughts worldwide.

To save the planet and the people, we must destroy capitalism! 📢

Struggle-La Lucha is asking for your help

We have suffered a variety of internet ‘attacks’ ever since we started to print the truth about the U.S./NATO proxy war on Russia and Donbass and the U.S. attacks on China.

We will not back down and intend to continue saying what is necessary.

Please donate to help keep SLL free and online.

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for this war'

18-year-old white supremacist. He was wearing the emblem of the Azov Battalion – the same sonnenrad I saw on the wall in Krymskoye.

This youth said he was inspired by New Zealander Brenton Tarrant, who killed 51 Muslims in a mosque. In his manifesto, Tarrant wrote that he was in direct contact with the Azov Battalion and was planning to go to Ukraine for military training.

In 2019, Time Magazine interviewed a former FBI agent who admitted that 17,000 white supremacists had gone to Ukraine for military training. Azov and its partners have used some of the billions of dollars Ukraine has received in funding and training from the U.S. since 2014 to build a very successful social media presence aimed at alienated youth.

Erasing people of Donbass

Playing into the narrative of Russia as invader can only be done by disappearing the over 6 million people in the Donbass region, targeted for more than eight years by a military openly led by neo-Nazis. By Feb. 22 of this year, the bomb-

ing of the region had increased 20-fold in seven days to 1,400 bombings per day. Kiev amassed 150,000 troops on the border, preparing for a genocidal massacre.

This is why, on Feb. 23, the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics formally requested Russia's protection.

If you want to know what imperialism really looks like, consider this: According to the United Nations Development Program, the U.S. freeze on Afghanistan's assets is causing the starvation of 1 million children. With a snap of his fingers, Biden could stop that today – but he won't. There you have real imperialist power, real evil.

Without challenging the main justifications for this war, we are simply allowing lies to take hold,



SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

John Parker speaks at CovertAction event in New York City, Dec. 1.

LGBTQ2S and women's rights, for the right of self-determination of Haitian, Palestinian, Indigenous, Black, and Brown peoples.

All these components are necessary for a peace movement to have any real power

because these are the forces most targeted by U.S. imperialism domestically and internationally. It's these forces that have the most to gain by stopping imperialist wars that steal the resources necessary for the survival of their children. And these are the forces whose exploitation this economic beast depends upon for survival.

Therefore, they contain real potential power. 📌

kinds of exposés vanished. Once Russia was backed into a corner and forced to intervene militarily to prevent a genocidal slaughter in Donbass, any discussion of Ukraine's "Nazi problem" became an unspeakable heresy for the media and liberal mouthpieces on social media.

Today it is common to see Ukrainian soldiers in the media sporting fascist symbols. But the media ignore the symbols, and anyone who dares to point them out is labeled an agent of Vladimir Putin.

The people of Donbass don't have that luxury. They had to fight, arms in hand, to protect themselves from the fascist threat, and today they must continue to do so as Ukraine rains bombs, mines, and artillery on civilian targets in Donetsk and other cities.

Unite against fascism and imperialism

It's a tragedy of history that those fighting the rise of fascism in the U.S. and Ukraine are mostly unable to recognize one another.

Just as imperialism spread hate propaganda in the former Soviet countries to sow division, so has it co-opted the language of protest movements, the tactics of anarchism and social democracy, and used nonprofits to confuse people in the West and turn natural allies against each other.

A growing grassroots movement in the U.S. is resisting fascist threats on the lives of the most marginalized communities. This is a great reason for hope.

However, if this movement cannot recognize other genuine anti-fascist struggles and learn from them, if it does not learn about the class nature of imperialist war, it will remain isolated and unable to respond to the underlying causes of fascism.

What's lacking is not only a basic, class-conscious understanding of what fascism is and how to fight it. The fundamental Marxist understanding of imperialism and war,

as explained by Lenin, has been lost to many movements that have emerged in the 21st century.

Opposition to imperialist war and support for its military defeat is not based on political agreement with the non-imperialist countries under attack but an understanding that imperialism's defeat is a fundamental prerequisite to liberation.

