

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



U.S. funds war, takes over Ukraine assets

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. is funding a proxy war against Russia — Congress has approved \$113 billion for Ukraine — seizing Ukraine's assets in the process.

The U.S. is spending \$2.5 billion per month just on weaponry in Ukraine, which is seven times what was spent on weaponry in Afghanistan at its height, according to Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko speaking on NPR — August 17.

The Obama administration helped overthrow Ukraine's elected president in February 2014 and installed a far-right regime loyal to Washington. At the time, Joe Biden was the Obama administration's point man on Ukraine. He visited the country more than half a dozen times from 2014 to 2016.

Beginning in 2014, Joe Biden's son Hunter served on the board of a Ukrainian energy company, Burisma. Hunter was paid "as much as \$50,000 per month," according to the New York Times. Burisma was under investigation by a Ukrainian prosecutor, Viktor Shokin, for corruption. NPR reported in 2018:

"At an event at the Council on Foreign Relations in 2018, Biden said that on one of his many trips to Ukraine, he told the country's leaders that they had to get rid of the prosecutor if they wanted \$1 billion in U.S. aid."

On Aug. 11, 2023, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed U.S. Attorney David Weiss as special counsel to lead an investigation into Hunter Biden.

Donald Trump says this shows Joe Biden committed corruption in Ukraine. Trump wants to dig up dirt on Biden for political purposes, but he is not and has never been against corruption. Corruption is Trump's mode of operating.

Trump used his position as president to enrich himself and his family personally. For example, he stayed at his own hotels while on official business, which cost millions (much more than \$50,000 a month). He also used his office to promote his own businesses, such as his Trump Organization.

In addition, Trump engaged in a more general, broader pattern of corruption. For example, he has been accused of making deals with foreign governments that benefited him personally, and he used his power as president to silence any complaints.

U.S. finance capital takes over

Meanwhile, U.S.-based finance capital really has taken Ukraine's assets. "Your money is not charity, it's an investment." That's what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in his address to the U.S. Congress while visiting Washington on Dec. 21, 2022.

John Parker reported in Struggle-La Lucha:

The trajectory of the latest vampiric deals of the foreign investors

Continued on page 8

War and Lenin in the 21st century
NATO, the imperialist war machine



A 2019 rally to protest against government plans to lift the moratorium on agricultural land sales, a step eagerly awaited by Wall Street's BlackRock hedge fund but opposed by the Ukrainians fearing a foreign land grab. The sign reads, "No to sales of Ukrainian land."

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- Drop charges on the Tampa 5



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- People of Niger are fed up
- 'France out of Africa!'

- 'Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson!'
- 'White supremacy out of Montgomery!'
- Rudy Giuliani a racist scoundrel
- Maui: Deadliest fire
- China supports Cuba

‘Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson!’

Two 17-year-olds at the door of history

By Stephen Millies

Jonathan Jackson was just 17 years old when he gave his life for oppressed people on Aug. 7, 1970. He went to the San Rafael, California, courthouse to free his older brother George Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo, and John Clutchette — known as the “Soledad Brothers.”

These three revolutionary inmates were charged with killing Soledad prison guard John Mills. Just before Mills was thrown over a third-floor railing, a grand jury exonerated fellow officer O.G. Miller for shooting to death Black inmates Cleveland Edwards, Alvin Miller, and W.L. Nolan on Jan. 13, 1970. Black witnesses weren’t even allowed to testify at the whitewash.

No evidence linked the Soledad Brothers to the killing of Mills. California Governor and future U.S. President Ronald Reagan wanted to murder them in the state’s gas chamber because they were revolutionaries.

George Jackson was internationally known for “Soledad Brother,” a collection of his letters from prison. “I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels and Mao when I entered prison and they redeemed me,” he wrote.

George Jackson, a field marshal of the Black Panther Party, had already spent a decade behind bars for a \$70 robbery. As an 18-year-old, he was given a one-year-to-life sentence for being a passenger in a car whose driver allegedly stuck up a gas station.

Jonathan Jackson went to Judge Harold Haley’s courtroom armed with guns. San Quentin prisoner James McClain was defending himself against frame-up charges of assaulting a guard following the beating to death of Black inmate Fred Billingsley by prison officials. Fellow inmates Ruchell Cinque Magee and William Christmas were witnesses for McClain.

Like the enslaved Africans who joined John Brown’s band at Harper’s Ferry, these three San Quentin prisoners immediately joined Jonathan Jackson’s fight for freedom. Judge Haley, assistant prosecutor Gary Thomas, and three jurors were made their prisoners.

“We are revolutionaries,” they proclaimed. “We want the Soledad Brothers free by 12:30.”

Capitalist state sacrifices a judge

According to Black Panther Party veteran Kiilu Nyasha, “The plan was to use the hostages to take over a radio station and broadcast the racist, murderous prison conditions and demand the immediate release of the Soledad Brothers.” (San Francisco Bay View, August 3, 2009)

But the capitalist class would rather kill one of their judges than let Black people go free. As Jonathan Jackson



Jonathan Jackson in the Marin County courthouse, California, August 7, 1970.

drove away in a van, San Quentin guards and court cops started firing.

Jonathan Jackson, James McClain, and William Christmas were killed, along with Judge Haley. Ruchell Cinque Magee and assistant D.A. Thomas were wounded.

The courageous action of these four Black heroes at San Rafael shook the capitalist state from Nixon in the White House to the local police precinct. “Psychologically the slave masters have been terrified by the boldness and innovative tactical conception,” wrote Fred Goldstein. “No court is safe anymore.” (Workers World, Aug. 20, 1970)

Scapegoats had to be found. Survivor Ruchell Cinque Magee and Angela Davis, who had chaired the Soledad Brothers defense committee, were put on trial.

Jonathan Jackson was a bodyguard for Angela Davis, and three of the guns used at the San Rafael jailbreak were registered under her name. That was enough for Reagan to try to send Davis to the gas chamber as a “conspirator” who was responsible for Haley’s death.

In 1969 Reagan got trustees at the University of California Los Angeles to fire the philosophy professor for being a member of the Communist Party.

For two months, Angela Davis eluded the FBI, which put the Black communist on its “ten most wanted” list. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover listed her as “armed and dangerous” — an excuse to shoot her on sight. President “Watergate” Nixon congratulated Hoover for the capture of Davis and labeled the Black woman a “terrorist.”

From her prison cell Angela Davis declared “Long live the spirit of Jonathan Jackson!”

Free Angela! Free Ruchell!

The Black Community mobilized coast-to-coast to defend their sister.

Over 200 “Free Angela Davis” defense committees were formed. People rallied in Cuba, the Soviet Union, and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) as well. A jury acquitted Angela Davis of all charges on June 4, 1972.

Ruchell Cinque Magee was tried separately from Angela Davis. Magee adopted the name “Cinque” after the African leader of the 1839 slave revolt on the ship Amistad.

The original Cinque was freed by a Connecticut court. Ruchell Cinque Magee, who was also part of a slave revolt, was convicted of kidnapping after murder charges were dismissed.

Judge Morton Colvin refused to adjourn the trial for a single day after Magee’s mother died. Yet Colvin recessed the hearing for two days following former President and Ku Klux Klan member Harry Truman’s death. At one point, the bigot-in-robos kicked all 40 Black spectators out of the courtroom. (Jet, March 1, 1973) An appeals court forced Colvin to allow former Attorney General Ramsey Clark to help defend Cinque. Jury foreman Bernard J. Soares stated in a 2001 affidavit that the jury actually voted to acquit Cinque of kidnapping for the purpose of extortion.

Ruchell Cinque Magee would remain in jail for another 50 years until he was finally released on July 21 at the age of 83. He was the longest-held political prisoner in the United States and possibly the world.

It shows how barbaric U.S. capitalism is that Comrade Magee spent over six decades in prison. (He had earlier been framed and served time in Louisiana.) An accomplished jailhouse lawyer, Cinque had helped free dozens of inmates.

One year after his younger brother sacrificed his life, George Jackson was assassinated by prison guards on Aug. 21, 1971. George Jackson’s murder

sparked the Attica prison rebellion less than three weeks later. Billionaire New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller had 29 prisoners slaughtered.

On March 27, 1972, the two remaining Soledad Brothers — Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette — were acquitted by a San Francisco jury.

