

# STRUGGLE LA LUCHA

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# Palestinians barred from Al-Aqsa Mosque

## Zionist regime targets Ramadan

By Lev Koufax

Every year during Ramadan, Muslim people from around the world travel to the occupied city of Jerusalem to make a pilgrimage to the Mosque Al-Aqsa. This sprawling religious site includes the iconic Dome of the Rock. Al-Aqsa is one of the most revered and significant sites in the Muslim faith.

This pilgrimage is viscerally sacred for all those who adhere to the Islamic faith. The journey should be peaceful, solemn, and bound in love. Unfortunately, the Zionist entity has for decades criminalized this pilgrimage for many Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

For years, Zionist shock troops

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New York City protest on Feb. 16. See page 3.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

# Crawfish in the coal mine: Climate disruption is here

By Gregory E. Williams

Last weekend, my partner and I ate at a local restaurant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Crawfish season had clearly begun. People were crowded at the bar with trays piled with these “mud bugs.”

It's a typical Louisiana scene. Crawfish boils are part of the

culture here, a time-honored ritual. From the rural parishes to New Orleans, people gather in backyards to cook and dine on crawfish – like at a barbecue. It's part of the Cajun, Creole, and even Vietnamese cuisine here.

But this year, scenes like the one at that Baton Rouge restaurant will no doubt be less com-

mon and more expensive. LSU AgCenter experts have been making the rounds explaining the ongoing shortage.

The combination of winter cold fronts and summer heat and drought took a toll on crawfish, which are mostly grown in water-logged rice fields. 2023 was the hottest

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▶ Navalny and war against Russia

# Stop the attack on Rafah!

## Students in New York mobilize for Gaza

By Struggle-La Lucha  
New York Bureau

Thousands of New York City students mobilized again on Friday, Feb. 16, to protest the genocidal attacks on Gaza. They gathered from all over the city at the big reference library on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

Hundreds of them were high school students. Two hundred students marched out of Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn. Other schools had smaller walkouts.

One long banner carried by members of the Palestinian Youth Movement read, "Stop Arming Israel / Arms Embargo Now!" Genocide Joe Biden is demanding another \$14 billion of weapons for the Zionist regime's assault on Rafah.

As was done during the 1980s struggle against the then apartheid South Africa, students are demanding their schools divest from the apartheid regime occupying Palestine. Students from the State University of New York carried a banner, "Israel Bombs / SUNY Pays."



Feb 16 protest.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Another banner read, "SVA [School of Visual Arts] Students Against Genocide Apartheid Zionism."

Among the speakers at the rally were representatives of Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. Roger Wareham, a member of the December 12th Movement's International Secretariat, reminded people of the struggle against the Vietnam War. Pal-

estine, like Vietnam, will win.

Despite police harassment, people marched down Fifth Avenue, turning west on 34th Street. Many people on the busy shopping street showed their support.

The march went north on Eighth Avenue, with people stopping by the New York Times headquarters to protest its lying coverage. Hundreds of people made it to 48th Street before dispersing, vowing to continue the struggle for Palestine. #

## Crawfish in the coal mine

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year on record. Those same heat and drought conditions caused multiple crises in the state, including the saltwater intrusion and an epidemic of wildfires.

An LSU AgCenter report released in November 2023 said that the drought and heatwave cost the state's agricultural sector \$1.67 billion. If the Louisiana agricultural sector as a whole is valued at \$11.7 billion, that would mean that the 2023 losses are equal to 14.27% of the sector's value.

The AgCenter projects that 2024's crawfish industry losses will be about \$140 million, that is, equalling 60% of the industry's \$230 million value. This will be the worst crawfish season on record.

Losses like that should be frightening to the capitalist class. But this comes at a time when the capitalists and their poli-

ticians are doubling down on protecting fossil fuel industry profits at the expense of life on earth. That was the thrust of the debacle that took place at the 2023 COP 28 conference in Dubai.

That isn't stopping U.S. Representative Clay Higgins (R-Louisiana) from trying to get federal relief money for the industry. He wants a crawfish bailout.

Meanwhile, Louisiana's knock-off Trump governor, Jeff Landry, just appointed Tyler Gray as secretary of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Gray is not even a former but rather the CURRENT corporate secretary of the Placid Refining Company. Seems like a conflict of interest.