Those who claim to want liberation for LGBTQ+ people in Russia and women in Iran, freedom for Palestine, or a socialist future for Ukraine and Venezuela but who do not do everything in their power to facilitate the defeat of U.S. imperialism internally and externally are misguided at best.

There's a fundamental commonality between the anti-fascists who fight arms in hand in Donetsk and Lugansk and the armed anti-fascists who defend queer spaces in Texas.

Those who held mass protests in Ukraine against the Maidan coup and those who came out in the streets to defend drag story hour in Queens, New York, are part of the same fight – even if those on both sides cannot see it at the moment.

It's the job of communist revolutionaries to build bridges of understanding and mutual struggle.

Marxists have revolutionary optimism because we know history never presents people with a task without the means to carry it out. The knowledge, tactics, and forces to defeat imperialism and fascism exist. The numbers who understand them are small for now.

But circumstances demand that knowledge be shared, studied, and put into practice. We must prepare to do so, even if we have to fight to get a hearing. 📌

NEW BOOK



U.S. PROXY WAR IN UKRAINE AND DONBASS

Articles and interviews, 2013-2022

MELINDA BUTTERFIELD

This book provides essential background for understanding the U.S./NATO proxy war that threatens to erupt into World War III. It covers the history and reports the news from Donbass mining region censored by major U.S. news outlets. There's also a review of international solidarity from non-NATO-aligned countries.



Butterfield covers the violent overthrow of the Kiev government in 2014 by a U.S.-backed coalition of oligarchs, neoliberal politicians and fascists, and the subsequent war against the people of Donbass. She presents voices of anti-fascists and socialists from Ukraine and Donbass unheard in the U.S., including a first-hand account of the massacre at the Odessa House of Trade Unions on May 2, 2014.

The articles draw from a wide range of sources, including on-the-scenes reports and interviews.

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Super-bigot Tucker Carlson is our enemy, not an ally

By Stephen Millies

Tucker Carlson spews hate like a flamethrower on Fox News five nights a week. He told millions of viewers that the Black Lives Matter movement is “poison.”

Carlson hates the anti-racist movement that brought 26 million people into the streets. Yet he praised the fascist mob that was allowed to break into the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, by the Pentagon.

The whole world saw Minneapolis cop Derek Chauvin keep his knee on George Floyd’s neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds, killing the Black man. Tucker Carlson claimed that Chauvin didn’t commit murder and lamented his conviction.

The multi-millionaire says immigrants make the United States “dirtier.” Carlson targets transgender people and said that hospitals should expect attacks for offering gender-affirming care.

Carlson gets paid at least \$10 million a year for being the number-one hate monger in the United States.

So why are some individuals who’ve been in anti-war movements and supported other progressive causes praising Carlson? On his Dec. 16 broadcast, Carlson said that a source told him that the CIA had a hand in President John F. Kennedy’s assassination.

JFK was murdered in a coup d’état whose planners sought to invade Cuba and possibly launch a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union. Lyndon Johnson’s massive escalation of the U.S. war against Vietnam and Laos became the consolation prize

for the military-industrial complex.

What are Carlson’s motives for telling a little bit of truth, even if it’s 59 years old? It’s part of Carlson’s — and Trump’s — phony campaign against the so-called deep state.

The deep state is the real state of cops, prisons, bombs and missiles that keep the capitalist class in power. One of the directors of this organized violence against poor people worldwide was retired Gen. Michael Flynn.

He’s the former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and Trump’s first national security advisor. That doesn’t prevent Flynn from attacking the “deep state” and being welcomed onto Tucker Carlson’s television show.

It was Flynn’s brother, Gen. Charles Flynn, who helped delay sending troops to the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, fascist riot.

Tucker Carlson, Donald Trump and the Flynn brothers don’t want to get rid of the deep state. They want to take it over.

The new George Wallace

Tucker Carlson is a member of the ruling class whose family fortune comes from Swanson TV dinners.

Carlson’s job is to appeal to a much broader section of the population. To do so he wants to appear as a “rebel.” Former Alabama Gov. George Wallace did the same in the 1960s and 1970s.

