

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



Struggle-La-Lucha.org
Vol. 6, No. 17 • Sept.-Oct. 2023
Suggested donation: \$1
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Defeat bosses' campaign of division All out to defend trans lives & fight racism

By **Struggle-La Lucha Orlando, Fla., bureau**

With under a month to go, the National March to Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Lives is catching fire. A growing number of endorsers in Florida and nationally have signed on.

The march will gather at 12 noon on Saturday, Oct. 7, at Orange and Anderson streets, near City Hall in Orlando, Florida. Following the march, protesters will return to the City Hall site for a speakout featuring local trans youth, groups from around the country, and musical performances.

The protest will call for reversing the vicious measures enacted by Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida legislature as well as their counterparts in other states, banning gender-affirming health care for trans children

and adults, prohibiting queer students and teachers from being out at school, banning trans people from using public restrooms that match their gender, and other genocidal policies.

Organizers aren't just focused on attacks on the LGBTQ+ community. They say they hope to unite all those under attack by the far right in Florida and nationwide.

The demand "Stop racist attacks on our communities" is prominently featured on the leaflet and poster, which also draws attention to the suppression of voting rights and repression of Black history in schools.

The protest will also demand free, accessible abortion on demand, an end to threats against Pride celebrations, and dropping the charges against the Tampa 5 protesters.

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Orlando ► Florida ► Oct 7

INTERVIEW: 'Standing up for trans people equals self-defense for all workers'

- Trans activists speak: 'Florida needs a grand display of unrest'
- Florida's 200-year war against oppressed people



SLL photo

Stop Cop City: Free the activists!

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper condemn the indictment of 61 Atlanta-area activists on "anti-racketeering" charges related to the Stop Cop City movement.

This is the latest in a string of repressive and violent moves by the state of Georgia and the city of Atlanta against a powerful and growing people's movement to stop the intensification of racist police terror and environmental destruction.

Among the "crimes" allegedly committed by the indicted activists are things like handing out flyers, attending benefit concerts, organizing jail support, and providing mutual aid – the kinds of activities carried out every day by progressive and community-based movements all over the country.

In January, Manuel "Tortugueta" Terán – a nonbinary activist defending the forest where Cop City is set to be built – was murdered in a hail of 57

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- Harlem street naming honors Black Panthers
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- Let Cuba live
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- Maui fires: Funding exposes priorities
- People of Niger are fed up
- **LENIN IN THE 21ST CENTURY**
Imperialism and the new Cold War

NATIONAL MARCH To Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Rights

Orlando ► Florida ► October 7
Orange & Anderson (near City Hall) Saturday at 12 Noon

Stop Racist Attacks on Our Communities

- Reverse DeSantis's bans on trans healthcare, restroom access, Black & Queer studies
- Stop censorship & attacks on civil liberties of teachers, students & libraries
- Hands off Pride!
- Free, legal, accessible abortions
- Demand Biden & Congress enforce civil rights coast to coast
- Expand Medicaid and SNAP
- Stop voter disenfranchisement
- Drop charges on the Tampa 5



Sign up at: ProtectTransKidsMarch.org

After Ta’Kiya Young shooting What will it take to stop racist police terror?

By Gloria Verdieu

Police in Ohio released bodycam footage of 21-year-old Ta’Kiya Young on Sept. 1, seven days after she was fatally shot by police on Aug. 24. Young, a pregnant mother of two, was killed while inside her car outside a grocery store in the suburbs of Columbus.

Officers who were at the scene for another reason responded to allegations from a store employee that multiple people, including Young, were fleeing the store with stolen items.

The bodycam video begins with one officer telling Young to get out of the car. A second officer, with gun drawn, moved in front of the vehicle. Both officers were yelling, demanding Young get out of the car. Young refused.

The car began moving, the video went dark, and the officer in front of the car fired one shot into the windshield. Within 15 seconds, she was dead.

The Associated Press spoke with Sean Walton, an attorney representing the family of Ta’Kiya Young. Walton said his firm found a witness who saw Young put down bottles of alcohol as she left the store. So Young was right in saying she committed no crime when she refused to get out of the car.

Police Chief John Belford called the shooting a tragedy, but refused to release the names, race, or rank of the two cops. The officer who killed Young is on paid administrative leave, and the second has already returned to active duty.

AP reports that “Young’s death is one of numerous deaths of Black adults and children at the hands of the police across the nation that have drawn protests and demands for more accountability.” The report listed the most prominent cases in Ohio — 20-year-old Donovan Lewis, 16-year-old Ma’Khari Bryant, 23-year-old Casey Goodson, Jr. — as well as George Floyd in Minneapolis.

In fact, the list is endless, because the police continue to shoot first and check the facts later, without being held accountable.

Litany of racist terror

Here are a few more incidents that involve shootings, senseless murders and frame-ups by the police:

Jan. 4, 2008: Tarika Wilson, a 26-year-old mother of six, was fatally shot by an Ohio police officer during a raid on her home targeting her boyfriend. Wilson was unarmed and hiding in her bedroom with her children when one of the officers fired blindly, killing her instantly and injuring the one-year-old baby she had in her



Protesters in Columbus, Ohio, demand justice for Ta’Kiya Young.

arms. The cop was acquitted of criminal charges and returned to the force. Two years later the city of Lima settled a wrongful death lawsuit with Wilson’s family for \$2.5 million.

Nov. 19, 2011: Police in White Plains, New York, shot and killed 68-year-old Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., a veteran suffering from bipolar illness and a heart condition. Chamberlain accidentally triggered a medical alert device. Police were the first to arrive at the scene. What started as a welfare check became a standoff that lasted for over an hour, with police demanding Chamberlain open the door. It ended with police breaking into his home. He was then tased, shot with a bean bag shotgun, and with live ammunition. Police claimed he came at them with a knife.

Chamberlain repeatedly told the police that he was okay and didn’t need or want them to come in. The officers were never charged criminally, and the Justice Department declined to file civil rights charges. The family of Kenneth Chamberlain sued the Justice Department. Twelve years later, in 2023, White Plains agreed to pay the family \$5 million, the largest settlement in the city’s history. Kenneth Chamberlain Jr. said about monetary compensation, “No way should it be considered a substitute for justice and accountability in these types of issues.”

Sept. 28, 2012: A U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent shot 32-year-old Valeria Tachiquin in San Diego. Border Patrol agents were serving

a felony warrant in the area when Tachiquin allegedly tried to run over an agent with her car. The agent was on the hood of the car before he fired his weapon through the windshield. Tachiquin was shot in the middle of the street in a residential area. Witnesses in the area saw Tachiquin slowly driving in reverse as the agent opened fire, shooting his gun at least 10 times.

Oct. 3, 2013: In Washington, D.C., Mariam Carey, a 34-year-old Black woman, was shot and killed by police after attempting to drive through a White House security checkpoint. She was chased by the Secret Service to the U.S. Capitol, where she was shot five times in the back. Carey’s one-year-old daughter was physically unharmed in the back seat of the car, but witnessed her mother’s brutal death.

Feb. 16, 2023: Porcha Woodruff, a 32-year-old Black woman, eight months pregnant, was preparing her two children for school when six Detroit police officers showed up at her door with an arrest warrant for robbery and carjacking. Woodruff told police that she did not rob or carjack anyone, but cooperated with the police and was handcuffed and arrested in front of her children, who were crying as she was taken away into custody.

Woodruff was misidentified by the city’s facial recognition technology. She filed a lawsuit against the Detroit Police Department hoping this will change how police used the technology to ensure “this doesn’t happen to someone else.”

Protect and serve?

If the U.S. criminal justice system really wanted to change how the police relate to the people they are supposedly hired to “protect and serve,” it would listen to what the people say and hold the police accountable for what they do.

Let the people in our communities control who “protects and serves” them!

The people have been demanding an immediate end to police brutality and murder for decades. Ending police brutality was number seven on the Black Panther Party’s 10-point program in 1966.

The BPP believed ending police brutality can be achieved “by organizing Black self-defense groups that are dedicated to defending our Black community from racist police oppression and brutality.”

Today, people in cities across the U.S. are voicing their concerns and demanding community control of the police, defunding the police, and abolishing the police. The criminal justice system is saying “NO” to all these demands as police terror continues to rise. Instead it pushes forward with toothless reforms that include body cameras, “independent” investigations, civilian review boards, and de-escalation.

Until we mobilize and work together towards a new society, we will continue to go back and forth with this capitalist system that values profits over people.

We know the solution, the only solution, is a socialist revolution. 📌



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

► Compiled and edited by Gloria Verdieu

► Carl Muhammad ► Zola Fish ► Mary Lou Finley

► Dennis Childs ► Eusi Kwayana ► Mumia Abu-Jamal

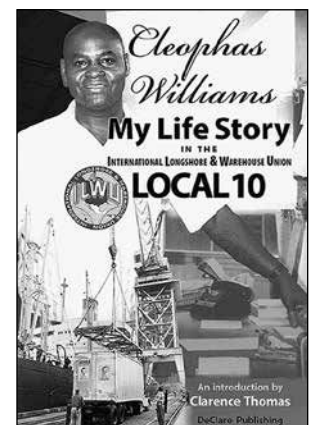
► Curtis Howard ► Poem by Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

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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 multifaceted 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.



Class struggle is back!

150,000 Auto Workers poised to strike

By Sharon Black

A strike by 150,000 workers at auto-makers Ford, General Motors and Stellantis (formerly Chrysler) looks imminent.

In a recent Facebook Live event, United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain declared the Stellantis proposal trash, tossing it into a wastebasket. Fain has aptly declared contract talks as war between billionaires and workers.

If the Auto Workers walk out when their contract expires on Sept. 14, it would be the second-largest strike in over 25 years, second only to the current actors' strike by 160,000 members of SAG-AFTRA.

Strikes of 100 or more workers are up 40% in the past 12 months, according to Cornell University's "strike tracker."