John Clutchette would finally be released from prison 36 years later, on June 6, 2018. Fleeta Drumgo would be killed in 1979 in a suspicious Oakland street shooting.

Another 17-year-old makes history

“Courage in one hand, the machine gun in the other,” was how George Jackson described his 17-year-old brother Jonathan. Vladimir Ulyanov was also 17 years old when his older brother Alexander was hanged in 1887 for trying to kill a tyrant called the Russian Czar.

Thirty years later, Vladimir Ulyanov — now known as Lenin — led the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. Back in 1887, it seemed that the Russian Empire — like the United States today, a big prison house — was far from having a revolution.

The execution of Alexander Ulyanov affected Lenin so much that he could barely write about it. There are only two references to his brother in Lenin’s collected works. Yet thinking of Alexander’s execution must have helped Lenin develop his nerves of steel.

Lenin came from a better-off family than that of George and Jonathan Jackson. His father was a school superintendent who wanted peasants to be educated.

Despite the bloody overthrow of Reconstruction and thousands of lynchings, Black people built thousands of schools. Their literacy rate in 1917 was higher than that of Russian peasants, while the literacy rates of other peoples in the Czarist empire were often much lower.

Yet by 1957 — 40 years after the Bolshevik Revolution — the peoples of the Soviet Union sent the world’s first satellite called “sputnik” into outer space because of socialism.

Above all, Lenin had time to learn and organize — time that was denied to both Jonathan and George Jackson.

Today over two million people are locked-up throughout the United States. Four million have just been kicked off Medicaid. The minimum wage can buy about half what it could in 1968.

We need a revolution just as much as the workers and peasants ground down by the Czar did.

One of the first steps is to free political prisoners like Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal and Ed Poindexter. Free them all! 📌



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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.

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The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot

Stephen Millies

SLL articles include: • Bombings greet the Great Migration • What did the unions do? • Communists fight racism and evictions • Chicago Mayor Daley’s racist machine • Never forget Fred Hampton • The people put Harold Washington in City Hall • A city of struggle

Available in a pamphlet form at tinyurl.com/1919chicago

Knocking out white supremacy in Montgomery, Alabama

A righteous fightback in the spirit of Rosa Parks

By Stephen Millies

The whole world saw Black people successfully defend themselves against a drunken white mob on Aug. 5 in Montgomery, Alabama. Damien Pickett, a Black co-captain on the city-owned riverboat Harriott II, was attacked for merely trying to dock the vessel.

Pickett had repeatedly asked the owners of a private boat to move out of the designated docking space for the riverboat, whose 227 passengers were waiting to disembark. When Pickett finally started to pull a rope to move the boat, he was attacked by the white gang. The gang also beat a 16-year-old white co-worker of Pickett.

The Justice League then intervened. Black people came to the defense of Damien Pickett and his co-worker.

A 16-year-old Aquaman named Aeren jumped from the riverboat, swam to the dock and started to throw hands in self-defense. Another member of the Justice League creatively used a folding chair to help pacify members of the mob.

Interestingly, one of the designs for a folding chair was created by the Black inventor Nathaniel Alexander, who was awarded patent number 997,108 in 1911 for it. As Mao Zedong — the leader of the Chinese Revolution — might have said, “Chair to struggle, chair to win!”

Musical superstar Stephanie Mills has offered to pay any legal expenses for these defenders.

All this drama was happening on the same riverfront where tens of thousands of enslaved Africans had been marched off boats to be sold. Montgomery — Alabama’s state capital — was a major center of slave trading.

And it was in Montgomery, Alabama, where Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat on Dec. 1, 1955, sparking a 381-day-long bus boycott. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the minister of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, became president of the Montgomery Improvement Association that helped organize the boycott.

Dr. King’s home was firebombed, and so was the home of another boycott leader, E.D. Nixon. Dr. King was starting a struggle for justice that would end with his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Damien Pickett and all those who stood beside him on that Montgomery dock are continuing the work of Rosa Parks and Dr. King.

Slavery by another name

Montgomery was also the first capital of the slave masters’ confederacy. The plantation owners didn’t accept their defeat in the Civil War.

“The Ku Klux Klan was rampant in Alabama,” wrote W.E.B. DuBois

in Black Reconstruction in America. “In one district, six churches were burned by incendiaries before the election of 1870. Many schoolhouses were burned. Between 1868 and 1871, there were 371 cases of violence, including 35 murders.”

According to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, at least 340 Black people were lynched in Alabama.

Slavery didn’t end in Alabama in 1865. A convict leasing system supplied coal mines, lumber companies, and plantations with slave labor.

For decades much of the turpentine sold in hardware stores was made in Southern prison camps. The selling of inmates to capitalists — “the vast majority of them being held for trivial misdemeanors,” in the words of author Douglas Blackmon — became an important source of revenue to Alabama state and local governments.

United States Steel exploited hundreds of Black prisoners in its mines around Birmingham, Alabama. In 1911, an explosion in the Banner Mine killed 128 people, including 113 Black prisoners.

Founded with a big stock swindle in 1901 by the biggest U.S. banker, J.P. Morgan, U.S. Steel was the world’s first billion-dollar corporation. Today’s JP Morgan Chase bank is the biggest bank in the United States, with \$3.7 trillion in assets. It owes reparations big time.

U.S. Steel used enslaved miners as a club against white and Black members of the United Mine Workers Union.

It wasn’t until June 1, 1928, that 800 Black prisoners marched out of Alabama’s last slave labor mine singing the spiritual “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.” (“Slavery by Another Name, The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II,” by Douglas A. Blackmon.) Chain gangs on the highways continued to use enslaved prison labor.

Wall Street the real master

Behind the white supremacist regimes in the South were Northern capitalists. To get more subsidies from Congress, Pennsylvania Railroad president Thomas Scott helped push through a rotten deal that settled the disputed 1876 presidential election.

This betrayal of Black people pulled U.S. troops out of the South, guaranteeing the bloody overthrow of the Reconstruction state governments. Decades of hell followed.

A few months later, in 1877, railroad workers revolted against wage cuts. Scott responded by saying, “Put them on a rifle diet.” Dozens of strikers and their supporters were shot down in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Reading, Pennsylvania.

Despite Ku Klux Klan terror, op-



Have a seat!

pression bred resistance. Hosea Hudson and other communists helped organize unions and sharecroppers in Alabama during the 1930s. They demanded the right to vote.

In 1931, Scottsboro, Alabama, authorities sought to frame nine Black teenagers on phony rape charges and send them to the electric chair. Communists helped initiate a worldwide campaign that saved their lives. (“Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists During the Great Depression,” by Robin D. G. Kelley.)

Rosa Parks and other activists began a long struggle for voting rights.

In the 1960s, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as “Bombing-ham.” On Sept. 15, 1963, Klan terrorists bombed the city’s 16th Street Baptist Church, killing four Black girls.

They were Addie Mae Collins, 14; Cynthia Wesley, 14; Carole Robertson, 14; and Carol Denise McNair, 11. Always remember them.

In the spring of 1963, Birmingham’s top cop, Bull Connor, was using police dogs to attack Black people. Hundreds of children were jailed for demanding an end to racial segregation. Dr. King was jailed in Birmingham.

U.S. Steel employed 30,000 workers in 1963 around Birmingham and dominated Alabama’s economy. The then-sixth biggest U.S. corporation could have stopped Bull Connor.

The blue-chip corporation, whose headquarters were in Pittsburgh, refused to do so. The same year George Wallace was inaugurated Alabama’s governor in Montgomery, declaring, “Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.”

This didn’t prevent Wallace from coming to Wall Street and selling the state’s bonds. To help pay the interest, Alabama collected a sales tax on bread.

A legacy of racist violence

George Wallace encouraged racist violence wholesale. His state troopers beat and tried to kill future congressman John Lewis on March 7, 1965,

during a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery for voting rights.

Eighteen days later a gang of Klansmen murdered Viola Liuzzo, a mother in an Italian American family and civil rights volunteer, after she had dropped off bandleader Billy Eckstein and singer Tony Bennett — who were on the march — at the Montgomery airport. One of her murderers was Gary T. Rowe, who was on FBI Director J. Edgar

Hoover’s payroll.

