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Partido de Socialismo Unido

STOP Trump's fascist agenda

Mass struggle can defeat capitalist reaction

By Stephen Millies

Millions of people are angry, depressed, and disgusted at Trump winning the capitalist election. Many are terrified.

They have a right to be. Trump says "no price tag" will stop him from deporting millions of immigrant workers in fascist roundups.

His campaign spent \$215 million on TV ads attacking transgender people. Bigots are being encouraged to assault transgender people, their families, and allies.

Text messages have been sent to Black people across the country, ordering them to report to plantations and pick cotton as enslaved people.

Yet, for all of the bluster of Trump and Fox News, the convicted rapist is hardly getting any more votes than he got four years ago. It's the Democratic vote that has fallen like a rock.

Wars and hunger don't produce enthusiasm

Trump was able to appeal to people sick of wars because Biden shipped \$175 billion of weapons to Ukraine. Another \$17.9 billion of bombs and shells were sent to Netanyahu's apartheid regime that's committing genocide in Gaza and Lebanon.

Getting war criminal Dick Cheney to endorse Kamala Harris didn't help either. For many in the Arab and Muslim communities, Trump couldn't be worse than the genocide enablers Biden and Harris.

What has four years of Joe Biden as president done for the working class? Rents went through the roof, increasing by nearly 30% from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to January 2024.

A record-high 653,104 people were counted as homeless in January 2023, with over 256,000 of them unsheltered in the winter. The \$193 billion spent on the

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Several thousand people standoff with police outside the Seattle Police Department East Precinct on June 2, 2020, during the national uprising for George Floyd. It is the mass movement that kept Trump in check during his first term, not the Democratic Party.

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- A Cuban perspective on race and revolution
- **THE SIEGE OF NORTH GAZA**
- Baltimore to Palestine: Resist police occupation!
- Palestinian children in New Orleans: 'End genocide!'



SLL photo

Against fascism: reclaiming the legacy of populism for today's class struggle
PART 4 Cuba to Louisiana: Two paths after slavery's end

The revolution never gets old!

Joint statement of revolutionary organizations in Russia:

Comrades! Today, we stand together against the capitalist system, for the conquest of power by the workers and for the deprivation of this power from the bourgeois exploiting class. The reference point and beacon for us in this struggle, the best proof of the rightness and necessity of our cause, is the main event of the 20th Century – the October Socialist Revolution of 1917.

Great October is already 107 years old, but since this event is epochal, determining the main vector of development of human history for centuries to come, it is not subject to any aging. Let us repeat what is well-known and obvious to everyone who looks at the process of world development objectively and does not distort it to please the bourgeois class.

The significance of October is that for the first time in history, power was taken by the oppressed and exploited, workers and peasants, dispelling the myth that only representatives of the propertied classes could rule. This became possible thanks to the revolution carried out under the leadership of a proletarian party seasoned in class battles — the Bolshevik Party.



The immediate consequence of the seizure of power by the workers was the construction of a socialist state. In this state, thanks to the liberation of labor from the yoke of capital, there was an unusually rapid and comprehensive rise in productive forces, which made the economically and politically backward country the flagship of world development. A socialist society was created — a society of people of high culture, high level of education, high civic morality. This is the basis on which the Soviet people were able to achieve the Great Victory over fascism. They were able to be the first in space and nuclear energy. They were able to ensure peace for the world in the period

after the Second World War.

The bourgeois counterrevolution of the late 1980s – early 1990s destroyed all these achievements, destroying the socialist social system, the socialist state – the USSR – and demonstratively shooting the remnants of Soviet power in 1993. Bourgeois propagandists today are trying to prove that the counterrevolution took place due to the unviability of socialism. Lies!

The bourgeois revolution became possible as a result of the ruling CPSU ceasing to express the interests of the working class and all workers, and stooping to accepting and implementing the restoration of capitalism under the guise of "perestroika" and the "market" course.

The list of bitter and gloomy things capitalism has brought to our land and lives is endless. Suffice it to say that it has created a monstrous stratification between rich and poor, made people's position in society and their very lives (medicine is now paid for!) directly dependent on the thickness of their wallets, deprived the workers of all rights and all opportunities to influence the fate of their country.

Capitalism has literally showered us with the most disgusting vices of bourgeois society and also drawn us into an endless series of conflicts and bloody wars on national grounds, the largest of which, the current war with the Nazi regime in Ukraine (and that regime arose only thanks to capitalism), is unfolding before our eyes.

The longer this goes on, the more obvious it becomes that the only way out for

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CHINA Celebrating 75 years of liberation

October 1, 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of China's transformative revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control. Today, China stands as a global scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in pollution reduction, and space exploration. China has made significant strides in healthcare, education, and sports.

This book aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.

<https://tinyurl.com/USWarChina>

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The siege of North Gaza

By Lev Koufax

U.S.-sponsored Zionist genocide makes Jabalia synonymous with Auschwitz, Treblinka

For the last year, the United States and its Zionist partners have waged a brutal and unyielding siege on Gaza. The widespread devastation and death throughout the Gaza Strip has been widely reported on in both corporate media and alternative sources.