What's fueling this fight is the drive to reverse concessions the union made from 2007 to 2009. In real terms, workers who sacrificed to make obscene profits for the auto bosses, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, have seen their wages eroded, their backs and minds broken by forced overtime, and their health sacrificed. They are sick to death of inequalities and injustice.

Collectively, the Big Three auto companies posted net income of \$164 billion over the last year. CEOs earn multiple millions in annual compensation. That's not even counting the bailouts by the federal government.

UAW President Fain spoke plainly to Ford workers in Louisville, Kentucky. "They get out-of-control salaries," he said. "They get pensions they don't even need. They get top-rate health care. They work whatever schedule they want. The majority of our members do not get a pension nowadays. It's crazy. We get substandard health care. We don't get to work remotely." Canadian auto workers, whose contract expires four days later, have also voted to strike. They have targeted Ford.

There are separate contracts with the three U.S. automakers, and so it is possible that the union could stay on the job at one or two of them even if it strikes others.

Top union demands

The UAW has set a series of bold and necessary contract proposals meant to reverse workers' losses and to better position its members for future battles, especially with the development and manufacture of electric cars.

Some of the top demands include:

- Ending the two-tier wage and benefit system for those hired since 2007;
- 46% pay increase over the four-year contract;
- 32-hour work week;
- Increased sick and vacation days and an end to mandatory overtime;
- Traditional pensions plan rather than the current 401K plans, including retiree health care;
- Limits on part-time and contract workers;



United Auto Workers members march at a union rally held near a Stellantis factory in Detroit, Aug. 23.

"They get out-of-control salaries. They get pensions they don't even need. They get top-rate health care. They work whatever schedule they want. The majority of our members do not get a pension nowadays. It's crazy. We get substandard health care. We don't get to work remotely."

—United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain

- Reinstating COLA (cost of living allowance);
- The right to strike in the event of a plant closing, including provisions that would require bosses to pay workers to do community service if their plant closes.

This is a partial list.

Two-tier wages, benefits

The two-tier wage system, which was one of the key issues for Teamster drivers at United Parcel Service (UPS), became a strategy for bosses to beat back workers' gains and a ploy during union contract negotiations following the Reagan administration's defeat of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) strike in 1981.

It deepened during the financial crisis of 2007. By 2008, an estimated 30% of workers had been corralled into a two-tier wage system. Much of the union leadership had given up on class struggle during that period. The reasons for this acquiescence are complex.

In simple terms, it meant new workers were hired at a lower scale of pay and benefits than workers already employed. It insidiously pits workers against each other and has a devastating impact for all workers by ultimately lowering wages and benefits across the board.

How this works in the auto industry was explained by Vox in the article, "What a UAW strike could mean for labor":

"But a major driver of the strike is actually a two-tiered wage system first instituted in the UAW's 2007 contract; workers hired before that are in the first tier and started at about \$28 per hour, while second-tier workers start at between \$16 and \$19 per hour — a rate that has barely increased over the past decade. The

second-tier class of workers grows as first-tier workers retire and are replaced by new second-tier workers, ultimately bringing down wages for an increasing number of workers — who also increasingly make up the UAW membership."

32-hour work week

The demand for a 32-hour work week is long overdue. Technology for people, not for profit, can give all humans a life where culture and leisure can become central. But in the hands of the capitalist class, it means fewer workers and greater exploitation, including longer hours for those still working.

It is exciting that the UAW is making this demand central. It lays the basis to restore a shorter work week as a major labor demand for all workers.

The union's call to end the grueling work culture that forces people to put their lives last is best described directly in the words of its president:

"If COVID did anything, it made people reflect on what's important in life, and it sure as hell isn't living in a factory. We need to get back to fighting for a vision of society in which everyone earns family-sustaining wages and everyone has enough free time to enjoy their lives and see their kids grow up and their parents grow old," Fain said.

Electric vehicles: a key issue

With union workers set to battle the Big Three, the issue of the transition to electric vehicles remains ever-present.

Automakers are spending tens of billions of dollars to transition to electric vehicles. Their manufacture will require fewer workers. What happens in this contract will set the stage around this issue.

So far the UAW has withheld its 2024

endorsement of President Joe Biden because of concerns over jobs created with federal subsidies for EVs (electric vehicles) and their related jobs.

If the union emerges stronger, it will better position itself in this fight.

Strike! Strike! Strike!

There is no way to predict the outcome of this battle. Certainly, the stakes are high for the entire working class both at home and globally.

For the rank-and-file members, it takes confidence and courage. It means facing the potential of losing homes and apartments, the risk of being locked out, of being cut off from needed health care, not just for themselves, but for their children and families. No worker takes a strike lightly.

What we do know is that it is certainly overdue and any form of win will reverberate widely among non-unionized workers — especially in the South, among Amazon and Starbucks workers who continue to stand up to Bezos and Schultz. And it will raise the floor for all workers.

A strike will be a test on many levels. It will test the newly elected leadership of the UAW, both its skill and resolve. Have preparations been successful? Will the leadership skirt company traps? Transparency and solidarity will be key, keeping workers informed will be critical.

But most importantly, it will be the rank-and-file members, the wind beneath the union's wings, who will hold the answer in their hands.

Everyone's role will be to give these workers and all others on strike our active solidarity.

The writer is a former assembly line worker at the General Motors Wilmington, Delaware, plant, which shut down in 2009. She was one of the first women workers hired at the Boxwood plant during that period.

Florida's 200-year war against oppressed people: DeSantis vs. Black and Indigenous history

By Stephen Millies

For Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, the road to the Republican presidential nomination is being seen as an even bigger bigot than Donald Trump. When DeSantis says Florida is “where woke goes to die,” he means kicking Black history out of the schools.

DeSantis narrowly defeated Andrew Gillum, a Black man, in the 2018 governor's race with a race-baiting campaign that warned voters not to “monkey this up” by voting for Gillum.

Transgender people are a special target for Governor Bigot and his flunkies in the Florida legislature. So are reproductive rights.

Trans children are prohibited from receiving gender-affirming medical care and can be kidnapped from their parents.

Abortions were made illegal after six weeks of pregnancy.

The racist demagoguery of DeSantis was part of the background of hate for a neo-Nazi gunman to murder three Black people in Jacksonville, Florida, on Aug. 26. They were Angela Michelle Carr, 52; Jerrald Gallion, 29; and Anolt Joseph Laguerre Jr., 19.

A week later Nazis carrying swastika flags paraded in Orlando, Florida. Unlike Black Lives Matter protests, there was no interference by the police.

The Sunshine State's union-busting “right-to-work” law is a big reason why only 1 in 18 Florida workers have union protection. Seventy-eight billionaires live in Florida while 753,000 children live under the miserably low federal poverty level.

Governor Bigot is also a war criminal. As a Navy lawyer at the Guantánamo concentration camp, DeSantis oversaw the forced feeding of prisoners, which is torture. The U.S. naval base is on territory stolen from Cuba.

As a member of Congress, Super Scrooge DeSantis voted against aid to survivors of Hurricane Sandy.

DeSantis didn't come out of nowhere. A previous Florida governor, Jeb Bush, abolished affirmative action in state colleges and helped his brother George W. Bush steal the 2000 presidential election.

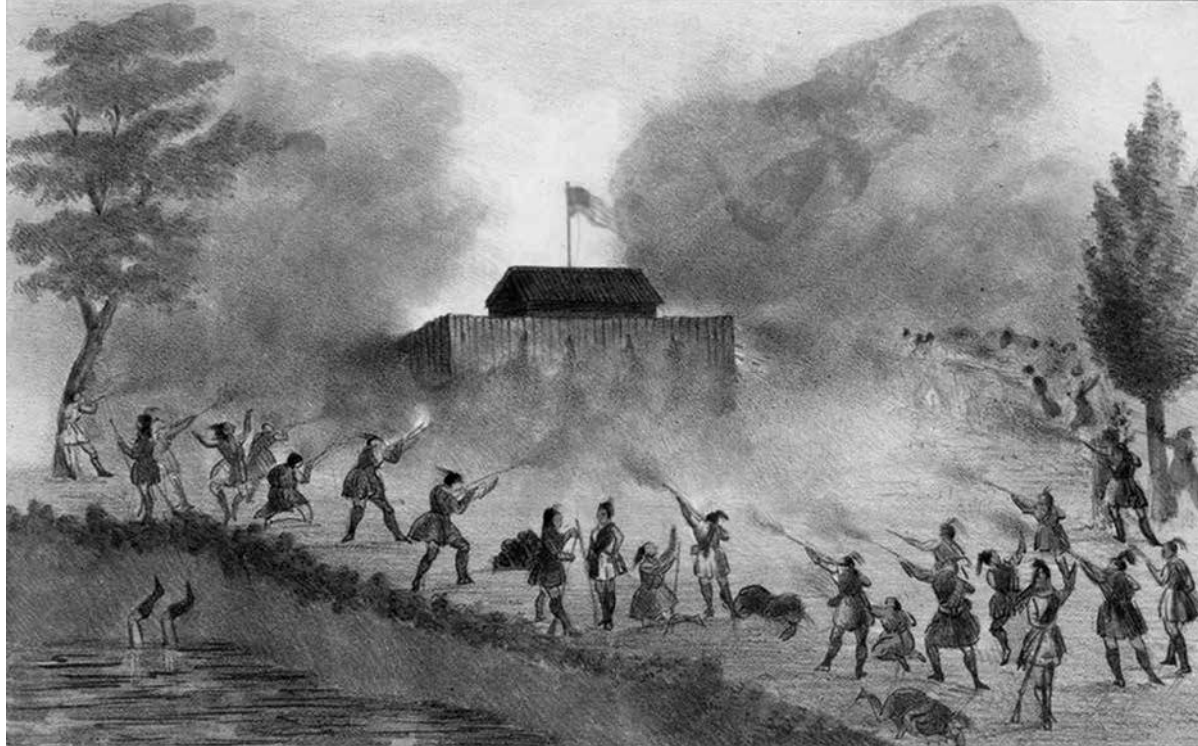
The United States Civil Rights Commission determined that one out of seven “Black voters cast ballots that were rejected” in the Sunshine State. That was nine times the rejection rate of all other voters.