But what can we expect? Racist Landry is an oil-and-gas investment millionaire who doesn't care whether



Photo: Logan Ellzey

A typical crawfish boil scene.

we live or die.

What's clear is that the capitalists are going to try to squeeze out every last bit of value (even if it means killing the planet) while unloading the burden onto working-class and oppressed people, whether that means higher crawfish and other food prices, flooded homes, or layoffs as agriculture and other industries are disrupted by climate shocks.

I say enough. Let's give these scoundrels a run for their money. We're coming for you Jeff, Trump, Biden, and all the rest. Time to hit the streets. #

# The links between East Palestine, Ohio, and Gaza, Palestine

By Stephen Millies

President Biden showed up in East Palestine, Ohio, on Feb. 16 — a year after the Feb. 3, 2023, train wreck that poisoned the village. “You’ve been through hell,” Biden told the residents.

What about the hell that families in Gaza and the rest of Palestine are going through, Mr. President? Thirty thousand people have been killed there with U.S.-made and U.S.-paid-for bombs and missiles.

Over 10,000 children have been murdered. More than 25,000 have been orphaned. Biden’s response to this slaughter is to demand another \$14 billion for the apartheid killing machine that calls itself Israel.

Meanwhile, in the U.S., monthly SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, formerly known as food stamps, have been cut by an average of \$86 per person. Making these cutbacks more painful is that capitalist monopolies have jacked up food prices by 25% since 2020.

East Palestine is in Columbiana County, Ohio, where nearly 15,000 people — one out of seven residents — depend on SNAP benefits to eat.

Biden said the Norfolk Southern train wreck in East Palestine “was an act of greed that was 100% preventable.”

The U.S.-funded massacre in Gaza, Palestine, is a bigger crime that’s being waged for Big Oil, which uses Israel as its cops.

In the U.S., Norfolk Southern cut over 35% of its operating employees between 2018 and 2021 using the corporate model called Precision Scheduled Railroading to increase profits. Railroad management did this by running longer trains.

The train that poisoned East Palestine was 150 cars long, which means it had 1,200 axle bearings. A single “hot box” in one of these bearings — through no fault of the railroad crew — was enough to derail the train.

Three days after the derailment, on Feb. 6, 2023, Norfolk Southern deliberately ignited five tank cars that released a mushroom cloud of dangerous toxins.



The former Rafa train station in Gaza.

Many people, including Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, believe the explosion was done not out of safety concerns but to clear the tracks for trains.

## Jobs not war

Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw took home \$9.8 million in 2022. Yet the rail tycoon didn’t want to give any sick days to workers.

Two months before the East Palestine disaster, Congress passed legislation that prohibited railroaders from walking off the job. “Amtrak Joe” signed the strikebreaking law in the White House. Only under the impact of the Ohio train wreck did Norfolk Southern agree to sick days.

Pulling the strings at Norfolk Southern are some of the biggest banksters, like BlackRock, which holds 6.4% of the corporation’s stock. BlackRock also has \$4.6 billion invested in Lockheed Martin, one of the largest war profiteers.

Thousands of Palestinians have been killed by bombs dropped from F-16s and other warplanes sold by Lockheed Martin. In addition, BlackRock has investments in the Israeli weapons maker Elbit Systems, whose drones kill children and their families.

The genocide in Gaza is a goldmine for only a few.

East Palestine borders Pennsylvania and sits between Pittsburgh and Cleveland. This region was once one of the biggest concentrations of industry in the world.

Almost all the steel mills in Pittsburgh, Youngstown (22 miles from East Palestine), and Cleveland have been shut down. Deindustrialization destroyed hundreds of thousands of union jobs.

Columbiana County was the center of the U.S. ceramic industry. Hundreds of factories turned out plates and cups for dining tables across the country.

These potteries are also gone. The war profits grabbed by BlackRock and Lockheed Martin are not helping anybody in East Palestine.

Karl Marx — the great teacher of the working class — described the working conditions in British potteries in “Capital”: Testifying before an 1860 parliamentary inquiry, “Dr. Greenhow states that the average duration of life in the pottery districts of Stoke-on-Trent, and Wolstanton is extraordinarily short.”