Neighborhoods are eviscerated. Water supplies are non-existent. Children burn in their hospital beds. And even with all of that misery, it seems that Zionist forces are escalating the genocide to yet another level. Currently, the Gaza Strip's northern section is suffocating under the weight of that escalation.

Since early October of this year, occupation forces have held the Jabalia refugee camp under siege. Jabalia is one of the oldest and largest refugee camps in Palestine. Jabalia is home to well over a hundred thousand people packed into an area of 1.4 square kilometers. This makes Jabalia the most densely populated square kilometer in the world. The war has seen relentless occupation offensives against Jabalia since Oct. 7th.

However, it has only been in recent weeks that the IOF has entirely encircled Jabalia. Occupation forces have ordered Jabalia's residents to leave what is left of their homes or be killed. Fearing that they will never return home if they



A Palestinian man carries the body of a baby recovered from the rubble of the Jabalia refugee camp one day after an Israeli airstrike hit the area.

Beit Lahia is home to the last functioning hospital in northern Gaza. As such, it has been under constant IOF bombardment. The Zionists are intent on targeting all

leave, tens of thousands have stayed. As the Zionist stranglehold has tightened, the conditions in Jabalia have become borderline untenable for human life.

Since the siege's start, Jabalia has been completely cut off from Gaza City and the rest of the strip. UNRWA reports that 90% of Jabalia's water is undrinkable. Zionist troops destroyed Jabalia's power grid completely, rendering the entire camp without electricity. As if this wasn't bad enough, Jabalia was also one of the epicenters of the recent polio outbreak in the Gaza Strip, the first of its kind in a century.

Unfortunately, the siege within the siege is not limited to Jabalia. The occupation air force and army have killed dozens in mere days in both Beit Lahia and Beit Hanoun camps. Both camps are similarly cut off from all aid like Jabalia.

facilities and infrastructure that supply the people of these camps with the most basic human necessities.

In just weeks, the occupation has murdered 1,300 people throughout North Gaza, and that number is likely massively underreported.

The Zionists' goal in its siege on Jabalia and similar camps is not a secret: Their goal is to either murder or displace every single person in the area. There is a phrase for this sort of place: a death camp. If Israel in any way represented the values and history of Judaism, the so-called Jewish State would recognize a modern-day Treblinka when it saw one.

Instead, the Zionist regime plays the role of the modern-day Third Reich. In its new role, the Zionist regime is full steam ahead towards the entire extermination of Palestine's indigenous people. UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Joyce Msuya, stated the situation simply: "The entire population of North Gaza is at risk of dying."

The people of North Gaza and all of Palestine need the intervention of the world now. The United States and their Zionist dog must be isolated economically and militarily until they end this horror campaign against Palestine.

The lesson of the Shoah, or Holocaust perpetrated at the hands of Nazi Germany, was not the need for a fascist faux-Jewish ethnostate but the need to prevent all forms of fascism and genocide in the future. The Zionists cannot be allowed to continue to operate modern-day Treblinka and Auschwitz in Gaza or anywhere.

Palestine must be free.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.

Revolution never gets old!

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the workers is to achieve a new socialist path of development, to break the bourgeois system. No reforms or elections will change anything here. And so our eyes are turned to the example of the Great October.

The bourgeois government understands all this very well and strives to nip any movement toward a new revolution in the bud. Repressions against activists follow, bans on peaceful public events under a variety of pretexts, as well as any manifestations of protest in general. There is a desire to ban the very political literacy of the opponents of the bourgeois regime — the teachings of Marxism-Leninism — equating it with

"terrorist" and "extremist" ideologies. But we know from the experience of the 1917 revolution that the thicker the lid that the bourgeoisie tries to push on the cauldron of workers' protests, the stronger the explosion will be.

Long live the 107th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution!

Long live the coming October!

Happy Revolution Day!

Central Committee of the Russian Communist Workers' Party (RKRП-CPSU)

Presidium of the Central Committee of the United Communist Party (OKP)

Central Committee of the ROT FRONT Executive Committee of the Labor

Russia movement

Translated by Melinda Butterfield

Trump's anti-immigrant lies: Diverting

By Gary Wilson

Donald Trump is a fascist and must be fought by any means necessary.

Trump's brand of fascism is rooted in the Confederacy and the slave-owning system, the overturn of Reconstruction, and the terror of the Ku Klux Klan.

Bigotry, racism, sexism, and anti-LGBTQ+ extremism are part of this fascism's weaponry.

It's incredibly anti-worker (don't be confused by any campaign demagoguery). During a live conversation on X with Elon Musk in August, Donald Trump said that striking workers should be fired. Billionaire Musk, a key player in the Trump campaign whose racism is rooted in his apartheid South African origin, said on Oct. 30, just days before the vote, that under Trump, workers should be prepared for "economic hardship," that cuts are coming.

Trump has promised to appoint Musk as chief government efficiency officer. That means that Musk's talk of economic hardship — he's already made painful cuts and waged anti-union warfare at his own companies — should be believed.

Trump's fascist rallying cry is Make America Great Again — MAGA. Most take this as a reference to the post-World War II period in the U.S.

The U.S. empire

After World War II, U.S. capitalism emerged as the world's dominant imperialist power. While Europe and Japan were devastated by the war, the mainland of the U.S. remained untouched.