It's shameful there was no organized opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision stopping ballot counting in Florida, throwing the election to Bush. The court acted after John Bolton — who became a national security advisor to Trump — led the “Brooks Brothers riot” of well-dressed thugs who stopped vote counting in Miami.

Lynchings and massacres

Florida is now the third most populous U.S. state with over 22 million people. Its blood-drenched history is filled with racist violence. At least 311 Black people were lynched there.

Thirty-three Black people were murdered by lynch mobs in Florida's Orange County, home to Orlando and



Seminole attacking a fort on the Withlacoochee River during the Second Seminole War, December 1835.

most of Walt Disney World. The actual figure may be higher.

People are coming to Orlando on Saturday, Oct. 7, for a National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speak-out for Trans Rights. At least 32 trans people were killed in the United States in 2022.

“Stop Racist Attacks” is one of the Oct. 7th protest's demands. So is defending Black history; stopping voter disenfranchisement; expanding Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps); and free, legal and accessible abortions on demand.

People will be demanding that charges be dropped against the Tampa 5, activists who were arrested protesting DeSantis. For more information about Oct. 7 see ProtectTransKidsMarch.org.

Nina Simone composed the classic song “Mississippi Goddam,” but Black people were murdered at an even higher rate in Florida.

Measured per the number of Black people in the state, Black people in Florida were over 40% more likely to be lynched than in Mississippi. Racist massacres drove entire Black communities out of towns.

A dozen miles from Orlando, a Ku Klux Klan-led mob burned down the Black community in Ocoee, Florida, on election day, Nov. 2, 1920. Children were among the 30 to 40 people killed because Black people wanted to vote.

On Jan. 5, 1923, a white mob hundreds in number attacked the Black community in Rosewood, Florida. Between 30 and 40 Black people were killed. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, “Black residents hid in the woods and fled by train to Gainesville, Florida, never to return.”

War against Seminole Nation and Africans

Florida had been a Spanish colony that was annexed by the United States in 1819. The genocidal slave-owning rapist and future U.S. President Andrew Jackson became the territory's first governor.

The U.S. grabbed Florida largely because it was a refuge for enslaved Africans. They escaped from bordering Georgia and Alabama, as well as from the Carolinas and even Virginia.

The U.S. waged three wars against the Seminole Indigenous Nation from

1816 to 1858. Washington sought to remove the Seminoles and prevent Florida from becoming a liberated maroon territory for Africans.

During the first Seminole War, a main U.S. target was the “Negro Fort” which was a center for runaway Africans. A leader of the Seminoles during the second war starting in 1835 was John Horse, who was of both Indigenous and African descent.

During that conflict the Black Seminoles John Caesar and John Philip led raids along Florida's east coast. Twenty-one sugar plantations were destroyed. Hundreds of enslaved Africans joined the Seminoles.

There was so much resistance that the U.S. lost 2,000 soldiers in these wars. Since the U.S. population in 1830 was a little less than 13 million, these losses would be equivalent to between 40,000 to 50,000 GIs being killed today.

Around 4,400 Seminoles were forcibly removed to Oklahoma while between 300 to 500 managed to stay in Florida.

Florida had the smallest population of the 11 states that formed the slave master's confederacy. Of the 140,424 people counted by the 1860 census in Florida, 44% were enslaved Africans.

The too-short period of Reconstruction following the Civil War brought hope. The Black man Josiah T. Walls served six years as one of Florida's two members in the House of Representatives.

The Black minister Jonathan C. Gibbs became Florida's secretary of state. Between 1872 and 1874, Gibbs was the state's superintendent of public instruction.

In the words of W.E.B. DuBois, “He virtually established the public schools of the state as an orderly system” that benefited both Black and white. (Black Reconstruction in America.)

But by 1876, Reconstruction was overthrown in Florida. Decades of Jim Crow hell followed.

Slave labor for Flagler

As late as 1880, just 269,493 people lived in Florida. Forty-seven percent of them were Black.

Railroads were key to the state's development, bringing wealthy tourists in and shipping fruit out. Particular-

ly important were Henry Plant's rail system serving Florida's west coast (now part of CSX), and the Florida East Coast railway, owned by Henry Flagler.

Flagler was a partner of John D. Rockefeller — the world's first billionaire — in the Standard Oil trust. Among its Big Oil descendants are ExxonMobil and Chevron.

The oil money financed the Florida East Coast

Railway and a string of hotels extending from Jacksonville to Miami. An extension was even built to Key West, although the line was swept away by a 1935 hurricane.

It was the enslaved labor of largely Black convicts that built this empire. Black and immigrant workers held in debt peonage built the line to Key West.

It's outrageous that Flagler College, Flagler County, Flagler Memorial Bridge, and Flagler Beach are named after this criminal.

War profiteer Alfred I. duPont later took control of the Florida East Coast railway. After he died, his estate was administered by Edward Ball, a die-hard segregationist.

Ball instigated a strike on the Florida East Coast that started on Jan. 22, 1963, and lasted over 11 years. The strike was broken, a defeat for all labor in the South.

One of the strikebreakers Ball hired was William Calley. Later, as a U.S. army second lieutenant, Calley carried out the My Lai massacre in which hundreds of Vietnamese people were murdered.

In 1964, Dr. King helped lead demonstrations against segregation in St. Augustine, Florida, home to Flagler College. The terrorist National States Rights Party violently opposed the human rights protests.

When Black people swam in the Jim Crow Monson Motor Lodge pool, motel manager James Brock poured acid into the pool.

Twenty-seven thousand teachers across Florida went on strike on Feb. 19, 1968, demanding increased school funding. It was the first state-wide teachers strike in U.S. history. Although an agreement was reached on March 8, 1968, school boards refused to rehire thousands of teachers.

The singer Anita Bryant led a 1977 homophobic campaign to repeal a Dade County ordinance banning discrimination against LGBTQ+ people. Forty-six years ago the target was lesbian teachers; now the bigots want to ban Drag Queen Story Hours and deny medical care for trans children. In 1998, the Miami-Dade County Commission reinstated the anti-discrimination law.

Poor and working people can defeat DeSantis and all the bigots. ☐

Let Cuba Live Coalition builds solidarity in Los Angeles

By Maggie Vascassenno

The Let Cuba Live Coalition (LCLC) in Los Angeles is gathering steam for a fall offensive to take Cuba #OFFTHELIST and end the criminal U.S. blockade of Cuba.

The local group is organizing to get the second largest city in the U.S. to finally join dozens of cities, counties, unions and community groups, including the New York City and Washington, D.C., City Councils, and pass a resolution to take Cuba off the State Sponsors of Terrorism SSOT list and end the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

On the heels of a recent victory – the Sacramento Mayoral Proclamation that resolved to “...proclaim support for the efforts to remove Cuba from the (SSOT) list” – the LCLC is supporting efforts to get union backing while preparing to meet with local council members, county executives and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

The LCLC has connected with Sanctuary of Hope (SOH) to join the grassroots efforts to reach local politicians and expand the community’s understanding of Cuba’s example. SOH is a youth development organization, whose primary mission is to provide a caring and identity-affirming approach to services that help young people become self-sufficient, make connections, and lead meaningful lives. In that context, SOH took a delegation of youth to Cuba.

The SOH delegates have been invited to participate in meetings with city counselors and speak about their Cuba experiences at a Sept. 24 documentary film showing at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice. The event begins at 2 p.m. at 5278 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles.

“Cuba in Africa” by Negash Abdurahman will be screened at the Harriet Tubman Center, with Abdurahman available via zoom to discuss the film and answer questions. The documentary is the dramatic untold story of 420,000 Cubans – soldiers and teachers, doctors and nurses – who gave everything to help end colonial rule and apartheid in southern Africa. “Cuba in Africa” is told primarily through the moving stories of Cuban survivors of the Angolan campaign, from soldiers to teachers to medical personnel to government officials.

Other Los Angeles community-building and Cuba awareness events included the important report from the Women in Struggle LGBTQ+ delegation to Cuba to learn about the progressive new Families Code. The report-back meeting stressed the urgency of fighting here in the U.S. for the recognition of all types of families, as was codified into law in Cuba.

Melinda Butterfield, leader of the Women in Struggle delegation, encouraged everyone to go to Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 7 for the National March to Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Rights. Visit

ProtectTransKidsMarch.org for info. To get involved with LCLC, call (323) 306-6240 or email info@HarrietTubmanCenterLA.com.

Join the campaign for 1 million signatures to take Cuba #OffTheList of State Sponsors of Terrorism. Visit LetCubaLive.info. 📧



A gathering of heroes: Harlem street naming honors Black Panthers

By Bill Dores

African drums and the words “All power to the people” echoed in Harlem, New York, on Sunday, Aug. 20, as the blue flag emblazoned with a black panther flew again.

On that day, veterans of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army and supporters old and young assembled to rename 122nd Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard as Black Panther Way. The Harlem Headquarters of the BPP stood at 2026 Adam Clayton Powell from 1968 to 1976.

Other Panther veterans present included Rosemari Mealy, Sam Anderson, Shaba Om and longtime political prisoner Sundiata Acoli. Panther veteran and New York City Council Member Charles Barron addressed the gathering by telephone. State Senator Cordell Cleare, City Council Member Kristin Richardson Johnson and Community Board District Manager Shatic Mitchell, who had worked for the renaming, also attended and spoke.

Honor and tribute was given to the fallen comrades of the Harlem office, to Black Panthers martyred in captivity, and to six freedom fighters still imprisoned by the racist U.S. state apparatus – Ed Poindexter (52 years), Veronza Bowers (50 years), Kenny “Zulu”

Whitmore (45 years), Mumia Abu-Jamal (41 years), Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, aka H. Rap Brown (23 years) and Kamau Sidiki, aka Freddie Hilton (22 years).

