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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

‘From the river to the sea!’

Protests at Biden gala in L.A. amid Gaza genocide

By Scott Scheffer

Dec. 14 — Genocide Joe Biden flew into Los Angeles under heavy guard on Dec. 8. Well over a thousand protestors let him know that he wasn't welcome in L.A. or anyplace else. The demonstration was organized by the Palestinian Youth Movement, which has a strong following at nearby UCLA, and was supported by numerous other anti-war and progressive organizations.

Biden and his entourage had come to cash in at six fundraising stops over the weekend. His reelection campaign crew hoped that bolstering their war chest would make up for his ever-sinking poll numbers.

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Los Angeles protest against Genocide Joe Biden, Dec. 8.



Protests in Denver, New Orleans
Unions for Palestine

Detention in Egypt
Jewish people fight for Palestine
U.S. war spending
End anti-Muslim bigotry

SLL photo: Maggie Vascassenno

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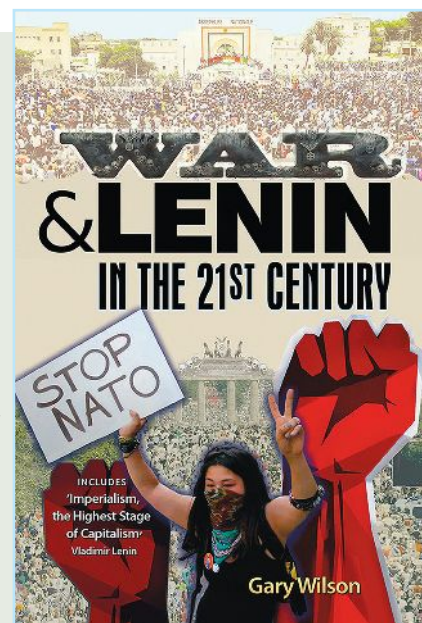
NEW BOOK

On the 100th anniversary of Lenin's death on Jan. 21, 1924, a book has been published: "War & Lenin in the 21st Century." Now available in bookstores online.

"War & Lenin in the 21st Century" comprises a series of articles by Gary Wilson in Struggle-La Lucha based on Lenin's historic book "Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism." The new book is written about the current global class struggle in the framework of Lenin's analysis. Lenin's "Imperialism" is available in the appendix.

This book covers NATO's proxy war in Ukraine; Lenin's five key features of imperialism; the new Cold War; and prospects for the world's working class.

Fidel Castro warned about the power of the big-time media. This book counters that disinformation and lays bare the economic essence of imperialism.



Mobilizing to release all political prisoners

They fought for the people!

Now is the time for the people to bring them home!

By Gloria Verdieu

The San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and the Black Panther Party San Diego joined the hundreds and thousands in cities nationally and internationally mobilizing to Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners on Dec. 9, the 42nd anniversary of the unjust arrest of Long-Distance Revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal.

We came together at the Malcolm X Library in San Diego to sign postcards addressed to Mumia, Leonard Peltier, Imam Jamil (aka H. Rap Brown), Edward Poindexter, Kamau Sadiki, Rev. Joy Powell, Veronza Bowers, and many more listed on the Jerico movement website, sending “Revolution Love and Support.”

We had a slide presentation showing the faces and names of political prisoners, looping continuously and encouraging everyone to find out who they are, where they are, and how long they’ve been incarcerated. We must organize letter-writing campaigns to show that we are continuing to fight for their release.

We emphasized the urgency of our fight to free all political prisoners, especially our elders who have been incarcerated for decades.

As we organized for Dec. 9, we received the news of the passing of Elder



Dec. 9 in San Diego, the 42nd anniversary of the unjust arrest of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

SLL photo: Gloria Verdieu

Ed Poindexter, a former Black Panther and leader, 79 years old, imprisoned for 53 years.

Unlike the bittersweet passing of Ruchell McGee, Russell Maroon Shoatz, Mutulu Shakur, and others, compassionately released in time to spend a few months with friends and loved ones, Poindexter died in prison.

Poindexter’s niece, Ericka “Rikki” Payne, said on her last visit with her uncle, “He put his hand out for us (Me & my Mom) to touch him ... he opened his eyes twice ... was able to acknowledge us ... I kissed his face and told him to take my kisses with him on his journey and to go ahead and rest cause he’s done his work.”

Edward Poindexter died Dec. 7 in the Nebraska Department of Corrections, where he had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and advanced kidney disease.

Mumia’s medical consultant, Dr. Ricardo Alvarez, had this to report in a letter to Amnesty International concerning the medical care in a prison setting:

“The state causes the trauma. The collective consciousness coming from the voices of the incarcerated and the released elders guides our messages as witness to a movement that speaks with one voice: ‘Freedom is the only treatment.’”

Poindexter’s signed postcard will be sent to his family, along with our deepest condolences.

Find out about Mumia and many other political prisoner campaigns in the U.S. and worldwide by watching the Virtual Program for Mumia Abu-Jamal (Dec. 9, 2023) at linktr.ee/Mumia.

Free Mumia! Free Leonard Peltier!
Free them all! #

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Print. We’ve changed the format of our PDF edition from a tabloid to a news magazine. This makes it easy to print, from a home office to a copy shop. You can print all of it or select one article.

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Thousands march in New Orleans, shut down tourism district

By Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans, Dec. 10 – A coalition of some 20 organizations brought out some 3,500 protesters for Palestine, shutting down street after street in the Central Business District.

This was a busy Sunday evening because the New Orleans Saints were playing against the Carolina Panthers at home. The city's ruling class never welcomes disruptions to the hotels and restaurants, so these demonstrations hit them where it hurts.

Imagine if the movement does this during the city's biggest cash cow: Mardi Gras. It comes early this year, Feb. 13, just saying.

This was likely the biggest New Orleans demonstration for Palestine so far and possibly the biggest protest for anything in the city since the 2020 national upsurge for George Floyd.

After brief remarks and a poem by a local Palestinian activist, the marchers set off from 333 Canal Place in front of a major shopping mall and a casino at the heart of New Orleans tourism. This

was a battle-tested crowd, made up of people who have been in the streets week after week. The protest leaders knew what they were doing, and the crowd moved with purpose, strategically shutting down various streets.

The energy was pitched throughout, with few lulls – one exception being the time reserved for Muslim evening prayer. The marchers stopped for around 20 minutes in the middle of one street, with non-Muslims waiting respectfully.

As at other Palestine events, Palestinian youth led the way.

One notable change is the development of more organized contingents. In addition to known organizations that had endorsed the march, I noted different groups carrying banners, such as New Orleans Healthcare Workers for Ceasefire and Queers for Palestine. That was good to see. The working class has the power to thwart the imperialist war machine. And queer and trans people – who are victims of violence almost everywhere, including in Palestine, as



New Orleans Healthcare Workers for Ceasefire march with their banner.

SLL photo

U.S.-made bombs are falling on them – are and should be at the forefront of the anti-imperialist struggle.

Harvey, Louisiana, mosque Masjid Omar, was the lead organizing group of the march. Endorsing organizations included NOSHIP (New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports), Jefferson Muslim Association, Jewish Voice for Peace, Workers Voice Socialist Movement, Freedom Road Socialist Organization New Orleans, and many more. #

Denver erupts: Palestine protests converge on Zionist genocide conference

By Kevin Niemann

In Denver, a significant gathering occurred from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3 as thousands of individuals united against the Jewish National Fund's "Global Conference for Israel" held at the Colorado Convention Center. While Zionists congregated to strategize about the infrastructure supporting their oppressive actions, protesters from various organizations rallied throughout the weekend.

At the Auraria campus near the conference venue, Nadeen Ibrahim, an organizer with the Colorado Palestinian Coalition, addressed a large assembly demanding an immediate ceasefire, an



SLL photo: Kevin Niemann

end to occupation, and unequivocal Palestinian liberation.

As demonstrators claimed the streets, occupying the intersection of Colfax Avenue and Speer Boulevard, their chants resonated, expressing disdain for the Denver police and the conference: chanting "DPD, KKK, JNF, you're all the same."

Meanwhile, the police, outfitted in militarized gear, attempted to separate the conference attendees from the demonstrators.

On Dec. 2, the protest momentum surged as a new wave of demonstrators gathered at the Colorado State Capitol. Organized by Colorado Palestinian Coalition, Palestinian Youth Movement, SDS-Denver, DSA, PSL, Denver Communists, and others, the demonstration, fervently advocating for Palestinian liberation, swelled in numbers, echoing calls for justice and an end to the oppressive structures perpetuated by the Zionist gathering at the Colorado Convention Center. #

Confronting Trumpism on the state level: Mobilize resistance to Gov. Landry's attacks in Louisiana

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

By Gregory E. Williams

Other reports have laid out many aspects of the current situation with world capitalism and imperialism – from economic crisis to a massive escalation of military conflict, actual and potential. Reports have shown how military conflicts grow out of the economy.

Tied up in all this are the contradictions within the ruling class. This is playing out in the U.S. with the struggles within Congress, as well as in the coming presidential elections. Biden and Trump are effectively the candidates on offer. Biden's popularity is plummeting with his unconditional support for Israel's intensified genocide of the Palestinian people. Trump is promising a full-scale assault on the institutions of bourgeois democracy, already fragile. He promises to deport more people than ever before, and so on.