These crimes shocked the world and helped pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and four others on the high court threw out most of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. We have to fight to put it back.

Gary T. Rowe was never convicted for his crimes. But the FBI framed Viola Liuzzo’s husband, Anthony Liuzzo, Business Agent of Teamsters Local 247 in Detroit and had him imprisoned.

Since then, thousands of Alabama steelworkers have lost their jobs. Deindustrialization came to both the steel center of Birmingham and hundreds of closed Southern textile mills. Racism doesn’t save jobs.

Montgomery, which had been a railroad center, also suffered job losses. The shops of the Western Railroad of Alabama were closed.

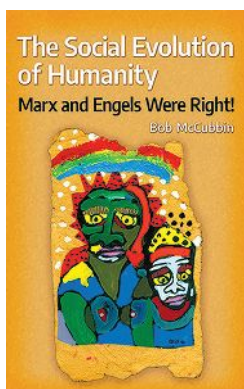
In the 1950s, around 20 passenger trains stopped daily in Montgomery. E.D. Nixon helped organize the Montgomery bus boycott while working as a Pullman porter, traveling between Montgomery and Chicago three times a week.

But today, no Amtrak trains serve Montgomery, a state capital.

The military-industrial complex also helped promote white supremacy. Nazi scientist Wernher von Braun — who used slave labor to build Hitler’s V-2 rockets — led NASA’s efforts to develop missiles at its Huntsville, Alabama, complex.

Montgomery is home to the Maxwell Air Force Base, which includes Air University and the Curtis E. LeMay Center for Doctrine Development and Education. General LeMay wanted to launch a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union and became George Wallace’s running mate in his fascist 1968 presidential campaign.

Centuries of oppression make the events on Montgomery’s riverfront all the more significant. As Frederick Douglass said, without struggle, there is no progress. 📖

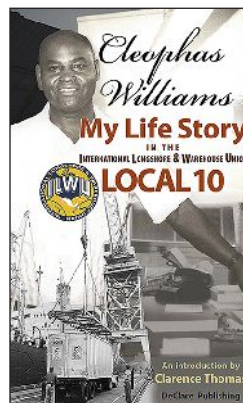


The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels’ masterful work, ‘Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.’

McCubbin is the author of ‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’ Published in 1976, during the first wave of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.



Order from MillionWorkerMarch.com

Cleophas Williams: My life Story in ILWU Local 10

The history of African Americans in the Int’l Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) in San Francisco is indeed worthy of documentation. Such an individual is Cleophas Williams, whose distinguished career as a member of the Local 10 spanned 38 years. Cleophas Williams’ election as president of ILWU Local 10 in 1967, made him the highest elected African American to serve as an officer in the entire ILWU.

Born in rural Camden, Arkansas, and part of the Great Migration to the Bay Area, he arrived in Oakland, California, in 1942 — seeking to escape the horrors and multi-faceted structures of systemic racism and white supremacy. He was amongst the leaders who placed Local 10 into the vanguard of the labor movement by engaging in civil-rights unionism and other social movements in the 1960s and 1970s.

Rudy Giuliani was always a no-good racist scoundrel

By Stephen Millies

The corporate media has been obsessed about the downfall of their former hero, Rudolph Giuliani. The ex-mayor of New York City was seen leaving 2nd Chance Bail Bonds in Atlanta after surrendering to authorities as one of Trump's co-conspirators.

Long gone were the days in 2001 when Time magazine made him — of all the billions of human beings — its “person of the year.” Comedian David Letterman gushed over Giuliani on The Late Show while Queen Elizabeth made him a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

These accolades were bestowed because of Giuliani's supposed heroics on Sept. 11, 2001. So what did Giuliani mean when he said to ABC's Peter Jennings that “we were told the World Trade Center was going to collapse”?

Who knew the South Tower (WTC 2) would crash at free-fall speed? And why weren't the firefighters inside told, 343 of whom were killed?

Giuliani should have been jailed a long time ago. As President Reagan's Associate Attorney General in the early 1980s, Giuliani was torturer-in-chief of Haitian immigrants.

Over 2,000 Haitian immigrants were kept in squalid conditions at Miami's Krome Avenue concentration camp and other detention centers. They were denied access to lawyers, while dozens had attempted suicide.

Reagan kept dictator “Baby Doc” Jean-Claude Duvalier — the son of “Papa Doc” François Duvalier — and his Tonton Macoute thugs in power. In what was not meant to be an April Fool's joke, Giuliani claimed on April 1, 1982, that repression in Haiti “simply does not exist now.”

Eighteen years later, on March 16, 2000, one of Mayor Giuliani's undercover cops profiled and tried to entice the Haitian security guard Patrick Dorismond into a drug deal. When the father of two indignantly rejected the proposition, he was killed.

Giuliani demonized the dead victim, and his police attacked mourners attending Dorismond's funeral, arresting 27.

The New York 8+ attempted frame-up

Giuliani and Trump were indicted on charges under Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act. Rudy loved using the federal RICO statute when he was the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Prosecutors adore conspiracy charges, of which RICO laws are an example. It allows them to use hearsay testimony more easily.

Organizing labor unions was once considered to be an illegal conspiracy. Clarence Darrow brought a halt to this frame-up method as a union lawyer during an 1898 strike in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Giuliani used RICO charges against the “five families” that supposedly controlled organized crime in New York. New Jersey initially denied a gambling license for Donald Trump to open a casino because he worked with organized crime.

The world's biggest crime families don't have vowels at the end of their names. These dynasties have names like Rockefeller, DuPont, and Mellon.

While the media considers it ironic that Giuliani is now facing RICO charges, it's silent about Giuliani's using the RICO act to jail liberation fighters in New York City.

In the fall of 1984, 500 cops and federal agents staged terror raids in New York City's Black communities to round up defendants for a show trial. Irin Carmon described in New York magazine the raid on the home of Dorothy Roberts, the noted lawyer and author of “Killing the Black Body,” whose husband Coltrane Chimurenga was one of those targeted:

“One evening in October 1984, Roberts was at home with her 2-year-old and her 3-month-old when the phone rang. The FBI and the NYPD's joint



New York protested Mayor Giuliani back in 1998.

PHOTO: DAN MARTENSEN

counterterrorism task force, she was told, was waiting at her door. Placing the toddler in the crib and hoisting the baby on her hip, she opened the door to what felt like dozens of armed officers, who began to interrogate her and ransack the apartment.”

Coltrane Chimurenga, Viola Plummer, Ruth Carter, Omowale Clay, Yvette Kelley, Jose Rios, Robert Taylor, and Roger Wareham faced fantastic charges of conspiring to rob banks and Brinks' trucks and to stage jailbreaks. Even their political activity was claimed by the government to violate the RICO Act!

Giuliani was the inquisition's ringmaster. He impaneled eight grand juries to get around the rules that spouses can't be forced to testify against each other.

The tactic blew up in Giuliani's face. People went to jail instead of lying. It's to recognize these courageous grand jury resisters that this case is called the New York 8 “plus.”

No bail for Cop City defendants

Trump and Giuliani had their mug shots taken but didn't have to spend time in Fulton County jail. Seven inmates have died so far this year in the overcrowded, cockroach-infested facility.

Among them was Lashawn Thompson, whose body was covered in lice

and bedbugs.

While Trump and his co-conspirators are being accorded their rights, that's not the case for those protesting Atlanta's Cop City. The proposed police training facility, costing \$90 million, will be the largest in the country.

It will include a replica of a city block where cops can practice urban warfare. People want its planned 300 acres to be turned into a city park and urban forest.

The unarmed protester Manuel Esteban Paez Terán, known as Tortugueta, was killed at the site on Jan. 18 by local police, Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents, and State Patrol officers.

Dozens of protesters have been arrested on domestic terrorism charges. Many were refused their Eighth Amendment right to bail.

Three activists associated with the Atlanta Solidarity Fund were arrested on May 31. They were charged with money laundering for helping to raise bail money for the defendants. That's what fascism looks like.

Giuliani is the real domestic terrorist. His cops fired 41 shots at the unarmed Amadou Diallo on Feb. 4, 1999, killing the African immigrant. His kicking 640,000 poor people off welfare was also terrorism.