Another physician, Dr. Arledge, said that these workers “are, as a rule, stunted in growth, ill-shaped, and frequently ill-formed in the chest.” Heartbreaking was the testimony of nine-year-old William Wood, who described how he worked from 6 a.m. in the morning to 9 p.m. at night.

The world labor movement fought to change these conditions. Capitalists want to bring back child labor. When Trump was in the White House, he moved to roll back child labor rules.

## We need a socialist revolution

The Great Migration of Black people from the U.S. South barely made it to East Palestine. White people account for 95% of Columbiana County’s population.

That’s why Trump and his fellow racist clown Rudy Giuliani went to East Palestine a few weeks after the train wreck. Along with Fox News, Trump claims that people in East Palestine were being ignored because they’re not Black.

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# Aleksei Navalny's death and the war drive against Russia

By Stephen Millies

Why has the big business media given so much coverage to the death of Aleksei Navalny? The New York Times ran at least 56 articles about the Russian political figure since he died in a Siberian prison on Feb. 16.

Nobody should die in jail. Prisons shouldn't be dangerous, and inmates who are ill should be taken to a hospital.

Socialists look forward to building a future society where there are no prisons.

U.S. prisons are particularly dangerous. Just last year, ten prisoners died in Atlanta's Fulton County Jail. One of those who died, 34-year-old Samuel Lawrence, complained that he had been beaten.

It's the United States — not the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China — that's the world's greatest jailer. Over two million people are locked up across the U.S. Almost all are poor.

It was a lack of medical care that caused Henry Winston to become blind while incarcerated in the Terre Haute, Indiana, U.S. Penitentiary in 1958. The Black communist leader had been jailed for his political beliefs using a thought control law called the Smith Act.

Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is being denied adequate medical care in a Pennsylvania prison. Earlier, Abu-Jamal and other inmates had been denied treatment for hepatitis, a liver disease.

The real reason for the media uproar about Aleksei Navalny's death is the proxy war against the Russian Federation in Ukraine. The halo of martyrdom placed upon Navalny is being used to get Congress to approve another \$61.7 billion of arms to prolong this bloody conflict.

President Biden is bragging about how much of this money will go to war profiteers like General Dynamics. The production of 155-millimeter artillery shells is set to increase six times over three years.

Providing billions more for the war in Ukraine is just as obscene as the \$14 billion that Genocide Joe wants to give to the Zionist regime, which has killed 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza. All of this money is stolen from poor and working people.

## Who was Navalny?

Forty-seven years old when he died, Navalny was an unsuccessful capitalist politician who became a favorite of the U.S. and Western European capitalist powers.

Navalny appealed to racists by attacking migrants. He demonstrated alongside fascists in the annual "Russia March" demonstrations. Doesn't that sound like Donald Trump?

The Russian Federation is a multinational state with millions of people from other ethnic backgrounds. Never forget that 27 million Soviet people from nearly 200 nationalities died defeating Hitler.

Eighty percent of the Nazi war machine's casualties occurred fighting the Soviets on the Eastern Front. Unlike the U.S. armed forces, which under Jim Crow laws even had a segregated blood supply, all the Soviet nationalities fought side by side in the Red Army against the fascists. Many Russians take pride in that. Recognizing the sacrifices of other nationalities doesn't diminish the heroism of the Russian people.

Over 2,000 Ukrainians were awarded the socialist country's highest military honor, Hero of the Soviet Union. The present Ukrainian regime has demolished thousands of monuments commemorating anti-fascists.

Nazis murdered more than a quarter of the population in Belarus, which was occupied for three years. Partisans there played a vital role behind enemy lines, blowing up railway tracks and attacking enemy forces.

Although the Nazis didn't occupy the Uzbek Soviet Republic, 420,000 Uzbeks died fighting them. Uzbeks are among the peoples from the former Central

Asian Soviet republics that Navalny wanted to round up and kick out.

The unity achieved in defeating the Nazis can be seen in the backgrounds of Soviet leaders. Riding on horses together in Moscow's Red Square at the 1945 Victory Parade were Marshal Georgy Zhukov, who was Russian, and Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky, who was Polish.

Gen. Ivan Chernyakhovsky, the youngest general appointed to lead an entire front, was Jewish. And the Commander-in-Chief was the son of a shoemaker from Georgia.