At the same time, as other comrades have pointed out, there is a huge upsurge of resistance in the U.S. around Palestine (like in the rest of the world), with masses of people rejecting the aims of U.S.



New Orleans Healthcare Workers for Ceasefire march with their banner.

SLL photo

for Trans Youth in Orlando, Florida, multiple Louisiana activists spoke about the danger of Landry.

imperialism. And with elections like the one recently in Ohio, we can see the deep unpopularity of the far right's policies concerning abortion. We see a rejection of the anti-LGBTQ+ book bans and other fascist policies.

With all that going on, far-right, Trump-allied Attorney General Jeff Landry has been elected governor of Louisiana following a lackluster election cycle. The Democrats offered up almost no resistance, and record-low voter turnout ensured that the small ultra-right base came out and secured a victory for Landry.

I've written several articles for Struggle-La Lucha on this. At the March

and with elections like the one recently in Ohio, we can see the deep unpopularity of the far right's policies concerning abortion. We see a rejection of the anti-LGBTQ+ book bans and other fascist policies.

He's an oil-and-gas investment millionaire who led the anti-abortion charge and tried to kick thousands of people off Medicaid.

I don't want to repeat everything. Instead, I want to make a concrete proposal that the Socialist Unity Party commit to prioritizing the situation in Louisiana.

For one thing, I think it will be important to fight Landry's agenda, being proactive and getting ahead of him. How does the far-right of a certain type – the MAGA type, including Landry – fit into the big picture? In general, there is very little understanding and consensus about these things in the broad movement, leading to different tendencies, such as some attempting an alliance with the supposedly populist far right, on the one hand, and others to trail the Democrats. Both of these are dangerous paths.

As Landry and the Republican supermajority in the state unleash attacks on all sections of the working class and the oppressed, we will have opportunities to reach workers.

By putting these struggles in the national spotlight, we will not only expose Landry and hopefully make it harder for him to operate, but we can embolden workers and the political movement in other states, especially in the South. #

Protests at Biden gala in L.A.

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Indeed, donors from the glitzy side of town threw in \$15 million during the weekend – more than any amount raised by a candidate from an L.A. visit. Jeffrey Katzenberg, the multi-millionaire co-founder of Hollywood Pictures, DreamWorks Pictures, and DreamWorks Animation, pulled together the star-studded event. Katzenberg is a co-chair of Biden's reelection campaign, a position awarded to him for his long history of channeling millions of Hollywood dollars to the Democratic Party.

But the warmonger-in-chief needs far more than money to overcome growing anger over his escalating support for Zionist genocide in Gaza. The protest was a great reflection of the growing

worldwide movement.

Hundreds had gathered in a park near the posh, Beverly Hills-adjacent Holmby Hills site of his event by 3:30. Later, the growing crowd marched right to the gate of the mansion where Genocide Joe spoke, with their sound system booming the chants, hoping the murderer-in-chief could hear the message, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!"

Speakers denounced the horrible ethnic cleansing of Gaza and the widespread murder of Gazans being carried out with total support from the administration. Palestinian flags and Keffiyehs – the traditional scarf that has come to symbolize the Palestinian liberation struggle – were everywhere. #

The fight for trans lives and building an anti-fascist front

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

By Melinda Butterfield

It's no exaggeration to say that the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth was a milestone event for our party. It was the first national initiative by the Socialist Unity Party since our founding almost five years ago and was a modest but significant success. Many of the comrades at this meeting were able to be in Orlando and played an invaluable role in the event. The whole party contributed to its success throughout several months of organizing.

In the tradition of Sam Marcy and the other founders of our tendency, we raised an idea that met an urgent, unmet political need – to challenge the unbridled attacks on trans youth on the front lines in Ron DeSantis's Florida. Working on a shoestring, we were able to build a genuine coalition that placed revolutionary activists and ideas at the center.

We were able to overcome not only numerous logistical, security, and financial obstacles but the political resistance of mainstream LGBTQ+ groups and other left tendencies. Our action influenced the discussion within the mainstream of the movement aligned with Democrats, who had to react to what we were doing and saying. Most importantly, perhaps, we made important new allies and brought others closer to us.

The Oct. 7 mobilization broke new ground for us as an intervention in the modern trans liberation movement, of whom our late comrade Leslie Feinberg was one of the founding inspirations. We are now a factor in the fight for trans lives as we move into 2024, and it's a responsibility we must take seriously.

The far-right war on trans people and the broader LGBTQ+ community will continue in the new year, with the acquiescence of liberal and centrist politicians. Missouri, Kentucky, and numerous other states are preparing rafts of new anti-trans and anti-queer state leg-



National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 7.

SLL photo: Sharon Black

islation modeled on Florida that will be unleashed right after New Year's Day.

Not only Trump and DeSantis but all of the Republican presidential candidates have placed trans genocide at the center of their campaigns. There has not been, nor do we expect there to be, any meaningful resistance to these attacks from Genocide Joe Biden or the national Democratic Party machine.

Uniting many struggles

As our Oct. 7 mobilization made explicit, the attacks on trans lives are tied directly to the attacks on reproductive rights, on Black and Brown and Indigenous communities, on immigrants and refugees, on access to health care, education, and housing, and so much more.

Trans people are among the last hired and first fired, often lack any family support, and tend to be relegated to service and freelance jobs – so every economic attack on the working class hits us hard. Like many other oppressed groups in the U.S. today, trans people are often pushed into sex work as the only option to survive and access the care they need. This is true even of many who are otherwise employed full-time.

We should take note of the importance of the powerful national union organizing campaign at Starbucks, where young queer and especially trans workers are in the forefront, including taking a groundbreaking position in support of Palestine. Their work puts the lie to those so-called leftists who claim that queers are not part of the working class.

Comrades, it's no secret to most of us that one of the hardest parts of any mobilization is the follow-up. The escalation in Gaza exploded on the same day as the march and has understandably dominated our attention and that of many of our allies ever since.

Without underselling the significance of Oct. 7, we should also recognize that it was just a small first step toward reviving a militant, independent queer movement at the national level and toward building an anti-fascist front. The need for such a front is likely to only become more urgent in the coming year.

Trans people, in particular, are facing the very real possibility that our health care and access to public life will be banned or otherwise restricted in the coming years, with all the consequences that entails for us and for the communities that will be targeted after us. #

GLOBAL CAPITALIST CRISIS: Are we at a pivotal point?

Analyzing imperialist wars, economic contractions, and the struggle for a multipolar world

By Sharon Black

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

Our plenum is dedicated to the Palestinian people and all who resist!

We dedicate this weekend's plenum to the courage, resistance, and sacrifice of the Palestinian people! In addition, our dedication extends to the global movement of workers and youth, including in the belly of the beast, who have taken to the streets in unprecedented resistance.

It is this movement of the oppressed against the oppressor, workers against capitalists, youth against the fascist imperialist war machine that points the way to the future.

Are we at a pivotal point in the global capitalist crisis?

In Ernest Hemmingway's "The Sun Also Rises," one of the main characters, Mike Campbell, a bankrupt Scottish war veteran, was asked how he went bankrupt. He replied: "Two ways. Gradually and then suddenly."

Change can seem imperceptible for long periods, before it bursts forth in a major break that is impossible to ignore.

The question before us is, have we entered that period for the world imperialist system?

At the conclusion of World War II, the United States emerged as the world's most powerful imperialist power. It gained control of the former European empires in Asia and Africa and engaged in a never-ending series of wars to maintain its dominance.

In the recent decade, notwithstanding the wholesale wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, much of the anti-imperialist movement has been focused on what has been called hybrid war, a grinding combination of conventional military actions combined with cyber-attacks, economic sanctions, and political subversion.

Its targets include Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, Zimbabwe, North Korea, as well as Russia and China. The U.S. Africa Force, for example, has been engaged in military operations across Africa, including in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Cameroon, Somalia, Libya, Djibouti, Uganda, Sudan, Rwanda, and Chad. As we speak, Haiti, the first republic to overthrow slavery in this hemisphere, is threatened.

Today, we are at an unprecedented acceleration of overt, interconnected, and overlapping wars.

We will be discussing some of the particulars of the current imperialist war in Palestine, the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine, and the deepening threats against China in the following reports.

The danger hasn't been lost in bourgeois press discussions.

The headlines of two very recent Bloomberg articles outline their fears: "The World Risks Sliding Into a New Global War" and "Fears of World War III Prey on Hedge Fund Titans and Policymakers Alike."

Quoting from the first article,

"Some officials and investors suggest the web of overlapping conflicts stretching from West Africa through Ukraine to the Middle East could be the prelude to another global conflagration. That, this time it begins not with a bang, but with several."

(alluding to WWI)

What lies beneath the surface of military and political developments is the contraction of the capitalist economy – which should awaken our interest for both the dangers and opportunities.

Struggle for a multipolar world against dollar supremacy

Following World War II, the U.S. dollar became the dominant currency in the capitalist world market, and at that time, it was linked to gold.

By 1971, in a secret meeting at Camp David, it took three days, Nixon and his team, including top representatives of the imperialist banking system, decided to delink the dollar from gold in the international arena. That event alone could be the subject of an entire report. *It was a symptom of the weakness in the U.S. economic system and simultaneously a kind of global economic coup against any nation holding dollars.*

What has been a constant, and we are all thoroughly versed in, is the stranglehold that the IMF and the World Bank, and for that matter the entire U.S. banking system, have over the oppressed world and smaller developing capitalist countries.