The people's movement needs to defend the Cop City protesters. Trump and Giuliani can rot in jail. 🇺🇸

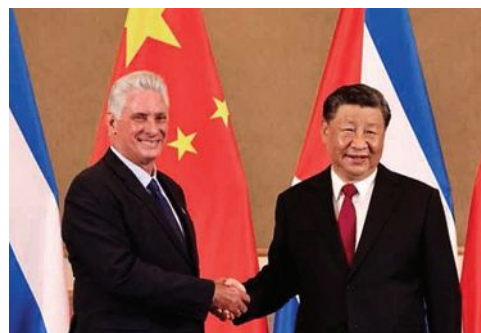
China's Xi vows to support Cuba's sovereignty

By Countercurrents Collective

China's President Xi Jinping has pledged to support Cuba's defense of its national sovereignty, opposing foreign interference and a U.S. economic blockade, and will expand strategic coordination with Havana.

Xi made the remarks in a meeting with Cuba's President Miguel Díaz-Canel on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg on Aug. 23, according to a statement from the Chinese foreign ministry on Thursday.

“China highly appreciates Cuba's consistent firm support for China on issues involving China's core interests, and will continue to firmly support Cuba in defending its national sovereignty, opposing foreign interference and blockade, and doing its best to provide support for Cuba's economic and social development,” Xi said at the meeting, according to the release.



President Miguel Díaz-Canel and President Xi Jinping.

During talks, Díaz-Canel labeled Cuban-Chinese relations at an “all-time high.”

“The Cuban people greatly admire President Xi Jinping and sincerely thank China for its understanding and valuable support for Cuba's just cause,” Díaz-Canel said at the meeting, which was also attended by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

The meeting between the two lead-

ers comes months after a media report surfaced that China had reached a secret deal with Cuba to establish an electronic eavesdropping facility on the island. But the U.S. and Cuban governments cast strong doubt on the report.

China quickly denounced the U.S. government and media for releasing what it called inconsistent information, calling the allegations false.

Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez met with Xi Jinping in the framework of the XV BRICS Summit.

From his Twitter account, the Cuban president announced the meeting and expressed the decision of both presidents to comply with the collaboration agreements between the nations. It said: “In the context of the XV Summit of the #BRICS, I met with the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping. We ratified the will to implement the important consensus adopted during our visit to

Beijing in 2022 for the benefit of both peoples.”

Díaz-Canel Bermúdez pointed out that “we noted a willingness to deepen inter-party ties and the close ties of friendship and cooperation.”

“I appreciated China's solidarity and support for the just demand for the end of the blockade and the exclusion of Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism,” said Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez.

The Cuban president also held a meeting with leaders of the tripartite alliance of the South African Government, made up of the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

“We expressed the willingness of our Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) to continue strengthening party ties. I appreciated the support and solidarity with Cuba,” said the head of state. 🇺🇸

Five key features of imperialism

War and Lenin in the 21st century

PART 2

By Gary Wilson

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, outlined his theory of imperialism in “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” published in 1916. In this work, he identified five key features of imperialism in the early 20th century:

The concentration of capital and production: Capitalism had reached a stage where large corporations and financial institutions were becoming dominant, leading to the concentration of production and capital in a few powerful monopolies. These monopolies played a decisive role in economic life.

Finance capital: The merging of industrial capital with banking capital and the creation on this basis of a “finance capital,” a financial oligarchy. This combination allowed financial institutions to exert significant control over the economy as well as the government.

Export of capital: Capitalists had been exporting goods. In the age of imperialism, there is added to this the massive export of capital itself.

Monopoly and cartels: The emergence of powerful international capitalist monopolies, cartels, syndicates, and trusts that divided the world among themselves.

Division of the world among the biggest capitalist powers: Lenin noted that the world had been divided into distinct spheres of influence and control among the major imperialist powers. These powers competed for dominance over colonies and territories, leading to conflicts and tensions that ultimately contributed to wars like World War I.

Do Lenin’s defining features of imperialism hold up today?

1. Concentration of capital and production

Feature number 1 is accepted as a fact of life by almost everyone. The concentration of capital and production has been a central feature of capitalism since its inception.

This tendency has only accelerated in recent decades. For example, the top 1% in the United States now own more wealth than the bottom 90% combined. According to a 2020 report by Oxfam, the world’s 2,153 billionaires now own more wealth than the bottom 4.6 billion people combined. The level of inequality is staggering.

A handful of monopolies dominate the entire economy. The top 10 of the Fortune 500 — Walmart, Amazon, Exxon Mobil, Apple, UnitedHealth, CVS, Berkshire Hathaway, Alphabet, McKesson, Chevron — controlled an estimated 20% of the U.S. economy in 2023. This is up from 18% in 2022 and 16% in 2021. The increasing concentration of economic power in the hands of a few large companies has been going on for decades.

These monopolies have become the most powerful economic and political institutions. They control the main sources of raw materials, the main means of production, and the main means of communication. They dictate to the whole of society what to produce, how to produce it, and where to sell it.

Production is becoming increasingly planned and coordinated. This is happening even though capitalists often sing the praises of “competition.”

For example, supply chain management is a system for planning, coordinating, and controlling the flow of materials, information, and finances through a network of businesses. Joint ventures are agreements between two or more businesses to share resources and knowledge.

In reality, capitalists are relying on economic planning and coordination; production is socialized.

2. Finance capital

Finance capital is “capital controlled by banks and employed by industrialists,” which develops into the dominance of finance capital and the financial oligarchy that owns but does not manage finance capital or the real economy.

Finance capital is the ownership of great concentrations of stocks, bonds, and large bank deposits.

The countries that are richest in finance capital — not necessarily richest in industrial capital — are the imperialist countries that economically exploit all other capitalist countries.

One of the changes in monopoly capitalism since Lenin’s day is that individuals still owned and managed the great mass of corporate shares back then. Today, in contrast, most stocks, bonds, and other securities are managed by institutional investors such as bank-managed trust funds, pension funds, mutual funds, hedge funds, insurance companies, and money market funds. These institutions, in turn, are increasingly owned or controlled by the few universal banks. In this way, “moneyed capital” is transformed into finance capital controlled by a few gigantic banking institutions.

A country can be poor in finance capital even if it is relatively rich in industrial capital. For example, many factories, mines, and large-scale capitalist farms might be located in such a country, making it rich in industrial capital.

While a century ago, the U.S. was very rich in industrial capital, today, globalization has considerably reduced the relative wealth of the U.S. in industrial capital. According to a 2017 report by the Economic Policy Institute, between 1997 and 2016, the U.S. lost an estimated 6.9 million manufacturing jobs, of which 2.8 million were due to offshoring, that is, moving manufacturing operations overseas where industry pays the lowest possible wage. Technological advances — automation and AI — have made producing goods with fewer workers possible, which has led to significant job loss in manufacturing industries. This deindustrialization represents a significant loss of production capacity in the U.S.

However, the U.S. remains on top of the world in finance capital.

Since the time when Lenin wrote “Imperialism,” centralization of bank capital has proceeded well beyond what it was then. In 1914, the two largest banking groups on Wall Street were the J.P. Morgan and Company (now JPMorgan Chase), and National City Bank of New York (now Citibank).

TOP 10 US FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES & THEIR CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR

1	Walmart	—	No change
2	Amazon	—	No change
3	Exxon Mobil	↑	Up 3
4	Apple	↓	Down 1
5	UnitedHealth Group	—	No change
6	CVS Health	↓	Down 2
7	Berkshire Hathaway	—	No change
8	Alphabet	—	No change
9	McKesson	—	No change
10	Chevron	↑	Up 6

Today there are four megabanks towering over the U.S. economy: JP-Morgan Chase (assets \$3.67 Trillion), Citigroup (assets \$2.3 Trillion), Bank of America (assets \$3.1 Trillion), and Wells Fargo (assets \$1.875 Trillion).

In addition, there is what is called the “shadow banking system,” which includes BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world, as well as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. Shadow banks are not regulated and include hedge funds, private equity funds, mortgage lenders, and some large investment banks.

3. Export of capital

During the first phase of imperialism — the period analyzed by Lenin — the export of British capital was mostly to the white settler states, mainly the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. A smaller portion of British export capital was invested in other European countries, while only a small fraction was invested in the colonies of the Global South — India, Africa, and the Caribbean. The same pattern can be observed in the export of capital of France and Germany.

