



# Labor seizes the time to FREE MUMIA

By Lallan Schoenstein

As leaders in the vanguard of social activism in the labor movement, Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) locals in San Francisco and Oakland, California, shut down their ports on Feb. 16 to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Their actions initiated a campaign of solidarity for Mumia that spans the globe.

Most notably:

- South Africa's **National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA)** demonstrated at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria and the U.S. Consulate in Durban. See page 4.
- In Tokyo, **Japanese railroad workers**, members of the **Doro-Chiba labor union**, held a protest for Mumia in front of the U.S. Embassy.
- In Berlin, the **IG Metall (Metal Workers Industrial Union) Working Group on Internationalism (Arbeitskreis Internationalismus)** sent a message of solidarity with the ILWU port shutdown: "Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man, falsely put into jail since 1982 for a crime he did not commit. Like Leonard Peltier, who is imprisoned for 46 years, he is a victim of a system of racism and exploitation. Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier should be free! We send you our warmest greetings and wish you success with your port shutdown solidarity action."

## Judge to rule on Mumia's case

Currently, Mumia Abu-Jamal's defense lawyers are reviewing evidence that had been hidden in the District Attorney's closet for 36 years, evidence that attorneys say shows that the police and prosecution intentionally manufactured Mumia's guilt and suppressed the truth of his innocence.

His lawyers expect to find further evidence that police coerced and bribed witnesses and that extreme racism and judicial bias have permeated all the proceedings against Mumia. The discovery of this new undisclosed evidence provides the basis for a retrial.

Judge Lucretia Clemons has ordered the Philadelphia District Attorney to turn over additional files — up to 200 boxes — to Mumia's defense team. At this time, actions are planned to support Mumia, ensure that the evidence is heard, and win Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom. Judge Clemons is expected to issue her ruling on Mumia's case sometime between Feb. 16 and March 16.

At home and across the country, the ILWU action is building a growing movement for Mumia's freedom.

- Keith Brown, president of the **Oakland Education Association**, wrote on behalf of the teachers' union:

"The teachers of Oakland have a long history of support for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Now is the time to bring Mumia home. On behalf of the 3,000 educators of the Oakland Education Association, I urge the immediate release of Mumia Abu Jamal.

"It is our collective responsibility to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and end the mass incarceration of Black Americans. Mumia's case exemplifies the worst of mass incarceration in the United States.

"This moment calls for the display of healing



the wrongs of discrimination, racial bias, and unfairness. Justice and 'doing the right thing' means granting Mumia Abu-Jamal the opportunity to have a fair hearing. This includes work that we, as the Oakland Education Association, have been doing to create a culture of inclusion and anti-racist practices with our educators."

- In Portland, Oregon, **Local 28 of IATSE**, the theater, TV, and movie workers union, passed a resolution for Mumia's freedom. The wording of Local 28's resolution is the same as one passed by the Portland painters union in October.

It demands immediate freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and calls for a policy of working-class struggle through agitation, publicity, protest, and continued coordinated workers' action on a national and international scale to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, and calls on workers of all countries to use their power to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

- On Feb 13, **radio stations WBAI in New York and WFW in Washington, D.C.**, aired a teach-in: "Mumia's Freedom is Labor's Cause."

The teach-in featured labor leaders:

**Brenda Stokely**, fmr. pres. AFSCME DC 1707, Local 205, Co-convenor of the Million Worker March; **Jack Heyman**, retired exec. brd. ILWU Local 10; **David Newton**, Local 10 ILWU and nephew of Huey Newton, founder Black Panther Party; **Chris Silvera**, Sec.-treas., Teamsters Local 808; **Charles Jenkins**, TWU Local 100, Pres. NY Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

- On Feb. 18 in **Boston**, a Free Mumia rally was planned.
- Compelling support was voiced by **Angela Davis** in a letter to **Irvin Jim**, **General Secretary of NUMSA**, South Africa:

"As I write you today on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal, I remember the powerful letter you wrote in 2016 to Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania, when you emphasized similarities between the South African apartheid government's treatment of its political prisoners and the conditions of prisoners in Pennsylvania.

"Today, we need to take advantage of the fact that we have the best chance in a very long time to actually achieve his (Mumia's) freedom." 📧

Pam Africa speaking in Philadelphia in December

## State of Biden: "I am a capitalist"

## Marshall 'Eddie' Conway, present!

## Train wrecks, earthquakes & profits

## Inflation, layoffs & trillion\$ war budget

## Tyre Nichols: No matter color of the lash, the whip of racism remains intact

## Trans genocide: time to fight back!



## NOLA v. anti-LGBTQ+ bigot Landry

## 90 years since Hitler took power

## Far right trap for anti-war movement

## Sam Marcy

## Earthquake: Drop U.S. sanctions

## The 'spy balloon' incident?

## U.S. troops out of the Philippines!

## Nord Stream pipeline



# State of the Union: Biden's honest moment 'I am a capitalist'

By Sharon Black

In President Joe Biden's 2023 State of the Union address on Feb. 7, there was one honest moment. Biden said, "I am a capitalist."

Well, he fudged a bit; he should have said, I am a capitalist and a servant to capitalism. But that's a quibble.

Behind all of the rhetoric of "leave nobody behind," almost everyone — with the exception of the wealthiest 1%, including the arms dealers, big oil and gas, and, of course, the Pentagon — have been left behind.

## Major cuts to food stamps

When Biden took the podium, the government had announced it was lifting emergency allotments for food stamps. Severe cuts will begin after Feb. 23, 2023. Thirty million people will be impacted in 32 states; 18 states have already cut benefits. The average cut to benefits is \$82 a month.

This is happening in the middle of an inflationary spiral that threatens the working class with runaway food prices and escalating utility and rent costs. Those most impacted will be children and the elderly.

## The gap between reality and what Biden said

The reality for workers: In a bipartisan effort, Biden violated the rights of 115,000 unionized railroad workers to strike, consequently denying sick days and forcing an unwanted contract to cater to Wall Street.

And what about the infrastructure bill? As important as new roads and bridges are, it cannot cover up the fact that the Democratic Party and particularly Biden simply surrendered to the right wing.

So much was scuttled: child tax credit payments, guaranteed parental leave, no subsidies for child care expenses, free community college,

and funding for public housing repair. Hundreds of billions of dollars in investment in renewable energy was torpedoed.

The urgent need for universal health care has never been clearer.

But instead of taking on big pharma and insurance companies, Biden has been content with putting a cap on the rising cost of insulin for seniors. This is certainly welcome. But on the other hand, ending the emergency measures for COVID will cause the loss of access to free at-home tests, vaccines, and treatments. Pfizer just announced its proposal to charge \$110 to \$130 per vaccine dose.

## Assertions on reproductive rights are hollow

Biden and the Democratic Party used the Supreme Court overturn of *Roe v. Wade* as a cynical tool to turn out the midterm vote; they could and should have fought back.

Biden has the power to take executive action. He could have declared a public health emergency, bypassed the Hyde Amendment, and allowed Medicaid funds to cover the cost of abortions. The Biden administration could have set up abortion clinics on federal lands in states that have enacted bans.

## Tyre Nichols' parents and police terror

Tyre Nichols' parents appeared at the State of Union Address at Biden's request. The depth of their pain is unimaginable, and no matter how small any gesture or reform may appear to be, it is understandable that they would accept Biden's invitation.

On the other hand, no one should give Joe Biden a pass. Rather than defund the police, he increased their budget. And after a brief acknowledgment of the Nichols family, Biden then went on to a lengthy praise of the police in general.



Tyre Nichols parents at the Capitol for the State of the Union. After a brief acknowledgment, Biden went on to a lengthy praise of the police.

If President Biden were serious about addressing white supremacy, there is much he could be doing, including ordering reparations for the descendants of chattel slavery, disarming the police, and implementing community control.

## War on Russia & China

Interestingly, in contrast to the non-stop saber-rattling we have heard for months, Biden didn't seem to talk too much about Putin or the war in Ukraine. Perhaps there is not much more to be said in demonizing Putin. But it might also be that many workers are getting weary of the war and its economic consequences, and it was decided to save this discussion for later in the back rooms.

But this didn't stop Biden from engaging in demagogic attacks on China. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, replied, "China does not fear competing with the U.S. but is opposed to defining the entire China-U.S. rela-

tionship in terms of competition." She continued, "It is not the practice of a responsible country to smear a country or restrict the country's legitimate development rights under the excuse of competition, even at the expense of disrupting the global industrial and supply chain."

## On the Pentagon budget, there is unity

On Feb. 12, the Hill reported, "A growing number of Senate Republicans are saying that President Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) should take defense spending cuts off the table in their negotiation over the debt ceiling."

While little was said by Biden in his State of the Union on Pentagon spending, he is planning to ask Congress for the largest Pentagon budget in history. This is according to the Defense Department's chief financial officer.

Pentagon Comptroller Michael McCord said, "I do expect it will be a bigger number than Congress provided last year." In December, \$858 billion was allocated to defense spending, \$45 billion more than Biden requested. This included \$817 billion for the Pentagon and billions for nuclear weapons development through the Energy Department and other national security programs.