Wallace’s presidential campaigns were fascist mobilizations, especially in 1968. Howling white mobs filled arenas across the U.S. in response to the Black liberation movement. The teenaged Mumia Abu-Ja-

mal was beaten-up at a Wallace rally while a Philadelphia cop looked on.

Wallace and other state officials made pilgrimages to Wall Street to beg the bankers to buy Alabama’s state bonds. Behind the Alabama state troopers who clubbed future Congressperson John Lewis and other protesters in Selma demanding voting rights was U.S. Steel, whose mills dominated the Birmingham area.

Carlson and Trump attack the most vulnerable people in U.S. society. Poor people are made scapegoats for a decaying capitalist society with declining wages and continual war. Carlson’s audience includes those owning small businesses which are being destroyed by Amazon and Walmart.

No anti-war movement without anti-racism

Right now the most visible opposition to the U.S./NATO war against the Russian Federation comes from racists like Tucker Carlson and the Republicans in Congress. That’s a big problem.

To millions of people these bigots are their worst enemy. It dulls anti-war sentiments.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared that “the bombs in Vietnam explode at home.” More than \$100 billion have been stolen from people’s needs to pay for bombs and missiles exploding in Ukraine.

The Pentagon budget has ballooned to \$845 billion while 40% of hungry families in New York City suffer delays in getting SNAP benefits, also known as food stamps.

Virtually the only opposition to

this war drive shown by the capitalist media is of characters like Donald Trump Jr. He called Ukrainian president and U.S. stooge Volodymyr Zelenskyy a “welfare queen.”

Trump Junior’s use of this racist term was deliberate. He wants to build a fascist movement and is willing to appear anti-war to do it. British fascist Tommy Robinson also wants to be seen as an opponent to the war in Ukraine.

This isn’t a new problem. The media made the U.S. senator from Arkansas William Fulbright an early symbol of opposition to the Vietnam War. Fulbright was a white supremacist who was chair of the Senate’s Foreign Relations Committee.

The committee’s hearings in January and February of 1966 were a sign of the split in the ruling class over the Vietnam War. But racist Fulbright’s opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act made President Lyndon Johnson look good.

Dearborn, Michigan, Mayor Orville Hubbard — who spewed racist epithets and kept Black people out of the Detroit suburb — even held a 1966 local referendum on the Vietnam War.

In reality, the Black liberation movement was the most powerful assistance given to the Vietnamese liberation struggle.

An anti-war movement has to be opposed to both the Biden administration and its more openly bigoted opponents. To do so we need to build the Jan. 13-22 actions against the war — held during the week commemorating Dr. King’s birthday — as big as we can. 📌

Proud Boys get out of Jackson Heights!

Defend Drag Story Hours!

By Stephen Millies

Dec. 29—At least 400 people turned out this afternoon in the Jackson Heights neighborhood of Queens, New York, to say no to transphobia and all forms of bigotry.

They were guarding the Drag Story Hour being held at the local library on 81st Street. Across the street were 30 bigots who sought to harass parents and children.

Among them were members of the fascist Proud Boys. The bigots were protected by dozens of cops.

Chants and drums drowned out the haters. “Drag the transphobia away” and “We support Drag Story Tellers” were among the signs that people carried. Transgender and

rainbow flags were proudly flown.

Children and their parents waved from the second floor of the library to their defenders. The Story Hour was held successfully.

Fascists have targeted Drag Story Hours and anyone defending trans people. The week before, the home and office of gay City Councilperson Eric Bottcher were attacked in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan.

Both Chelsea and Jackson Heights have large LGBTQ2S communities. Three blocks away — near 37th Avenue and 78th Street — Julio Rivera, a gay Puerto Rican man, was murdered in 1990 by skinheads.

Julio Rivera will not be forgotten. The Proud Boys will not be allowed to terrorize the people. 📌



SLL photos: Stephen Millies

50 years since Roe v. Wade: The struggle continues!



SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams

By Melinda Butterfield

Jan. 22, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the historic Roe v. Wade decision recognizing the constitutional right to abortion. It was a hard-fought victory made possible by the militant struggles of the women’s, LGBTQ2S and Black liberation movements.