Unlike war-ravaged Europe and Japan, the United States' industrial capacity was intact and had even grown due to wartime production. Germany was disabled to the point where its industrial output reverted to levels seen in 1890. Meanwhile, U.S. industry surged forward.

U.S. imperialism was triumphant, and the rival imperialist powers were put on a leash but not eliminated. The list of imperialist capitalist powers hasn't changed much since World War I. The United States is the dominant imperialist power, with Britain, Germany, France, and Japan as satellite imperialists. They comprise the Group of Five, now known as the G7, including Canada and Italy. After the Second World War, many colonies became independent while remaining

economically exploited as neocolonies.

In the U.S., after World War II, a military-industrial complex emerged that dominated the economy (President Dwight D. Eisenhower, an Army 5-star general, named it). Wartime research and development led to significant technological development, which was applied to peacetime manufacturing. Consumers had deferred purchases during the war, creating a surge in demand for goods afterward.

At an economic conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, the U.S. established a world monetary system dominated by the U.S. empire. The U.S. dollar became the world's reserve currency. Bretton Woods also established the IMF and World Bank as a means of U.S. influence, dominating the economies of almost every country.

1945-46 massive strike wave

Following World War II, there was a massive wave of strikes across the U.S. in 1945-1946, which secured better wages, working conditions, and benefits — such as pensions and health insurance.

Communist-led workers' movements swept every imperialist country. The communist parties in France, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Portugal were widely popular.

The United States responded with NATO, the U.S.-commanded military alliance aimed at the Soviet Union and its new Eastern European allies, and to put down any revolutionary movements in Western Europe.

The U.S. also launched the Marshall Plan, which put \$20 billion into Europe (in today's dollars, about \$220 billion to \$230 billion) and made similar economic assistance to Japan, meant to smother the rising revolutionary struggles. Germany and Japan rose again as imperialist economic powers but without military industries or major armies, as required by U.S. treaties. Both are occupied by the U.S. military, with the most significant U.S. military bases outside the U.S. itself. The absence of costly military industries and armies actually boosted their economic growth.

In Western Europe and Japan, workers — mostly socialists and communists — fought for and won benefits greater than anything achieved in the U.S., such as medical care, sick leave, vacation

time, retirement, public transportation, and much more.

In response to the post-war strike wave and the rising popularity of socialism in the U.S. and around the world, an anti-communist witch hunt was launched in the U.S. Communists and socialists who had been the backbone of the labor unions were forced out of the unions, attacked, and some imprisoned. The unions were severely weakened, never to recover the strength they had shown, though their gains were not cut back until the 1970s.

Opportunists in the union leadership

The witch hunt was used to put opportunists into the union leadership who would collaborate with the bosses. Working-class solidarity was stifled, while a sense of entitlement and privilege was promoted.

As Lenin noted, the superprofits of imperialist plunder made it "possible to bribe the labor leaders and the upper stratum of the labor aristocracy. And that is just what the capitalists of the 'advanced' countries are doing: they are bribing them in a thousand different ways, direct and indirect, overt and covert."

According to official government statistics, the all-time peak employment of workers engaged in manufacturing in the United States was in 1979. That's when the cuts seriously began.

1979 recession was pivotal

The year 1979 was the start of a recession that was a pivotal moment in the history of U.S. capitalism — possibly even more significant than 1929.

The recession from 1979 to 1982 was anything but ordinary, not merely due to its intensity but because of the lasting changes that followed its conclusion.

Beginning in August 1979, the long-term rise in manufacturing jobs that had characterized U.S. industrial capitalism began to reverse, leading to a sustained decline. By the time the Great Recession hit in 2008-09, U.S. manufacturing employment had fallen to 11.5 million, the lowest figure since 1941, which marked the shift from the Great Depression to the wartime economy of World War II.

Across the U.S., whole industrial districts were ravaged. Cities such as Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland, which

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attention from capitalist decay

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were mighty centers of heavy industry, were cut down, and the great steel mills and factories that had dominated the world's markets were shuttered. The other great industrial center, Detroit, Michigan, the unionized hub of the U.S. automobile industry, was devastated.

Gone with the old factories and mills are millions of well-paying union jobs.

But it's not just old industries like steel and auto. In Silicon Valley, California, the factories — or fabs as they are called — that produced computer chips and those that assembled computers are mostly gone.

U.S. manufacturing jobs have been decimated. Once a source of stable, well-paying jobs (32% of the workforce in 1945-46), manufacturing now accounts for only 8% of all U.S. employment.

Union membership fell from 34% to 10%

This has pushed U.S. workers into lower-paying service jobs (many offering only part-time hours), reshaping the U.S. workforce. Union membership fell from 34% in the 1950s to around 10% in 2023, mostly in public-sector government jobs, with only 6% in private-sector jobs.

Today, living standards are on the biggest decline since the 1930s, driven by the acute rise in prices of consumer goods and services. Prices are 20%+ higher than they were pre-pandemic. Labor conditions are deteriorating, with more part-time and lower-paying government jobs, an increase in second jobs, and little full-time job growth. Health care, education, and many social programs have been cut or eliminated. Food prices are soaring, and housing has become almost unaffordable. In April 2024, CNBC reported that 65% of the workforce lives paycheck to paycheck; wages barely cover essential expenses, such as rent, groceries, utilities, and transportation.