A multigenerational crowd of over 200, including veterans of the Young Lords Party, turned out to honor the Panther freedom fighters, their work, sacrifice and legacy. When the 10-point program of the Black Panther Party was read aloud, the chant “Stick to the platform” rang out.

Speakers described the work of the Harlem-Bronx branch of the Party, including the free breakfast for children program and community health programs. They explained the vicious attack launched against the BPP by federal and local state apparatus. “We were at war and still are,” Rosemari Mealy declared. She described the powerful role of the Panther women in sustaining the work of the party in the face of severe repression.

“The government unleashed total terror against us,” said Jamal Joseph, who was the youngest member of the framed-up and exonerated New York Panther 21. “Because of that class struggle we were building a united front against fascism.” Joseph stressed that the work of the Panthers was guided by their creed, “undying love for the people.” 📧



From left to right: Yasmeen Majid, James Tarik Haskins, Claudia Chesson-Williams, Bilal Sunni Ali, Shep Olugbala, Cyril ‘Bullwhip’ Innis, Bill ‘BJ’ Johnson, Jamal Joseph and Kim Holder.

PHOTO: BILL DORES

Stop Cop City: Free the activists!

Continued from page 1

bullets during an attack by multiple police agencies. True to form, the cops claimed Tortugueta fired first, but it was proven to be a lie – and an independent autopsy later confirmed that they were killed execution-style.

Republican Attorney General Chris Carr’s indictment gives the game away by dating the start of the so-called “conspiracy” to the police murder of George Floyd in May 2020: the beginning of the largest protest movement in U.S. history for racial justice.

But it is not only the far-right Republican state government behind these attacks. The Democrat-led city of Atlanta has also participated in the war on Stop Cop City activists, including blatant interference in the campaign to get a referendum on the ballot to stop the project.

At the national level, other cities have already announced plans to follow in Atlanta’s wake with a further militarization of police agencies. All factions of the capitalist state and its political representatives are united around intensifying police repression.

We call upon the people’s movements throughout the U.S. to unite in defense of the Stop Cop City activists and push back this latest effort to make people’s protest and resistance illegal while further enabling fascists inside and outside police departments to wage war on the workers and oppressed.

Cop City will never be built! Not in Atlanta, not anywhere!

Sept. 7, 2023

Interview with Oct. 7 organizer

‘Standing up for trans people is self-defense for all workers’

By Sharon Black

Transgender activist Melinda Butterfield is one of the key organizers for the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida. She is also a co-editor of *Struggle-La Lucha*.

In May, Butterfield led a Women In Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha LGBTQ2S delegation to Cuba to participate in the Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia. The trip allowed activists from around the U.S. and from a variety of groups to learn more about Cuba’s new, expansive Families Code.

Sharon Black: How is the mobilization going? I know that you’re encouraged about the involvement of trans activists around the country and especially in Florida. Could you let us know how Oct. 7 is building and why you think that is so?

Melinda Butterfield: We started organizing on Trans Day of Visibility, March 31. There was a lot of enthusiasm for the idea of a national march for trans rights from the beginning, but organizing was slow at first. We started with a diverse group of trans people from all parts of the U.S., most of whom had never worked together.

We thought it was important to hold the protest in Florida, which has been the epicenter of anti-trans attacks this year under governor and presidential candidate Ron DeSantis. It’s crucial to show solidarity with the many trans youth there who have no opportunity of fleeing to another state. But trying to hold a national action in such a hostile environment presents special challenges.

Some folks dropped out pretty quickly because life stuff gets in the way. That’s especially true for trans people, who shoulder a lot in their daily struggle to survive in an increasingly hostile society. But we kept pushing ahead. Organizing something like this on a national scale is never easy, especially when you have few resources to start with.

Over time, we got a solid core of activists, trans people and cisgender allies alike, who are committed to the idea behind the march – that there needs to be an independent mass movement, national in scope, to confront the far-right program of anti-trans genocide – in the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement and the Stonewall Rebellion. And who understand that this movement needs to be in solidarity with other oppressed groups under attack from these white supremacists. With their help, we were able to broaden our reach, especially in Florida.

By the end of July, it started to feel like things were really coming together. And now we’re in the final weeks and days, the most exciting part of the mobilization, when a lot of groups and individuals are getting the word out and making plans to attend!

A lot of people who support the march in theory are understandably worried about coming to Florida. I’m not just talking about trans people, but many cis progressives too, especially after laws came into effect this summer banning trans people from



Melinda Butterfield at the International Trans Colloquium in Havana, Cuba, May 2023.

using public restrooms that correspond to their gender and giving the state legal cover to kidnap trans kids from their parents. And, of course, gender-affirming care for both youth and adults has been outlawed there.

We very carefully and deliberately chose Orlando as the site of the march, because it is where the contradictions between DeSantis and the tourism industry are sharpest, where the local authorities are not inclined to enforce measures like the restroom ban because they are not beneficial to local businesses. Orlando also has a large, organized queer community, and many of the city’s low-wage service workers are queer.

Most importantly, we are working to provide the best possible people’s security for the march and those who choose to attend because, as the slogan goes, “we keep us safe.”

‘Capitalism relies on divide and conquer’

SB: I understand that trans and queer groups are in the leadership, but why should others join this mobilization? Is Oct. 7 connected to other struggles, both in Florida and nationally?

MB: Trans people are public enemy #1 in Florida and much of the U.S. right now. And even in “safe” areas like New York City and Los Angeles, there is growing fascist street violence and emboldened acts of bigotry. It’s no exaggeration to say that every trans person, whether they are out or still in the closet, has been affected by this and feels a growing sense of dread.

But trans people aren’t the only ones being targeted. In Florida, DeSantis and his ilk are going after the broader LGBTQ2S community too. They are going after immigrant workers and the Black community, students and teachers, librarians, reproductive rights for women and other people who become pregnant, unions. It’s the same story in many, many other places.

Capitalism relies on divide and conquer. A fascist movement ramps that

up to 11. In Florida, in Texas, in Ohio, in Montana, and in Washington, D.C., too, the far right has telegraphed very clearly that once the transgender “menace” is eliminated, they will turn their attention to the next group they find undesirable.

In a very concrete way, standing up for trans people at this moment is not just the right thing to do – it’s a necessary act of self-defense for every working-class person, every marginalized community, in this country.

Anti-fascism at home and abroad

SB: You have a long history of opposing the fascists in Ukraine. You’ve written about that and been involved in protests against Ukrainian fascists and in support of the people of the Donbass region. Can you explain why Oct. 7 is also on the cutting edge of fighting fascism?

MB: I’m glad you brought up Ukraine because the war there is not well understood by the queer community in the U.S., nor by the left generally. I’ve been organizing in solidarity with anti-fascists in the Donbass region and exiled Ukrainian anti-fascists since the U.S. supported a far-right coup in Ukraine nearly ten years ago.

The current military struggle by Donbass people, Ukrainian anti-fascists, and the Russian military against the Ukrainian regime and NATO is one of the most important struggles against fascism in the world. This is masked deliberately by the Biden administration, which poses as a friend of queer people but sends billions of dollars in weapons and aid to help Ukrainian fascists wipe out the people of Donbass and facilitate a U.S. takeover of Russia.

The growth of fascist movements in Ukraine like the Azov Battalion, promoted and supplied by the U.S., has inspired neo-Nazis and violent white supremacists from the U.S. to New Zealand. In fact, speakers at a fascist gathering waving Nazi flags in Orlando on Sept. 2 spoke approvingly of Biden arming Azov. As Dr.

The delegation U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia, organized by Women in Struggle, visited Cuba in May 2023 to learn about the country’s new Families Code that vastly expands the rights of queer families. Read first-hand accounts from the delegation at Struggle-La-Lucha.org.

PHOTO: SERENA SOJIC-BORNE

King said about the U.S. war in Vietnam, the bombs dropped abroad also explode at home.

Of course, the capitalist government of Russia has not helped to clarify the situation with its hateful anti-trans and anti-gay policies. The origins of this are complex, but an important thing for queers in the U.S. to understand is that “our” government – both Republicans and Democrats – promoted

right-wing, homophobic, transphobic U.S. evangelical intervention in Russia and Eastern Europe in the 1990s and early 2000s to further U.S. interests, just as it did in Uganda. And today we’re seeing the logical outcome of that.

Just as Donbass is at the cutting edge of anti-fascist struggle internationally, the fight against trans genocide is the cutting edge of anti-fascist struggle in the U.S. right now, along with the fight against white supremacist violence, like the recent massacre of three Black people in Jacksonville, Florida.

Oct. 7 will not only be the first national protest for trans rights since the current wave of attacks began, it’s also the first national protest against the fascist movement, which has become more violent and aggressive since Jan. 6, 2021, from Congress to state houses to the streets.

If we unite to forcefully push back the violent attack on trans lives and Black lives, it will be a serious blow to the far-right politicians, fascist groups like the Proud Boys and Moms for Liberty, and the wealthy capitalists behind them.

Grassroots mobilization

SB: Women In Struggle and all of the groups and individuals who initiated the Oct. 7 march, while courageous, are relatively lacking in resources. Why haven’t larger, more mainstream groups initiated such a call?

MB: Our call for a national march was very much based on frustration with the lack of a national response to the growing anti-trans attacks. And it quickly became apparent that others felt the same way! When I was giving out the first leaflet promoting the idea at the Trans Day of Visibility in Washington, D.C., so many people thanked me and said they couldn’t understand why it hadn’t already been done.