It is no wonder that with all of the theater associated with the State of the Union Address — that is, the handshaking, the tear-jerking introductions of guests, and yes, even the shouts of "liar" from Georgia Republican Marjorie Taylor Green — one thing remains constant. The stoney-faced military generals remain silent and seated at the front as a constant reminder of their power as unshakeable servants to U.S. imperialism, regardless of the president at the podium. 📺

# Inflation, layoffs, & the \$1 trillion war budget

By Scott Scheffer

In January, tech companies laid off 97,020 workers, more than double the layoffs in the first month of last year.

Amazon, Microsoft, and Google were responsible for most of the January cuts — 18,000, 10,000, and 12,000, respectively.

Not all of the layoffs are highly paid researchers, coders, etc. The many assistants, repair technicians, office cleaners, and others work hard but don't enjoy high wages and perks.

Each of the giant corporations issued remarkably similar statements citing the reasons for the layoffs. One might suspect that there was consultation among themselves. Their justification for the layoffs is all over the map — explaining it away as a list of temporary problems.

They say they hired too many people during the pandemic because millions of people turned to the internet, and they incorrectly thought their spike in revenue would be the new normal. When the activity dropped off, so did advertising, which is a significant portion of

their revenue. They also say inflation has slowed their growth and point to a likely recession, as well as higher interest rates.

They list the problems as if each one is unrelated to the others and imply that they are all happening at once in a perfect storm. Then, if you believe their narrative, they conclude that the seas will calm and everything will return to normal.

The technology sector of the U.S. economy has the most cash reserves of all the filthy-rich U.S. corporations. According to an analysis by Investor's Business Daily, 13 tech companies are hoarding more than \$1 trillion. Those that recently announced layoffs are near the top of the list.

Karl Marx referred to investments in new technology as "commercialized innovation." He explained that companies don't innovate because innovation helps humanity. They do it to gain an edge over the competition. The incentive to innovate dwindles as competition gets eliminated and markets become monopolized by fewer companies. So instead of investing in new production methods, they hoard cash.

Big tech isn't laying off tens of thousands because they are unprofitable. It is only that their rate of growth is slowing down.

The corporate class and their functionaries blame inflation, not overproduction, for their decline.

They blame wages and hope unemployment will cut wages. They claim wages are too high and cause inflation. Wages have never caused inflation and, in fact, cannot cause inflation. They know this.

As does Jerome Powell, the Federal Reserve Chairman. Powell is a former Carlyle Group senior executive with a personal investment portfolio worth \$55 million. Powell was appointed by Trump and asked to stay on by Biden. In a Dec. 21, 2021, article in *Business Insider*, Powell admitted, "Wages are not a big part of the high inflation story that we're seeing."

But then, in a May 26, 2022, article by Ben Norton, Powell is quoted saying his campaign of raising interest rates would solve the issue "by moderating demand ... to get wages down and then get inflation down without having to slow the economy." By anyone's measure, real wages have

not kept up with inflation, and that has been the case for decades. It's no secret, and all official statistics bear witness. The "Fed" is purposely attacking wages to raise profits, not to reverse inflation.

The smoking gun in investigating this wave of inflation isn't wages at all. It is years of a bloated military budget, its portion of the federal budget growing every single year. The manufacture of weapons of mass destruction adds nothing productive to the economy. This doesn't get mentioned by *Fortune* magazine, *Forbes*, *Business Insider*, or even any of the slightly more "liberal" capitalist mouthpieces. Nearly \$1 trillion a year officially is spent on the U.S. "defense" budget. More is hidden in the U.S. Energy Department's budget, and now an extra \$100 billion has been thrown in to weaponize Ukraine in the U.S. proxy war against Russia. These staggering expenditures are debt-financed. Arms manufacturers and banks grow richer, death and destruction threaten the world, and nothing of value is re-

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Toxic mushroom cloud rises over East Palestine, Ohio.

In the Turkey-Syria quake, construction shortcuts helped kill thousands.

By Stephen Millies

What's the connection between the earthquake in Syria and Turkey with the train wreck in East Palestine, Ohio?

More than 41,000 people, including thousands of children, have been killed by the Feb. 6 earthquake. No one has died so far in the Feb. 3 train wreck or from the dangerous chemicals that were released because of it.

Earthquakes are terrible natural events caused by the shifting and collision of plates inside the earth. Reinforced buildings designed to withstand shocks can greatly reduce fatalities.

Real estate sharks seeking more profits aren't interested in constructing safer buildings. Thousands of people were killed because of contractors trying to cut costs

There was nothing natural about the wreck of the Norfolk Southern freight train that derailed. The 150-car train was 9,300 feet long and weighed 18,000 tons.

Railroad tycoons like long trains, which are part of their Precision Scheduled Railroading model. PSR has helped destroy 62,000 railroad jobs since 2015 while increasing average train length by 25%.

It's simple logic that the longer a train is, the more likely there will be an equipment defect. Excluding the locomotives, a 150-car freight train has 600 axles.

## Inflation

Continued from page 2 turned to society.

The working-class upsurge of the 1930s nearly forced the right to a job to become the law of the land. FDR, out of fear of a revolution, proposed an "Economic Bill of Rights" in 1944 that referred to a job being the same as a property right. Right-wingers in Congress got it watered down, but even today, the historic example points to a way for working-class leaders to take the offensive. A united workers movement would fuel a demand that Jerome Powell be investigated for his duplicity, demand that the Pentagon be abolished and that the \$1 trillion war budget be used for jobs or income for everyone. [tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5](https://www.tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5)



### BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle. This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

Black August celebrates legacy and accomplishments of Black women.

► The book is dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom ► Contributions by Gloria Verdieu ► Carl Muhammad ► Zola Fish ► Mary Lou Finley ► Dennis Childs ► Eusi Kwayana ► Mumia Abu-Jamal ► Curtis Howard ► Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

An overheated roller bearing on a wheel axle apparently failed, causing 38 cars to derail with catastrophic results. Another 12 cars were damaged.

Twenty cars carried hazardous materials. Residents of East Palestine were told to temporarily evacuate and drink bottled water.

A huge mushroom cloud rose above the town. Dead fish have been found in streams within 7.5 miles of the catastrophe. Toxic residue was found in the Ohio River.

While Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine was holding a news conference on the train wreck, his state troopers arrested Evan Lambert, a Black TV reporter for News Nation. Lambert's resisting arrest and trespassing charges were later dismissed.

Five tank cars were deliberately exploded on Feb. 6. "We basically nuked a town with chemicals so we could get a railroad open," said Sil Caggiano, a hazardous materials specialist.

#### Cancer time bomb

Among the dangerous cancer-causing chemicals that continue to be released into the air, soil and water are vinyl chloride gas, butyl acrylate, ethylhexyl acrylate and ethylene glycol monobutyl ethers. Also released was phosgene gas that was used in World War I to kill and blind soldiers.

Railroad workers cleared the important transportation artery by Feb. 4. That's what Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw and the outfit's big stockholders care about: keep the trains rolling and the profits coming in.

Among the 10 biggest Norfolk

Southern stockholders, holding a total of more than 24 million shares, are JP Morgan Investment Advisors, BlackRock and Wells Fargo.

Shaw made \$4.5 million last year but doesn't want to give any sick days to railroad workers. Shaw's lobbyists got Trump to throw out a safety rule adopted under the Obama administration. It mandated a new electronic braking system for trains carrying hazardous goods like the train that derailed.

Big-hearted Norfolk Southern, which hauled in \$4.8 billion in profit last year, is offering \$1,000 "inconvenience checks" to East Palestine residents. Warren, Ohio, Attorney David Engler is advising clients not to take the chump change since it could be used as an excuse by NS management to deny further compensation.

#### Economic sanctions and deindustrialization

In the Turkey-Syria quake, construction shortcuts helped kill children and their parents. So did the U.S. capitalist government.

The Pentagon has been at war with the elected Syrian government since 2011. U.S. forces seized Syrian oil and wheat fields.

U.S. sanctions, some of which have been lifted, prevented aid from going to Syria. U.S. sanctions against socialist Cuba haven't stopped Cuban doctors and other health care workers from helping Syrians.

One of the biggest U.S. Air Force bases is in Incirlik, Turkey, near the earthquake zone. Nuclear weapons continue to be stored there.

East Palestine, Ohio, almost touches the Pennsylvania border. Western Pennsylvania and North-eastern Ohio were once one of the biggest concentrations of steel mills and heavy industry in the world.

Hundreds of thousands of union jobs were destroyed in a region that includes Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Deliberate deindustrialization is also an economic sanction.

East Palestine is named after the country of Palestine. David Ben Gurion was the first prime minister of the apartheid regime that occupies Palestine.

He said of the Palestinians driven out during the Nakba or catastrophe that "the old will die and the young will forget." Palestinians have never forgotten their homeland and are continuing to fight for their freedom against a racist colonial government.

If East Palestine becomes a cancer cluster 10 or 20 years from now, railroad owners also hope that "the old will die and the young will forget." Many of those possible cancer victims will be youthful.

The U.S. government has shoveled over \$140 billion into Israel while it has lavished money on railroads for 160 years. General Custer had it coming, and he died for the Northern Pacific Railway that was invading Lakota Sioux land. The Northern Pacific is now part of billionaire Warren Buffet's BNSF railway.