U.S. capitalism in decline

U.S. capitalism has been in decline for decades. The economy has increasingly shifted into unproductive military production, that is, production for destruction, not consumption.

In 2016, Donald Trump's first presidential run, the election centered on the years of economic decline. Donald Trump promised to revive economic prosperity while prioritizing "Amer-



A march of Amazon workers and their allies in New York City.

ica First." He presented himself as an "outsider" challenging the Washington establishment and to "Make America Great Again," referring to the post-World War II 1950s era.

At the time, Bernie Sanders was winning the Democratic Party primaries, talking about socialism and channeling working-class anger over economic austerity. The party machine blocked Sanders and put in Wall Street favorite Hillary Clinton.

Trump picked up Bernie Sanders' anti-corporate message. He told Yale Business School Professor Jeffrey Sonnenfeld that he copied Bernie Sanders's campaign because it was so effective. But Trump's message played on despair and criminalized the victims, the poorest and oppressed; he whipped up racist hatred of immigrants and was wildly venomous against trans people.

So much of what Trump says is racist fantasy. His attacks on immigrants are all lies.

Immigrants not taking away jobs, housing

Immigrants aren't taking away jobs and housing. In fact, it's just the opposite — immigrants expand jobs and housing.

A key factor for U.S. economic growth is immigration, which boosts the labor force, consumer spending, and tax revenues. The U.S. population grew by 0.9% in 2023, primarily through immigration. Capitalist profits come from labor and require an expanding workforce to grow.

Without sustained immigration, U.S. economic growth would fall because of the slowing workforce growth.

Immigrants comprise 18.6% of the U.S. labor force as of 2023 and are crucial in various industries, including construction, health care, retail, and leisure, which face high labor demand. Legal immigrants form most of the foreign-born population, contrary to frequent rants about "illegal" immigration. Immigration is not the cause of declining wages.

Trump's anti-immigrant rants are meant to whip up racism and are a diversion from the real cause of the loss of jobs and housing — the capitalist profit system.

Trump's policies won't stop U.S. capitalism's decline. But their purpose is to enforce austerity while diverting working-class anger away from the capitalist ruling class.

They won't succeed, however. The opposition is already there. Around 40% of those registered to vote did not do so. Although Trump got 51% of those who voted, he actually got only 28% support of people of voting age. Three out of four in the U.S. did not vote for Trump. There was no overwhelming mandate for Trump or his policies.

This opposition can be mobilized into action to put a stop to the racist attacks, the anti-trans assaults, the sexism, and violations of women's right to make their own choices, the union-busting and economic hardship. #

No votes for genocide!

Struggle-La Lucha New York bureau

Nov. 2 — Three days before the capitalist elections, people gathered in Manhattan's Union Square to say no to the mass murder in Palestine and Lebanon. Called by the Shut It Down 4 Palestine Coalition, the action was part of a National Day of Action to say no votes for genocide!

"The U.S. government funnels billions of our tax dollars to Israel as they continue to commit genocide against the Palestinian people," declared the coalition. "During this presidential election, we won't forget the candidates' blatant support for the genocide."

Speakers at the Union Square rally demanded a ceasefire and stopping the endless baby-killing weapons shipments to the Zionist occupiers of Palestine.

People marched up New York City's avenues through Herald Square and Times Square before holding a final rally at the reference library on Fifth Avenue. No matter what happens on election day, the struggle for Palestinian liberation will continue.

Later, just before midnight, several dozen protesters gathered outside NBC Studios at Rockefeller Center to confront Kamala Harris, who made a surprise ap-



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

pearance on Saturday Night Live. As her caravan passed, they waved Palestinian flags and chanted, "100,000 people dead, Kamala, your hands are red" and "Democrat, Republican, genocide is by bipartisan." #

Stop Trump's fascist agenda

Continued from page 1

proxy war against Russia and Netanyahu's genocide could have housed hundreds of thousands of people.

Food prices rose by 27% between January 2020 and September 2024. It was obvious that capitalist monopolies were responsible.

Even the White House admitted that "four large meat-packing companies control 85% of the beef market. In poultry, the top four processing firms control 54% of the market. And in pork, the top four processing firms control about 70% of the market."

Biden's response was to let SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits — formerly known as food stamps — be cut by at least \$95 per month on March 1, 2023.

While the White House refused to sue monopolies, McDonald's did. The exploiter of over two million low-wage workers and the largest purchaser of beef filed an antitrust suit against the four biggest meat packers on Oct. 4.

How many of the 49 million people who had to use food banks in 2022 didn't see any point to vote in 2024?

Capitalists claw back concessions

The 2020 elections were held after the Black Lives Matter movement had swept the United States. As many as 26 million people had taken to the streets.

It was because of these millions that Kamala Harris was made the Democratic

candidate for vice president. If the 2020 election had been held months earlier, when the movement was at its height, Biden's 7 million vote margin over Trump would have been greater.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck earlier that year, billionaires and bankers were frightened. Not so much for their own health, although thousands of them fled their Manhattan penthouses.

They were terrified of what tens of millions of workers suddenly thrown out of work would do. That's the reason why their Congress approved "economic impact payments" that gave thousands of dollars to tens of millions of families.