There have been lots of wonderful, heroic battles waged at the local and state level to defend trans rights. Why

SAMIRA BURNSIDE

editor of *The Queer Notion*:

As a transgender youth in Florida, it would be hard not to become an activist, like allowing yourself to be taken by the river instead of swimming against it. When I spoke in Washington, D.C., on Trans Day of Visibility, I felt the power in the air, the will for change, the NEED for change — and I thought: I need to bring this home. Liberal D.C. doesn't need this, not like Florida does. Florida needed a uniting event, a grand, unignorable display of the unrest that the recent laws had caused. We had heard whispers, but we needed a scream. So, when Melinda approached me, I was ecstatic. I had to carry the momentum of that Trans Day of Visibility forward, I had to make it worth something at home.

This march has done something special — something that I don't think has been seen since the '60s. This march is for the protection of trans youth first and foremost, but it brought together so many people, so many groups, so many disparate ideologies and complex individuals to fly under one flag, to stand in solidarity against one foe.

On Oct. 7, we will march with clasped hands and raised voices next to union workers, we will chant our disagreeable chants beside radicals and moderates, we will share the stage with people of all creeds and colors and ages and denominations, and we will do it because what has happened in Florida has become a threat of such an utterly existential nature that it has become a threat without borders. It has encroached on the civil liberties of everyone, and I am beyond excited to see what we can do when we are united, both on Oct. 7 and beyond.



has no one tried to unite them into a powerful movement?

We know why. Like many progressive communities in the U.S., the LGBTQ2S community has been dominated for decades by nonprofits closely tied to capitalist foundations and the Democratic Party. Their orientation is entirely based on two-party electoral politics as the be-all and end-all of what queers should aspire to. And so they are completely unprepared to deal with a situation like this, which requires a militant fightback that doesn't meet the approval of their political and funding patrons.

As with so many people's movements — from Civil Rights to reproductive rights to queer liberation to anti-war — the initiative for this fight comes from the grassroots, from the most revolutionary and radical forces. And we have to drag the groups with money into the struggle, kicking and screaming, while working diligently to preserve an independent, radical orientation that can actually achieve our goals — to not only push back the attacks on trans rights but to expand those rights.

It's disappointing that even on the radical left there is lack of initiative in defense of trans lives. There are left groups that, on paper, are in favor of trans rights and would have been much better positioned to initiate an event of this scope. Why they didn't — if it's out of fear of repression, sectarianism, or the pressure of reformism and so-called "patriotic socialism" in the movement — I can only speculate. We would welcome their involvement, but so far it hasn't happened.

Bravery of trans youth

SB: Is there anything else that you would like to add, including your own personal perspective as a trans woman?

MB: Like many trans people, I'm deeply motivated to protect trans and questioning young people. Because I was a trans child myself, and I don't want anyone to ever again have to go through the abuse, torture, and years

of self-hatred and misery that came with being denied my true identity. No child should ever be subject to that — not by the state, not by the church, and not by their parents.

It was the bravery of young trans people coming forward that finally helped me to come out later in life.

In 1963, Gov. George Wallace of Alabama stood in the schoolhouse door to prevent desegregation. President John F. Kennedy ordered the National Guard to remove him and enforce integration.

Today, Ron DeSantis and many others are metaphorically standing in the door of the schoolhouse, the doctor's office, the restroom, and the library. President Joe Biden has not lifted a finger to stop him, and shows no inclination to do so.

The difference has nothing to do with the character of the presidents in question. Kennedy and Biden are both reactionary Cold Warriors, and no friends of queers or Black people. The difference is that in 1963 there was a mass movement for Civil Rights — one that the capitalists and their politicians feared and were unable to control. This is the example we have to look to.

When the bosses fear the people, then we will see a roll-back of the anti-trans attacks and other reactionary measures. When the fascists who invade our streets know they will be met and confronted by a united people's movement, then they will scurry back into their holes.

Oct. 7 is about taking the first steps toward building that kind of movement — the kind that can win.

Join the struggle!

SB: Where and how can people get involved?

MB: Whether or not you can come to Orlando, there are lots of ways to get involved. But you should come if you can!

Go to our website, ProtectTransKidsMarch.org, and sign up. If you represent an organization, ask them to endorse. On the website, you

TSUKURU FORS

Red Berets for Queers:

Being part of this march, to me, is extremely personal. As a non-binary trans person who "came out" and began the process of transition at age 50, I know the pain of being "closeted," having to live with the sense of guilt, alienation, and shame for so long. I'm not going to let anyone take away our rights to live our lives as dignified, fully self-actualized, and powerful beings. I'm fighting for the young me that couldn't.

Another thing is that this is not a fight only for trans people. As an Asian/immigrant/trans person who was assigned female at birth, I know that all marginalized folks are currently under attack. The march is to demonstrate to those who want to oppress and subjugate us that "united, we will win."

We will not remain silent as our siblings are being murdered. We are fighting back. Let this march be a catalyst for a revolution.



YUKI

trans college student:

Every day, I read more and more headlines about a law being passed against us or a judge abusing their power to oppress us, and I'm more than happy to have the opportunity to do something about it. That's what really motivated me to get involved. I need to do something for my community while I still can.

Seeing queer people be themselves and be happy is something sacred. I've seen so many people smile because, for the first time, they can be themselves and be celebrated, cared for, and safe. I've been one of those people before, and knowing that fascists are trying to make sure I'm one of the last fills me with rage and a need to act.

I don't know what will fix all this, but I know a National March to Protect Trans Youth is something I need to be at.



CHRISTYNNE LILI WRENE WOOD

2023 San Diego Champion of Pride winner:



Love from the West End of the rainbow! I'm a 67-year-old transgender woman from Lakeside, California. I'm a mother and grandmother, as well as an eight-year Navy veteran who's experienced every bit of the civil rights struggle from the 1960s through right now!

January 2023 began with my being targeted by an organized campaign of hatred and lies challenging my legal rights to use the women's locker room at the Cameron YMCA in Santee, California. Because of the love and support of my Aqua Sisters (from my water aerobics classes), I was empowered with the strength to stand in a very public, televised forum and call out the lies of the

racist, transphobic bigots and religious zealots that sought to vilify me.

And I'm bring tha love, confidence, and support to all of you, my beloved rainbow family in Florida. Stay strong! Your valkyries are coming!

can make a donation to help with expenses like transportation. You can also download flyers and posters to print and distribute in your area.

We have biweekly organizing meetings online, as well as committees organizing things like logistics, social media, and program. Sign up at the website, and we'll let you know how to participate in those meetings.

Also let us know if you're planning to come to Orlando on Oct. 7. We can

help you find a hotel or alternative housing. If you live in the Orlando region and can provide sleeping space for a night or two, let us know.

A really easy way to help is by getting out the word on social media. Visit Linktr.ee/transyouthmarch for links to our social media pages. Follow us on your preferred platforms and share our posts with your friends and contacts.

All out for Oct. 7!

On the anniversary of Katrina: Capitalist murder is not a ‘natural disaster’

By Sharon Black

Aug. 27 — As many people prepare for last-minute summer outings and back-to-school shopping this Labor Day weekend, it is important to remember the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, particularly in the context of the fires in Maui and Lāhainā.

Aug. 29 marks the 18-year anniversary of Katrina making landfall in Louisiana. At least 1,823 people, mostly Black and poor, lost their lives when the storm struck and the levees broke. The unfolding disaster created a permanent diaspora of over a million people.

Katrina destroyed whole communities and the people who lived in them. Much of the suffering, death, and destruction was preventable.



Crimes of capitalism: New Orleans 2005, Lāhainā 2023

Nothing natural about it

The levees that broke, resulting in the destruction of the Ninth Ward and the loss of hundreds of lives in New Orleans, was not an “act of god,” but rather the negligence of the government that failed to repair the levee system.

Neither “god” nor “nature” blocked people trying to flee the city in the aftermath of the hurricane. Witnesses reported that police fired over the heads of desperate people.

On Sept. 4, 2005, New Orleans police shot and killed two unarmed victims and badly wounded four others on Danziger Bridge.

“Nature” did not herd displaced people into the Louisiana Superdome in conditions unfit for animals.

Prisoners were abandoned by prison officers who evacuated themselves. Close to 1,000 prisoners at the Orleans Parish Prison, a third of whom were awaiting trial and had not been convicted of any crime, were left to fend for themselves.

When generators failed, prisoners waited for four days in total darkness, in chest-high water, with no food or water. Some 517 were never found.

These are all human-made failures. More accurately, capitalist failures.

The inadequate response to saving lives is also directly related to resources diverted to imperialist war — in this case, the war on Iraq.

The 256th Infantry Brigade of the Louisiana National Guard was sent to Iraq. Ironically, when they returned on Sept. 8, some 80% had lost their

homes. Many lost their families, too.

On the other hand, Cuba, a small island nation led by President Fidel Castro, offered the assistance of 1,000 doctors and medical personnel. Bolivarian Venezuela offered oil shipments.

President George W. Bush, deeply engaged in the war against Iraq, turned down this assistance.

Cuba’s offer, while spurned, marked the founding of the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade, which has since provided assistance to people throughout Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.

Maui and Lāhainā

Those glued to the news from the Pacific can’t help but reflect on the gruesome similarity of Xs marked on burnt-out homes in Lāhainā to the Xs marked on homes in New Orleans’ Ninth Ward after they were searched for bodies.

During Katrina, people clung to roofs without food or water, writing S.O.S. messages; in Lāhainā, people were forced to jump into the Pacific Ocean to escape the smoke and flames, risking hypothermia and drowning.

The death toll in Maui now stands at 115, while at least a thousand people are still unaccounted for. Over 3,000 acres burned in Lāhainā and neighboring communities. Eighty percent of this historic town was burned.

Called Lele in the Hawaiian language, Lāhainā was the capital of the Kingdom of Hawai’i from 1802-1812 and again from 1820-1845. Native Ha-

wai’ians have inhabited the islands for about 1,500 years. U.S. imperialism annexed Hawai’i in 1898.

Native heritage was torched while its present-day people remain unhoused, fending for themselves through mutual aid and solidarity.