No matter how uneven or jagged, the struggle against imperialism – just like a river pushing its way through rock – will find an avenue to express itself. In many ways, this describes the movement for a multipolar world. It is a part of the fight to break from the dependence on the U.S. dollar — in other words, from the U.S. imperialist system.

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Social and economic problems haunt the U.S., from housing to the growing epidemic of drug addiction, alienation, and violence.

The question of access to food and water is not just a problem of what is called the developing world, but it is right here in the belly of the beast.

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As revolutionary communists, we aspire to the abolition of the capitalist market. The period following the collapse of the Soviet Union handed difficult obstacles both materially and ideologically to the global working class, the oppressed, and the movement for socialism — all of which are intertwined. It is in this historical context that the anti-imperialist struggle for a multipolar world should be viewed.

While there are many reasons for why and how this is happening — the unprecedented growth of the Chinese economic system has undergirded this development, particularly the Belt and Road Initiative and, in general, China's economic growth.

What is taking place now is an acceleration of this process. A firestorm of recent economic summits this past year is an expression of this phenomenon. This includes the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) held in South Africa in August; the G20 in India; and notably the G-77+China in Cuba in September.

In addition, the Far East Economic Forum, held in Vladivostok, Russia, took place in the same month.

What is at the heart of these crises, including the threat of worldwide war — the unmerciful and grotesque genocide taking place in Palestine — the utter destruction taking place on the Ukrainian battlefield and, for that matter, the planet and every aspect of oppression that keeps us up at night?

At the heart of capitalist crises is capitalist overproduction and, at a more micro level, production for profit.

Karl Marx described it, and Lenin expounded on it.

Without capitalist overproduction (and let me say that on the surface that sounds like an oxymoron — how can there be too much food when people are starving, or for that matter, any particular commodity or service, when people need housing, clothing, technology or so many other things) the genesis of imperialism would not have occurred.

It is the great conundrum — that technology itself, a product of the collective labor of the global working class, has now made it possible to produce in such breathtaking abundance — cannot be used or consumed if it is not profitable.

The consequence of the inherent contradictions in capitalism is ultimately



What lies beneath the surface of military and political developments is the contraction of the capitalist economy — which should awaken our interest for both the dangers and opportunities.

economic contraction. It is the motive force behind war.

Many times, the anti-war movement will say in a popular way that oil or gas or diamonds or gold are the cause of war.

But it is not the commodity itself that causes war — but rather the built-in drive of imperialist countries for control of those commodities, which also includes wholesale destruction. This extends to the arms industries, including all the technology involved in their development.

Capitalist contraction, the outcome of overproduction inherent in the for-profit capitalist economic process — is like the Sword of Damocles hanging over the world capitalist class. The thread holding that sword is wearing thin.

In conclusion

An explanation and study of imperialism is imperative for us, and I'm confident that the launch of the book authored by Gary Wilson and its introduction to Lenin's "Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism" will be a contribution and part of our work.

What's urgent, in my opinion, is that we take up what I believe is a qualitative change in the world situation including how it impacts here in the metropolis of imperialism.

While it has major implications for the direct struggle against imperialism abroad, it also has implications for the working class inside the United States, a working class that is thoroughly multi-

national and multi-gendered.

The growing isolation and failures of U.S. imperialism impact everything from the 2024 bourgeois elections to the growing emergence of working-class struggle, as evidenced by the phenomenal strike wave of workers.

Is the bourgeois electoral system teetering on collapse, and what does this mean for the growth of state violence and the far right?

The expansion of U.S. capitalism and imperialism allowed a certain level of stability or bourgeois norms to exist, even if it was extended to only a certain segment of the working class, which in most cases was denied to the oppressed.

Social and economic problems haunt the U.S., from housing to the growing epidemic of drug addiction, alienation, and violence.

The question of access to food and water is not just a problem of what is called the developing world, but it is right here in the belly of the beast.

The world that at least the older generation has been accustomed to is radically different from the one the current generation is experiencing — and even it is changing at breakneck speed.

Understanding these crises is critical to map out where we are and what we need to do. It is important in the metropolis of imperialism that the final solution — the death of the decaying capitalist system — must find its solution — socialist revolution. #

Exposing complicity in genocide despite detention

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

By John Parker

After the U.S. killed the U.N. Security Council resolution for a ceasefire on Dec. 8 – and today delayed another vote of the Security Council demanding an immediate ceasefire – Washington continues to pour gas on the fires in Gaza.

Bypassing Congress, the State Department sent 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition to Israel on the same day. The war crimes, with more than 20,000 Palestinians killed – 40% children, including so many babies – precede that transfer to Israel, assisting even more in the genocide.

“It’s just awful,” said one of the U.S. embassy representatives in Cairo, Egypt, about the killing going on in Gaza. With a bowed head with apparent frustration at their supposed inability to stop the killing in Gaza, the embassy representatives told our U.S. delegation of World Conscience Convoy participants nothing of value.

With the help of an Egyptian lawyer, we were able to have a meeting with the U.S. embassy. When we pressed to get answers about why the U.S. sent the massive amount of weapons that Israel received before and after Oct. 7, they said the U.S. uses weapons to get leverage to persuade Israel not to take things too far.

A five-year-old could come up with a better answer. And, even at an early stage of development, the child would most likely have a better sense of humanity regarding the massacre of children.

We went to the meeting to ask the U.S. to use its influence with the Egyptian government, which refuses to allow the World Conscience Convoy (organized by the Egyptian Journalist’s Syndicate) to deliver humanitarian aid and journalists to Gaza and to help stop the genocide.

We told them, but they already knew, that there were just two days during the ceasefire “pause” to get humanitarian aid, journalists, and medical care into Gaza. Despite the ongoing genocide, as a Jewish delegation member explained and a mother and preschool teacher and others laid out, we were told the U.S. has no influence with the Egyptian govern-

ment, and we were again told the U.S. uses the weapons for “leverage.”

After the U.S. veto of the U.N. Security Council resolution for an immediate ceasefire, one Saudi official said, “Leverage has failed.”

International delegates in the World Conscience Convoy decided that our only chance to get the convoy through (or failing that, to at least make visible the complicity in war crimes by both Egypt and imperialist countries led by the U.S.) was to petition the Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again to allow a permit for passage to Gaza. We preceded the presentation of the permit request with the unfurling of a banner in front of the building reading: “From the river to the sea – Palestine will be free.” We were immediately detained.

The over 30-hour detention in Egypt that this writer and three other delegates – from France, Australia, and Argentina – received made it clear that the government would not tolerate being embarrassed about their complicity.

Although our embassies never visited us after being made aware that we were being detained, Egyptian lawyers came to our rescue, and folks from back home in our respective countries were able to put pressure on them and the Egyptian government.

After 30 hours of no sleep, no bed, and continuous glaring lights, we were finally deported.

Before our detention, we got a good understanding of the political climate in a meeting with journalists at the Egyptian Journalist’s Syndicate building. In Egypt, the people and even the media and corporate media were united in their rage against the Gaza genocide. Even the Egyptian National Security police let us know they agreed with what we were doing but had to listen to the “higher-ups.” This is why President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi has to hide his complicity in the economic cooperation with the Zionist regime.

One common interest of the U.S., Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt in Gaza and the West Bank was the discovery of over

122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 1.7 billion barrels of recoverable oil, which the Zionist regime claimed it owned in 2008, to the detriment of Palestinians.

In September, the U.S. held a meeting in India pushing the Indian Middle-East Corridor (IMEC) with cooperation between Saudi Arabia, India, and the U.S., with invites to Jordan. This was designed to counter China’s mutually beneficial Belt and Road Initiative and alternatives to the IMF and World Bank.

The destruction of Russia’s Nord Stream pipeline by the U.S. and the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine helped the IMEC initiative. An alternative hydrogen pipeline – to replace the natural gas that Russia had provided to Europe – from India to Saudi Arabia to Jordan to Haifa in occupied Palestine, close to the West Bank and Gaza, is proposed as part of IMEC.

According to a statement by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is one of the Palestinian organizations in Gaza that were part of the action with Hamas on Oct. 7, the IMEC agreements were targeted.

“The Al-Aqsa Flood operation was launched only after all diplomatic means had been exhausted. It was a specific confrontation due to the racist policy implemented by the Israeli occupation government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu. It was a move to prevent the Arab regimes from signing peace agreements with Israel and derail American attempts to build economic blocs in the region to besiege China, Iran, and Russia – the most recent of which is the India-Middle East-Europe ‘corridor.’”

The pipeline would then go to Greece to supply Europe.

It is also interesting that before Oct. 7, the U.N. reported record-breaking violent settler attacks against Palestinians in Gaza and that Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu presented a new map of Israel that eliminated Palestine.

A corporate and capitalist government think-tank, APCO, sums up the

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plan goals and initiatives in its advisory work around IMEC.

The IMEC initiative

APCO reported Sept. 22: “The recent G20 summit in New Delhi witnessed the launch of a \$20 billion India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), an ambitious multi-pronged network aiming to connect goods and services between Europe and Asia – via the Middle East – more sustainably and efficiently. G20 countries involved in this initiative will hold a follow-up meeting to develop an action plan with defined timetables for implementation.