For the first time in nearly 50 years of cutbacks and union-busting, many poor and working people felt they had gotten a little bit ahead. Rents were frozen while evictions and foreclosures largely stopped.

The number of people living under the absurdly low federal poverty level dropped by 14.5 million people. The number of Black and Latinx children living in absolute poverty dropped by 60%.

So it was all the more painful when Biden and the Democratic Party-controlled Congress let the American Rescue Plan's anti-poverty measures expire in 2021.

The number of people living in absolute poverty rose by 14.5 million people, while the share of children living in poverty rose by seven percentage points.

Meanwhile, rising prices — largely the result of monopolies grabbing as much

profit as they could — canceled any wage gains made by the working class.

The capitalist class recoiled from the anti-poverty measures they felt compelled to carry out at the height of the pandemic. They even think it was these limited programs that fueled the Black Lives Matter movement instead of hundreds of years of oppression.

Fightback to survive

Their rebellion against those concessions makes the wealthy and powerful all the more vicious. Trump, Vance, and their string pullers like Elon Musk and Wall Street hedge fund operators plan to launch an offensive against the working class at home.

They want to axe every program won by the working class in the last 90 years, including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Capitalists seek to jack up the retirement age to 70.

Trump will use the U.S. government's deficit created by the trillion-dollar Pentagon budget and \$950 billion in tax-free interest payments as the excuse to do so.

At the same time, Trump & Co. is targeting the rest of the world, particularly the People's Republic of China.

Trump's scheme to bring industry back to the U.S. is fueled by the needs of the military-industrial complex. But his plan to super-size tariffs on imported goods may self-destruct.

While before World War II, the vast

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Cuba goes immediately into recovery after Hurricane Rafael leaves the island

By Leticia Martinez Hernandez

News coming out of Cuba is spotty this morning as the second hurricane in a week has pounded the island, once again knocking out the compromised national electric grid of the blockaded country.

Ed Newman from Radio Havana Cuba has reported that Hurricane Rafael, which followed a trajectory that passed between Pinar del Rio and Artemisa in the western part of the country, left the island last night at 8 p.m. leaving behind significant damage but at this time there are no reports of any deaths.

Nov. 7 — As soon as Hurricane Rafael began to leave Cuba, the National Defense Council, headed by President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, met to evaluate the steps to be taken after the strong impact of this meteorological phenomenon.

We are going immediately to the recovery, with no time to lose, from the early hours of Thursday, said President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, when heading, on Wednesday

evening, the meeting of the National Defense Council, in which the next steps were evaluated, after the strong impact of Hurricane Rafael.

The meteorological phenomenon reached the western zone of Cuba with category three, and registered winds of over 180 kilometers per hour.

Accompanied by the members of the Political Bureau of the Party, Manuel Marrero Cruz, Prime Minister, and the Secretary of Organization of the Central Committee, Roberto Morales Ojeda, as well as the heads of several ministries, the President indicated to make the preliminary assessment of the damages during the night and early morning, in order to make the first analysis early in the morning, and trigger the recovery process.

The President will be, with several ministers, touring the affected areas as from Thursday, to assess the damage on the ground and make decisions.

The Minister of Economy and Planning, Joaquín Alonso Vázquez, head of the Economic-Social Group of the National Defense Council, informed about the measures taken for the protection of people and material goods, the distribution of the standard family food basket, the anticipated harvests, the production of fuel to the generators, the protection of vessels, the preparation of the brigades for the recovery, among other decisions.

The implementation of the strategy to connect the National Electric System, which has been down since Wednesday afternoon due to the strong winds of the hurricane, is underway, for which electric subsystems are being created in the Center and the East.

The revision of the distribution lines in the West has begun in order to start the recovery of the electric service.

Source: Granma, translation Resumen Lationamericano – English

To make an urgent donation to help Cuba's recovery from Hurricanes Rafael and Oscar visit Peoples Forum:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/peoples-forum-inc/let-cuba-live-donate-for-urgent-humanitarian-aid> #



Stop Trump's fascist agenda

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majority of manufactured items were produced in the United States and Western Europe, today they're largely made in Asia, Brazil and Mexico.

Trump's tariffs will be a wage cut for the entire working class. People will have to fight back.

Next year will be the bicentennial of the first world capitalist crisis. Since 1825, recessions or depressions have occurred every 10 years or so.

While shutdowns during the pandem-

ic may have delayed the next recession, it will break out sooner than later.

The Democratic Party will do nothing to protect us. Many of its big shots are calling to retreat from any opposition to bigotry.

We need to organize ourselves to stop Trump's raids against immigrants. Union organizing drives are the best weapon against all the Elon Musks.

One of the first steps is to demonstrate against Trump's "inhoguration" on Jan. 20, 2025. Mass struggle is our only way to survive. #

From Cuba to Louisiana: Two paths after slavery's end

By Gregory E. Williams

In the first installment of this series, I argued that the populist movement of the late 19th Century was an advance for the progressive forces in U.S. society, given both the violent, counterrevolutionary overturn of Reconstruction as well as the ongoing consolidation of power by the monopoly capitalist class. Populism was a stand against both of these trends.