Navalny spat on this history. He issued a video portraying himself as a dentist and compared migrants from other former Soviet republics to cavities, calling for their deportation. Navalny claimed that in order to prevent the rise of fascism, fascist round-ups of migrants had to be carried out.

## A tragic defeat for all workers

The overthrow of the Soviet Union in 1991 was a bigger and more dangerous defeat for humanity than Hitler coming to power by smashing the German working class. Like the bloody overthrow of Reconstruction in the United States, which guaranteed hell for Black people, the demise of the Soviet Union had terrible results.

Living standards fell as production plummeted. Millions became jobless as socialist economic planning was abandoned. Even the death rate dramatically increased.

The Soviet Union itself was broken up as ethnic hostilities increased. This break-up was imposed despite the overwhelming vote in a March 17, 1991, referendum to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Seventy percent of people in Ukraine voted to keep the USSR.

Industries built over a dozen five-year plans were practically given away to a new class of big thieves known as oligarchs. U.S. and European capitalists hate Belarus because it's the only former Soviet republic that didn't conduct these fire sales of socialist property.

Navalny never attacked this criminal

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**URGENT CALL TO ACTION**  
We demand that Political Prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, an elder and heart patient, receive a cardiac diet and access to adequate exercise EVERY DAY.



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# Unsustainable war machine: U.S. imperialism in crisis

By Gary Wilson

General Smedley Butler said, “War is a racket.” Wikipedia explains that he was referring to the war profiteers and the “imperialist motivations for U.S. foreign policy and wars.”

A Guardian headline on Feb. 18 declared: “World’s largest oil companies have made \$281bn profit since invasion of Ukraine.” Below the headline was the teaser: “Global Witness says the five ‘super-majors’

are the ‘main winners of the war’ while many struggle to heat their homes.”

A Wall Street Journal headline on Feb. 18 declared: “How war in Europe boosts the U.S. economy.”

The U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine against Russia “is good for the U.S. economy,” the WSJ reports. “Industrial production in the U.S. defense and space sector has increased 17.5%.”

The report continues, “Biden administration officials say that of the \$60.7 billion earmarked for Ukraine in a \$95 billion supplemental defense bill, 64% will actually flow back to the U.S. defense industrial base.”

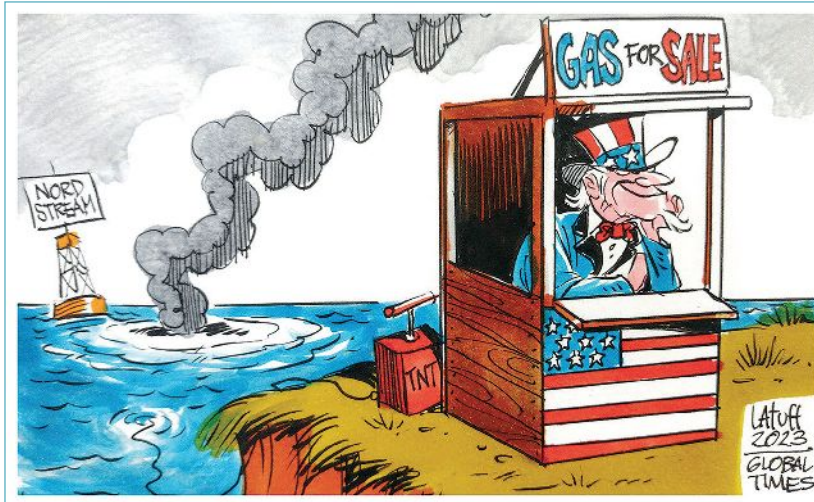
The WSJ adds that the \$95 billion military aid package also includes funds earmarked for Israel and Taiwan.

That’s war on three fronts.

The U.S. is in a steadily expanding military buildup of unprecedented proportions. But the economic basis for sustaining military expansion — for war on three fronts — is in virtual ruin.

After World War II, the United States was the world’s leading imperialist economic and military force. As the predominant imperialist power, the U.S. had unrivaled political and military dominance over its imperialist rivals in Western Europe and Japan, as well as over developing countries and oppressed peoples globally.