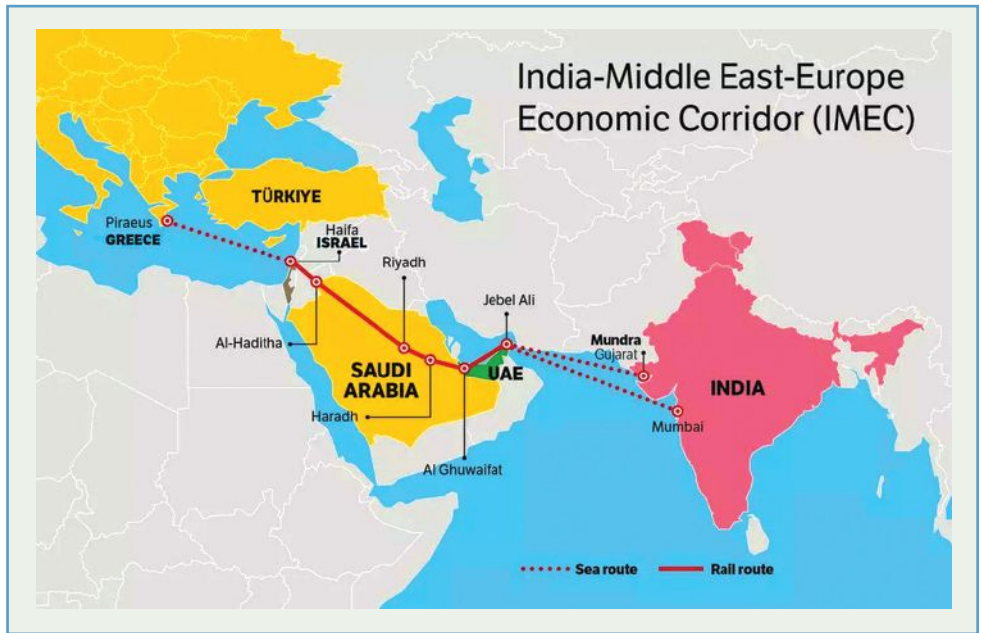
“Alongside the practical economic and infrastructure benefits for the involved regions, IMEC aims to strengthen United States and EU leadership based on multilateral cooperation and prosperity across Eurasia and boost global supply chain solutions. Within this context, the G20-backed corridor seeks to constitute a geopolitical counterweight to China and its intercontinental Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while checking Russia’s interconnectivity aspirations.

Summary and opportunities

“IMEC’s transport competent envisions a combined maritime-overland network that circumvents the existing maritime route via the Suez Canal: beginning with sea lanes connecting western India to the UAE, a rail network linking the UAE, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel, and culminating in a maritime route from Haifa to several European ports. The transport section is to be culminated by fiber-optic cables and a hydrogen pipeline spanning the 5,000-km route. In addition, the G20 envisions three complementary commercial-industrial corridors to IMEC in the fields of renewable energy, food security and the digital economy. ...

Countering Russia & Ukraine war

“IMEC also serves to check Russian influence and overcome large-scale supply chain and logistics disruptions brought on by the invasion of Ukraine.



The destruction of Russia’s Nord Stream pipeline, seen here, by the U.S. and the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine helped the IMEC initiative. An alternative hydrogen pipeline – to replace the natural gas that Russia had provided to Europe – from India to Saudi Arabia to Jordan to Haifa in occupied Palestine, close to the West Bank and Gaza, is proposed as part of IMEC.

As Europe eyes energy replacements for Russian gas and Middle Eastern countries seek to diversify food sources away from the Ukrainian-Russian conflict zone, IMEC has the potential to provide long-lasting remedies to these challenges. The G20-backed corridor also targets Russia’s proposed International North-South Transport Corridor

to connect European markets to India via Iran, weakening the latter project’s viability and helping to encourage the maintenance of US-led international sanctions regimes against Moscow and Tehran.”

The deal, however, was stalled after Oct 7. #

To support the struggle of Palestine *is* to support the struggle against anti-Semitism

By Lev Koufax

In these crazy days, the mainstream narrative in many Western countries, especially the U.S., is that to attack the apartheid state of “Israel” is to attack the Jewish community. This narrative is pushed by corporate media, politicians, academic institutions, and even Evangelical Christian churches.

This multi-institutional blitz has been effective. In the wake of Oct. 7’s “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood,” many individuals and institutions in the United States rushed to the defense of the Zionist entity. A Gallup poll conducted between Nov. 1 and Nov. 21 found that 50% of people in the U.S. support the Israeli Occupation Forces’ military actions in Gaza.

Now, 45% answered they did not support the IOF’s action in Gaza. It is important to note that this poll does not ask whether the individual sympathizes with Israel or condemns Hamas. 50% of these individuals responded that they **supported** the IOF’s specific actions in Gaza. As the IOF’s actions in Gaza constitute genocide, to support the IOF is to support genocide.

To be clear, bourgeois political polls are not the end-all and be-all. These polls are flawed and are often constructed with political agendas. However, there are still insights that can be gleaned from them. These polls would appear to support the idea that while there is still widespread support among the U.S. population for fascist Israel, it is eroding as the genocide against Palestine escalates.

And one doesn’t even have to read a mainstream poll to sense this. One only has to look as far as the massive demonstrations across the United States and their consequences to see that solidarity with Palestine is growing beyond just the Arab community and the organized left.

Many different communities within



The development of an anti-Zionist protest wing of the Jewish community is certainly a new one.

the working class have joined the movement for Palestine. This includes students. This includes many in the Black community. This even includes several prominent Jewish protests and sit-ins that targeted corporate politicians who support the Zionist entity and its genocide of Palestine. The development of an anti-Zionist protest wing of the Jewish community is certainly a new one.

Young people are another section of the working class that has joined this movement in thought and action. A recent Harvard-Harris poll found that 51% of people between the ages of 18 and 24 support Palestine and view Israel as the oppressor. The phenomena have manifested materially in the struggle as one of the leading organizations of the current movement is literally named the Palestinian Youth Movement.

All of this would seem to indicate that Zionism still has a support base in the U.S., but it is eroding due to the large cross-sectional movement for the liberation of Palestine. Western media and politicians have enforced Zionism ideologically by drawing an equivalence between the Jewish community and Israel. Israel=Judaism. So if the Zionist apartheid state is one and the same as the Jewish community, to attack that state is to attack the Jewish community. This

rationale is the one the U.S. military complex has used for 75 years to justify vast military aid to Israel. This rationale is how Zionism has enjoyed such popular support.

Many of the institutions and people who support Zionism could give a damn about the Jewish community. They are simply supporters of imperialism who benefit financially from the pillaging of Gaza.

However, there is a section of people, many of them Jewish, who genuinely believe that they

are standing in solidarity with the Jewish community in their support of the Zionist entity. In that same thread, there is a widely propagandized and instilled belief that it is impossible to be in solidarity with both the Jewish community and the Arab world.

When in reality, one cannot be in solidarity with either community without being in solidarity with both. To support the struggle of Palestine is to support the struggle against anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism. The only real way to support Jewish liberation is to stand in opposition to Zionism and the perversion of Jewish values and people to justify a genocidal land grab.

This is all to say that we, as a movement against the genocide of Palestine and all imperialism, have to continue to challenge the false narrative circulated in the political and media mainstream that to support the Zionist entity is to support Judaism.

Whether through protest, sit-ins, education, writing, whatever. We must all have the courage to risk facing false allegations of anti-Semitism in an attempt to squash dissent against Zionism. Because ultimately, the only way to defend the Jewish community is to stand against the false ideology of Zionism and the atrocities committed in our name. #

‘We focus on the liberation movement of Donbass and Ukrainian exiles’

By Melinda Butterfield

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

As we approach the two-year anniversary of the open military conflict between the U.S./NATO/Ukraine and Russia, it's clear that the war is at an impasse. Ukraine's much-hyped offensive has foundered. The regime's internal contradictions are multiplying as it becomes apparent that no victory is in the making despite the influx of billions of dollars of Western weapons and trainers, while Washington is rapidly shifting weapons, money, and attention toward Israel. A substantial part of the U.S. ruling class, frustrated by the lack of progress, is also eager to refocus on preparing for war against China.

This week, Ukrainian President Zelensky came home empty-handed from the latest of his many funding tours with only the consolation prize of an EU promise to consider membership. Last year, Ukraine received the largest amount of military aid in history; now Congress is attempting to put major strings on Biden's efforts to continue exorbitant levels of funding, even though, as the Washington Post admitted at the end of November, almost 90% of so-called aid money for Ukraine stays in the U.S. It's not because Republicans are against war, but because they see bigger fish elsewhere. Imperialism's priorities, frustrated, are shifting elsewhere.

This is reflected increasingly in the capitalist media, such as the Dec. 15 New York Times "exposé" about the extreme tactics the Ukrainian military uses to force people into military service. This isn't new – Ukraine has been using the same tactics not only since last year but since the beginning of the war on Donbass almost a decade ago. In 2015 and 2016, there were women's demonstrations that blocked highways across Western and Central Ukraine to protest the kidnapping of sons and husbands. But now it's suddenly become acceptable for Western media to make some digs at their erstwhile ally.