The far-right U.S. Supreme Court struck down Roe last year — a brutal blow against the rights of women and other people who can become pregnant, and against bodily autonomy for trans, nonbinary, gender nonconforming and intersex people. Abortion is now effectively banned

in at least 14 states, with more expected this year. Access to facilities that perform the procedure is absent even in many states where abortion technically remains legal.

Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha is part of the fight to restore and expand access to abortion and all reproductive rights, including the right to raise healthy children with access to food, shelter, education and healthcare. We salute the work of the Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee and other organizations organizing to restore abortion rights.

Pictured, a LARAC protest in New Orleans on Sept. 10, 2022. Read more: tinyurl.com/yc5zaff5. 📌

UC strike victory: Capitalist academic machinery no match for workers' power

By Scott Scheffer

The strike by academic workers at the University of California has ended.

For more than a year the bargaining teams from United Auto Workers Locals 2865 and 5810 tried to negotiate for better wages, an improvement in child care benefits and a slew of other important demands for the 48,000 teaching assistants, postdoctoral student workers, researchers and graders. It took the longest UC strike ever and the largest strike of 2022 to finally force UC negotiators to understand that they were up against real union power.

Twelve thousand of the original 48,000 strikers, mostly postdoctoral workers and researchers, had settled and returned to work on Dec. 11 after winning stronger benefits and wage gains of 20%. This second settlement, reached Dec. 23, is for the remaining 36,000 strikers.

This group has been incredibly underpaid, with some receiving salaries of less than \$24,000 a year. Yet they also had a good deal of leverage in this strike because of their important role in grading papers and serving as teaching assistants.

The new contract includes wage gains between 55% and 80%. Some salaries will be boosted to \$36,000 over a two-year period.

Rafael Jaime, president of Local 2865, told the Los Angeles Times that, although the agreement didn't win every demand, the wage increases "would help alleviate the staggering rent burdens faced by many graduate students."

The new contract also has added more funding for child care, more parental leave and health care for dependents, as well as supplemental tuition for up to three years for international students.

Because of high California rents, many UC workers had plowed through

their savings, taken out bank loans and in some cases even resorted to living in their cars. Even the new pay scale won't solve all financial difficulties for many, and that was reflected in a substantial number of the bargaining team and the rank-and-file opting to hold out for more and for less delay in the pay increase.

Still, combined with the important benefit increases that address issues particular to this diverse group of workers, the agreement is an historic workers' victory in this longest and largest UC strike ever.

Although not listed in the contract, near the top of the list of gains secured by the strike are dignity and respect.

UC bosses underestimated strikers

The bureaucracy of the most well-funded university system in the country underestimated the resolve and pent-up anger of this important workforce. During the strike, the wide frustration was transformed into a terrific example of skilled and determined collective organizing.

Strikers disrupted a meeting of the Board of Regents at the UCLA campus, held a sit-in at the university president's office, sat-in at a Sacramento UC administrative office and picketed the UC chancellor's home in Riverside County. Dozens of arrests over the course of the strike failed to halt the momentum.

The optics of this well-funded public university paying poverty wages drew a lot of sympathy and solidarity. Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine fame performed at a major strike rally in Los Angeles. Construction workers from three different unions halted work on a building at a San Francisco campus, while both UPS Teamsters drivers and FedEx drivers stopped deliveries.

FedEx drivers are not unionized,



University of California academic workers went on strike and won a major victory.

and this act of solidarity is noteworthy, given the recent rise in union organizing drives. Jeff Bezos' Washington Post seemed to be sounding the alarm for the bosses over the acts of solidarity when it wrote: "The strike arrives amid a wave of increased labor activity ... Workers have scored historic union victories at Amazon, Starbucks and Apple this year. Minnesota recently faced the largest private-sector strike in the nursing industry in U.S. history."

Regents' dirty deals

Without an understanding of the class character of those who control the purse strings at UC, one might wonder why the university held out for so long. By the time the university negotiators finally came up with a reasonable offer, the strike had forced the cancellation of all lectures and some classes. Some final exams had to be modified and grades were delayed.