From Palestine to East Palestine it's poor and working people who suffer from capitalist disasters.

The writer is a retired Amtrak worker.

## Marshall 'Eddie' Conway, ¡presente!

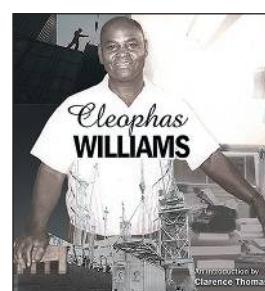
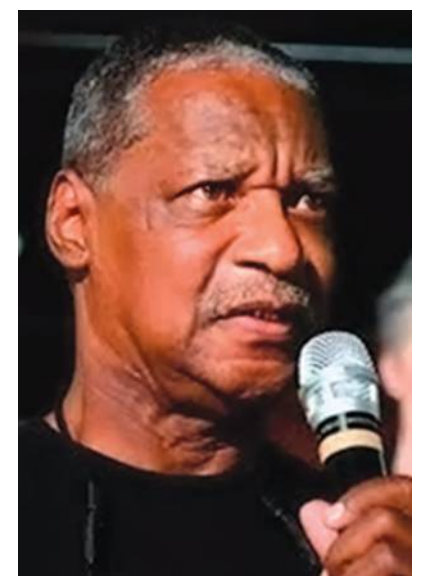
By SLL Baltimore bureau

Former Black Panther Party leader and political prisoner Marshall "Eddie" Conway died Feb. 13 in Long Beach, California. He was a leading member of the Baltimore chapter of the Black Panther Party and was falsely convicted in 1971 of the killing of Baltimore police officer Donald Sager. He, along with community supporters, maintained his innocence and fought for his release. After serving 44 years, Eddie Conway was finally released in 2014, imprisoned for 43 years and 11 months.

Rev. Annie Chambers, who is a former member of the Black Panther

Party and presently an organizer with the Peoples Power Assembly and Baltimore Socialist Unity Party, said, "We send our condolences to his family, loved ones, comrades and to the people of Baltimore, who have lost a real fighter. Eddie continued the struggle while behind bars and after his release. His legacy will live on in our continuing fight against this rotten racist capitalist system. Marshall 'Eddie' Conway, ¡presente! Free all political prisoners!"

Struggle-La Lucha shares the announcement released by Real News where Conway worked as an executive producer and host: therealnews.com/eddie-conway-1946-2023



Look forward to a new book from DeClare Publishing

### Cleophas Williams My Life Story in ILWU Local 10



# No matter the color of the lash, the whip of racism remains intact

THE TYRE NICHOLS KILLING

By John Parker

It's Black History Month. Time to reflect on, hopefully, the progress made for people of African ethnicity, especially in the U.S.

However, a brief history of repression by police attempts to kill our hope. Since the Washington Post has been taking statistics on police killings in the U.S., every year is a record-breaking year. Police disproportionately target people of color, with Black people being the number one target proportionate to our population size in the U.S.

2022, another record year for police killings, witnessed Black people being three times more likely to be killed than white people, despite being 13 times less likely to be armed. As of Jan. 25, with 2023 still in its infancy, Statista.com reports that 79 people were shot to death by police.

The killings by cops have continued apace after Jan. 25 and include Anthony Lowe, the double amputee shot 11 times while fleeing police on Jan. 26, or the police shooting (just seven hours before writing this piece) of 56-year-old Marianne Griffiths on Feb. 5, suffering a mental health crisis while holding a BB gun.

So, for the sake of all those continuing to be killed by cops this year and the preceding years, we must never give in to hopelessness and allow the powers that be to discourage us from fighting back against this racist capitalist system, nor allow them to deny the role that racism plays in this system.



Protests after Tyre Nichols's death.

After the Tyre Nichols killing in January by mostly Black Memphis police officers, the argument has been resurrected that racism no longer plays a part in the system of policing in the U.S. This despite the overwhelming evidence of continued racist targeting of people of color.

Maybe we need to examine what racism is and where it comes from – and its reason for being.

## The specter of our class still haunts them

There are two very frightening realities faced by the capitalist ruling class – their smaller numbers in relation to the majority and their inability to derive profit without exploiting human labor. Since they are

the sole owners of the means of production (the factories, land, and machines) – with an essential armed force to protect that ownership – they have irreconcilable differences with the majority of people who, instead of owning those means, are exploited by them. We can't even decide how the profits created by our labor, which turns into the wealth of the nation, gets used. Only the capitalist class gets to decide that, with their bought-and-paid-for politicians in Washington.

So, the problem for the ruling class is how to hide that reality from the human labor they depend on for profit. How do you keep the majority from understanding that their misery is based on their not owning

the means of production and having no role in how the wealth produced from those means is spent? Should it go toward endless wars, World War III, more police, joyrides into space? Or for health care, jobs, and housing?

And, more importantly, how do you hide from this class of people that they reside in the same boat, sharing a reality of economic exploitation, increasing with every utility gas hike, deteriorating social services, or diminishing wages?

That is the role of racism, to keep those in the boat from recognizing each other's similarities. Like a magician's use of misdirection, they hide that truth by defining our differences for us, then giving more to those who meet the preferred parameters of the ruling class. They get more in terms of quality of life, allowing them the tools and opportunities to develop a fantasy of superiority.

However, from the capitalists' point of view, even with all those benefits, the preferred in our boat are still the human labor necessary to develop surplus value, produced from our hourly work for the capitalists. The "surplus" is the extra added value our labor gives to the products we produce, allowing those products to be sold at a profit. It is the foundation of the wealth of the capitalists. However, even our preferred occupants of that boat will continue to be exploited, having no say in how that surplus value is used. Eventually, when their privileges over others in that boat hit up against austerity – also losing

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# South Africa's National Union of Metalworkers will join call for Mumia's freedom

ILWU attends South African Conference commemorating the 1973 Durban strikes

By Lallan Schoenstein

Representatives from the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) gathered with union leaders from Namibia and South Africa at a Jan. 26 - 28, 2023, conference in South Africa to mark the anniversary of the 1973 Durban strikes that preceded the formation of South Africa's powerful trade union movement.

At the conference were international and local activists, academics, and leaders of the Revolutionary Transport Union of South Africa (RETUSA) and the General Industries Workers Union of South Africa. A goal of the Durban conference was to tackle issues currently facing dockworkers.

The event marks the 50th anniversary of the Durban strikes, where some 100,000 African and Indian workers downed their tools to demand better wages and working conditions. The strikes impacted a wide range of production, from textile firms and brick factories to metal and chemical plants.

The 1973 Durban strikes were followed by the formation of the Federation of South African Trade Unions in 1979 and the Congress of South African Trade Unions in 1985. The

union movement played a pivotal role in the liberation struggle against apartheid.

## The ILWU's campaign against apartheid

In 1984, members of ILWU Locals 10 and 34 in San Francisco refused to offload South African cargo for 11 days, inspiring a community and labor anti-apartheid movement that spread across the country. When Nelson Mandela spoke at the Oakland Coliseum in 1990, he recognized Local 10 for its historic solidarity.

Retired Local 10 past Secretary-Treasurer Clarence Thomas, speaking at a Durban media briefing, said: "Dockworkers hold a strategic position in the global economy. Dockworkers have more leverage than any workers in the world by working at the point of production of the global supply chain. We shut down shipping, rail, trucking, and cargo flight schedules when we strike. The food we eat, the cars we buy, the fuel we put in them, the computers and handheld devices we use, and the shoes and clothes we wear all come off of ships. No workers in the world understand capital-



From left, David Newton, NUMSA General Secretary Irvin Jim, and Jack Heyman in South Africa.

ism better than longshore workers. If the cargo doesn't come off the ship it cannot be sold

Thomas spoke of how unions globally should organize to fight against privatization.

RETUSA General Secretary Joseph Dube welcomed the collaboration between unions.

"We are fighting privatization as you are. We need to learn from each other and make our unions an active fighting force for permanent jobs, democratic workers' control over the harbor facilities, and above all to fight for a living wage for all." Dube said.

## The National Union of Metalworkers will protest for Mumia's Freedom

On Jan. 24, 2023, Jack Heyman, Local 10 retired, and David Newton,

Local 10 dispatcher and executive board member, met with officers of NUMSA (National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa.)

General Secretary (G.S.) Irvin Jim of NUMSA (364,000 union members) commended the ILWU for international solidarity actions at the meeting. NUMSA officers reviewed Local 10's revolutionary actions against South African apartheid.

When the ILWU delegation informed G.S. Jim that they wished to build international actions calling for Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom on Feb.16, he offered to organize NUMSA to mobilize for a mass demonstration at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria.

Furthermore, G.S. Jim said he would write a letter to Judge Lucretia Clemmons, the judge presiding over Mumia's case, calling for his freedom. In gratitude, the ILWU invited NUMSA to visit Local 10 on May Day 2023.