But it's important for us to recognize that Russia has not been able to make significant progress either. The capital-



The U.S.-Ukraine terrorist war on Donbass civilians began nearly a decade ago. Here, Donbass residents surround an invading Ukrainian tank in April 2014.

ist oligarchy represented by the Putin administration is unable and unwilling to elevate working-class forces and an anti-fascist perspective that would make it possible to transform the military conflict into a people's war.

To the extent there is momentum, it continues to center on the forces of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, who are motivated by the defense of their homes and communities from the Ukrainian neo-Nazi battalions that target civilians daily. Attacks on Donbass civilians have continued unabated after nine-and-a-half years.

Capitalist Russia's contradictions

We have long argued that for Russia to maintain its independence and overcome the threat of dismemberment by the U.S. and NATO, ultimately, the workers and oppressed must surge to the fore and overcome the domination of the reactionary capitalist oligarchy born of the anti-Soviet capitalist counter-revolution.

Starting in 2014, the Donbass liberation struggle fueled an upsurge in internationalist and anti-fascist sentiments in Russia and the other former Soviet Republics. Ultimately, it was this pressure from below that prevented the Russian government from settling for a rotten compromise with the West, as it repeatedly attempted to do, and helped to force Moscow to intervene militarily in February 2022 to prevent a genocidal massacre in Donbass.

But thus far, these mass sentiments have been unable to transcend the control of the Russian oligarchs. Instead, the response of the government is to pile on more internal divisions in response to Western sanctions and pressure – a losing strategy.

The left, though not outright banned like it is in Ukraine, has been unable to hold street protests in Russia since the start of the pandemic. Earlier this year, trans lives were essentially outlawed,

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‘We focus on the liberation movement of Donbass and Ukrainian exiles’

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including all forms of medical transition. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court declared the LGBTQ+ movement a terrorist movement, giving it the same designation as neo-Nazi groups like Ukraine’s Azov Battalion. And there are rumblings that a ban on abortion rights could be next.

The contradictions of the Russian state stand out in ever bolder relief. To survive and maintain independence, Moscow has been put into a position of conflict with world imperialism and alliance with the socialist countries, the Axis of Resistance, and other generally popular forces. But internally, and in the face it presents to the West, the Russian government has doubled down on aligning itself with the views and priorities of Trump and the U.S. far right. We can anticipate this will continue and intensify during the coming U.S. election year.

These contradictions make it extremely difficult to make a winning argument in support of the Special Military Operation in Ukraine to anyone in the U.S. who does not already share our views on imperialism and the global class struggle. This reality doesn’t absolve us of making the arguments, of patiently ex-

The struggle in Donbass and Ukraine seems far away, but it really isn’t. So much of the fascist, white supremacist violence we see aimed at communities of color, immigrants, and queer people in this country can be traced back to the U.S. promotion of fascist forces abroad, often with direct or indirect ties to the neo-Nazi hub that Ukraine has become since 2014, including training with NATO-supplied weapons, social media influence, rhetoric, and symbolism.

plaining. But it should also inform our approach – the one our tendency alone in the U.S. has championed for the last decade – to focus on the liberation struggle of the Donbass people and Ukrainian anti-fascists.

Palestine parallels

Parallels of Donbass with Palestine’s struggle are inescapable. It took years for the broad progressive movement in the U.S. to even recognize the existence of the Palestinians and even longer to embrace the legitimacy of their right to live and defend their homeland from Zionist occupation and expulsion. It took decades

for the Palestine solidarity movement to reach the level we see today.

In the last few months, we’ve witnessed the impressive growth of a militant Queers for Palestine wing of the solidarity movement – embracing the call of LGBTQ+ Palestinians that “for queer liberation, we need Palestinian liberation.” This powerful solidarity exists despite the presence of forces that are anti-LGBTQ+ (or perceived as such) in the Palestinian struggle and shows it is possible for the solidarity movement here to transcend the liberal arguments against liberation movements. Young activists especially seem to grasp the idea that we have always championed – that to build solidarity between movements, you start by offering solidarity.

The struggle in Donbass and Ukraine seems far away, but it really isn’t. So much of the fascist, white supremacist violence we see aimed at communities of color, immigrants, and queer people in this country can be traced back to the U.S. promotion of fascist forces abroad, often with direct or indirect ties to the neo-Nazi hub that Ukraine has become since 2014, including training with NATO-supplied weapons, social media influence, rhetoric, and symbolism.

The war against Donbass is still raging; the protections the population has won by Russian intervention are imperfect and tenuous. However, U.S. military priorities may shift in the coming year. We must continue to champion, educate, and protest in support of the Donbass people’s cause and the anti-fascist liberation of Ukraine. #

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

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

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

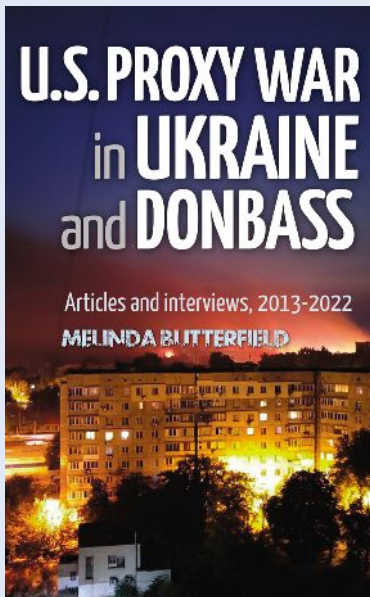
Look for release date on Struggle-La-Lucha.org

COMING SOON

U.S. PROXY WAR in UKRAINE and DONBASS

Articles and interviews, 2013-2022

MELINDA BUTTERFIELD



As recession looms: Spending soars for U.S. war operations

By Gary Wilson

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

You may have heard of Bidenomics — Genocide Joe's economic policy. The New York Times reported last October that the White House was telling Democrats that Biden's reelection will be won because of Bidenomics. Since then, what's happened? Bidenomics has quietly disappeared from all Democratic campaign talk.

The National Priorities Project reports that Biden's military budget is one of the highest in history. "The Biden request calls for \$886 billion in spending for the military and war preparations." The NPP points out that this is at the level of spending at the height of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and is approaching the level of military spending during World War II.

In an October Oval Office address, Biden said sending weapons to Ukraine is actually an investment in U.S. industry, strengthening the economy and creating new jobs. Politico quotes Biden: "As we replenish our stocks of weapons, we are partnering with the U.S. defense industry to increase our capacity ... This supplemental request invests over \$50 billion in the American defense industrial base ... expanding production lines, strengthening the American economy and creating new American jobs."

So here's the thing. All the financial indicators point to a major recession soon. Is Biden attempting to divert an economic bust? Can a large-scale military buildup or even a war avoid a recession?

A war economy produces the means of destruction or subsistence for soldiers instead of profit-producing production and profit-producing workers. Bidenomics may keep unemployment levels from rising with low-wage, non-union jobs, but it's driving down the capitalist profit rate.

Financing the enormous military budget is the primary reason for the massive federal debt, and it led to the greatest bond market crash in history in October. You probably didn't hear about it. They don't like to talk about these things. The government issues bonds, called Treasuries, when they want to borrow mon-



A war economy produces the means of destruction or subsistence for soldiers instead of profit-producing production and profit-producing workers

ey. That's how they've been paying for the massive military budget.

In the financial press, Bloomberg reported that Treasury bonds with maturities of 10 years or more plummeted 46%. That's just under the losses in the stock market when the dot-com bubble burst in 2000.

What's coming out of this is higher taxes and cuts in social spending to pay for the massive military buildup and warfare.

The current economic slowdown is because of general overproduction, with manufacturers facing excess inventory.

Economic growth (not slowdown) is the lifeblood of capitalism. Industrial production is not growing; it has stagnated for the past year.

On Dec. 4, Reuters reported that "makers of computer and electronic products said the 'economy appears to be slowing dramatically.' Miscellaneous manufacturing firms said, 'Customer orders have pushed into the first quarter of 2024, resulting in inflated end-of-year inventory. Producers of food, beverage, and tobacco reported that 'our executives have requested that we bring down inventory levels considerably.'"

Factories are now working at less than full capacity, but corporations are building more factories at a furious

rate. On Dec. 2, there was a headline: "The Eyepopping Factory Construction Boom in the U.S."

Industrial capitalists are building new factories even as their current factories cannot run at their full capacity due to a lack of markets. As the new factories come online, the gap between the ability to produce and the market's ability to absorb the increasing volume of commodities at profitable prices is growing dramatically.

The growing gap between expanding production capacity and limited market demand is unsustainable. A recession looms.

Bidenomics a failure

As any worker will quickly confirm, Bidenomics is a failure. Really. Have prices rolled back? Workers are fighting for and winning wage increases, but overall, for most workers, wages still lag behind inflation. Homelessness in the U.S. jumped to a record level in 2023, the highest number of people reported as experiencing homelessness since reporting began.

Anyway, as we've seen in our discussions today, the U.S. is engaged in war, hybrid war, economic war, and multiple

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The dawn of a working class upsurge

By Stephen Millies

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

Eighty-six-year-old Verna Mae Jackson was crushed to death on Dec. 6 while working at the FedEx world hub in the Memphis International airport.

Six months before, 16-year-old Michael Schuls was killed in a Florence, Wisconsin, sawmill near the border with Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

What were an 86-year-old Black woman and a 16-year-old teenager doing in these dangerous jobs? Both of these tragedies were preventable.