It should also be noted that the populist movement was one instance in U.S. history when two-party domination of the political system was undermined. The populist People's Party effectively challenged the Republicans and Democrats. This was no small thing at the time. And now, this bit of history is significant in light of the 2024 U.S. presidential election between billionaire-backed candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. Today, many despair at the increasingly obvious anti-democratic nature of the political system.

The circa 1898 government in Wilmington, North Carolina, was especially remarkable. It was a "fusion" government, that is, an alliance between the People's Party, on the one hand, and the Republican Party, on the other. At that time, the Republican Party was still the anti-slavery party. At the same time, the Democrats in the South represented the interests of the white ruling class against both Black and poor white people, with the latter making up the majority of the population. The Wilmington government comprised Black and white officeholders, bucking the post-Reconstruction trend.

The progress in Wilmington was undone by a wave of violence orchestrated by a clique of white racists on behalf of the rich. Prefiguring today's social media disinformation campaigns, they used the press to whip up racist hysteria with lies about Black men sexually assaulting white women. This should sound painfully familiar to us, as we have just witnessed the effects of Donald Trump and J.D. Vance's lies about Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, which led to a slew of bomb threats and school closures. And we have just seen Britain erupt into anti-immigrant vio-

lence, while the working classes of both the U.S. and Britain are under severe economic strain, exacerbated daily by the political leadership.

The remainder of this article will attempt to specify what Reconstruction was since that has not been addressed previously, even though it is essential to this whole reassessment of populism. In the next installment, I will describe how the Wilmington racists orchestrated their propaganda and how people fought back while drawing parallels with the recent events in Ohio and Britain.

RECONSTRUCTION: one of the most democratic periods in the history of the country

W.E.B. Du Bois' 1935 "Black Reconstruction in America" was one of the first systematic works of history to refute the prevailing view – in both academic and the broader culture – that Reconstruction was an erroneous undertaking and a disaster. When Du Bois' book came out, many historians of the Civil War championed the "lost cause" narrative, which painted the Confederate cause as just. They argued that the war was caused by anything other than slavery.

Du Bois marshaled the Confederate leaders' own words against that argument, showing that the Confederacy was founded upon the principle of slavery and that the war was very much fought over it, even if the Washington government's aim at the start of the war was to preserve the union, not to abolish slavery. Moreover, Du Bois showed that Black people constituted the greatest factor in their own liberation. A practitioner of Marx's scientific historical method, Du Bois presented ample evidence for what he called the "general strike" of the enslaved. Masses of the enslaved left the plantations during the course of the war, withdrawing their labor and cutting the Confederate economy's legs out from under it.

Not only that. These masses of Black people who emancipated themselves went over to the Union side and fortified the Union Army with their labor in agriculture and skilled trades. They forced the government in Washington to commit to emancipation. And through their

determination, they induced the government to arm them so they could fight.

According to an article on the U.S. National Archives website:

"By the end of the Civil War, roughly 179,000 Black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. Nearly 40,000 Black soldiers died over the course of the war — 30,000 of infection or disease."

Du Bois saw that the Black freedom struggle was a revolutionary labor struggle with global significance. So did Karl Marx. In Black Reconstruction, Du Bois included Marx's Jan. 28, 1865, letter to U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. Marx stated:

"The working classes of Europe understood at once, even before the fanatic partisanship of the upper classes for the Confederate gentry had given its dismal warning, that the slaveholders' rebellion was to sound the tocsin [alarm] for a general holy crusade of property against labor, and that for the men of labor, with their hopes for the future, even their past conquests were at stake in that tremendous conflict on the other side of the Atlantic."

The Freedman's Bureau

Various experiments in Black self-governance and cooperative economic activity were carried out during the war. These anticipated aspects of Reconstruction, including the formation of the federal Freedmen's Bureau at the end of the war in 1865. Du Bois said of the Bureau:

"In the Freedmen's Bureau, the United States started upon a dictatorship by which the landowner and the capitalist were to be openly and deliberately curbed and which directed its efforts in the interest of a black and white labor class. If and when universal suffrage came to reinforce this point of view, an entirely different development of American industry and American civilization must ensue. The Freedmen's Bureau was the most extraordinary and far-reaching institution of social uplift that America has ever attempted. It had to do, not simply with emancipated slaves and poor whites, but also with the property of

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of populism for today's class struggle

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Southern planters. It was a government guardianship for the relief and guidance of white and black labor from a feudal agrarianism to modern farming and industry. For this work there was and had to be a full-fledged government of men.”

The Freedman's Bureau organized the economy in the devastated South. It built schools, including many of the historically Black colleges and universities that still exist. It helped poor white people for whom the rich planters had never shown the slightest concern.

Reconstruction was one of the most democratic periods in the history of the country. It brought the first public schools to the South. Before this time, only the children of the wealthy were educated. With Reconstruction, masses of poor white children were finally able to attend school, along with their Black counterparts. The formerly enslaved who had been forbidden to read and write began learning by the thousands. Many schools were not segregated at this time. The Louisiana and South Carolina constitutions even prohibited segregation.