While the bulk of the capital exported by the imperialist powers following World War II was to other imperialist powers, a portion of the capital was invested in the colonized and neo-colonial nations of the Global South. However, there was relatively little industrialization of the Global South countries.

Kwame Nkrumah wrote in 1965:

“In place of colonialism, as the main instrument of imperialism, we have today neo-colonialism... [which] like colonialism, is an attempt to export the social conflicts of the capitalist countries... The result of neo-colonialism is that foreign capital is used for the exploitation rather than for the development of the less developed parts of the world. Investment, under neo-colonialism, increases, rather than decreases, the gap between the rich and the poor countries of the world. The struggle against neo-colonialism is not aimed at excluding the capital of the developed world from operating in less developed countries. It is also dubious in consideration of the name given being strongly related to the concept of colonialism itself. It is aimed at preventing the financial power of the developed countries being used in such a way as to impoverish the less developed.

(Kwame Nkrumah, “Introduction to Neo-Colonialism, The Last Stage of Imperialism”)

One key factor that influences where capitalists choose to invest their capital is the guarantee of their property rights and a military to enforce that. Capitalists are especially reluctant to invest large amounts of capital in countries that are not under their direct control since the danger is too great that they will lose their capital if these countries are seized by rival capitalist states or, worst of all, in the event of revolution.

An important factor that slowed down the industrial development of the countries of the Global South was that they became dumping grounds for commodities produced in the imperialist states. In “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” Walter Rodney explained:

“Europe exported to Africa goods which were already being produced and used in Europe itself — Dutch linen, Spanish iron, English pewter, Portuguese wines, French brandy, Venetian glass beads, German muskets, etc. Europeans were also able to unload on the African continent goods which had become unsaleable in Europe. Thus, items like old sheets, cast-off uniforms, technologically outdated firearms, and lots of odds and ends found guaranteed markets in Africa. ...

“From the beginning, Europe assumed the power to make decisions within the international trading system. ... European decision-making power was exercised in selecting what Africa should [import and] export — in accordance with European needs.”

Therefore, the industrialization of Africa and all the Global South countries, including China, was primarily confined to the development of railroads, seaports, and the extraction industries.

However, the super-profits squeezed out of the working class of the colonized countries enabled the capitalists to realize super-profits above and beyond the average rate of profit. In various ways, the capitalists shared some of these super-profits with a portion of the working class in the imperialist countries. The upper layer of the workers who share in the super-profits of imperialism formed the base of the bureaucracies of the labor unions and the social democratic par-

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NATO, the imperialist war machine

War and Lenin in the 21st century

By Gary Wilson

When Lenin wrote his pamphlet “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” in 1916, the world had a handful of imperialist countries, including the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Japan. Britain was the leading imperialist power, the empire on which the sun never set.

Since 1945, world capitalism has been politically and militarily dominated by the U.S. empire.

Historian Daniel Immerwahr says in “How the U.S. has hidden its empire”:

“The years since the second world war have brought the U.S. military to country after country. The big wars are well-known: Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan. But there has also been a constant stream of smaller engagements. Since 1945, U.S. armed forces have been deployed abroad for conflicts or potential conflicts 211 times in 67 countries. Call it peacekeeping if you want, or call it imperialism. ... “One of the truly distinctive features of the U.S. empire is how persistently ignored it has been. This is, it is worth emphasizing, unique. The British weren’t confused as to whether there was a British empire. They had a holiday, Empire Day, to celebrate it. France didn’t forget that Algeria was French. It is only the U.S. that has suffered from chronic confusion about its own borders.”

The relationship between the imperialist powers has changed since 1914, but the list of imperialist capitalist powers hasn’t changed much. The United States is the dominant imperialist power with Britain, Germany, France, and Japan as satellite imperialists. They made up the Group of Five, and now the G7, which includes Canada and Italy.

The change in imperialist relations can be summed up with one word: NATO.

Unlike in 1914, there is one military machine that dominates the imperialist world. The U.S.-commanded military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO – includes the armed forces of the U.S. and all other countries in the al-

COUNTRY	IMPERIAL POSSESSIONS IN 1916
Britain	Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Malaya, Hong Kong, and many others
France	Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Madagascar, Indochina, Haiti, Senegal, West Africa and many others
Germany	Cameroon, Togo, Namibia, Ghana, Tanganyika, Burundi, Rwanda, and many others
Russia	Siberia, Central Asia, and parts of Eastern Europe
Austria	Hungary, Bohemia, Galicia, Bukovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Italy	Libya, Eritrea, and Somalia
Japan	Taiwan, Manchuria, Korea, Micronesia and the southern half of Sakhalin Island
United States	Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, Hawaii, Samoa, Territory of Alaska

liance, including Britain, Germany, and France.

NATO also includes the armed forces of the “lesser” imperialist countries such as Canada and Italy (the G7 countries) and some smaller countries in Western Europe and now Eastern Europe.

Japan is a partner in NATO through the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP) agreement. Japan participates in NATO exercises and training programs, and provides financial support to most NATO operations.

The United States had a double purpose when it created NATO in 1949. The first was to threaten the Soviet Union and its new Eastern European allies and, if necessary, put down any revolutionary movement in Western Europe. The communist parties in France, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Portugal were widely popular.

The second purpose was to ensure that neither Germany nor any other European power would challenge U.S. domination. For propaganda during the Cold War, the U.S. claimed its military forces in Europe were necessary to defend these countries against a possible Soviet attack. The last thing the Soviet Union, which had lost more than 27 million people in World War II, would have considered was a military offensive into Western Europe.

NATO’s purpose

The purpose of NATO became apparent after the Soviet Union was destroyed under the Gorbachev regime between 1985 and 1991. While the Warsaw Pact — the defensive al-

liance formed by the Soviet Union in 1955 — was abolished, NATO was not. Instead, the U.S. swallowed the Soviet Union’s former Eastern European allies and some of the former Soviet Republics into NATO.

The only former Soviet or Soviet-allied countries in Europe that are not now part of NATO are Moldova, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Even though Russia is now capitalist and thus represents no socialist threat to any existing capitalist nation, the U.S. has been tightening its encirclement of Russia through NATO. The goal is to transform Russia, with its vast natural wealth, into a semi-colony of the U.S.

The U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine is about the drive of U.S. imperialism to bring Russia’s and Ukraine’s colossal wealth in natural resources under its control. Both countries are rich in farmland and raw materials such as ores. Already, much of Ukraine’s have been taken over by U.S. finance capital. Russian capitalists are fighting to maintain control of their own natural resources.

U.S. domination of Germany, Japan

The U.S. now has the most expensive military in history. No country even comes close to the U.S. global dominance. The Pentagon’s budget for “defense” in 2023 exceeds that of the next 10 countries (mostly NATO allies) combined.

So why does the U.S. have its largest military occupations in Germany and Japan? There is only one real reason — to ensure the defeated Axis powers remain U.S. satellites.

However, unlike after World War I, the U.S. did not throttle the capitalists of Germany and Japan. The World War I Treaty of Versailles attempted to squeeze the costs of the war out of Germany, which essentially destroyed the German economy.

NATO war on Yugoslavia

NATO has undertaken eight military actions, all since 1990. The alliance did not undertake any military operations during the Cold War. Since 1990, NATO has engaged in two actions related to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Libya.

The NATO war on Yugoslavia asserted NATO’s domination of the Balkans. The war was NATO showing other countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics that it is the dominant power.

The 78-day-long aerial bombing campaign, using more than a

thousand aircraft, dropped more than 3,000 cruise missiles and about 80,000 tons of bombs. More than 3,000 people were killed, and up to 20,000 were seriously injured.

NATO did not seek the approval of the United Nations Security Council for the bombing campaign or any other international legal cover; it was openly a war crime, not unlike the Nazi aerial bombing of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

NATO war on Libya

In 2011, NATO bombed Libya and overthrew its government. NATO’s war in Libya was its first major military operation in Africa. NATO bombed Libya 7,700 times over seven months.

The war against Libya was part of an effort by the U.S. and its satellite imperialist allies, especially Britain and France, to crush the Arab Spring uprising.

The anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions began in Tunisia and then spread to five other countries: Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain.

NATO and the U.S. military-industrial complex

As Forbes magazine gleefully reported in May, the expansion of NATO has opened up a big new market for U.S. military-industrial complex defense contractors. It’s “a big win for Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.