Seventy years in age and 800 miles separated these two murdered workers. Maybe FedEx will be fined for unsafe conditions.

Florence Hardwoods was fined \$190,000. It was found that the sawmill employed nine children, some as young as 14.

Yet, under Wisconsin law, it's perfectly legal for teenagers to work in sawmills. Child labor is making a big comeback.

At the same time, the share of folks older than 60 in the workforce has doubled since 2000. By exploiting both the young and old, capitalism is extending the time that it extracts profits from us.

Karl Marx called this stealing "absolute surplus value."

These two murders on the job are another sign of how much the working class has been pushed back in the last 50 years.

Targeting Black workers

Big capital was determined to lessen its dependence on Black labor in basic industry. The Black-majority cities of Detroit and Flint, Michigan, and Gary, Indiana, were wrecked as hundreds of thou-

sands of jobs were lost in auto and steel.

Fifty years ago, General Motors was the biggest employer of Black workers who were members of the UAW. Today, it's non-union, poverty-wage Walmart.

Look at Baltimore. When I moved here in 1978, 20,000 or so workers were employed at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point mill, the largest in the world. Thousands more worked in shipyards, the Koppers factory, and at the GM plant.

All these unionized strongholds of our class were wiped out. Close to seven million manufacturing jobs, most of which were unionized, were destroyed coast-to-coast.

Seven million homes were foreclosed, and millions more evicted.

The biggest defeat was the overthrow

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As recession looms: Spending soars for U.S. war operations

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kinds of warfare in several parts of the world. Genocide Joe's war on Gaza. The U.S.-NATO proxy war on Russia.

There is also the possibility of a U.S. and/or Israeli attack on Iran.

CBS News reported on a major deployment of U.S. warships to the region. The aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower's strike group arrived in the Red Sea in mid-November. An unknown number of nuclear submarines armed with hundreds of cruise missiles are there. The aircraft carrier USS Ford strike group is in the area in the Mediterranean along with at least five other battleship groups. CBS adds that 45,000 U.S. service members and contractors are now stationed in the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin just announced the start of Operation Prosperity Guardian, a naval operation in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden targeting Yemen's Ansarallah-aligned armed forces and threatening Iran.

That's three fronts in U.S. imperialism's global war – Palestine, Russia, and Iran.

Of course, there's also the sanctions, economic warfare against Cuba, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, and others.

War buildup in Asia

Then, there are the war fronts against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and China.

The U.S. has imposed sweeping sanctions on China's semiconductor industry, aiming to restrict China's advanced computing and supercomputing abilities and prevent it from becoming a global leader in semiconductors. The New York Times called the semiconductor blockade "an act of war." Saying, and I quote: "The controls essentially seek to eradicate, root and branch, China's entire ecosystem of advanced technology."

And then there is Taiwan.

Taiwan has been part of China for centuries. Japan colonized Taiwan in 1895 and Korea in 1910. After the victory of the Communist Party of China in 1949, the defeated Kuomintang took over Taiwan with U.S. support. The U.S. later acknowledged the People's Republic of China's sovereignty over Taiwan under the One China policy but never relinquished its de facto control.

Now, the U.S. has virtually dropped its One China policy and has started a massive military buildup in Taiwan

combined with a significant naval buildup in the South China Sea.

Unlike previous administrations, including Donald Trump's, the Biden administration has not confirmed the One China policy. Responsible Statecraft reported that "Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner made an unprecedented public statement by a serving senior U.S. official. In testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, he stated that the island of Taiwan is strategically "critical to the region's security and critical to the defense of vital U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific." He's saying that Taiwan is "ours."

In August, the U.S., Japan, and South Korea established what's being called an Asian NATO, a trilateral military cooperation agreement, including a joint missile defense system. This is aimed at both North Korea and China.

Biden's massive military budget must be paid for by the workers. The U.S. is imposing a wartime economy, hoping to rescue the capitalists from the coming economic collapse while at the same time threatening imperialist war around the globe. #

International labor union actions support Palestine

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

By Lallan Schoenstein

We have just learned that the Health Care workers 1199 SEIU has called for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip to allow for urgent relief amid the destruction of health and other infrastructure.

A deep shift is going on in the organized labor movement, shown by the emerging support for Palestine. It's a turn away from what some call "business unionism," a narrow struggle for a few crumbs off the bosses' table. There is a new class consciousness rising — international solidarity.

The United Auto Workers' official call for a ceasefire is awesome. They are creating a "Divestment and Just Transition" study group on the history and the union's economic ties to the conflict. Union leaders thanked all the rank-and-file members who made this happen.

Truly, the UAW's position was initiated by the rank and file: Black, people of color, and gender-oppressed auto workers in the coastal regions, along with Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Alaska. The auto workers have been empowered by last summer's victorious strike wave.

Palestine workers call for support

On Oct. 16, the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU) issued an urgent call for action against governments, like the U.S., that are arming Israel.

Unions have been taking action, often in opposition to their own governments. The postal workers, auto workers and the National Writers Union are leading the U.S. labor movement. A Starbucks Workers United leaflet read: "We Stand with Palestine."

The UAW, UE, and UFCW 3000 initiated an online petition calling for an immediate ceasefire and end to the siege of Gaza.

It has been signed by some 3,200 unions, union locals, and sections of unions. More unions are joining this list by the hour.

In the beginning of November, the Ports of Oakland and Tacoma were blockaded by protesters who delayed the



Health Care workers 1199 SEIU has called for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip to allow for urgent relief amid the destruction of health and other infrastructure.

departure of a U.S. military vessel after merchant marine workers told organizers the ship's cargo of weapons was destined for Israel. In New Orleans, where Healthcare Workers demand a ceasefire, workers groups are organizing to Stop Helping Israel's Ports – NOSHIP.

The longshore union ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco unanimously passed a resolution in solidarity with Palestine. They said: "The U.N. calls Gaza an 'open-air prison' of 2.2 million Palestinians. ... It is no surprise that there would inevitably be a rebellion." The Local 10 resolution was presented to the Oakland and San Francisco City Councils.

The Inland Boatmen's Union in San Francisco issued a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire as well as the delivery of life-saving aid.

ZIM, one of the world's largest shipping lines, is carrying military supplies to Israel. Workers in Palestine see ZIM as a strategic target. On Nov. 17 in Norfolk, Virginia, a demonstration at the ZIM headquarters organized by the Southern Workers Assembly shut down ZIM.

As reported on Labor Video, thousands of labor unionists from around Northern California rallied in Oakland on Dec. 16 to oppose the genocide in Gaza.

A San Francisco labor group rallied on Dec. 14 in front of Google offices to stop Google's AI support for the Zionist

apartheid regime. Google has the \$1.2 billion Nimbus contract with the Israeli military. The workers also reported that Google is targeting their Muslim workers who challenge genocide.

Around the world

All around the world, the union movement has been responding with solidarity actions to block the arming of the Zionist entity.

Belgian, Italian, Spanish, and French unions called on their members to refuse to handle arms shipments.

In the Port of Melbourne, Trade Unionists for Palestine are blocking ZIM. The red, gold, and black flags of the Indigenous peoples of Australia are seen on the picket line.

The Liverpool dock workers are blocking the shipment of war materiel. They held a community meeting to talk about Gaza and the West Bank.

United Tech & Allied Workers of Britain called for the "international labor movement to end all complicity and take concrete action against arms supplies to Israel."

British health workers, teachers, hospitality workers, academics, artists, and more — members of some eight union federations — set up a picket line to prevent deliveries to BAE Systems, England's

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The dawn of a working class upsurge

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of the Soviet Union. That was more dangerous than Hitler coming to power by crushing the German working class.

Yet the capitalist class can't make a penny in profits without us. Thousands of Amazon workers now are employed at Sparrows Point.

Organizing drives at Amazon will make Jeff Bezos pay union wages and benefits. He might even have to trade in his \$500 million yacht.

After decades of being beaten up, the U.S. multinational working class is fighting back! Capitalists are taking note.

A recent Wall Street headline read, "For Labor Unions, 2023 Was the Year of the Strike – and Big Victories." The Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations has counted 354 strikes this year.

Back in 1933, one of the first working-class victories was winning unions in Hollywood. Movie making is big business.

Eighty years later, both the Writers Guild and the Screen Actors Guild went on strike for months in 2023, bringing the Hollywood moguls to their knees. Workers used their courage and intelligence to beat back artificial intelligence.

The Teamsters eliminated the hated two-tier pay scheme for drivers at UPS without going on strike. Wages for part-time workers were raised to \$21 per hour.

Solidarity with Palestine!

The Starbucks workers seem to be unbeatable. They continue to struggle in



Actor Wanda Sykes with Writers Guild of America members on a picket line.

The Writers Guild and the Screen Actors Guild went on strike, bringing the Hollywood moguls to their knees. Workers used their courage and intelligence to beat back artificial intelligence.

hundreds of stores across the country. They've got billionaire Howard Schultz on the run!

Nurses and other health care workers conducted 27 strikes across the United States. Picket lines were set up in New York and throughout California. There were also strikes in Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Oregon, St. Louis, and the state of Washington.

Workers at Rutgers and Temple universities went on strike as well as against colleges in Illinois.