In the early 1950s, the United States accounted for over 50% of global economic production. In 2023, the U.S. has fallen to



about 26% of global gross domestic product (GDP), with China, Germany, and Japan all rising, according to the IMF. China’s share of the global GDP surged from 2% in 1980 to 18% in 2021.

When adjusted for the cost of living (the IMF’s PPP - purchasing power parity), the U.S. per capita GDP now ranks ninth in the world.

The basic industries of the U.S. have declined after decades of deindustrialization that began in the late 1970s.

In terms of capitalist production for profit, which involves competition for capitalist markets and the acquisition of sources of raw materials, the U.S. has become tremendously weakened as a world power. For instance, in its current heated military expansion, the U.S. has access to a fraction of the world’s total production over what it had in the 1950s.

Consider the supply chain crisis during the COVID shutdown. COVID restrictions and lockdowns, especially in China, a major global manufacturing hub, led to shortages of components and products. Factories and ports in the U.S. stalled. Global supply chains are interconnected and interdependent, with many companies reliant on just-in-time inventory and single sources for parts.

While the economic base of U.S. imperialism has been contracting, the drive for military expansion has increased.

“U.S. military spending is at an all-time high,” writes John Feffer at the Institute for Policy Studies. “From 2017

to 2023, the Pentagon’s base budget increased by over 50%. For 2024, overall U.S. military spending — which includes the allotment for the Pentagon, the budget for nuclear weapons at the Department of Energy, and a few other items — will be \$886 billion. With supplemental requests, like the current one for Ukraine and Israel, the total will approach \$1 trillion, the highest military spend-

ing since World War II.”

In October 2023, President Joe Biden said that the U.S. must be ‘the arsenal of democracy,’ echoing a 1940 call to arms by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Biden was emphasizing the wars in Ukraine and Gaza and the U.S. arms buildup in Taiwan.

The biggest part of the U.S. war buildup in the Pentagon budget is aimed at China.

The Modern War Institute at West Point says, “The U.S. military is attempting to quickly replenish diminished weapons stocks in its largest production ramp-up in decades. With an eye on its pacing threats and the risk of major conflict — with China, in particular — it is transitioning to modern platforms, including attack submarines, heavy bombers, and air defense systems, as well as new approaches to electric vehicles. Given its security assistance to Ukraine and recent military support to Israel, and conflict risks with China, it is simultaneously rearming with legacy munitions — 155-millimeter artillery, javelin antitank missiles, and surface-to-air Stinger missiles.”

## Crisis of a declining empire

So, the Pentagon has launched a military expansion of unprecedented proportions, while the economic basis for sustaining such an unbridled military buildup has been severely eroded.

The U.S. capitalist system is facing multiple crises.

The global production decline should

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# Unsustainable U.S. war machine

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not be confused with a capitalist overproduction crisis.

Crises of overproduction are usually called cyclical capitalist events or simply recessions in the media. Capitalism has had economic crises periodically since 1825. Capitalism goes through a boom and bust cycle every ten years or so. Marx identified these cyclical events as crises of overproduction.

Capitalists produce goods and services only for profit and not for need. Production is disrupted when commodities can no longer be sold at a profit. Capitalist production can be effectively expanded, but the markets respond slowly, if at all. The overproduction is relative; that is, it's not that more is produced than is needed. It's that more is produced than can be sold at a profit.

A cyclical recession looms over the U.S. economy. Recessions are sweeping the capitalist countries. Japan, Britain, Ireland, and Finland are now in what Wall Street calls "technical recessions," which means at least two successive quarters of GDP contraction.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg," says one report. Denmark, Luxembourg, Moldova, and Estonia were already in recession. Six countries — Ecuador, Bahrain, Iceland, South Africa, Canada, and New Zealand — reported shrinking GDP in October. And six more — Malaysia, Thailand, Romania, Lithuania, Germany, and Colombia — reported GDP contraction in December.

## Debt around \$33 trillion

Heavy borrowing by the U.S. government has financed military expansion.

The U.S. budget deficit doubled from 2022 to 2023. The overall debt now stands at around \$33 trillion. That's the value of the combined economies of China, Japan, Germany, India and Britain.

Military spending is different than the capitalist market. Military spending goes to produce planes, tanks, missiles, and other defense systems.