“NATO membership means a significant increase in each country’s military spending. Finland joined NATO on April 4, 2023, and ordered 64 new F-35 warplanes, the elite joint strike fighter developed by Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems (BAESY). Each one will cost between \$110 million and \$135.8 million. ...

“More importantly, aligning with NATO is a commitment to interoperability with the American defense ecosystem. This directly benefits the big U.S. contractors. The market for their goods is expanding and they will face no competition for the foreseeable future. ...

“The F-35-ification of European armies might be a bigger deal, though. In addition to the cost of the units, corresponding ground support, spare parts and maintenance, there is a lock-in factor. Europe is now committed to America-made gear for decades to come.”



The smoldering wreckage of a passenger train after being hit by two missiles launched from a NATO F-15 on April 12, 1999. At least 55 commuters were killed.

The people of Niger are fed up

By John Parker

The past few years have witnessed militant defensive actions and campaigns around the world defending the working-class movements that are collectively “fed up.”

They are fed up with the putrid smell of the deteriorating U.S. and West European imperialism — which rides on white supremacy.

Following the U.S.-backed 2014 coup in Ukraine, Nazi organizations were put into leading positions of power. The “ethnic cleansing campaign” they executed in the predominantly Russian-speaking Donbass region was finally countered last year despite the U.S.-led NATO proxy war.

On the continent of Africa, the actual impact of the “non-invasion” invasion of AFRICOM and U.S.-led NATO has been justified as a “war on terror.” However, even the United Nations was forced to expose that the U.S. is the source of terror — exposing another version of genocide on the African continent. The U.S. proxy wars have created and supported terrorists and policies that ensure the continuation of the U.S. and Western European plunder of resources, creating scarcity of water, food, health care, and electricity on top of debilitating sanctions.

Biggest U.S. drone base

That horror has been escalating, using Niger as the home to the biggest U.S. drone base at Agadez, Niger, built during the former government. But, that consent of subservience has now come into question with a military coup that is feeding off the frustration of the people of Niger and much of Africa’s populace. They are again showing they are fed up with imperialism and demand the removal of any influence of France, including the removal of U.S. troops and bases in Niger.

There comes a time when the oppressed will not be frozen in fear by genocidal repression or the politics of reform and stifling pacifism. The coups of governments loyal to imperialists or the loosening of that loyalty in the last few years in Africa is increasing at a quicker pace as that fear turns into militant self-defense — and is becoming contagious.

Fed up in Montgomery

That historical “fed up” connection of oppression, colonialism, and slavery was recently reflected in the



Demonstrators in front of the French embassy in the capital city of Niamey on July 30: ‘No more foreign bases in Niger!’

U.S. in Montgomery, Alabama, when a Black person was attacked by a mob of violent white thugs practicing white supremacy. What followed was an immediate collective defense of that Black person by many Black people on the riverfront. The triumphant ending of that attack was videoed. There was an immediate, palpable understanding, especially by African/Black people, of the right to self-defense in a country with increasing domestic militarized repression of the cops and the FBI (Department of “Justice”) in the U.S., regardless of who is president.

So, here in the U.S., we can understand the contagious “fed up” in Niger, where 1,100 U.S. troops and a fleet of drones are a launching pad of terror. The facility is the largest base-building effort in the history of the Pentagon — Air Base 201, costing well over \$240 million. The Pentagon’s line of calling this base primarily a place for surveillance against terrorism falls flat against the MQ-9 Reaper drone usage (in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria) and even their own words.

Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Sabrina Singh said on Aug. 15, regarding Niger: “We have assets and interests in the region, and our main priority is protecting those interests and protecting those of our allies.”

According to Military.com: “The MQ-9 Reaper is the primary offensive

strike unmanned aerial vehicle for the U.S. Air Force. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons — it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets.”

As the New York Times noted, the MQ-9 Reaper is known for its high rate of civilian casualties.

In a recent demonstration in Agadez, protesters pointed out that they were the family, including children, of those targeted and demanded the U.S. troops and their terror drones leave Niger.

Ten of thousands in Niger are demonstrating in support of the coup by the army.

The military coup government of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, led by General Abdourahmane Tchiani, has called into question Niger’s growing military budget, with the biggest U.S. military presence in West Africa, enabling the neo-colonialist economic devastation of a country rich in uranium, with over 40% of the population in poverty.

Opposed to imperialist intervention

Although it may not be clear how the opposition to France and the U.S. will continue, it has inspired the people. Polls have shown that the major-

ity of African people are not behind governments that support the U.S., France, and the most loyal countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) proposing imperialist intervention in Niger.

Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria, Guinea, and even much of the population belonging to the ECOWAS countries do not support the ECOWAS position nor the economic sanctions against Niger. This has inspired an opposition against governments complicit with imperialism, riding on white supremacy and denying self-determination.

Like in Montgomery, Alabama, this viral sentiment of resistance presents an excellent opportunity for world solidarity and the unification of the working class.

As Vladimir Lenin said: “There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.”

These weeks present the opportunity to ride the momentum of African/Black peoples and push social progress further.

Let’s let our actions of being fed up with imperialism and white supremacy support the strength of the people of Montgomery and Niger.

Maybe in the U.S., in solidarity with the people of Niger, protests against French consulates and the U.S. federal buildings would be in order, with a viral video of Montgomery.

France out of Africa!

By Stephen Millies

An Aug. 22 rally outside the French mission to the United Nations in New York City demanded that French banks and corporations get their bloody hands off Niger. The December 12th Movement called the action.

Niger and other former French colonies in Africa have been looted for generations. While French nuclear power plants depend on Niger’s uranium, less than one-fifth of Niger’s population can access electricity.

The neighboring country of Mali — also a former French colony — has

over 800 gold mines but no gold reserves in its treasury. France has zero gold mines, yet it has 2,437 tons of gold worth over \$160 billion. That’s what imperialism looks like.

Backed by the people, on July 26, Niger’s military overthrew a neo-colonial regime that answered to Paris. Seventy years before, on the same date, Fidel Castro led an attack on the Moncada barracks that began the Cuban Revolution in 1953.

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PHOTO: DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT/D12M.COM

Demonstrators in front of the French embassy in the capital city of Niamey on July 30: ‘No more foreign bases in Niger!’

U.S. funds war, takes over Ukraine assets

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was set in November when Zelensky signed over even more of his country's sovereignty to a U.S. firm that will help broker the deals of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and independent foreign investors.

BlackRock Financial Markets Advisory and the Ukrainian Ministry of Economy signed a memorandum of understanding in November. According to President Zelensky's official website: "In accordance with the preliminary agreements struck earlier this year between the Head of State and Larry Fink, the BlackRock team has been working for several months on a project to advise the Ukrainian government on how to structure the country's reconstruction funds. A report on the takeover of Ukraine's agricultural land by the Oakland Institute published in 2023 says:

The war in Ukraine has been at the center stage of foreign policy and media reports since February 2022. Little attention, however, has been given to a major issue, which is at the core of the conflict – who controls the agricultural land in the country known as the "breadbasket of Europe?" ...

"War and Theft: The Takeover of Ukraine's Agricultural Land" exposes the financial interests and the dynamics at play leading to further concentration of land and finance.

The total amount of land controlled by oligarchs, corrupt individuals, and large agribusinesses is over nine million hectares — exceeding 28% of Ukraine's arable land. The largest landholders are

a mix of Ukrainian oligarchs and foreign interests — mostly European and North American ...

Several agribusinesses, still largely controlled by oligarchs, have opened up to Western banks and investment funds — including prominent ones such as Kopernik, BNP, or Vanguard — who now control part of their shares. Most of the large landholders are substantially indebted to Western funds and institutions, notably the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the World Bank.

Western financing to Ukraine in recent years has been tied to a drastic structural adjustment program that has required austerity and privatization measures, including the creation of a land market for the sale of agricultural land. President Zelensky put the land reform into law in 2020 against the will of the vast majority of the population who feared it would exacerbate corruption and reinforce control by powerful interests in the agricultural sector. Findings of the report concur with these concerns. While large landholders are securing massive financing from Western financial institutions, Ukrainian farmers — essential for ensuring domestic food supply — receive virtually no support. With the land market in place, amidst high economic stress and war, this difference of treatment will lead to more land consolidation by large agribusinesses.