NUMSA was presented with a signed copy of Clarence Thomas' book, which includes the history of the ILWU's role in fighting apartheid, "Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March." NUMSA union polo shirts were exchanged with Million Worker March tee shirts and other union gear. 📷



# Stop trans genocide: Now is the time to fight back!

By Melinda Butterfield

On Feb. 6, hundreds of trans people and supporters flooded the capitol in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, ahead of right-wing Gov. Kevin Stitt's state of the state address and the opening of the state's legislative session, where several anti-trans bills are pending.

Chanting "Trans lives matter" and "This is our house," members of the LGBTQ+ community and allies gave a forceful response to the anti-trans panic that has escalated to unprecedented levels in the past year.

Since Jan. 1, nearly 300 anti-trans laws have been proposed in statehouses across the U.S. Several have already been adopted, including a total ban on gender-affirming care for trans youth in Utah.

In early 2022, proposed laws mainly focused on banning trans youth from using school restrooms or playing sports. Now, just a year later, many states are advocating outright bans on gender-affirming health care for trans people — youth and adults alike — and so-called drag bans that would make it illegal for trans people to speak, perform or live publicly in any capacity.

Following the example of Texas, several states have called for measures to punish parents, doctors, and teachers who support trans youth and even to take kids away from supportive parents. Thousands of families of trans youth are pulling up stakes to flee to safer states. Many others don't have that option.

Civil rights attorney and trans activist Chase Strangio summed it up in a Twitter post Feb. 6: "The following states are closing to banning — and in some cases criminalizing and deeming child abuse — medical care for trans adolescents: MS, TN, SD, ND, WY, ID, WV, OK, MO, MT, ID. The following states have: AR, AL, UT, TX. Where's the outrage? Where's the media coverage?"

Nor is the danger confined to the legal arena. From California to New York, drag shows and other queer events have been besieged by right-wing protests, including openly white

supremacist and fascist groups like the Proud Boys, sometimes armed.

In almost every case, these hate groups have been met by far larger crowds of community defenders. But the ultra-right has the manufactured outrage of politicians and corporate media at its beck and call.

## The new 'build that wall'

In 2016, billionaire oligarch and demagogue Donald Trump campaigned for the presidency around the slogan "build that wall" — a call to not only ban refugees and migrants from entering the U.S. but to use them as a scapegoat for all the ills of capitalism.

On Jan. 31, Trump released a video announcing what his 2024 campaign slogan will be: trans genocide.

The Advocate reported on Feb. 1: "Posted on his social media platform Truth Social, Trump called access to gender-affirming care 'child abuse' and 'child sexual mutilation.' The former president ... said he'd forbid government agencies from promoting 'the concept of sex and gender transition at any age.'"

"In the pledge, Trump said he'd cut off federal funding to doctors and health care groups providing gender-affirming care to minors. He also said that if teachers or school officials 'suggest to a child that they could be trapped in the wrong body,' then 'they will be faced with severe consequences including potential civil rights violations.'"

"Trump said that his administration would push for 'positive education about the nuclear family...'"

He added, "I will ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that the only genders recognized by the U.S. government are male and female, and they are assigned at birth."

Trump's main opponent for the Republican nomination in 2024 may be Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is equally bigoted against trans people. DeSantis enacted the so-called "Don't Say Gay" law prohibiting discussion of LGBTQ+ issues in schools, banned Medicaid patients from accessing gender-affirming care, and

has attacked teaching the truth of U.S. history regarding slavery, the genocide of Indigenous peoples, and more.

Florida teachers have been banned from letting students read books in their classrooms until they have been vetted to remove anything pertinent to Black history, women's liberation, and LGBTQ+ lives.

Every week sees new cases of slander meant to manufacture outrage against trans people and medical providers, like the case of Christynne Lili Wrene Wood in Santee, a San Diego suburb. Wood, a retired African American city worker and trans woman, was thrust into the center of a national hate campaign and local lynch-mob atmosphere for using the women's changing room at the local YMCA. The campaign against her was fueled by the likes of Tucker Carlson on Fox News.

In a statement expressing solidarity with Ms. Wood, San Diego LGBTQ+ organizations said: "It is also important to recognize the racial implications of this incident — a white woman claiming the mere sight of a Black woman's body as threatening is a dangerous perpetuation of racism. The reality of anti-Black racism in this country continues to be a pervasive and unavoidable aspect of our American culture, and contributes to the consistent danger that Black people — particularly Black transgender women — face every day."

Christian nationalist groups targeting Ms. Wood are mobilizing on Feb. 8 to have the Santee City Council shut down the YMCA for allowing trans people to use its facilities. Counter-protesters are mobilizing in support of trans lives.

## Join actions in D.C. March 31-April 1

Actions like the one in Oklahoma City are needed — more of them, many more — in every state capitol coast-to-coast. And those actions must grow with solidarity from organized labor, communities fighting racist police brutality, and the censorship of Black history in schools, women's rights, and an-



Protesters defending trans lives pack the Oklahoma State Capitol on Feb. 6.

ti-war organizations.

An important call to action has been issued by the Trans Radical Activist Network for a national mobilization in Washington, D.C., on March 31 and April 1. TRAN has retitled the Trans Day of Visibility on March 31 as the Trans Day of Vengeance.

The actions in Washington can be an important first step in organizing a nationwide fightback movement. Visit TRAN or Struggle-La Lucha in the coming weeks for details about the events and how to get involved.

The attack on trans lives has escalated into a crisis, and no one can predict the outcome. There is no time to wait for elections that may or may not swing toward one party or another, especially when the Democratic Party's national leadership and President Biden have shown themselves incapable and unwilling to take the growing threat seriously.

Capitalist rule, the power of bosses over the workers and oppressed, is built on a foundation of divide and conquer — setting one group of workers against another. Fascism as a movement is divide-and-conquer in its most extreme form.

Today, trans people in the U.S. are on the front line. The history of fascist movements in the 20th century provides ample proof that when one group is targeted for extermination if the working class does not rise to the challenge, it only opens the door for the next wave of repression.

After trans people, other members of the LGBTQ+ community, the women's movement, Black and Brown communities already besieged by racist cops, and the labor movement will be among the next targets.

An injury to one is an injury to all. It's time for the working class to mobilize to stop the attacks on trans people. 📌

# New Orleanians come out against anti-LGBTQ+ bigot Jeff Landry

By Gregory E. Williams

Feb. 12 — Two actions were held in New Orleans against the latest attacks on LGBTQ+ people and other oppressed workers. These attacks locally are being spearheaded by Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry — who is running for governor — but the attacks are nationally coordinated and have been blessed by Trump.

Landry met with other Republican attorneys general in the "Forbes Travel Guide verified luxury" Roosevelt Hotel. Down on the street, the Louisiana Abortion Rights Actions Committee (LARAC) held a news conference to expose oil profiteer Landry, who has used his office to block Medicaid expansion, limit abortion rights, and much more. His



LARAC press conference outside the Roosevelt Hotel

SLL PHOTO

gubernatorial campaign comes from the playbook of David Duke, who was rejected by Louisiana voters in 1991. Currently, Landry is stoking hatred against queer and trans people with attempted library book bans.

Those who spoke and gathered at the LARAC press conference represent the diversity of South Louisiana: Black, white, immigrant, non-immigrant — all coming from the multinational working class. By

contrast, when Landry recently appeared in the Legislature with the astroturf "concerned parents" group the St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project — which is allied with Republican Party organizations — everyone who stood at the podium with him was white.

LARAC is building toward a March 5 International Working Women's Day Emergency March.

Members of the trans rights orga-

nization Real Name Campaign NOLA participated in the news conference and then led the crowd in a militant march. Their flyer read, "Stop Landry's Book Ban!"

With chants like "2,4,6,8, stop the book bans in our state," they took over part of busy Canal Street. This is significant given that crowds were gearing up for a Mardi Gras parade on the street (Mardi Gras and other tourism are a backbone of the city's economy). They ended their march at the main library branch in the Central Business District. 📌



# Ninety years since Hitler took power

By Stephen Millies

*This has been abridged for length; the full report can be read online at [tinyurl.com/3s9thvwx](https://tinyurl.com/3s9thvwx)*

Ninety years ago, on Jan. 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany, and a dozen years of hell followed, with tens of millions killed. Six million Jewish people and over 300,000 Roma and Sinti people were murdered.

Never forget that 27 million Soviet people from more than 150 nationalities gave their lives to defeat the Nazis. It was on the Eastern Front that the Nazi war machine was destroyed.

That's where almost 80% of the Third Reich's military casualties occurred. Soviet soldiers fought 1,400 miles from Stalingrad on the Volga River to Berlin. On Jan. 27, 1945, the Auschwitz extermination camp was liberated by Soviet forces.

How did the Nazis take over the homeland of Marx and Engels? Hitler was put into power by the biggest German capitalists. The Krupp steelmaking and munitions empire; the Flicks that run Mercedes-Benz; the Quandt family, owners of BMW; Deutsche bank; and Allianz insurance all bankrolled the Nazis.

German industrialists and bankers took a country that gave Beethoven and Einstein to the world and put it in the sewer.

The defeat of the German working class still hangs over workers and oppressed peoples today.

Europe was devastated by World War I. Twenty million people were killed, and millions more were disabled.

## Socialism and war

All eyes were on Germany. German sailors had revolted and took over Kiel on Nov. 3, 1918. Six days later, the Kaiser fled on his private train.