It is the 26-member Board of Regents that makes budget decisions for UC and thereby decides on wage levels of UC workers. Their average salary is a whopping \$3,242,909, or \$1,559 per hour.

Their biographies on the UC website point to mostly academic careers – seemingly benign. But whatever the intentions of the individual Regents are at the time they are appointed by

the California governor, their conduct has shown them to be repeatedly feeding at the capitalist pig trough.

In 2017 their four to six lavish dinner parties every year were exposed in the media, forcing the UC president to stop reimbursing them for good. The straw that broke the camel's back was a \$17,600 reimbursement for a dinner held the night before they voted to raise students' tuition.

A Wikipedia article provides links to some other significant episodes of greed and self-enrichment over the years. These include direct investment of more than \$10 million of university money into a petroleum company owned by one of the Regents.

A \$50 million contract was funded by the BP oil company, giving them ownership of all clean-energy research at UC Berkeley and ownership of one-third of all patents based on UC workers' research. BP also gained hiring and firing privileges over and above professors in the clean-energy research department.

During his tenure as a Regent, Richard Blum, the multimillionaire husband of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, steered tens of millions of UC funds into companies in which he had a stake.

The Blum scandal, the oil company investment and BP takeover of clean-energy research were just a few examples in a pattern of Regents redirecting hundreds of millions of university dollars into investments with ties to their own personal business activities.

Over the decades, while all of this has been going on, wages for many UC workers have been kept just above the poverty level, high rents have devoured their meager incomes, while the cost of attending a UC campus has been steadily going up.

But the UC workers' victory will be remembered for a long time, along with the other organizing victories of 2022. Union power will win! 📌

Socialist Unity Party salutes revolutionary legacy of Jose Maria Sison

By Socialist Unity Party

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper join revolutionaries and partisans of labor in the Philippines and around the world in mourning the passing of Comrade Prof. Jose Maria Sison.

We send our deepest solidarity and revolutionary love to Comrade Julie de Lima, to all of Prof. Sison's family, companions and loved ones, and to all comrades of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front and the New People's Army on this sad occasion.

Ka Joma was a warm and humble man. He loved poetry and song, karaoke and culture. He had a wonderful sense of humor and a kind, grandfatherly presence. And he

was a revolutionary giant in word and deed, a true communist leader whose work inspires and is studied by millions in the Philippines and on every continent.

In his amazing life, from the University of the Philippines to the streets of Metro Manila, from the forests of Cagayan to the dungeons of the Marcos dictatorship, and in decades of exile from his beloved homeland, he forged and guided one of the most enduring revolutionary movements in the world today.

The rebirth of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Philippine national liberation struggle was a mighty chapter in the revolutionary tide that swept the world in the mid-20th century. Later that tide receded. There were many set-



backs, compromises and betrayals. But under Ka Joma's guidance, the comrades of the CPP, NPA and NDF held the red flag high.

Your perseverance in the cause of the workers and oppressed, in the battle for national liberation and socialism, remains a beacon to revolutionaries everywhere. This is Ka Joma's legacy.

We will sorely miss Ka Joma's beautiful presence, his wisdom and counsel, and his company. But he lives in the hearts and minds of millions in the Philippines and around the globe. He lives in the dedicated and heroic cadre of the CPP. He lives

among workers fighting for their rights, peasants and Indigenous peoples fighting for their land, the urban poor fighting for their homes, youth and students fighting for the future of our planet and in heroic Red fighters who have taken up the gun, in the people's democratic revolution that continues in cities and countryside.

He lives in the hundreds of mass organizations on every continent he guided in the International League of People's Struggle. He will live forever in an independent, socialist Philippines in a free and socialist world.

Long live the spirit and legacy of Comrade Jose Maria Sison!

Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines!

Long Live the National Democratic Front of the Philippines!

Long live the New People's Army!

Long live international solidarity!

Workers and oppressed people of the world unite! 📌

USSR at 100: Lessons of the Soviet of Nationalities

By Sam Mary Read online: tinyurl.com/ymx7k3aa