The report also sounds the alarm that Ukraine's crippling debt is being used as a leverage by the financial institutions to drive

post-war reconstruction towards further privatization and liberalization reforms in several sectors, including agriculture.

This is imperialism

Few would dispute that the war in Ukraine is an imperialist war, but the term is often distorted or misapplied.

Lenin's book "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" is one of the most well-known and influential works on imperialism. It has been translated into many languages and read by millions of people around the world.

In it, Lenin sought to explain the economic roots of World War I and the roots of the split in the international labor and socialist movement, what was then called the Second International.

The Second International was shattered by the outbreak of the 1914 imperialist war. The international socialist movement had pledged to oppose imperialist wars and to oppose their own capitalists. But when the war erupted, many parties in the Second International failed to do that and supported their own capitalists' imperialist war efforts.

The subtitle for Lenin's "Imperialism" is "A Popular Outline." It wasn't intended to be a scholarly work. It was meant for a broad audience, the anti-war movement of the time who wanted to understand the war and how to stop it.

The war split the Second International into three factions: the pro-war social democratic parties in the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria), the pro-war parties of the Triple Entente (France, Britain, Russia, the United States, Italy, and Ja-

pan) and the Zimmerwald movement made up of various anti-war pacifist or revolutionary socialist parties.

In the Zimmerwald movement, the pacifists wanted to restore the Second International, something that never happened. The revolutionary socialists wanted to build a new Third International. That happened.

Lenin's book is still a fundamental source for understanding imperialism, capitalism, and war.

In "Socialism and War," Lenin wrote:

"Capitalism has developed concentration to such a degree that whole branches of industry have been seized by syndicates, trusts, and associations of capitalist billionaires, and almost the entire globe has been divided up among the 'lords of capital,' either in the form of colonies or by enmeshing other countries in thousands of threads of financial exploitation. Free trade and competition have been superseded by the striving

for monopoly, for the seizure of territory for the investment of capital, for the export of raw materials from them, and so forth. From the liberator of nations that capitalism was in the struggle against feudalism, imperialist capitalism has become the greatest oppressor of nations. Formerly progressive, capitalism has become reactionary; it has developed the forces of production to such a degree that mankind is faced with the alternative of going over to Socialism or of suffering years and even decades of armed struggle between the 'great powers' for the artificial preservation of capitalism by means of colonies, monopolies, privileges and national oppression of every kind." 📖

Five key features of imperialism

Continued from page 1

ties in Lenin's time and since.

Lenin related the issue of the colonies to opportunism in the European workers' movement:

"As a result of the extensive colonial policy, the European proletariat partly finds himself in a position when it is not his labor, but the labor of the practically enslaved natives in the colonies, that maintains the whole of society. The British bourgeoisie, for example, derives more profit from the many millions of the population of India and other colonies than from the British workers. In certain countries, this provides the material and economic basis for infecting the proletariat with colonial chauvinism. Of course, this may be only a temporary phenomenon, but the evil must nonetheless be clearly realized and its causes understood in order to be able to rally the proletariat of all countries for the struggle against such opportunism."

The collapse of the Social Democratic leaders and the vote for war credits by party members in the German Reichstag symbolized the disastrous consequences of the victory of opportunism.

The dependency of the imperialist countries on the workers of the oppressed countries — those free of colonial rule but still economically exploited and militarily threatened by the imperialist countries — has qualitatively increased.

The current stage of imperialism, where much of surplus value production has shifted from the imperialist countries to the oppressed nations — not just extracting super-profits in the Global South — is the most significant change in capitalism since the imperialist era began.

4. Trusts and cartels

The fourth feature, the formation of monopolist capitalist associations which share the world among themselves — is generally accepted as descriptive of today's conditions when all large corporations operate on a multinational scale.

Lenin notes that capitalist monopolies take two basic forms: trusts and cartels.

The term "trust" was used in economics to refer to a large business enterprise controlling a significant market share.

However, the term "trust" fell out of favor as antitrust laws were passed to break up these large monopolies

The term "giant corporation" is now more commonly used to refer to these large businesses.

In contrast to a trust, a cartel is not a single legal entity. A cartel is a formal agreement between independent capitalists to fix prices, limit production, or otherwise control the market for a particular good or service. Cartels are illegal in most countries but are still common in some industries.

A form of cartelization historically tolerated in the U.S. is the organization of cartels by organized crime in industries where capital was still relatively decentralized. For example, in New York City, the garment, construction, cement, garbage collection, and longshore industries were dominated by organized crime. Even pizzerias. These cartels were built by making offers to small capitalists that they "could not refuse."

Donald Trump comes out of such a hotel and casino cartel in New York.

5. Imperialist division of the world

Feature number 5 of Lenin's definition of imperialism, the territorial division of the whole world among capitalist powers, was completed around the turn of the 20th century. This is a statement of historical fact that is accepted by almost everyone.

By the end of the 19th century, the European powers had colonized most of the world. The United States and Japan also had significant colonial empires. This division of the world into spheres of influence was a major factor in the outbreak of World War I. The territorial division of the world was not static. Many wars and revolutions in the early 20th century led to changes. However, the basic division of the world into spheres of influence remained in place until after World War II.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 led to the establishment of the Soviet Union, which was the first socialist state in the world. The Soviet Union's withdrawal from the capitalist world system ended, however, in the 1990s as the result of the Russian bourgeois counterrevolution that restored capitalism (but not the czarist feudal military empire).

However, the rest of the 20th century had more wars, revolutions, and counterrevolutions than any preceding century in recorded history. World War II signaled a turning point in world imperialist relations. The United States emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, gaining control of former

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Deadliest U.S. fires in a century

By Gregory E. Williams

The Aug. 8 wildfires that devastated parts of Maui are the deadliest in the U.S. since the 1918 Cloquet fire in northern Minnesota. Some two weeks after the fires, the official death toll stands at 115, and authorities in Hawaii have released the names of 388 people still unaccounted for. Tens of thousands have evacuated. Over 3,000 acres burned in Lahaina and neighboring communities.

Eighty percent of Lahaina burned. The town of 13,000 was called Lele in the Hawaiian language and was the capital of the Kingdom of Hawai'i from 1802–1812 and again from 1820–1845. Native Hawaiians have inhabited the islands for about 1,500 years. The U.S. imperialists annexed Hawaii in 1898.

Investigations into the causes of the fire are still ongoing, but, as the Washington Post put it, “there is mounting evidence that Hawaiian Electric’s wind-damaged equipment sent sparks into the dry, overgrown vegetation surrounding its poles.”

Maui County is suing Hawaiian Electric, alleging that the power company negligently failed to shut off power despite high winds from category 4 storm Dora. The dangers produced by drought conditions combined with hurricane winds were not unforeseen. On Aug. 7, Chevy Chevalier with KHON2 had written:



MAUI

Ke'eaumoku Kapu — a Kanaka Maoli community leader and head of the Nā 'Aikāne o Maui Cultural Center — handing out supplies in a Lahaina Walgreens parking lot. The cultural center was destroyed in the fires.

Nobody was convicted in the 1987–1990 trials.

To return to the present situation in Lahaina, the claims about the intentional destruction of tunnels merely obscure

the reality of climate change. For the social media figures benefitting from such conspiracy-mongering — as for fossil fuel CEOs — the name of the game is “anything but climate change,” no matter how outrageous.

Land grabs don't require sabotage

Another conspiracy theory circulating especially through right-wing media spheres is the claim that “elites” caused the fires intentionally — sometimes with lasers, as conspiracy theory influencers preposterously alleged about California wildfires in 2018 and 2020 — in order to buy up land for low prices, effectively robbing residents.

In fact, residents of Lahaina have been receiving calls from real estate investors wanting to buy up their properties. But this is opportunism, not evidence of arson.

Where this writer lives in the New Orleans area, waves of gentrification followed hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. New Orleans was not intentionally flooded, but developers and others saw their opportunity. The storms displaced thousands of mainly Black, working-class New Orleanians, and many could not return because the government never funded a people's recovery. The rich and their politicians remade the city, demolishing public housing, replacing public schools with a mishmash of private and charter schools, and more.