General Ludendorff, who functioned as the military dictator of Germany during the war, demanded an armistice be signed. He feared the soldiers would follow the sailors' example.

The country's new Social Democratic leaders, Friedrich Ebert, and Philipp Scheideman, even hesitated to declare a republic. They were terrified by German workers, soldiers, and sailors who had formed workers' councils called soviets, inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution.

Ebert and Scheideman instead helped drown the German Revolution in blood. Among those assassinated were the revolutionary leaders Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, who army officers killed on Jan. 15, 1919.

The Social Democratic Party (SPD) was Germany's largest party. It won 37.9 percent of the vote in the January 1919 elections. The Independent Social Democratic Party (USPD) — an anti-war split from the SPD — won 7.6 percent.

Both these parties called for socialism. Together they got almost 14 million votes, or 45.5% of the total. But neither the SPD nor the USPD was revolutionary.

The SPD was founded in 1869 by followers of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Its leaders were August Bebel and Wilhelm Liebknecht, the father of Karl Liebknecht.

This was the first mass working-class party in the world. It became a model for socialists around the world, including the Bolsheviks.

## Workers of the world unite!

August Bebel and Wilhelm Liebknecht had already been elected to the Reichstag — the German parliament — when the Franco-Prussian war began in 1870. They courageously protested the German annexation of the French territories of Alsace-Lorraine.

The Junker Chancellor Otto von Bismarck had Bebel and Liebknecht jailed for treason. However, this didn't stop the SPD from winning more workers' support.

Bismarck responded by imposing harsh anti-socialist laws in 1878. Thousands of workers were jailed. This was the SPD's best period.

Bebel became famous for using the Reichstag to attack capitalism. SPD members would vote against the government budget, with Bebel thundering, "Not a penny for this system!" Lenin described Bebel as a "people's tribune" in "What Is To Be Done."

The SPD's growing strength forced the repeal of the anti-socialist laws in 1890. Large numbers of workers were being won over to socialism. It was socialists who organized workers into unions.

By 1914, the SPD had a million members and was the largest party in the Reichstag, with 110 seats. But the party's leadership was no longer revolutionary. Bebel had died.

The long period of relative capitalist stability had corrupted most of the SPD leaders. On Aug. 4, 1914, all of the socialists in the Reichstag voted for war appropriations.

On the same day, every one of the 102 French socialists in the Chamber of Deputies also voted for an imperialist war. The workers of the world were now in the trenches killing each other for their capitalists.

## A failed revolution

The Second International was dead. Rosa Luxemburg, a socialist leader and theoretician active in Germany and Poland, called the SPD a "stinking corpse."

Not all of the socialist parties were swept up in supporting the military slaughter. The six Bolsheviks in the Russian Duma denounced the war. So did the two socialist members of Serbia's National Assembly.

Lenin called for turning the imperialist war into a civil war. Liebknecht broke with the other SPD Reichstag members and started to vote against war appropriations.

He declared that the main enemy was at home. On May 1, 1916, Karl Liebknecht shouted, "Down with the Kaiser!, Down with the war!," at an anti-war demonstration in Berlin's Potsdamer Platz.

Liebknecht was immediately arrested. Rosa Luxemburg had already been jailed.

That May Day, 55,000 workers in Berlin had gone on strike against the war, with thousands more stopping work in other cities. On Aug. 2, 1917, 400 sailors on a battleship mutinied and marched into Wilhelmshaven.

The dam broke in the fall of 1918. The masses were sick of war and starvation. German workers went on strike while soldiers and sailors refused to kill other poor people.



80 years ago: Red Army soldier raises victory flag over Stalingrad, February 2, 1943. The victory was the turning point in the defeat of the Nazis.

The people wanted the Junkers and war-profiteering capitalists overthrown. The Communist Party of Germany was born on Dec. 30, 1918.

The leaders of the SPD and the unions were hostile to a socialist revolution. They were willing to let military officers in vigilante gangs called the "Freikorps" murder thousands of revolutionaries, including Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

But when General Kapp attempted to overthrow the newly formed republic in March 1920, the unions called a general strike that stopped the "Kapp Putsch."

## Capitalists turn to fascism

The Great Depression devastated Germany. One out of four workers became unemployed.

It was also a crisis for the capitalist class, whose profits nosedived, and export markets shriveled.

German capitalists relied on various political parties to keep themselves in power during the 1920s. While the wealthy despised the Social Democrats, they used them to fight communism.

During the May Day marches in 1929 led by the Communist Party (KPD), it was the Social Democratic government in the state of Prussia that killed 61 workers.

German capitalism needed a hangman in a plebeian disguise. So they got one in Adolf Hitler.

The wealthy and powerful feared being overthrown by the workers and poor. The KPD had 300,000 members and received nearly 5.3 million votes in the July 1932 elections. Communists were the biggest party in Berlin and got 60% of the vote in the city's Wedding neighborhood.

Capitalists required fascism not only to crush communists but also to pulverize every form of working-class organization. The SPD, the unions, and the entire working class culture had to be shattered in order to cut wages sharply.

The big capitalists were so discredited that Hitler called his party the "National Socialist German Workers Party."

Hitler was no worker and dreaded becoming one.

## The workers divided will be defeated

Despite the explosive growth of the Nazis, their greatest strength was in rural areas, smaller towns, and wealthy neighborhoods. They had little support among union members.

In Berlin, "the highest levels of support for the National Socialists came from the upper- and upper-middle-class districts," according to "Who Voted for Hitler?" by Richard F. Hamilton.

In the Nov. 6, 1932, elections, three out of eight German voters cast their

ballots for either the Social Democrats or Communists. Their combined total was 13,228,140 votes.

The Nazis got 11,737,021 votes, a drop of two million from what they received in the July 31, 1932, elections. In contrast, Communists gained almost 700,000 votes in three months.

This trend terrified the big capitalists. German tycoons turned decisively to back Hitler.

But how could they smash two working-class parties with millions of followers and unions with a membership of five million in a country of 65 million people?

The SPD was a dues collection agency. Their leaders had betrayed the working class, supported the imperialist war, and presided over the murders of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

German communists wanted a revolution. But to overthrow capitalism, the KPD had to win over millions of workers who supported the SPD.

There was a line of blood between the SPD and KPD members. It was Social-Democratic cops who beat up and sometimes killed KPD members, like on May Day in 1929.

Around 90% of KPD members were unemployed. The Communists were a party of largely jobless young people, while SPD members were usually older and more likely to have a job still. Almost all the unions were allied with the SPD.

This division helped paralyze the working class and paved the way for the Nazis. The SPD union leaders refused to mobilize workers and declare a general strike as they did in 1920 against the Kapp Putsch.

Hitler's victory was tragically like the overthrow of the Soviet Union. In both cases, it was a largely cold takeover against the backdrop of a demoralized and confused working class.

The burning of the Reichstag on Feb. 27, 1933, which the Nazis orchestrated, served as an excuse for a reign of terror.

Thousands of communists and other anti-fascists were sent to concentration camps. Communist leader Ernst Thälmann was imprisoned at Buchenwald, where he was executed on Aug. 18, 1944.

Just as Bolsheviks studied the struggles of the German working class, German communists needed to learn from the Bolsheviks. Lenin urged them to do so in "Left-Wing' Communism, an Infantile Disorder."

Many experienced Communist leaders, like Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, had already been assassinated with the acquiescence of SPD leaders. Communists were justifiably bitter, and their anger was often directed against fellow workers who remained in the SPD.

The SPD leaders convinced many of their followers that communists were dangerous extremists who served as tools of reaction. Some of the KPD actions reinforced this attitude.

The Aug. 9, 1931, "Red Referendum" was a notorious example. This was a plebiscite endorsed by the Nazis to dissolve the Prussian Landtag, or state assembly, which Social Democrats led.

The only alternative at that point to an SPD-led Prussian government

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# The far right sets a trap for the anti-war movement

By Melinda Butterfield

The history of the working class and oppressed peoples is full of positive and negative lessons about the intertwined struggles against war and fascism. Unfortunately, since the destruction of the USSR and the socialist camp 30 years ago, many of these lessons have been lost to new generations and forgotten by older ones.

At this critical juncture of an unfolding global war crisis unleashed by U.S. imperialism in Ukraine, the destruction of people's basic rights and livelihoods at home, and the growing climate catastrophe, it is crucial to the success of working-class movements to revive those lessons.

This is the context of an event called "Rage Against the War Machine" planned for Feb. 19 in Washington, D.C., and billed as an alliance of "left and right" against the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine.

While feinting to the left, with a slate of progressive-sounding demands and headlined by some leftist journalists and social media personalities, the event is being driven by the far right, including allies of Donald Trump.

It features racist, anti-trans, and anti-worker speakers like "Tea Party" founder Ron Paul, a former member of Congress from Texas; anti-trans bigot Tulsi Gabbard, another former representative; former judge Andrew Napolitano, a past Fox News host who was considered by Trump for a Supreme Court seat; and representatives of the Libertarian Party and Lyndon Larouche's Schiller Institute.

The most prominent representative of the "left" on the bill is Jimmy Dore, a YouTube personality known for appearing with the likes of arch-bigots Tucker Carlson and Joe Rogan.