While there are differences between Katrina and the Maui fire, the negligence and contributing factors to this disaster have similar causes and culprits.

There were no warning sirens enacted by the local government, leaving families to scramble, trapped in the inferno. Many died in cars trying to escape.

Just as New Orleans levees went unrepaired, there is mounting evidence pointing to the Hawaiian Electric Company, which failed to properly shut off the electricity. Today there are nine different lawsuits aimed at holding the electric company accountable.

Like the irony of Louisiana National Guard members who returned to no homes, it is unnerving that there was no action by the U.S. military to counter the fires in Hawai’i.

Hawai’i’ is the headquarters of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. While trillion-dollar warships, aircraft carriers, and submarines are dispatched to the South China Sea to threaten the people of China, no one from the U.S. military base was rushed to the dreadful scene to save the people of Maui.

Almost simultaneously, President Biden met at Camp David, Maryland’s presidential retreat, with Japanese

and South Korean leaders to escalate threats against both China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea).

While \$200 million in additional military aid to the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine was announced, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to pay out a measly \$700 per Lāhainā household.

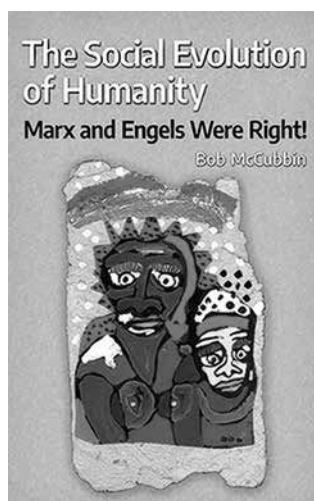
The latest threat is from profit-mad developers who seek to permanently displace the working class and Indigenous people who lived on the land. The story is the same whether it is New Orleans or Puerto Rico — capitalists, land-grabbers, profit while people die and suffer.

Resistance will be crucial.

It’s high time to change our language. There is nothing natural about what happened in New Orleans, Maui, Puerto Rico, or in many other places — far too many to enumerate in a short article.

Global capitalism, its systemic climate crisis, imperialist war and occupation, white supremacy and colonialism, and the refusal to plan or prevent the loss of life and horrific suffering that follows, is not natural — it is murder by a ruthless system that not only has a name, capitalism, but also faces: the capitalist ruling class.

This writer traveled to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina to participate in protests demanding justice for the Ninth Ward, witnessing much of the destruction following the storm.



<https://tinyurl.com/2p8dfy6w>

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.

Join us in the struggle!

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MAUI FIRES: Biden's request to Congress shows priorities

By Gregory E. Williams

On Aug. 10 – two days after the Maui fires – President Biden asked Congress for another \$21 billion in aid to the Ukrainian government as Washington's proxy-war with Russia drags on; if approved, this will be added to the \$113 billion already given.

The same package includes \$10 billion to undermine Chinese and Russian "influence" abroad, via the World Bank and other imperialist-dominated institutions. That's separate from the \$1 billion Washington has given to Taiwan this year, including a \$345 million weapons package announced on Sept. 1.

By contrast, the Aug. 10 request includes only \$12 billion for domestic disaster relief, with another \$60 million added on specifically for wildfires.

Maui recovery

According to WhiteHouse.gov, "the Biden-Harris Administration has approved more than \$16 million in assistance to 4,200 households" for Maui fire victims as of Sept. 4. Another \$95 million is going to be used to improve Hawai'i's power grid.

However, Hawai'i Gov. Josh Green estimates that the Maui fires caused \$5-\$6 billion in damages. Even if this estimate is conservative, it is far more than what has been provided by the federal government so far. On the other hand, it is only about 5% of the \$113 billion given to Ukraine – or 0.7% of the 2022 U.S. military budget (\$877 billion). A small fraction of the military budget could cover those damages.

If we just consider that \$16 million given to households, that comes to only \$3,809 per household, assuming that the money is distributed evenly among the 4,200. Hawai'i is the most expensive state to live in according to a recent study by online-bill-payment-service Doxo. Monthly expenses for an average Hawai'i resident are \$3,070. If survivors are able to access the money, it is barely enough to cover expenses for one month.

People on the ground have told news outlets that aid has been inadequate. Lāhainā resident Ana Carolina Penedo is staying in an Airbnb with her five-year-old son and mother. She got a measly \$700 in aid. FEMA denied her request for housing assistance.

She told the Guardian: "We don't feel like outside help, massive outside help from the government, is coming. ...I don't have income, I don't have a place. It would be amazing to have a place, so I can start long-term rebuilding, but how can I get a place if I don't have income? ... I will have to go back to work, but I'm having panic attacks. I am grieving, I am in a really deep sadness."

Propaganda win for right-wing

The right wing is taking the opportunity to point out the obvious, awful fact that the U.S. federal government is spending almost nothing to help Hawai'i, while pouring many billions into overseas wars. This is, of course, a standard aspect of the way that U.S. imperialism functions, and is bipartisan. Congressional Republicans approve the military budget along with



Flames swept through the historic town of Lāhainā so quickly that many people jumped into the Pacific to escape the fire.

the Democrats, while continually attacking even modest social spending.

Almost daily, this New-Orleans-area writer hears about people still struggling to get recovery funds for hurricanes like Isaac (2017) and Ida (2021). On New Orleans buses you can see lawyers' advertisements with lines like, "Still battling Ida? Call..." Frankly, people are still battling Katrina (2005).

The right's approach here is not unlike the way that they tapped into justified outrage about the 2023 train derailments and pollution disaster in East Palestine, Ohio. They use it to attack Democrats in power, while redirecting away from discussion of climate change, deregulation, and so on.

Some on the left are buying into the right's narrative manipulations, and see the Republican Party – and especially Donald Trump – as somehow less imperialist than the Democrats. This is a dangerous delusion that will do nothing but disarm people's movements, as do conspiracy theories.

All of the right's rhetoric specifically thwarts any recognition of the problems of imperialism. They appeal to nativism, for example – prejudices against foreigners – while painting the "real danger" as China (as the Democrats also do).

They claim that Biden is controlled by China, that U.S. school curricula is being dictated by the Communist Party of China through secret funding, and all manner of preposterous things that build up war fervor in the interest of U.S. imperialism.

Republicans are not anti-war, even if some have been critical of the handling of the war in Ukraine.

MLK said it better

In his "Beyond Vietnam" speech, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." That was in 1967. Fifty-six years later, this truth is still being borne out. The rot today is far more advanced.

When we look at Lāhainā – or the homeless people dying from heat-related illnesses during record-breaking heat waves across the U.S. – we see the truth of King's words.

Right-wing propagandists are using people's justified anger, in a sleight-of-hand, to present themselves as if they were the contemporary truth-tellers, in a mockery of Dr. King.

When Fox News points out the hypocrisy of the Democrats, or right-wing social media influencers post graphics comparing the government's response to Ukraine vs. Hawai'i, they do not mean what King meant. They are appealing only to nativist tendencies and have no intention of carrying out domestic social uplift – quite the opposite.

Case study of a Louisiana congressman

Republican Mike Johnson is the U.S. representative of Louisiana's 4th congressional district. In 2022, he voted against aid to the Ukrainian government. He said, "We should not be sending another \$40 billion abroad when our own border is in chaos, American mothers are struggling to find baby formula, gas prices are at record highs, and American families are struggling to make ends meet, without sufficient oversight over where the money will go."

The suffering that is happening at the border is the result of U.S. imperialist policies, which Johnson and his party support. But more broadly, there is nothing anti-imperialist or pro-working-class in the above statement, nor are there any such things in Johnson's actions.

He supported and praised the House's passage of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act – that bloated military budget. The budget includes over a quarter billion dollars for military development in his congressional district, "which is home to Barksdale Air Force Base and Air Force Global Strike Command, Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center, and Camp Minden," as explained in the Bossier Press Tribune.

The same article explains that the bill provides \$125 million for Barksdale Air Force Base, for "the construction of a Weapons Generation Facility (WGF). Building upon the \$40 million secured last year for this project, the WGF will enable Barksdale to once again become a nuclear weapons Air Force Base. Currently, B-52s stationed

at Barksdale must fly to North Dakota to be armed with nuclear weapons."

That's right. The plan is to put nukes at Barksdale – not very anti-war. Perhaps not incidentally, 20.1% of the population lives below the poverty line in Bossier City, which is contiguous with the base. The disparity between military spending and spending for social uplift is stark there.

It is unclear what Johnson has done to help "American families struggling to make ends meet" in his district. As former chair of the Republican Study Committee – an ultra-right grouping in the U.S. House focused on slashing spending on social programs – he is unlikely to do much for his working-class constituents.

Neo-fascist movement must be combatted

In sum, neither the Democratic nor Republican parties have any solutions on offer to help domestic disaster victims, and neither are anti-imperialist. The right uses the obvious treachery of the Democratic Party leadership to push its own agenda. The right wants to stop any assistance to the poor and prevent solidarity from emerging between the U.S. working class and international and internal victims of U.S. imperialism.

When the left says, "there is money for war but we can't feed the poor," part of the point is that workers here and victims of U.S. imperialism abroad (as in the NATO-provoked war in Ukraine) share common enemies: the capitalist class. The right seeks to obscure who the enemies are.

The fact that the right can make inroads among some anti-imperialist forces – sowing confusion – speaks to the current weakness of the left.

These inroads indicate the growing strength of the neo-fascist movement. This type of confusion also occurred with historical fascism in Italy, Germany, and other places, where the fascists' populist language was dressed up with working-class and anti-imperialist phrases. But this was done in the service of capitalist rule and imperialism, to shore up the rule of the imperialist bourgeoisie in a time of crisis.

We cannot allow ourselves to be taken in by these old tricks. ☐

War and Lenin in the 21st century Imperialism and the new Cold War

By Gary Wilson

In a 1917 preface to “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,” Vladimir Lenin says,

“I trust that this pamphlet will help the reader to understand the fundamental economic question, that of the economic essence of imperialism, for unless this is studied, it will be impossible to understand and appraise modern war and modern politics.”