The extension of education to poor white Southerners demonstrates the universal character of the Black freedom struggle. This labor struggle – as both Marx and Du Bois understood it – necessitated the uplift of all the oppressed and laboring masses. In *Capital* Volume 1, Marx wrote:

“In the United States of North America, every independent movement of the workers was paralysed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the Republic. Labor cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black, it is branded. But out of the death of slavery a new life at once arose. The first fruit of the Civil War was the eight hours agitation, that ran with the seven-leagued boots of the locomotive from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from New England to California. The General Congress of Labor at Baltimore (Aug. 16, 1866) declared: ‘The first and great necessity of the present, to free the labor of this country from capitalistic slavery, is the passing of a law by which eight hours shall be the normal working-day in all States of the American Union. We are resolved to put forth all our strength until this glorious result is attained.’”

During Reconstruction, suffrage was extended to Black men. (U.S. women of any race were not able to vote until the



A group photo of Freedmen's Bureau students in West Virginia.

movement won that right in 1920, three years after the socialist Bolshevik Revolution gave women the right to vote throughout the old Russian empire.) Not only did Black men vote, but they also held office. Sixteen served in the U.S. Congress, and over 600 in state legislatures. Hundreds served in other offices.

A necessary military occupation

All of this was tremendous progress, which was ensured by the federal government's military occupation of the South, which lasted for 12 years. The last troops to leave the South withdrew from Louisiana on April 24, 1877, a date often cited as the end of Reconstruction. Proponents of the “lost cause” decry the occupation, but it is analogous to the Allied occupation of Germany after World War II.

To the East, the Soviet Red Army helped the people of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and several other countries build their own workers' states and begin the process of reversing the damage done by their Nazi-allied governments. The Soviet role in establishing the socialist German Democratic Republic is an especially apt comparison.

Germany – which had a long tradition of revolutionary working class struggle and one of the most powerful communist movements in the world – had been decimated by Hitler's rule. He had beaten back the working class revolution. Under Hitler, Germany had murdered 6 million Jewish people. But, the post-war socialist government in Eastern Germany was aiding the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and supporting the liberation fighters in Vietnam. The U.S. and capitalist West Germany supported

apartheid. Washington branded Nelson Mandela a terrorist.

With guaranteed housing, child care, health care, employment, and more, socialist East Germany was a beacon for the revolutionary peoples of the world. This is an incredible transformation in a very short period of time. Again, the transformation was backed up by the early occupation by the Red Army and the later Warsaw Pact – the military alliance of the socialist camp in Europe. The Washington-led imperialists relentlessly plotted to overthrow these progressive workers' governments and used the offensive military alliance, NATO, to threaten them.

However, there are many big differences between what happened in the South after the Civil War and what occurred in Eastern Europe following WWII.

Land reform

About a century separated Reconstruction and these events in Eastern Europe. These were quite different periods. A major difference is that with the Bolshevik revolution of 1917, a new global era of socialist and national liberation struggles had been inaugurated. Starting in Russia, countries that had socialist revolutions carried out land reform. This involved breaking up the wealthy exploiters' big agricultural estates and dividing them among the peasants working the land. This was also true for the Eastern European countries after WWII.

Land reform destroyed the power of the old land-owning classes and empowered the peasants. This had also been the dream of the enslaved in the U.S. and

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Trump's racist, sexist, anti-trans cabinet: Declaration of war on the working class

By Stephen Millies

Donald Trump's cabinet picks are a declaration of war against the entire working class. These choices are a domestic version of the Pentagon's "shock and awe" invasion tactics and are meant to smash any opposition.

Here's a preliminary list of these bigots:

Matt Gaetz

Trump's selection for Attorney General is the accused sexual predator and Florida congressperson Matt Gaetz. This pig loves Florida's "stand your ground" law, which was George Zimmerman's excuse to kill the Black teenager Trayvon Martin.

When the Black Lives Matter movement swept the United States, Gaetz, like Trump, wanted to suppress it. Gaetz offered to hire Kyle Rittenhouse — the killer of two anti-racist activists in Kenosha, Wisconsin — as an intern.

He is also a fan of the fascist Great Replacement theory, which claims white people are being "replaced."

This lie was the rallying cry for Nazis to march in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017 and kill the anti-racist Heather Heyer.

Gaetz is guaranteed, if confirmed as Attorney General, to carry out a witch hunt against progressive organizations and individuals, particularly those supporting Palestine. Even if individuals are found not guilty, the legal costs will be steep, and activists tied up.

Pete Hegseth

Fox News bigot Pete Hegseth is Trump's choice to be Secretary of Defense. Hegseth's body has tattoos associated with white nationalism and Nazis.

At the Pentagon, Hegseth will carry out racist, sexist, and homophobic attacks on GIs and civilian personnel. He wants to purge all transgender members of the armed forces.

While Trump and Hegseth are targeting Iran and China, they also want to shoot down protesters at home.

Marco Rubio

Florida Senator Marco Rubio is slated to be Secretary of State. He's a fanatical enemy of Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and all other countries and movements



Trump's AG pick Matt Gaetz resigned from Congress on Nov. 13, just days before the House Ethics Committee investigating him was meant to conclude. Gaetz is accused of sex trafficking minors, drug use, obstruction of justice, and more.

that threaten Wall Street's rule in this hemisphere.

A cheerleader of genocide against Palestinians, Rubio also threatens Iran and China. For anybody who believed Trump's phony anti-war noises, Rubio's appointment should be a wake-up call.