Ruling-class offensives like that of post-Katrina New Orleans and potentially what is happening in Maui are likely to increase as climate change continues. We need to be prepared for this. But, again, we can only wage effective struggles when our analyses are based in fact. Conspiracy theorists co-opt the language of rebellion, but by sowing confusion and division, they prevent people from resisting and thereby aid the rich and powerful. 📌

“Although Hurricane Dora is passing well to the south of the Big Island, it will still be able to help pack a good punch with strong winds over Hawaii with high pressure building to the north at the same time. It will be windy, especially Tuesday morning through the afternoon, but it will also be dry with humidity levels down to around 40%. This can be a dangerous combination to start and quickly spread wildfires.”

People's fightback needed, not conspiracy theories

In 2022, a United Nations team comprising 50 researchers from six continents issued a report on devastating fires worldwide. They estimate that the incidence of such fires could increase by up to 57% by the end of this century.

This summer — amid record temperatures — Canada had its worst wildfire season on record. Over a third of the U.S. population was under air quality alerts because of the Canadian wildfires.

Clearly, increasingly devastating wildfires are emerging as a major component of the climate crisis and from profit-driven land-management practices. Working-class and oppressed people the world over are on the frontlines and need to band together to take on the fossil fuel companies, banks, governments, and military establishments (especially the Pentagon) driving the crisis. We need a movement demanding public ownership and peoples' democratic control of the utility companies; Hawaiian Electric is not the only private power company implicated in recent climate-related disasters. We need to stand behind indigenous communities and others affected by environmental racism.

What we don't need are conspiracy theories. Aside from stoking faux-

outrage, these do nothing to empower people and disempower us by making it more difficult to organize a fightback against the rich and powerful people who are causing the crises. When we spread this type of disinformation, we do the work of the banks and corporate executives.

From the Satanic Panic playbook

Unfortunately, these conspiracy theories have been amplified by social media algorithms. For example, some influenced by the dangerous QAnon movement have claimed that the fires were started by shadowy “elites” to destroy evidence of underground tunnels where human trafficking occurs.

The idea of underground tunnels of this sort goes back at least to the 1980s with the outbreak of the “Satanic Panic” — a witch craze 2.0. The basis of Satanic Panic was the idea that there was a vast conspiracy of Devil worshipers ritually abusing and sacrificing children. The unsubstantiated claims were popularized through the 1980 book “Michelle Remembers,” written by a psychiatrist and his patient, whose memories of childhood Satanic abuse were “recovered” through hypnosis. That is to say, these were false memories implanted through the hypnosis process itself. The stories spread through daytime talk shows and tabloids.

Although no evidence of Satanic ritual abuse ever emerged, lives were destroyed. In Manhattan Beach, California, hundreds of children were interviewed during the McMartin preschool investigations and trial — likely traumatizing them in the process. They were questioned in leading and coercive ways, some even stating that they saw witches fly. Claims about tunnels entered into the investigations. Multiple excavations revealed only old structures and debris on the school property, no tunnels.

Imperialism

Continued from page 8

European empires in Asia and Africa. The U.S. has engaged in a never-ending series of wars to maintain what the Cubans call “The Empire.”

The U.S. is currently engaged in what is called hybrid warfare to maintain its dominance. Hybrid warfare, as explained by Wikipedia, is a blend of conventional military actions with information warfare, cyber attacks, economic sanctions, political subversion, and other non-traditional means.

Today the U.S. is openly engaged in hybrid warfare against Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, Zimbabwe, and North Korea, as well as Russia and China. There is more than that. The U.S. Africa Force, for example, has been engaged in military operations across Africa, including in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Somalia, Libya, Djibouti, Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda, and Chad.

The United States operates a global network of military installations and is by far the largest operator of military bases in the world. Wikipedia says that the total number of foreign sites with installations and facilities that are either in active use and service or that may be activated and operated by U.S. military personnel and allies is just over 1,000.

The U.S. has over 240,000 active-duty and reserve troops in at least 172 countries and territories. Of those, some 40,000 are engaged in “classified missions,” that is secret operations, according to the New York Times.

Japan, Hawaii, and South Korea have the biggest concentration of U.S. troops: 53,973 in Japan, 40,485 in Hawaii, and 25,372 in South Korea. The other big concentration is 35,781 in Germany. 📌

France out of Africa!

Continued from page 7

Demonstrators at the French mission carried signs “Hands Off Niger!” They also made it clear that this also applies to the United States, which has over a thousand troops in Niger. The Pentagon's collection of bases in Africa, known as AFRICOM, is a threat to all Africans.

Speakers from the December 12th Movement and other organizations

voiced their support for Niger. Dahoud Andre from KOMOKODA, the Committee to Mobilize Against Dictatorship in Haiti, noted that it was the 232nd anniversary of the July 22, 1791, Haitian uprising against the Haitian slave masters.

Jason Corley from the New York/New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition spoke of the solidarity given by Cuba to African liberation. Over two thousand Cuban

soldiers died fighting the Nazi armies of apartheid South Africa.

The December 12th Movement will hold a People's Forum — “France Out of Africa — Hands Off Niger” — in Brooklyn, New York, on Tuesday, Aug. 29, starting at 7 p.m. It will be held at Sistas' Place, at Frederick Douglass Square, 456 Nostrand Ave., corner of Jefferson Avenue.

France and U.S. hands off Niger! 📌

Junta de Control Fiscal destruye esperanza de estudios en PR



Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana se graduaron 4 estudiantes de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2 mujeres y 2 hombres. Esto parecería ser algo rutinario en esta época, sin embargo, esta es la segunda vez que personas que están aún en prisión, logran alcanzar el cuarto año de universidad bajo el Programa de Estudios para Confinados, y algunas de ellas seguirán estudios para la maestría. Además, será la primera vez que podrán asistir a clases en la mismísima universidad; porque hasta ahora eran los maestros quienes impartían las clases en la prisión.

Es un programa realmente modelo, instituido a través de la colaboración de nuestra Universidad pública y el Departamento de Corrección.

Con el incremento en la criminalidad y la violencia debido mayormente al Narco Estado en que se ha convertido nuestro país, esta iniciativa que surgió de un profesor de la UPR en los años 90, el Profesor Fernando Picó, quien firmemente creía en el valor de la educación para rehabilitar, está sin embargo, en peligro de desaparecer. Los profundos recortes que la infame y dictatorial Junta de Control Fiscal, el verdadero gobierno no electo de Puerto Rico, ha impuesto en el presupuesto de nuestra Universidad pública, la hacen inoperante.

Cuando más el país necesita de programas educativos a todos los niveles, la Junta, en complicidad con el gobierno, intenta destruir la esperanza de un futuro digno para nuestra juventud. Desde las cientos de escuelas que se cerraron dejando a miles de estudiantes sin un centro escolar cerca de su hogar, hasta las que no se han rehabilitado por los destrozos del Huracán María en el 2017 y del terremoto del 2020, a nuestra niñez y juventud se les empuja así a trabajar para la mafia del narco como única opción de subsistir.

Mientras se dan las condiciones para que el pueblo salga masivamente a descolonizar el país, la lucha inmediata es para sacar a esta Junta de Control Fiscal que la próxima semana cumplirá 7 años de establecida y ya hay protestas convocadas para esa fecha. 📢

¡Fuera Junta de Control Fiscal!

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



MARCHA NACIONAL POR LA Protección de la Juventud Trans

Orange y Anderson
(cerca del Ayuntamiento)
Orlando, Florida

SÁBADO
7 de OCTUBRE
12 mediodía

Detener Los Ataques Racistas En Nuestras Comunidades



- ▶ **Quitar las prohibiciones de DeSantis** sobre atención médica para personas trans, acceso a baños, y la estudios negros y queer
- ▶ **Detener la censura y los ataques a las libertades civiles de profesores, alumnos, bibliotecas**
- ▶ **NO Toquen a Pride**
- ▶ **Abortos gratuitos, legales y accesibles**
- ▶ **Exija que Biden y el Congreso hagan cumplir los derechos civiles de costa a costa**



- ▶ **Expandir Medicaid y SNAP**
- ▶ **Detener la privación de derechos de los votantes**
- ▶ **Quitar los cargos de los Tampa 5**

Regístrese en: ProtectTransKidsMarch.org | MujeresEnLucha.org

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