Lenin summarizes in a 1920 preface: “Capitalism has grown into a world system of colonial oppression and of the financial strangulation of the overwhelming majority of the population of the world by a handful of ‘advanced’ countries. And this ‘booty’ is shared between two or three powerful world plunderers armed to the teeth (America, Great Britain, Japan), who are drawing the whole world into their war over the division of their booty.”

Today, the biggest difference is that there is a single dominant imperialist power, the United States.

As the top “superpower” after World War II, the U.S. imposed the dollar as the world’s reserve currency when the Bretton Woods system was established in 1944. At the height of its power, Great Britain was also a major imperial power. However, it never achieved the same dominance in the global economy as the United States today. The British pound was never the world’s reserve currency.

The fact that the dollar is the world’s reserve currency means it is used to price all essential commodities, such as oil. This gives the United States a dominant role over the global oil market, for example. Additionally, the bulk of the world’s debts are also denominated in dollars. This means that countries that owe money must pay in dollars.

The dollarization of the world capitalist economy meant U.S. domination of the global economy. The U.S. Federal Reserve System controls the supply of U.S. dollars. The U.S. Federal Re-

serve System is, in effect, the world’s central bank. Indeed, most U.S. currency — green dollar bills — circulate outside the U.S.

IMF and World Bank

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are two other institutions closely associated with the dollar system. The IMF was created in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference, along with the World Bank.

The IMF provides short-term loans to countries facing severe short-term liquidity crises. The World Bank provides long-term loans to countries for major infrastructure projects.

The IMF and World Bank usually impose harsh austerity measures on countries that borrow from them. They promote policies that benefit wealthy countries at the expense of developing countries. Also, they tend to fund projects with negative environmental and social impacts. For example, the World Bank funds projects that have led to deforestation and to the displacement of Indigenous peoples.

The military arm

Just as important as the dollar system is the military arm of the U.S. world empire.

The U.S. military budget was \$877 billion in 2022, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which is more than the combined military budgets of China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, Britain, Germany, France, South Korea, Japan, and Ukraine. The SIPRI figure does not include the CIA’s military budget, the Department of Energy’s nuclear armaments, or countless other hidden and covert military agencies and operations in the U.S.

The Pentagon has more than 750 bases in more than 80 countries. The largest number of U.S. bases are located in Japan (120), Germany (119), and South Korea (73).

In addition, NATO acts as a military arm of the U.S. empire. The heavy costs of NATO membership require countries to fund U.S. military expansion.

The post-Cold War expansion of NATO has incorporated nine countries that were allies of the Soviet Union or former Soviet republics.

NATO members are expected to spend at least 2% of GDP on “defense” spending. For most countries, meeting this threshold requires a substantial increase in military budgets at a significant financial cost. NATO members are expected to contribute troops and resources to NATO missions. There are human and material costs to participating in operations like Afghanistan.

The combined military expenditure of NATO members was approximately \$1.26 trillion in 2023. NATO armaments must be compatible with U.S. weapon systems, which means NATO members mostly purchase U.S.-made arms.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO’s role changed. NATO has been involved in many U.S.-commanded military interventions since 1991.

- U.S. Army General Wesley Clark commanded NATO’s 78-day-long aerial bombing war on Yugoslavia in 1999;
- U.S. launched its war on war on Afghanistan in 2001 as a NATO operation;
- Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates directed NATO’s seven-month bombing war on Libya in 2011;
- The U.S. and NATO are engaged in a proxy war in Ukraine against Russia, providing billions of dollars in military aid, including weapons, ammunition, and training, and building major troop deployments in Poland, Romania, the Baltic states, and other countries surrounding Russia. NATO has also activated its rapid response force, a multinational force of around 40,000 troops.

Colonialism & neocolonialism

Central to Lenin’s analysis of imperialism was the expansive growth of colonialism in the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century.

The imperialist powers acquired colonies to secure sources of raw materials, markets for manufactured goods, and investment opportunities. Also, the imperialist powers used their control of colonies to exploit the labor of the colonized peoples.

Lenin’s analysis was essential in the development of anti-colonial movements around the world. It explained the causes of colonialism and the need for liberation from capitalist imperialism.

One difference between imperialism in 1914 and today is the change from colonialism to neocolonialism.

In his 1965 book “Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism,” Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah defined neocolonialism as the continued economic and cultural influence of the old imperial powers and other Western nations over their former colonies after the end of overt political control and formal colonialism.

Power is no longer exerted directly through colonial rule and

governors but indirectly through economic and cultural policies that benefit the interests of Western corporations and nations.

The Cold War

The Soviet Red Army liberated many countries in Eastern Europe from fascism at the end of World War II, including Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Austria, Hungary, Albania, and the eastern half of Germany. The Yugoslav communists led by Josip Broz Tito also liberated Yugoslavia.

The Soviet Union emerged as the second-strongest world power after World War II.

On April 16, 1947, Bernard Baruch, a multimillionaire financier and “adviser” to presidents from Woodrow Wilson to Harry S. Truman, coined the term “Cold War.” In a speech to the South Carolina House of Representatives, Baruch said: “Let us not be deceived; we are today in the midst of a Cold War. Our enemies are to be found abroad and at home.”

The Cold War was different. Instead of inter-imperialist rivalries that had wracked the globe with two world wars and countless other smaller wars, this was a war of the imperialist powers, led by the United States, against the USSR, the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, China, Korea, Vietnam, Cuba and so on. It was a class war between imperialism and socialism.

The overturn of the USSR

The Cold War ended with the overturn of the USSR. And with that, the nature of neocolonialism changed.

Before 1991, the existence of a socialist camp made it possible for the neocolonial countries to resist neocolonial rule and win a greater degree of political independence without completely overthrowing the neocolonial economic bonds. The latter was only possible if a country joined the socialist bloc — as Cuba did in 1960.

The existence of the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union gave life to the slogan: Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

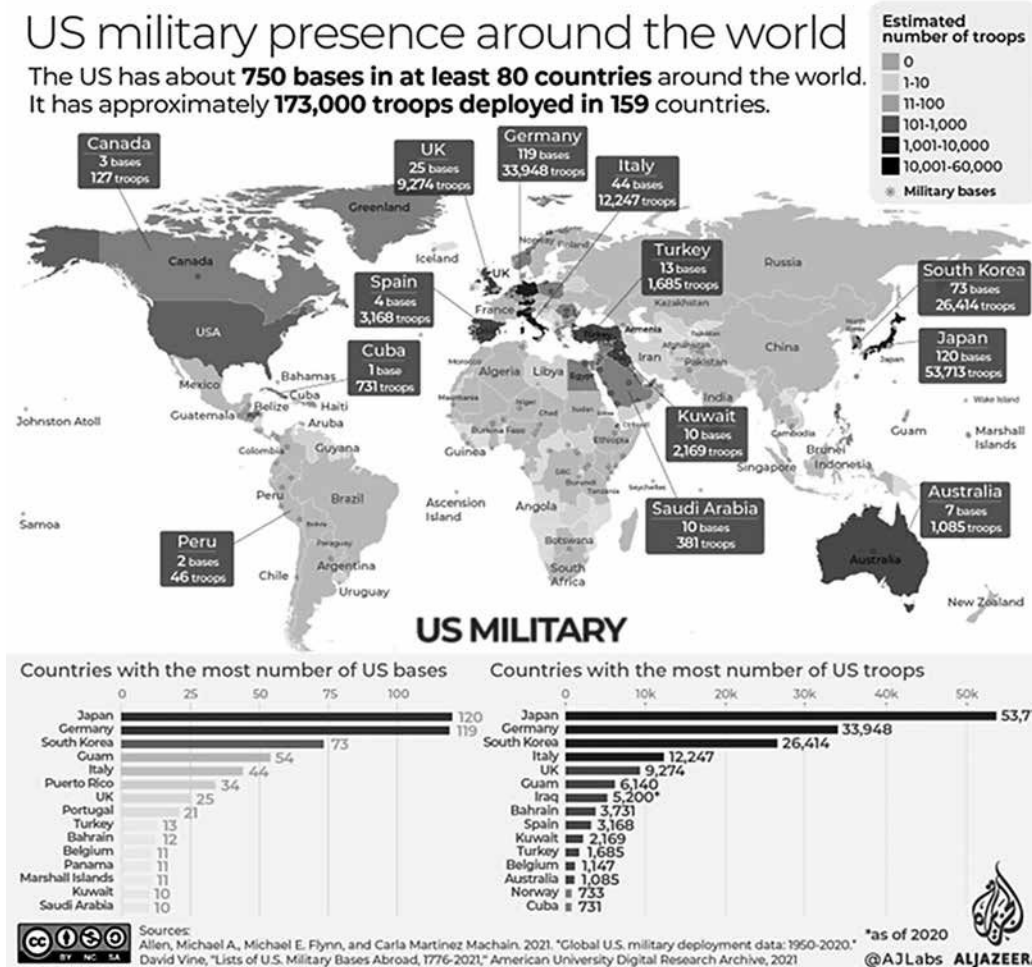
The Communist Manifesto concludes, “Workers of the world, unite!” which was amended by the Communist International in 1920 at the Congress of the Peoples of the East in Baku, Azerbaijan, to “Workers of the world and oppressed peoples, unite!” to reflect the changed character of capitalism, the transformation into monopoly capitalism and imperialism.

The Chinese Revolution enjoyed the support of the Soviet Union, and Vietnam greatly benefited from the support of the socialist bloc during both the French and U.S. wars.

Cuba’s heroic role in the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale is the most outstanding example of revolutionary internationalism. In the spring of 1988, the armed forces of apartheid South Africa and the U.S.-backed mercenaries of Jonas Savimbi were defeated by the combined force of the Cuban military, the Angolan army, and the military units of the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia. This led directly to the independence of Namibia and then to the fall of the apartheid regime in South Africa itself.