It's no surprise that the announced speakers are almost entirely white, with no recognized representatives of progressive Black, Latinx, Asian, or Native communities and organizations, nor the LGBTQ+ and feminist movements.

## Preying on confusion

The ultra-right is preying on the weakness and confusion that has plagued the anti-war movement since the outbreak of open conflict between Russia and NATO's proxy regime in Ukraine last year. In this, the far right is attempting to lead anti-war forces into a trap that would override the life-and-death concerns of oppressed communities for the false hope of a "broad" alliance against the danger of World War III.

Its true purpose, however, is to strengthen the grip of the openly fascist, white supremacist movement in the U.S. based on anti-trans panic, hatred of migrants and refugees, censorship of Black and LGBTQ+ history, robbing women of their right to abortion, and so on.

Some of the anti-war left are desperate for an alliance with the far right, having no confidence in the multinational working class, the only force historically capable of stopping imperialist war and halting the advance of fascism. This is reflected in the details of the lineup and sponsors of the Feb. 19 event – including a libertarian wing of the Bernie Sanders electoral movement and so-called "patriotic socialists" like the Center for Political Innovation.

These "leftists" have been part of a trend that platforms fascists while denigrating and dismissing the most oppressed sections of the working class, who have the least to lose and the most to gain from a revival of revolutionary class struggle in the U.S.: Black and Brown people, migrants, Muslims, women, trans people, the LGBTQ+ community, the

poor, the disabled, etc.

They argue that the struggles of these workers for their basic democratic rights somehow detract from the class struggle rather than enhance and strengthen it. Many of them also dismiss the organizing of service industry workers like those at Starbucks, who actually provide grassroots militant leadership to the labor movement.

Such a policy, put into practice through events like "Rage Against the War Machine" that attempt to play down class divisions and whitewash the far right's war on the oppressed, can only serve the aims of the imperialist ruling class.

## Is the far right really anti-war?

These leftists also ignore the real pro-war politics of the far right. While some of them, like Ron Paul, boast of their isolationism for political gain, their allegiance to unbridled capitalism, racism, and xenophobia speaks the truth about their actual stance.

While there are different schools of left-wing thought on fascism and the most effective ways to fight it, all serious opponents agree that war is as integral to fascism as it is to the imperialist ruling class.

Some on the right oppose the war in Ukraine simply because a Democratic administration is heading it, others because they are still lost in the fever dream of an imaginary "white nationalist alliance" with Russia.

It should be noted that Congressional Republicans, now dominated by the far right, have again and again voted overwhelmingly to give more money to the Pentagon and the military industry, as well as to strengthen the police waging a racist war on people in the U.S. Donald Trump boasts that his administration put \$2.5 trillion into the Pentagon and armaments.



While generally progressive-sounding, the demands of Rage Against the War Machine do not mention opposing war with China, Iran, or other countries targeted by U.S. imperialism. War against those countries was a high priority of Trump and his ruling class backers and the far right inside and outside the Republican Party.

Many are advocating for open military conflict with Mexico to stem the tide of refugees – workers attempting to flee the consequences of U.S.-sponsored wars and economic devastation in South and Central America and the Caribbean.

Anti-war activists should take careful notice of the video speech given by Donald Trump on Jan. 31, in which he declared himself an "anti-war candidate" in 2024 while saying he would outlaw gender-affirming care and trans lives starting on his first day back in office. This is the destructive path Rage Against the War Machine is attempting to lead the anti-war movement down.

## Divide and conquer

One of the grave mistakes that facilitated the rise of fascism in Germany in the early 1930s was the

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# Socialist Unity Party honors Sam Marcy

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the death of the noted revolutionary leader, Sam Marcy. He is well known for his penetrating Marxist analysis of world events.

Based in the revolutionary conceptions of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels and V.I. Lenin, Marcy began his many writings on the true nature of the global class war following the end of World War II.

Following the defeat of Hitler in the war, the U.S. and Western Europe turned their sights on the Soviet Union. Marcy clarified that with the buildup to the Korean War, the world had now fallen into two class camps. The Soviet Union and the recent Chinese communist revolution headed the socialist camp. The U.S., Western Europe, and Japan led the imperialist camp. His analysis spelled out how the two class camps were irreconcilable.

"It is not a war between the nations, but a war between the classes. In this war, the geographical boundaries are social boundaries, the bat-

tle formations are class formations, and the world line of demarcation is the line rigidly drawn by the socialist interests of the world proletariat," Marcy wrote.

Marcy presented many writings and speeches that showed the many mechanisms of the class struggle outlining the role that capitalist exploitation of the working class plays in everyday life. He analyzed developments in the U.S. and in so many countries abroad throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Marcy stressed the need for complete international solidarity with other socialist countries that fell under the military and economic attacks of the imperialist apparatus. He was a strong supporter of the many revolutionary liberation struggles.

In his book "High Tech, Low Pay," Marcy showed how the scientific-technological changes in



the structure of capitalist industry brought with it a change in the social character of the working class. There was a massive general shift of workers away from relatively high-skilled, high-paid jobs into lower-skilled, lower-paid service jobs.

The working class in the U.S. was opened up to include more women in the workforce as well as people of color. There was a growing proportion of Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, women, and undocumented

workers. Marcy saw the fight against racism and oppression as pivotal to the struggle for socialism. He boldly broke tradition by coming out in support of the early Gay Liberation movement in the U.S. He was the first socialist leader to do this in the early 1970s.

One of his last major writings was the book "Perestroika: a Marxist Critique" in which he foresaw the pending disaster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies as a complete capitulation to capitalism and imperialism. Gorbachev's policies led to the dismantling of the Soviet Union and its allies in Eastern Europe.

Sam Marcy was a fearless fighter on behalf of the working class against capitalism. He firmly believed in the ability of the working class to act in unity to overcome our oppression and to abolish the capitalist class on the way to building worldwide socialism. 📖



# Turkey-Syria earthquake catastrophe needs global cooperation, not U.S. sanctions

By Sharon Black

February 9 — The death toll from the unprecedented scale of the 7.8-magnitude quake that hit Turkey and Syria is now over 23,000. As of this writing, almost 70,000 people have been injured, and some 315,000 displaced. At least 24 million people and 4 million buildings were affected.

Human catastrophe looms for the survivors, who are now homeless and exposed to harsh winter conditions. The infrastructure that provides water and food is destroyed.

## Biden and U.S. response lacking

President Joe Biden did not allude to this tragedy during his Feb. 7 “State of the Union”. On Feb. 6, Biden sent a perfunctory message to the Turkish government, offering unspecified support.

To date, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), which helps fund the “regime change” National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has announced that they are sending two rescue teams. One team is from the Los Angeles County Firefighters, and the other is the Virginia Task Force-1.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that there will be no assistance for Syria. Period.

On the other hand, China has already announced \$5.9 million in aid to Turkey and \$4.4 million to Syria. China’s search and rescue teams, both governmental and private, are on the ground.

## Immediately lift Sanctions

The National Union of Syrian Students in Damascus issued an appeal on Feb. 2 calling for an immediate end to the siege and unilateral coercive economic sanctions imposed on Syria and its people for the last 12 years. In addition, they demanded urgent aid to stem the suffering, including cash transfers for those affected.

John Parker, a national organizer for the Socialist Unity Party who recently traveled to Donbass on a fact-finding trip and visited Syria in 2013, angrily exclaimed, “U.S. and E.U. sanctions on Syria must be immediately lifted during this crisis!”

Parker continued, “How can there be any justification for the U.S. government to spend over \$100 billion dollars to fund a U.S.-NATO proxy war against Russia while the needs of



Collapsed buildings in the town of Jinderis, Aleppo province, Syria, Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. The quake that razed thousands of buildings was one of the deadliest worldwide in more than a decade.

millions of people go unmet and the anguish of children and their parents in Turkey and Syria ring in our ears.”

“It is now over a week since the deadly earthquake struck. When it came to sending tanks, bombs, drones and all sorts of other armaments to Kiev, it was practically overnight. How many lives have been lost under the rubble in Syria that could have been saved if the necessary equipment and people power were rushed to the scene.”

The massive earthquake impacted a large area of southern and central Turkey, including the provinces of Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Gaziantep, Adiyaman, Osmaniye, and Adana. In Syria, the provinces of Idlib and Aleppo, as well as the coastal regions of Latakia and Tartus were impacted. Northern Syria is also home to 62,000 Palestinian refugees who reside in Lattakia, Neirab, Ein-el Tal, and Hama camps.

While scientists have yet to figure out how to make exact predictions on when earthquakes will strike, seismologists can estimate where earthquakes may be likely to strike by calculating probabilities and forecasts. Probabilities can be calculated based on the average rate of past seismic activity in a region.

## China is leading use of AI

Artificial Intelligence systems have been developed by researchers at the University of Science and Technology of China and the China Earthquake Administration to fast-track predictions. The AI is being tested in Yunnan and Sichuan, where China lost over 87,000 lives to earthquakes in 2008. The system is called EarthX.

Global cooperation and socialism are desperately needed to save lives; U.S. imperialism, war, and sanctions threaten humanity. 📧

## Ninety years since Hitler took power

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was one led by or in coalition with the Nazis.