The biggest star was the UAW strikes against the Big Three automakers that lasted more than six weeks. The union struck all three at once for the first time, although only striking a few selected chokepoints.

The hated pay tiers that were imposed in 2008 were smashed. The lowest-paid workers got the biggest wage increases.

That's what our late Comrade Vince Copeland advocated for decades.

Nonunion outfits like Toyota were so scared that they increased their wages, too. That won't keep out the UAW. More than a thousand workers at Volkswagen have signed union cards.

Just as notable is UAW President Sean Fain's demand for a ceasefire in Gaza. So had Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, who did so earlier.

Long gone are the days of George Meany supporting every filthy imperialist war. "Solidarity Forever" means solidarity with Palestine!

No railroad workers have any illusions about "Amtrak Joe," who has now become "Genocide Joe" Biden. Despite being forbidden to strike by Congress, most railroaders were able to claw sick days out of the rail tycoons.

We are at the very beginning of a working-class upsurge. The actions that have been taken at Amazon warehouses are like those of the autoworkers in 1933 and 34.

The United Farmworkers Union is springing back to organize some of the poorest workers.

Who would have thought that small groups of Starbucks employees would stage work stoppages at hundreds of coffee shops? That takes enthusiasm and discipline.

We look forward to union drives at Walmart. The Teamsters will come to Memphis, where FedEx has 30,000 employees, and Verna Mae Jackson was killed.

The labor movement will come to some of the smallest towns just like the Black Lives Matter! movement did. #

Unions support Palestine

Continued from page 15

largest weapons firm, under a banner that read "Workers for a Free Palestine."

The Japanese National Railway Union, Dora Chiba, has pledged to fight their government's policy of arming the Zionist military.

Although not reported as much here, similar actions are occurring all over the world. The Brazilian trade union federation, representing more than 7.4 million workers, pledged unwavering support for Palestine. The Canadian Union of Public Employees called for the "end of arms sales to Israel." In Colom-

bia, the miners' union is demanding a suspension of the supply of all minerals and fuels. The largest Polish confederation of trade unions is calling for an end to military cooperation with Israel.

India's twelve union federations, representing one hundred million workers, are strongly opposing talks to send one hundred thousand construction workers to replace the Palestinian workers whose work permits Israel has canceled.

The Central Trade Union Council of India, representing more than 600,000 workers, is calling for a boycott of arms shipments. #

Criminalizing homelessness solves nothing Socialist planning could end the crisis

By Gloria Verdieu

Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.

Homelessness, housing, prisoners, and the formerly incarcerated are all domestic issues.

According to National Homeless Facts, over half a million people are homeless in the U.S. in 2023. This is a low estimate.

Homelessness is a humanitarian crisis. Here are some statistics on homelessness in the U.S.

- 43% of the homeless youth are LGBTQ+. Transgender youth homelessness is the worst.
- 23% of people without housing are children, families, and veterans.
- 40% of homeless people have disabilities, and 70% are living with mental illness.

Single adults over 50 now make up half of the homeless population. If nothing changes in the next 15 years, Harvard University estimates that an additional 2.4 million seniors in the U.S. will have no access to affordable housing.

Among the nation's racial and ethnic groups, Black people have the highest rate of homelessness.

Thirty percent to 50% of the formerly incarcerated on parole have no place to stay, making it more likely that some will go back to prison. Their challenges are tripled when searching for a job, following parole terms and agreements, getting up to date on current events and trends, and reaching out to loved ones for support.

The unemployment rate for the formerly incarcerated is over 27% — which is higher than the total U.S. unemployment rate during any historical period, including the Great Depression.

California, New York, Florida, and Washington had the most homeless people in 2022, according to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report. These four states accounted for more than half of the country's homeless population, with 30% of the total living in California alone.

It's been 10 years since thousands of workers and supporters in California joined the nationwide demand to raise the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour.



Make-shift shelters in San Diego's East Village.

On Jan. 1, 2022, San Diego, California's hourly minimum wage reached \$15. It was recently announced that San Diego's minimum wage will be \$16.85 per hour, effective Jan. 1, 2024.

In San Diego, there are over 10,000 homeless — termed unsheltered people according to the regional task force on homelessness and this number is increasing. In San Diego, the cost of living is ridiculous.

According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, the minimum living wage for a single adult in San Diego is at least \$22.31. That means that the current minimum wage is not enough to support a single adult living on their own. A family of four (two adults, two children) in San Diego with one adult working full time needs to earn at least \$46.66 per hour for a living wage; with both adults working, each would have to make \$30.58 an hour.

San Diego's average rents recently surpassed San Francisco's, making it the most expensive city in the nation.

Many seniors — some on fixed incomes — are homeless because they can no longer afford rent.

The San Diego City Council approved the homeless encampment ban, which bans sleeping in public parks, beaches, downtown, and residential areas. They claim this is for the safety of the unsheltered.

Many feel the current Mayor, Todd Gloria, broke his promise to set up a task force to come up with a plan to help people without housing. Instead, he is criminalizing the homeless by using the police to enforce the encampment ban. What did they expect?

San Diego started enforcing the homeless encampment law in July of 2023. The law allows officers to jail unhoused people camping in certain locations if they have previously been cited for being homeless.

Todd Gloria explained that many remain on the streets and won't accept the services that the police are offering. Fines and jail threats can be a "leverage" to force them into shelter.

Local academics researching the homeless crisis have shown that criminalization does not reduce the number of unsheltered people.

There are safety issues with sleeping in public places at night. The coroner logged nearly 588 deaths of homeless people on the streets of San Diego County last year.

The city is developing homeless encampments in designated areas where people stay and keep all their stuff and safe spaces where people can sleep in their cars overnight.

Outside tents and parking spaces for overnight sleeping are what some would see as a good alternative to overnight homeless shelters, where there are many rules, including what you can and cannot bring into the shelter.

The solution to homelessness is complicated, difficult to resolve, and impossible to end in a capitalist system of government. The truth is reducing homelessness just isn't profitable.

Socialism is the solution to ending homelessness, and here are some reasons why.

Under socialism, people do not fear unemployment, old age, sickness, losing their jobs, rent increases, or losing their homes.

A socialist government plans for the general welfare of all residents. It owns the wealth used for industry. It plans production and seeks to distribute everything according to need.

Only socialism can resolve the homeless, housing, and prison crisis.

We must study socialism. We must fight for socialism. #

Say NO to anti-Muslim bigotry! Islamophobia is racist poison

By Stephen Millies

The wealthy and powerful want us to hate two billion Muslim people, a quarter of the human race. While Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has killed over 20,000 Palestinians in Gaza with U.S.-made bombs, a green light is given to racism against Muslims everywhere.

Super bigot Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, in the Dec. 6 Republican presidential candidates' debate, mocked the robes worn by many Muslim men as "man dresses." This is the traditional clothing in many parts of North Africa and West Asia, most suitable for the climate. Most Christian depictions of Jesus show him wearing a robe. Catholic priests also wear robes.

DeSantis — who wants to kick Black history out of Florida schools — deliberately said "man dress" to appeal to homophobic and transphobic bigotry along with attacking Muslims. DeSantis was a Navy lawyer at the Guantánamo concentration camp, where Muslim inmates were tortured.

Another Republican candidate, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, is no better. He rose to prominence as the U.S. attorney who framed the Fort Dix 5: Mohamad Ibrahim Shnewer, brothers Dritan Duka, Shain Duka and Eljvir Duka, and Serdar Tatar.

The five Muslims were entrapped by the FBI and framed on fantastic charges of planning to murder soldiers at the Fort Dix army base in New Jersey. They've been jailed since 2007.

Framing the five was key to Christie becoming New Jersey's governor, where he attacked teachers and their unions.

The Fort Dix frame-up was carried out in the wake of the anti-Muslim witch-hunt that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Hundreds were arrested and/or deported, including the operators of the newsstand at a Newark, New Jersey, railroad station.

Racism flows from the top

Anti-Muslim hate comes from the top of capitalist society. Former U.S. State Department official Stuart Seldowitz

was arrested in November for harassing Mohamed Hussein, a Muslim food vendor on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Seldowitz called Hussein a terrorist.

Seldowitz screamed, "If we killed 4,000 Palestinian kids, it wasn't enough." This pig had actually been deputy director of the State Department's Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs. How many other U.S. "diplomats" are like Seldowitz?

Comedian Bill Maher is notorious for his bigotry against Muslim people. On his HBO show in 2010, Maher said he was afraid that so many babies with the name Muhammad were being born in Western countries.

Maher continues to have his TV show, while Mehdi Hasan, a Muslim, had his MSNBC show canceled. Hasan had been "vocal for human rights in Gaza," as one report of the cancellation put it.

Within his first week as president in January 2017, Donald Trump placed travel bans on residents from seven Muslim-majority countries. This bigotry went hand-in-hand with Trump calling Haiti a "s---hole country."

At the time, thousands of people flooded airports across the United States to protest Trump's executive order against Muslims and refugees.

Joe Biden's sending thousands of bombs and shells to the Israeli apartheid regime worth billions of dollars is worse. The blood of 10,000 murdered children in Gaza is on Genocide Joe's hands.

Biden claimed he saw pictures of Israeli children who were beheaded by Palestinian freedom fighters. The White House had to walk back this big lie. There were no pictures because there were no beheaded children.

The massive propaganda campaign claiming the Palestinian resistance soldiers committed mass rapes is also a filthy lie.