The collapse of the USSR ended this

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international solidarity and broke up the socialist camp. It's like when workers are on strike, walking the picket line, and the labor union backing the strikers collapses. The strike can continue, but it's hard without a central organization for the workers.

The anti-imperialist national liberation struggle has never ended, though it has been set back by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp.

The new Cold War

The Cold War was a class war between two irreconcilable social systems — imperialist capitalism and socialism. It was called cold because there wasn't an outright military war. In form, it's more like what today is called a hybrid war, including extensive covert operations, economic sanctions, cyber warfare, and heavy propaganda (the Pentagon says specifically that the use of mass communications for propaganda is in its hybrid war arsenal).

U.S. sanctions are economic warfare. Though the Cold War may have ended, the U.S. has continued its war on Cuba with a blockade and economic sanctions.

The U.S. sanctions war also includes Venezuela, Iran, Zimbabwe, North Korea, Nicaragua, Syria, and Yemen. Other countries subject to U.S. sanctions include China, Russia, Belarus, Myanmar, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Congo, Eritrea, Burundi, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan.

The current economic, diplomatic, political, and military conflict between the United States and China is often called the "new Cold War."

The United States has long sought to overthrow socialism in China. This effort intensified after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp, as the United States saw China as the last major socialist country in the world.

Countries like China are identified as socialist, but they are still in the process of developing their socialist systems. The revolutions in these countries laid the foundations for socialism, but they have faced many obstacles, including imperialist blockade, war, and subversion.

The new Cold War against China, a class war, is U.S. imperialism's response to China's technological advances.

China's advances have the potential to strengthen its socialist foundations. The Guardian reports: "China leads in 37 of 44 technologies tracked in a year-long project by thinktank the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. The fields include electric batteries, hypersonics, and advanced radio-frequency communications such as 5G and 6G."

Socialist China has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. According to a 2019 World Bank report, the number of people living in extreme poverty in China fell from 770 million in 1990 to 5.5 million in 2015. This represents a decline of 99%.

The United Nations says that China is responsible for more than 70% of the global decline in poverty since 1990. This is a remarkable achievement, never seen before in world history.

Today, the revolution in high technology lays the basis for the workers and oppressed peoples to overthrow imperialist rule and organize a system of international socialism.

Read the complete series 'War and Lenin in the 21st century' at Struggle-La-Lucha.org.



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

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 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.

Tens 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 neocolonialist 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 majority 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 when 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. ☐

A 7 años de Junta de Control Fiscal dictatorial

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana se cumplieron 7 años de la imposición en Puerto Rico de una Junta de Control Fiscal por el gobierno de Barack Obama que fue avalada tanto por Republicanos como por Demócratas estadounidenses.

Una Junta que supuestamente venía y que a “enderezar” las finanzas de PR y sacar al país de una deuda de más de \$72 mil millones de dólares para que PR se pudiera volver a endeudar en los mercados internacionales.

Y para eso crearon una ley que en sus siglas lee eufemísticamente PROMESA.

Pues a siete años de la imposición de esa dictatorial Junta de 7 personas, se ha podido constatar la verdadera intención criminal de los EUA. Al ser una colonia, PR no tiene poderes propios, sino que es el Congreso estadounidense quien decide e impone lo que le convenga a los EUA.

Y lo que le conviene es ensayar en PR lo que poco a poco quieren imponer en el resto del mundo: la profundización del capitalismo neoliberal. Parte de ese esquema es la Privatización de servicios esenciales como el agua, la luz, el transporte, la educación, la vivienda, y hasta la seguridad para beneficiar a las compañías gringas.

Para eso necesitan destruir la resistencia organizada, sobre todo los sindicatos. Y esto es exactamente lo que ocurre aquí donde hay un gobierno local que es fiel al mandato yanqui y a la Junta. De hecho, el mismísimo gobernador actual Pedro Pierluisi, era abogado de la Junta y por su actuación ahora en beneficio de las privatizadoras y por ende, en contra del pueblo, sigue siendo el más fiel defensor de esta nueva invasión estadounidense.

Siete años de la implantación de las políticas de esta Junta ha empobreci-



FOTO: ERIN SHERIDAN / THE INDEPENDENT

Miembros de Papel Machete marchando por las calles de San Juan, Puerto Rico. El cartel de la izquierda le dice a 'La Junta' que se vaya al carajo.

do al pueblo boricua; ha profundizado el estado colonial, ha hecho desaparecer escuelas, programas de servicios básicos, robado y vendido bienes y terrenos del pueblo a extranjeros millonarios y en general, ha intentado quitar la esperanza de un futuro para los y las boricuas.

Pero la batalla no está perdida mientras exista la Resistencia a este ultraje. Y

la hay y se demostró en la manifestación del 7mo aniversario de la Junta donde la organización Jornada se Acabaron las Promesas terminó el acto quemando los trapos sucios que son las banderas yanquis. Y las palabras de Jocelyn Velázquez, portavoz de la Jornada resume el futuro: “Esta patria es nuestra y la vamos a defender con uñas y dientes”. 📌



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

Defeat bosses' campaign of division All out to defend trans lives and fight racism

Continued from page 1

Organizers aren't letting Washington off the hook either – they demand that the Biden administration stop sitting on its hands and enforce civil and human rights.

You can read the full list of demands at ProtectTransKidsMarch.org.

'The only answer is to fight back'

“DeSantis and the capitalists he represents are using these attacks to distract us from the fact that they are slashing social programs and handing money over to war corporations and oil companies,” says Sally Jane Black of the Louisiana Women's Action Committee. “Their anti-trans agenda isn't what the people want or need — it's just an attempt to divide us and terrorize us.”

“The only answer to that is to fight back, which is why we're marching in Orlando with those who have been standing up against him, uniting LGBTQ+ people and everyone DeSantis has targeted against him and his rich backers,” Black told Struggle-La Lucha.

Melinda Butterfield of Women in Struggle/Mujeres en Lucha explained, “We have an amazing multigenerational,

multinational, multigender team organizing for this historic anti-fascist event – but we need your help!”

Butterfield urged readers to fill out the sign-up form at the website. “Our priority in September is to get out to schools and colleges with leaflets and posters and to spread our social media presence far and wide. Sign up at our website, come to a zoom meeting, join a committee, make a donation – every effort helps!”

“If you are able to come to Orlando for the march, now is a great time for you and your friends to make travel plans. Find out who else is going from your area. We can help you find housing options,” she explained.

“We'll have people coming from all over the U.S., and many need help with transportation costs. Please give a donation if you can.”

Butterfield added that readers can download posters and leaflets in English and Spanish from the website to be printed and distributed.

“A very easy way to help get out the word is on social media. Go to Linktr.ee/transyouthmarch and follow us on the platforms of your choice. Share our posts with your friends and contacts,” she urged. 📌

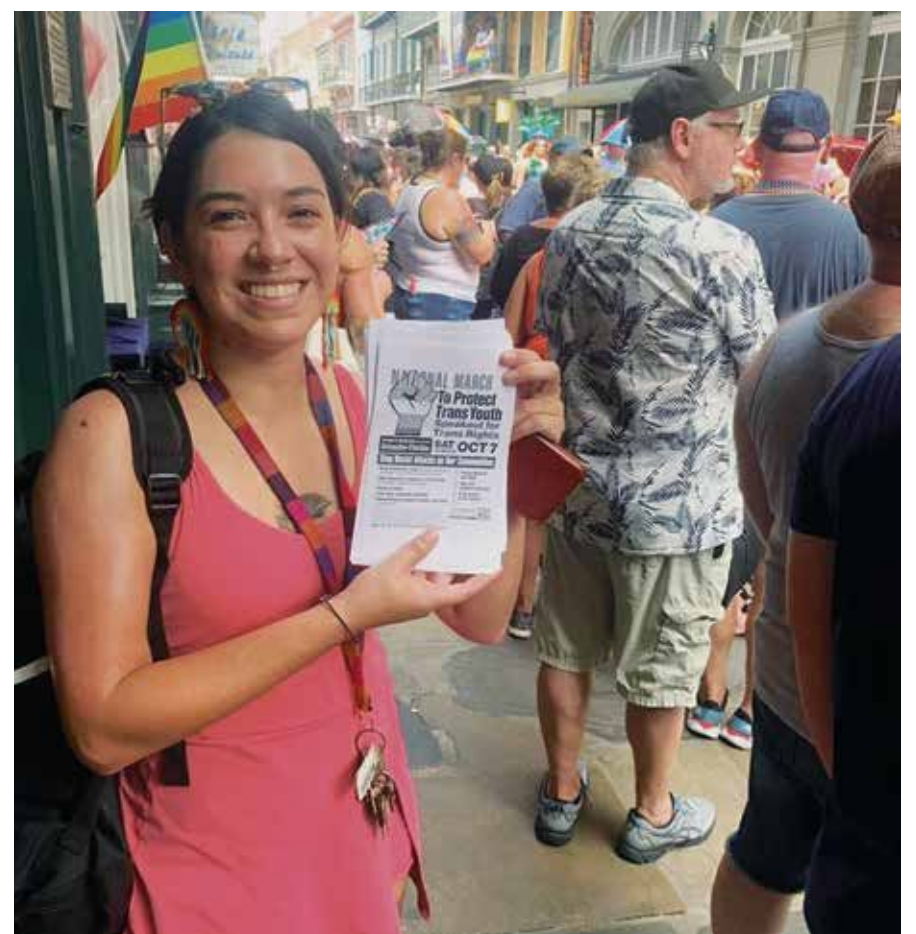


PHOTO: LOUISIANA WOMEN'S ACTION COMMITTEE

Activists promote the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth at Southern Decadence in New Orleans, Sept. 2.

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Vol. 6, No. 17 Sept.-Oct. 2023

Vol. 6, Núm. 17 septiembre-octubre 2023