The KPD endorsed the plebiscite, which fortunately lost. The KPD’s support for this referendum only deepened the distrust that Social Democratic workers had for Communists.

So did the term “social fascist,” which was used by the communist movement at the time to describe moderate socialists. How was it possible to form a united front against the Nazis if communists called SPD members in the workplace or neighborhood “social fascists”?

## Lessons for today

The tragedy of the German working class has many lessons for today’s struggle. Steve Bannon and other Trump supporters want to build a fascist movement.

One of their main targets is Drag Queen story hours. The fascist Proud Boys were met with hundreds of opponents when they tried to stop a reading at the Jackson Heights library in Queens, New York City, on Dec. 29, 2022,

The police protected these fascists and escorted them into a nearby subway station without paying a fare.

In the fall of 1974 in Boston, a mass fascist movement arose under the name “Restore Our Alienated Rights,” or ROAR. Targeting school busing for integration, this fascist mobilization seemed to be unstoppable. School buses carrying Black, Asian, and Latinx children were attacked.

Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy and the entire liberal establishment were silent. Mass action was required. The Dec. 14, 1974, March Against Racism helped stop this fascist movement.

Mao Zedong, the leader of the Chinese Revolution, famously asked, “Who are our enemies? Who are our friends?”

Super racists Tucker Carlson and Donald Trump are not our friends, even if they’re making some anti-war noises about Ukraine. They want a war against China instead.

Under certain conditions, it is permissible and even necessary for the left to block with the center to fight the right. But it’s treason against workers and oppressed people to block with the right against the center.

That’s the case with the Rage Against the War Machine rally scheduled for Feb. 19 in Washington, D.C. It calls for disbanding NATO, ending the war in Ukraine, and freeing Julian Assange.

The rally is co-sponsored by the Libertarian Party, which wants to abolish social security and every other government program. One of the speakers will be the racist former congressman Ron Paul.

It’s revealing that none of the rally’s ten demands mention the war preparations against the People’s Republic of China. That’s especially important because of media hysteria over balloons.

Such a rally puts a stamp of approval on bigots like Tea Party founder Ron Paul and the right-wing Libertarian Party. It confuses workers like the “Red Referendum” did 90 years ago.

We need to mobilize for the March 18 genuine anti-war and anti-racism rally in Washington, D.C., that’s called by the ANSWER coalition and other organizations.

Working and poor people united can defeat the capitalist cutbacks and all the Bannons and Trumps! 📧

## The far right sets a trap for the anti-war movement

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decision of the Communist Party leadership there to form an electoral bloc with the fascists in 1931 against bourgeois liberals and social democracy, giving rise to the much-maligned slogan “after Hitler, us.”

The move confused and demoralized millions of workers and the party’s members. And this alliance of convenience did nothing to prevent the Nazis from outlawing and smashing the Communist Party and the workers’ movement when it had cemented its position with the support of the big German capitalists two years later.

More recently, a similar alliance of convenience in Britain has had serious consequences for the working class after many leftists joined in the right-wing-driven Brexit movement. While the left had long opposed the European Union as an imperialist institution, those who supported Brexit found themselves tailing a white-nationalist movement which, since coming to power, has had devastating effects on the rights of workers, the national health system, the rights of trans people, etc.

There are no shortcuts to building a genuine anti-war movement. And there is no shortage of anti-war sentiment among workers in the U.S. The movement must do the work of linking the fight against imperialist war with the urgent needs of people here – against inflation, low wages, evictions, and police terror, and standing up for the rights of people who are under attack. To be successful, it must be independent of both the Democrats and Republicans.

We urge those genuine anti-war forces who have been misled by the rhetoric of Rage Against the War Machine to consider the consequences of supporting this false “left-right” alliance and to join us in organizing for the march against U.S. endless wars on March 18 initiated by the ANSWER Coalition and endorsed by the Socialist Unity Party and many others.

Melinda Butterfield is a longtime anti-war activist who has organized against U.S. intervention in Ukraine and the war in Donbass since 2014. She is author of the forthcoming book “U.S. Proxy War in Ukraine and Donbass,” co-editor of *Struggle-La Lucha* and a trans woman.



# What's the significance of the 'spy balloon' incident?

By Gary Wilson

While an alleged “spy balloon” dominates the news, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin was just in the Philippines to announce the expansion of U.S. bases in anticipation of war with China over Taiwan.

On Feb. 2, General Austin spoke at a news conference at the Philippine military headquarters in Manila. U.S. troops, ships, and aircraft will be stationed in nine military bases in the Philippines, including a base on the Philippines' most northern island, about 118 miles from Taiwan. This puts the U.S. military in place for a rapid operation in Taiwan.

“This is a big deal,” Austin said. “This is a very big deal.”

Outside the Philippine military headquarters, dozens of protesters opposed to the U.S. military occupation rallied with chants of “U.S. troops out now” and “Down with U.S. imperialism.”

As to the weather balloon, what is significant is not its presence. There have been three or more other times in the last few years that Chinese weather balloons have flown over the U.S., but none of them were reported in the news at the time.

This time the Pentagon announced the balloon's presence “on an espionage mission.” The Pentagon managed the daily news reports, not the White House or the State Department. The generals were in charge. It was war propaganda.

All the news coverage in the U.S. called it a spy craft, never a weather research balloon, as China said.

According to a Politico report, Defense Secretary Austin, U.S. Northern Command Chief Gen. Glen VanHerck, and Joint Chiefs Chair Gen. Mark Milley were in charge, giving orders (called “recommendations” in the report) to the White House and the State Department as well as dictating the news reports.

One result was that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken canceled his trip to Beijing for high-level diplomatic talks, which was to be the first secretary of state visit since Michael Pompeo's belligerent confrontation in October 2018.

Blinken's trip had become a focus of war hawks in Congress. Republican senators led by Marco Rubio from Florida signed an open letter to Blinken demanding that the trip be a confrontation with China, particularly focusing on Taiwan.

Signers of the letter, in addition to Rubio, were Senators Chuck Grassley, Bill Cassidy, Eric Schmitt, Dan Sullivan, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Rick Scott, Marsha Blackburn, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Pete Ricketts, John Hoeven, and Bill Hagerty.

Not that the Biden administration hasn't followed or even escalated the anti-China policies of the Trump administration. In December, Biden approved \$180 million in arms to Taiwan. Biden extended the ban on

telecommunications equipment from China's Huawei Technologies and ZTE. And the Biden administration instituted comprehensive restrictions on selling semiconductor chips and manufacturing equipment to China.

## Air Force general says war

The Pentagon has been aggressively raising the threat levels.

In a memo dated Feb. 1 but leaked several days earlier, a four-star Air Force general instructed units under his command to begin concrete preparations for war with China that he predicted would come by 2025. Gen. Mike Minihan heads the U.S. Air Mobility Command.

Minihan's memo seems to echo Air Force General Jack Ripper, a character from the 1964 movie “Dr. Strangelove” who orders his command wing to launch a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union.

Minihan lays out a nine-point plan as “preparation for the next fight.”

“I hope I am wrong,” he commented after the memo was made public. “My gut tells me we will fight in 2025.”

Michael McCaul, the new chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the most powerful figure in the House on foreign policy, said on Fox News: “I hope he's wrong as well. I think he's right, though, unfortunately.”

That's a war threat.

## Japan and Australia

On Jan. 13, Japan's prime minister, Fumio Kishida, met with Biden



Protesters at Philippine military headquarters.

at the White House, the New York Times reports, “to work together to transform Japan into a potent military power to help counterbalance China and to bolster the alliance between the two nations so that it becomes the linchpin for their security interests in Asia.”

Washington and Tokyo are deliberately undermining the basis for diplomatic ties with China — the One China policy recognizing Beijing as the legitimate government of all China, including Taiwan.

“We have to protect Taiwan,” Japan's deputy defense minister, Yasuhide Nakayama, said in 2021.

Japan had seized Taiwan in 1895, the beginning of Japan's colonial empire in Asia.

The U.S. has secured military alliances with Japan and the Philippines that makes a north-south arc around Taiwan. A third treaty ally, Australia, is being equipped with nuclear-powered submarines by the U.S. and Britain to operate in the South China Sea. “Attack submarines are a big deal, and they send a big message,” the New York Times reported when the fleet of submarines were announced in 2021.

Today, the U.S. is the primary armaments manufacturer and exporter worldwide. Almost 40% of all armaments production in the world is in the U.S. The military industry

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# U.S. troops out of the Philippines!

By Stephen Millies

Filipinos and their supporters protested the Pentagon's war buildup in the Philippines on Feb. 11 in New York City. People rallied at the Times Square military recruiting station on a busy Saturday night in the entertainment center.



SLL PHOTO

The rally was called by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines-U.S.; BAYAN USA; and the Malaya Movement USA.

It's a very dangerous period in the Philippines. Workers, peasants, students, and activists are being assassinated and arrested.

The current Philippines president is Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., the son of the late Filipino dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The current vice president is Sara Duterte, a daughter of the former president and wannabe dictator Rodrigo Duterte.