These military products do not function like regular commodities. They do not compete with other commodities for buyers in the capitalist market. There is no concern about overproducing since they do not compete for buyers based on market demands.

Government loan-financed military spending raises industrial production but depresses the capitalist process of expansion. Capitalist production is not simply to meet consumer needs but to maximize surplus value (profits). A portion of the profits made are used to expand the means of production (machines, technology, infrastructure, etc.).

Military spending redirects production from expanded production of the means of production into producing the means of destruction. More capital is consumed than is created.

Capitalism must expand, or it dies. The very goal of capitalist production is not meeting consumer demand or social needs but maximizing extraction of surplus value or profit from workers. Expansion is a key means to keep profits growing. Without expansion, profits fall.

The total product of the military-industrial complex is devoid of usefulness. The vast sums borrowed for the military budget have flooded the world with dollars of decreasing value due to military spending for which there has been no material return.

"Military spending has been crowding out other spending," said Jason Furman, an economist at Harvard University. He noted that Vietnam War spending in the 1960s contributed to the soaring inflation at that time, which led to stagflation, the combination of high inflation and a slowing economy.

In the year 2000, the U.S. government debt was \$3.5 trillion, equal to 35% of the GDP. By 2022, the debt was \$24 trillion, equal to 95% of GDP. The single biggest source of this increase is military spending. According to the Watson Institute at Brown University, the cost of U.S. wars

from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2022 amounted to a whopping \$8 trillion.

Forbes magazine recently noted that when adjusted for inflation, the U.S. bank leases and loans showed zero growth at the end of 2023. The capitalist economy simply cannot grow without sustained loan and lease growth. Zero growth means a contraction of the economy. "In simple terms, if this trend doesn't change, then we are most likely to see a recession," Forbes says.

On top of the periodic economic recessions inherent to capitalism, an even more severe crisis is plaguing U.S. monopoly capitalism. The decline of U.S. production and GDP and the rise of China, Germany, and Japan reveal the so-called competitive crisis: the loss of their competitive edge in the world market by significant elements of U.S. industry and finance.

The U.S. has slowly lost its dominant position in world trade and commerce.

Look at Boeing, a monopoly once dominant in the world aircraft industry in commercial and military production.

Barack Obama once quipped, "I'm expecting a gold watch from Boeing at the end of my presidency, because I know that I'm on the list of top salesmen at Boeing."

Then-President Donald Trump said during a 2017 visit to a plant in South Carolina: "God bless you, may God bless the United States of America, and God bless Boeing." Boeing executive Patrick Shanahan was a Trump Secretary of Defense, the head of the Pentagon. Shanahan is also president and CEO of Spirit AeroSystems, which produced the defective parts for Boeing's 737 MAX airline.

Capitalist monopoly retards technological development, discourages inventiveness and innovation, and prevents the normal renewal, retooling, and re-equipment of the basic industrial apparatus. If profits can be made by jacking up prices as a result of monopoly rather than by plant renewal retooling or modernization, then it becomes plain that the ruling class as a whole will opt for industrial production based on obsolete plant and equipment, so long as profits can be maintained at a high level.

At Boeing, production was maximized for profit at the cost of air safety. In the 1970s, Boeing commanded 66% of the world market; now it is 41%.

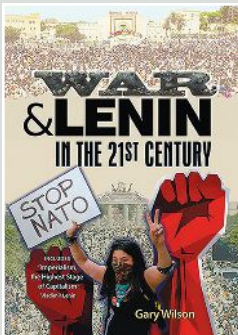
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## 'War and Lenin in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'

New book released on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lenin's death



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## U.S. war machine

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A German-French-British consortium introduced the Airbus to compete with Boeing. Despite the occupying dominance of the U.S. and NATO, which has held Germany down by political and military means following the defeat of German imperialism in the Second World War, Airbus was mainly a German effort.

In 2019, Airbus displaced Boeing as the largest aerospace company by revenue due to the Boeing 737 MAX breakdowns.

### German industrial engine stalls as U.S. guns and gas dictate terms

It's not an accident that Germany was the first casualty in the U.S./NATO proxy war on Russia.

In 2022, the European Union imported 40% of its gas from Russia. The primary route for gas from Russia was through the Nord Stream pipeline to Germany. Nord Stream 2 was built to at least double the capacity.