The fighters were on a disciplined, tight schedule, trying to safely capture as many people as possible so they could be exchanged for thousands of Palestinian political prisoners. It was the Zionist state's military that killed many of the Israeli soldiers and settlers by indiscriminate shooting,

The accusations of mass rapes are being used to justify the massive bombing that has killed thousands in Gaza. That's how the Ku Klux Klan defended lynchings.

9-11-01 and "Christ killing"

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres pointed out that hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza are "simply starving." Civilians in Gaza "are being told to move like human pinballs – ricocheting between ever-smaller slivers of the south, without any of the basics for survival," he said.

The United States was the only country to vote against, and thereby veto, a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire in Gaza. A few days later, 153 countries representing over 90% of the world's population voted for a ceasefire in the UN's General Assembly on Dec. 12.

The Israeli military is parading nearly naked Palestinian men to humiliate them. It's reminiscent of how, in 1970, former Philadelphia Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo had his cops strip naked Black Panther Party members.

Bigotry against Muslims and the Islamic religion is considered acceptable within broad sections of U.S. politics, certainly among Trump supporters. Leading the way are many Protestant evangelical preachers.

Racism and religious bigotry have long been part of these ministers' toolkits. The largest protestant denomination — the Southern Baptist Convention — was founded in 1845 to defend slavery.

During the 1960 presidential race, the Rev. W. A. Criswell of the First Baptist Church in Dallas — the largest in the SBC — condemned John F. Kennedy for being a Catholic. Criswell, who defended racial segregation, later became SBC president.

Now, these preachers are telling us to hate Muslims. In the 1930s, bigots fought to keep Jewish refugees out of the United States.

Time magazine referred to French premier Léon Blum as "Jew Blum." Capitalists blamed Jewish people for the

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U.S., Big Oil exploit Guyana border dispute to attack Venezuela

By Scott Scheffer

Genocide Joe Biden is sending weapons to Israel to continue its brutal ethnic cleansing of Gaza and its rampage against Palestinians in the West Bank. The entire world is aghast and angry. Millions are protesting globally, demanding a ceasefire.

At the same time, Biden is demanding that Congress provide billions more for weapons to continue the dangerous proxy war against Russia via Ukraine.

Now, almost unbelievably, the U.S. machinery of state is trying to set up an opportunity for yet another U.S. war – this one against Venezuela using that country's neighbor Guyana as a proxy, by reviving a centuries-old border dispute that lay dormant for decades.

The exploitation of newly found oil reserves larger than those of the United Arab Emirates or Kuwait by U.S. oil giants triggered the escalating aggression by the White House.

NO to anti-Muslim bigotry!

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Bolshevik Revolution, which inspired workers and oppressed people around the world.

The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon are being used as a “Christ killing” charge against all Muslims. This was the old lie that Jewish people were responsible for the death of Jesus Christ, a Jewish rebel crucified by the Roman Empire.

Anti-Muslim bigotry went hand-in-hand with hatred against Jewish people. Both Jews and Muslims were expelled from Spain in 1492. Hundreds of thousands of Jewish people were given refuge in Muslim lands.

People flocked to Mohamed Hussein's food cart after the former State Department diplomat attacked him. It didn't hurt that Halal food is clean and tasty. The poison of Islamophobia has to be exposed and fought. #

After decades of economic punishment, coup attempts, and all manner of threats by the Pentagon, the U.S. State Department and the White House, Venezuela is not taking this situation lying down. President Nicolas Maduro called a referendum on the issue of the disputed area, Essequibo, on Dec. 3.

The vote confirmed near-total support from the Venezuelan people for defending against the imperialist plans to establish a hostile presence on their border while further enriching the biggest energy corporations in the world.

This latest imperialist adventure has transformed what had been amicable discussions between two neighbors for decades into a flashpoint for war. Part of the Venezuelan referendum asked for approval to declare Essequibo the 24th state of Venezuela and grant citizenship to the 125,000 inhabitants.

Messaging from the Maduro leadership has pointed to the deep poverty in Essequibo and has aired a video showing a group of indigenous people lowering the Guyanese flag and raising the Venezuelan flag.

U.S. military in Guyana

The Pentagon has been boosting its presence in Guyana for months. The website Searchlight reported on Dec. 1 that “The United States Army's 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB), which is a specialized unit of the U.S. Army, arrived in Guyana this week.”

Joint U.S./Guyana military drills, including U.S. bombers flying next to the disputed border, were announced for Thursday, Dec. 7.

The escalation of threats and hostility is driven by U.S. imperialism's desire to destroy the revolutionary process taking place in Venezuela, where millions of people's living standards have been lifted like never before.

A series of U.S. administrations have tried everything and the determination



of the Venezuelan people to hang on to their sovereignty has thwarted the imperialists at every turn. The drive of ExxonMobil, Chevron, Hess and others to exploit new oil resources found to exist in Essequibo dovetails with White House attempts to bring Venezuela back under U.S. control.

Until recently, Guyana was the third – poorest country in Latin America. U.S. business journals have been painting a picture of Guyana potentially becoming the richest country in Latin America. An ExxonMobil exploration found what is likely to be the largest oil reserve in the world in Essequibo in 2015. It was supposed to be both underground and offshore.

Recently, the data proved that the offshore reserves were largely unproductive. Exxon-Mobile and Chevron were the biggest investors, at 45% and 25% respectively. Last week, upon learning that their initial data was incorrect, they pulled out of the offshore operations, turning it over to oil enterprises owned by Guyana.

The fact that scraps from the potentially massive profits are left for Guyana while the U.S. oil giants grab the massive profits from the reserves underground shows that the relationship will remain unequal. The people of Guyana will not benefit.

Dispute rooted in colonial plunder

The Essequibo region has been in dispute since the early 19th century. During

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Se destruye nuestra identidad boricua

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Un pueblo colonizado sin memoria histórica, es más fácil de manipular porque carece de ese amor propio y ese amor patrio que le sostiene para poder librar las diferentes luchas necesarias que le llevarán a la liberación y a la soberanía definitiva.

En Puerto Rico, esta ha sido la base del colonialismo yanqui con la fiel colaboración de los diferentes gobiernos locales.

Ha regido como principio, el empeño de destruir nuestra verdadera historia, nuestra cultura y como consecuencia, nuestra identidad boricua que tiene como base al pueblo originario Taíno, al africano que fue obligado a esta tierra por los españoles invasores, que también forman parte de nuestra genealogía.

Trataron de imponer el inglés, nos prohibieron exhibir nuestra bandera, nos han empujado del archipiélago al empobrecer nuestra población, que tiene que migrar para poder sobrevivir.

Y ahora, el ejemplo más reciente, es el de hacer desaparecer las evidencias de nuestra historia como pueblo. Porque eso es lo que se guarda y se protege en

Archivo General de Puerto Rico

Foto: El Archivo General de Puerto Rico.

el Archivo General y la Biblioteca Nacional de Puerto Rico.

En el Archivo se encuentra todo tipo

de libros, documentos, fotos, archivos históricos y culturales, que necesitan de un ambiente con temperatura estable.

Pues gracias a la privatización de la energía por una compañía mafiosa e incapaz, la canadiense estadounidense Luma, a quien el gobierno defiende a capa y espada, se ha dañado la subestación eléctrica que servía al Archivo; dejó de funcionar por fluctuaciones en la corriente. Esto afectó al sistema de climatización necesaria para evitar que se deterioren los documentos por efecto sobre todo, de hongos que tanto prevalecen en nuestro entorno tropical y húmedo.



Esto ocurrió a finales de octubre y aún el gobierno no ha querido solucionarlo pese a todos los pedidos de entidades educativas, profesorado, trabajadoras y trabajadores del Archivo, y del pueblo en general.

Pero estos días habrán varias acciones y manifestaciones para exigir que el gobierno cumpla con su deber de proteger nuestro patrimonio.

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



U.S. exploit Guyana border dispute to attack Venezuela

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the time of Spain's colonization, the river appeared on all maps as the eastern border of Venezuela. After Venezuela declared its independence from Spain in 1811, European powers moved in on all the territory now known as Guyana, swapping parts of the entire region back and forth between France, the Netherlands, and Britain at a dizzying pace.

In 1899, the issue was brought to the fore again in a tribunal organized by the colonizers.

Not one Venezuelan was present. The decision was favorable for the British Empire. It was justified using a map by a cartographer employed by the British that showed the border of Venezuela to the west of the river, handing Essequibo

over to the control of the British. Venezuela never accepted the decision.

Fifty years later, a U.S. lawyer who participated in the 1899 arbitration revealed that the outcome had already been decided amongst the colonizers beforehand. Any discussions that took place were a charade.

In 1914, the Anglo-Dutch treaty resulted in Britain purchasing what is now Guyana, including the Essequibo region.

In 1966, as a result of powerful peoples' liberation movements in Africa, Asia and Latin America, the pendulum swung in favor of Venezuela's side of the issue once again. The gov-

ernments of what was still then British Guiana, Britain and Venezuela signed the Geneva Agreement, with the backing of the U.N, to seek an amicable settlement, thus reversing the blatantly imperialist and rigged decision at the 1899 tribunal.

It is only now that the White House saw the opportunity to try to inflict further damage to Venezuela that the issue has escalated, risking another terrible U.S. war. #

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