BAYAN USA distributed a state-

ment that read in part:

“BAYAN USA condemns the recent expansion of U.S. military presence in the Philippines as a result of U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd A. Austin III's February 1 visit with Philippine President Bong Bong Marcos (BBM) Jr. The United States' access to four additional bases under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), making a total of nine bases, is an egregious violation of Philippine national sovereignty.

“The week of Lloyd Austin's visit to the Philippines coincided with

the 124th anniversary of the Philippine American War, when the United States led a genocidal conquest in the Philippines that left over one million Filipinos murdered and devastated the country's land and resources. This colonial relationship continues today in the form of unequal military agreements like EDCA, which have persisted despite the nominal independence of the Philippines in 1946 and the people's successful shutting down of Subic Naval Base and Clark Air base in 1991.”

Speakers from BAYAN, the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines and the Malaya Movement drew interest from on-

lookers who stopped and listened.

“A few weeks ago, a U.S. general said the United States would be at war with China by 2025,” said Bill Dores, speaking for the International League of Peoples' Struggle. “You see all this idiocy about the balloon. Meanwhile, in the name of preparing war with China, they are waging war against the people of the Philippines.”

“They are funding death squads. ... murdering peasants and union leaders. ...They used the Philippines as an advanced base for their mass murder in Korea and Vietnam and now they want to use it as an advanced base for a war with China,” Dores said.

U.S. out of the Philippines! 🇺🇸

# How the U.S. Navy blew up the Nord Stream pipeline

By Gary Wilson

Seymour Hersch, the investigative journalist, has published a powerful exposé titled “How America took out the Nord Stream Pipeline.” The subtitle says: “The New York Times called it a ‘mystery,’ but the United States executed a covert sea operation that was kept secret—until now.”

Hersch reports: “Last June, the Navy divers, operating under the cover of a widely publicized mid-summer NATO exercise known as BALTOPS 22, planted the remote-



ly triggered explosives that, three months later, destroyed three of the four Nord Stream pipelines, according to a source with direct knowledge of the operational planning.”

Hersch's full report can be read at SeymourHersch.substack.com. 🇺🇸



## New Book by Melinda Butterfield – Soon to be released

This book provides essential background for understanding the U.S./NATO proxy war that threatens to erupt into WW 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.



# Gobierno de PR defiende intereses privados a costa del interés público

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia, En PR, las organizaciones defensoras del medioambiente, no sólo tienen que luchar en contra del poder invasor yanqui, concentrado ahora en una Junta de Control Fiscal que impone políticas para beneficiar a los bonistas extranjeros, sino que a la vez, tiene que enfrentar a una clase criolla de millonarios que intentan robarse y destruir el patrimonio del pueblo con el aval del gobierno.

Esta semana, la guardia paramilitar de uno de esos criminales locales, disparó con balas vivas contra un grupo de manifestantes- incluyendo familias con sus hijos pequeños, que defendían el terreno supuestamente protegido por las leyes ambientales, en Aguadilla, que está en el noroeste de PR. Un manifestante fue herido en la pierna y tuvo que ser llevado a sala de emergencias donde la seguridad del hospital prohibió la entrada de su esposa para que no le tomara y publicara fotos de la herida.

El lugar de la confrontación es un acantilado en la zona marítimo terrestre y es techo de una cueva marítima con valor arqueológico y cultural de la presencia indígena en el área.

Este dueño millonario que se beneficia de exenciones contributivas, ha hecho caso omiso a las órdenes del tribunal y del Departamento de Recursos Naturales para que remueva las edificaciones ilegales. Sin embargo, no solo no ha removido las estructuras, sino que sigue adelantando proyectos de construcción en el área.

Aquí la impunidad reina cuando se trata de la defensa del pueblo y sus intereses. El Estado, que ha abandonado totalmente su deber de proteger el interés público se ha convertido en el más poderoso defensor de los intereses privados y corporativos.

Pero la lucha del pueblo sigue y se extiende a pesar del contubernio de la policía, el gobierno y los agentes mercenarios privados para reprimir al pueblo. Porque ¡Solo el pueblo salva el pueblo! 📌



Captura de pantalla de un vídeo que muestra los momentos posteriores a que el activista medioambiental Ángel Luis Torres Rosado fuera tiroteado por fuerzas de seguridad privadas mientras protestaba contra una construcción ilegal en Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, el domingo 29 de enero de 2022.



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

## No matter the color of the lash, the whip of racism remains intact

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their pensions, jobs, and quality of life to maintain the profits of the ruling class – even the “preferred” will be forced to protest. This is when, ironically, the wealth they produce is now used to pay for the police or military also taking aim at them.

Racism is, therefore, a tool to weaken our working class through division in general. It's specifically used as a whip that inflicts pain on the oppressed to maintain the system of capitalism and its neocolonial relationships. To attempt to feel less of that pain, some cowardly people of color who are also victims of racism will willingly lend themselves as the lash of that whip, hoping to divert their pain onto another's back.

They will lend themselves as mercenaries for the ruling class. Still, they must meet the higher standards of allegiance to their white masters by frequently having to prove a willingness to match the psychopathic violence of their white supremacist peers. They are traitors, for sure.

Sometimes they serve as presidents or legislators, serving their imperial masters at Lockheed, Raytheon, and the various financial and oil monopolies making up the ruling class. They willingly participate by commanding drone assassinations even on the continent of Africa. And many of them are found wearing a uniform they should never adorn – the Blue one.

But, no matter who has transformed into the lash of that whip, they are all under strict orders to aim their greatest violence toward the oppressed, wielded for a ruling class desperate to maintain and enforce the ideology of white supremacy.

### The beginnings of the ideology of white supremacy

White supremacy is an ideology that had its primary beginnings

in the 17th Century when it became clear that the numerous slave revolts consisting of a combination of enslaved Africans, Indigenous, and poor and indentured Europeans jeopardized not only the slave owners and the monarchy but the developing capitalist class.

To break up that unified struggle, slavery, where it had its greatest institutional development in the Americas, had to begin to be defined for an exclusive few using skin color and African and Indigenous ethnicity. However, the greatest emphasis – in maintaining a continued supply of this unfree labor – was reserved for those from the African continent. This meant that Europeans would no longer be considered for slavery (as was the case in the 17th century and earlier). And even the indentured would be morphed into overseers or slave catchers of runaway slaves, eventually given the title of police shortly after Reconstruction, targeting Black people in the South, using so-called “legality.” The Southern ruling class created laws designed to justify imprisonment to continue the slave labor to which they were economically addicted.

Racism also aims at the mental health of the oppressed. It's used to destroy its targets from the inside with self-loathing, self-doubt, and a general belief of inferiority. This also is sometimes a motivation for Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples to put on that blood-drenched uniform of Blue: to become something different. But, even if, by ignorance, people of color join U.S. police forces, they will quickly learn the genocidal role of their employer and either quit or remain with a clear understanding that they are an enemy of their own ethnicity and class.

Those murdering cops who killed Tyre Nichols, just like their peers who killed George Floyd, knew the

role they were playing in protecting, not us but the racist, murderous system of capitalism. The only color that mattered in those incidents, and the multiple incidents this year set to create another record of police killings, was the color of their uniforms.

As the U.S. economy sinks further into a crisis of overproduction, inflation, and war economy – austerity will continue to increase and generalize the want that oppressed people in this country have always endured. This is when racism is of utmost importance, whether it's used here or in Ukraine (with different parameters – Russian ethnicity is part of the subhuman race defined by Nazi Germany and the current neo-Nazis leading a significant portion of the government and military in Ukraine).

Racism is an integral part also of fascism, and it will do us no good to deny its existence. It exists for Black and Brown people on a daily basis when we are treated horribly by those receiving more in society and when we apply for a job not meant for us or come home to communities occupied by the militarized state forces of the ruling class. How can we be told that our rage against prejudice, disrespect, and the targeting of our children by police is simply a reaction to a phantom? We cannot disconnect the gun from the bullet as if they exist independently. Capitalism and imperialism and colonialism and neocolonialism depend upon the bullet of racism – and they cannot exist for very long without each other. 📌

## The 'spy balloon' incident?

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is the core of manufacturing in the U.S., estimated to be more than 60% of all industrial production and supply in this country.

The military escalation against China was begun by the Trump administration. It should not be forgotten that Donald Trump was, first and foremost, an operative of the military-industrial complex. His cabinet and staff came from Raytheon and Boeing, as well as a slew of U.S. Army officers – generals and colonels. U.S. military expansion increased under Trump.

Trump was the “cheerleader for U.S. arms exports.” He touted it as “making America great.” The New York Times cheered, too, saying that Trump had revived manufacturing in the U.S.

The weapons industry, of course, directly arms the military for the purpose of expansion and conquest of the world. But arms exports are another way to conquer. A country that adopts U.S. weapons and equipment puts itself under the control of the U.S. systems.

The industrial half of the military-industrial complex drives the arms buildup. It is they who are most in need of expanding the military. The military expansion is the expansion of business.

General Carl Von Clausewitz famously said: “War is the continuation of politics by other means.” And politics is concentrated economics, as V.I. Lenin pointed out. The politics producing this war buildup are the economic interests of big business. 📌

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