The U.S. opposed Nord Stream 2 since the pipeline's inception. Congressional efforts to block the pipeline imposed sanctions, with increasingly stringent sanctions legislation enacted in 2017, 2019, and 2020.

The Nord Stream 2 project was finished in September 2022, but was idle pending certification by Germany and the EU.

On Feb. 7, 2022, before any Russian military actions in Ukraine, President Joe Biden declared, "There will be no longer a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it." (The U.S. Navy has since bombed and destroyed the pipeline.)

As the leading industrial economy in Europe, Germany had a heavy reliance on imported Russian oil, gas, and key minerals to fuel sectors like steel, chemicals, automobiles, and complex machinery. This low-cost energy and raw material supply enabled the high productivity and exports behind Germany's economic preeminence.

Germany has been forced to replace low-priced Russian pipeline gas with high-priced U.S. LNG gas, making German industry less competitive.

Today, the U.S. is the top liquified natural gas (LNG) exporter in the world and the biggest supplier of crude oil to Germany and the entire European Union at a much higher cost. #

## Navalny and the war against Russia

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privatization and didn't call for a redistribution of wealth to benefit the working class.

Instead, he appealed to smaller shareholders and wannabe capitalists. Navalny's attacks on governmental corruption ignored the immense loot stolen by the new billionaire class as well as foreign thieves like ExxonMobil.

### U.S. stooges

What sealed the capitalist counter-revolution was Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Oct. 4, 1993, military assault on the Russian Parliament. President Bill Clinton and the corporate media were cheerleaders for this massacre in which hundreds were killed.

Three years later the U.S. Government got their stooge Yeltsin reelected in 1996. A Time magazine cover chortled: "Yanks to the rescue. The secret story of how American advisors helped Yeltsin win."

Just as Yeltsin got rid of a troublesome parliament, Ukraine's elected government was overthrown with Washing-

ton's support during the orchestrated "Euromaidan" revolt in 2013 and 2014. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland admitted to CNN that the U.S. spent \$5 billion on the takeover.

Trump supporters were seeking similar results to what occurred in Moscow and Kiev when they were allowed to attack the U.S. capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

Ukrainian fascists secured their victory by burning down Odessa's House of Trade Unions in May 2014 and murdering at least 48 people there. It was in reaction to this fascist coup that workers in Donetsk and Luhansk in Eastern Ukraine set up their own governments.

The Russian Federation intervened in 2022 to protect Eastern Ukraine from an impending invasion orchestrated by the U.S. and NATO. To the Pentagon, the Russian Federation's 6.4 million square miles of territory needs to be occupied.

Working and poor people shouldn't be fooled into supporting the NATO war in Ukraine. Like Boris Yeltsin, Aleksei Navalny was another stooge of U.S. big business. #

## East Palestine, Ohio, and Gaza

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That poison is the stuff of fascism. Trump and his kind despise all workers.

To build Trump Tower on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, Trump hired Polish immigrants to tear down an older building. They were paid low wages and given hardly any safety equipment to protect them against asbestos. It's unknown how many died of mesothelioma, a form of lung cancer.

Decaying capitalism wrecks small towns like East Palestine. Nearly 200 rural hospitals have been shut down in the U.S. since 2005.

Almost all the hospitals in Gaza have been attacked by U.S.-armed Zionist forces.

Despite interstate highways and the internet, small towns in the U.S. are becoming more isolated. Trump-appointed Postmaster General Louis DeJoy wants to close thousands of rural post offices. Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and white postal workers are helping to keep them open.

American Postal Workers Union President Mark Dimondstein, who is Jewish,

demands a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Norfolk Southern's busy freight line through East Palestine carries Amtrak's Capitol Limited between Washington, D.C., and Chicago. But the nearest stop – in the wee hours of the morning – is in Alliance, Ohio, 33 railroad miles away.

Back in 1953, when it was a main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, five different passenger trains stopped in East Palestine: one going to Cleveland, another headed for Chicago, and three trains going east to Pittsburgh. ("The Official Guide of the Railways," November 1953)

Gaza also had a passenger station with trains going between Egypt and Palestine. Israel severed the railroad service.

People in Gaza are fighting for their lives and freedom. Working people in East Palestine need a revolution, too.

Super racist Trump and Genocide Joe Biden have nothing to offer the working class other than war and hate. The coming upsurge of the working class will reach East Palestine, Ohio, and help liberate Palestine.

*The writer is a retired railroad worker.*

# Energía solar en Puerto Rico ¿privada?

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Aquí en Puerto Rico, como decía nuestro poeta y revolucionario Juan Antonio Corretjer, “La lucha nunca cesa. La vida es lucha toda”.

Vivimos en un paraíso hermoso, con sol la mayoría del tiempo. Sin embargo, ese recurso tan preciado de energía renovable, se ha convertido en una pesadilla gracias, primero a nuestra condición colonial, y segundo y en este caso más crucialmente, a la ineptitud de nuestro gobierno fallido que actúa como promotor de intereses extranjeros en vez de su obligación por asegurar el bienestar de su pueblo.

Tenemos una Ley que obliga a que la producción de la energía generada por combustibles fósiles, se reduzca y se logre un mínimo de energía renovable como la solar del cuarenta por ciento (40%) en o antes del 2025. Y claro, el gobierno, en vez de aceptar y ejecutar la propuesta que los sectores científicos y progresistas han diseñado, un programa gubernamental público, para colocar placas solares en los techos de las casas y así producir colectivamente energía barata, ha abierto las puertas a cientos



Residentes de Salinas, junto a representantes de organizaciones, se congregaron en Santurce para protestar contra el proyecto CIRO One, impulsado por el inversionista Nicholas Prouty.

de compañías de placas solares principalmente extranjeras.

Pero como si esto no fuera suficiente, ha facilitado el proyecto de placas solares del magnate Nicholas Prouty, un parásito gringo establecido aquí para robarle al pueblo mediante los beneficios de la Ley 60 de incentivos contributivos. Este proyecto, en el sur del país, coloca inmensas placas solares nada menos que en los mejores terrenos agrícolas de la zona. No solamente se resta terreno a la agricultura, en un país que importa más del 85% de nuestros alimentos, sino que compacta el suelo, haciéndolo menos poroso con la peligrosa consecuencia de

provocar inundaciones muy severas.

Esta situación ha provocado la ira, y la lucha de los residentes de la zona y de organizaciones ambientalistas quienes no solamente han salido a las calles protestando consistentemente contra las agencias irresponsables gubernamentales, sino que ya seis organizaciones han demandado al gobierno para que se detuviera la aprobación y la construcción de estos proyectos. #

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



## Palestinians barred from Al-Aqsa

Continued from page 1

have brutally and arbitrarily raided the Al-Aqsa complex and violently attacked worshippers inside or attempting to gain entry. Just three years ago, the Zionist forces conducted exactly such a raid on Al-Aqsa during Ramadan. “Israeli” forces deployed pepper spray and rubber bullets against unarmed worshippers. Over 50 Palestinian people, many children, were injured in the Zionist pogrom.

Unfortunately, it seems that Zionism intends to escalate its war to not only eradicate the Palestinian people but to eradicate their cultural foundation. As such, the Zionist dictator, Benjamin Netanyahu, announced on Feb. 19 that there would be militarily enforced restrictions during Ramadan this year against

Palestinians living within the 1948 borders or Jerusalem.

Even with all of Zionism’s horrors, the “Israeli” state has never gone as far as to ban Arab citizens of “Israel” from entering Al-Aqsa during Ramadan. One would think that a state that asserts itself as that of the Jewish people would know better than to wage war on sacred religious sites. This is just another indicator of the solemn truth about Zionism: it is no more about persevering the sanctity of Jewish life than it is about democracy. If Zionism respected Judaism at all, then its institutions would never dare to enact cultural violence against Muslim Palestinians so similar to that enacted against the Jewish community for centuries.

As if this new Islamophobic and racist policy wasn’t bad enough on its face, even Shin Bet, the police wing of the IOF, was made uneasy at the potential of the restrictions to spark a Palestinian uprising.

However, Netanyahu and his fascist running dog, security minister Ben Gvir, will continue with their implementation of this plan to restrict worship at Al-Aqsa during Ramadan. They will do so because this is the real nature of Zionism: to terrorize, oppress, and eradicate the Palestinian people on behalf of U.S. imperialism.

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