Kristi Noem

Trump chose South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem to be Secretary of Homeland Security, a title that sounds like something out of the Third Reich. She gave Trump a bust of Mount Rushmore with his face on it.

(The tourist attraction, which desecrated the sacred land of the Lakota Sioux nation, was sculpted by Ku Klux Klan member Gutzon Borglum.)

Despite Noem's gift, she was passed over to be Trump's vice-president pick, possibly because she wrote how she shot her 14-month-old puppy Cricket because it was allegedly "untrainable."

The classic song Mississippi Goddam was written and performed by Nina Simone. What Mississippi has been historically for Black people, South Dakota — where the Wounded Knee massacre took place — is for Indigenous nations.

Noem pushed for legislation to suppress water protectors, like those in North Dakota, who attempt to stop dangerous pipelines. That's one reason why the governor was barred from entering the state's nine Indigenous reservations.

The No. 1 job for Noem will be to deport millions of immigrant workers and their families. Trump wants to cancel Temporary Protected Status for immigrants from war-torn countries.

Assisting Noem in these fascist round-ups will be "border czar" Tom Homan, who, in the previous Trump administration, had children separated from their immigrant parents.

Also helping to carry out these raids will be Stephen Miller, Trump's deputy chief of staff. The fascist declared at the Oct. 27 hate rally held in New York City's Madison Square Garden that "America is for Americans and Americans only."

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Kennedy, who hates vaccines that have saved millions of lives, was picked to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. The nut job claims that the COVID-19 virus was targeted so that Chinese and Jewish people are more immune.

Michael Huckabee

The former Arkansas Governor, who had 16 people executed, was appointed ambassador to the Zionist state occupying Palestine. The Christian nationalist claimed, "There's really no such thing as a Palestinian."

We need millions in the streets

As outrageous as these picks are, nobody should think that Trump "can't get away with it." Behind Trump is a battalion of billionaires. Only a massive struggle will stop them.

Like the police murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, Trump's fascist program will be met with resistance. Such a movement has to include unions, community groups, students, the homeless, and more. The first job will be to fight Trump's immigration raids.

¡No Pasarán! Trump shall not pass! #

Palestinian children in New Orleans: 'END GENOCIDE!'

SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams

By Gregory E. Williams

Nov. 9, Harvey, Louisiana – the Palestinian Youth Movement New Orleans and Masjid Omar held a press conference under the heading, “Our children are speaking.” Taking place outside Masjid Omar – a mosque on New Orleans West Bank, where many of the area’s 10,000 Palestinian community members live – kids from as young as five years old to 18 took to the mic to speak out against the Washington-backed and directed genocide being carried out by Israeli occupation forces in Palestine.

These children and youths expressed themselves in many ways: sharp political analysis, poetry, songs, and chants. The younger ones had to stand on a step ladder to reach the mic. Some described personal loss, naming family and friends murdered by the Zionist occupiers with weapons supplied by Washington and paid for with the tax dollars of U.S. workers who can’t afford rent and groceries.

Chants included “Biden, Trump, can’t you see? Palestine will be free!” and “We want justice, you say how? Justice for Tawfic now!”

Tawfic Abdel Jabbar was a 17-year-old Palestinian born and raised in Gretna, Louisiana. He was shot to death by an off-duty Israeli police officer, an IOF soldier, and an Israeli settler on Jan. 19, 2024, while visiting the West Bank of Palestine. President Joe Biden and local governments in the New Orleans area – including Gretna – have been totally silent about this crime; this echoes their silence about police killings of Black people.

Louisiana governor and friend to



‘Our children are speaking: A press conference with Palestinian children of New Orleans’ held outside Masjid Omar in Harvey on Nov. 9.

billionaires Jeff Landry (who tried to prevent hungry Louisiana kids from receiving school lunch this past summer) has ignored this crime just as he ignores every other kind of human suffering in the state.

One six-year-old boy at the press conference said, “Why should you support Palestine? Because you are human.” This cuts to the core. Going along with genocide means forsaking our own humanity.

One young woman said:

“How can someone be treated so poorly when they’re in their own land? Just visiting family members can be an impossible task due to the checkpoints and walls built to permanently isolate the community.

“Children come home worried whether their parents are still alive and well. No child should feel this way. Innocent lives are taken away day by day just for being Palestinian.

“The situation is not just a political

issue. It is a human issue. Every person regardless of their nationality has the right to live in peace and security. We cannot turn a blind eye to the suffering of Palestinians or ignore their struggle for justice.”

Another young woman with autism spoke about Mohammad Bhar, a 24-year-old Palestinian man with Down syndrome and autism murdered in Gaza by Israeli military personnel who separated him from his family and allowed their dogs to maul him to death. She said:

“Mohammad would have been my friend if he was not left to die a painful and lonely death by the IDF. They let loose their dogs on him and forced his mom, brother, and sisters to leave. Mohammad Bhar could have been my friend. Mohammad Bhar could have been me.”

This writer did not see any local news stations present at the event, even though they covered the recent Taylor Swift concert in minute detail. #



What Is the National Day Of Mourning?

An annual tradition since 1970, National Day of Mourning is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day. Many of us fast from sundown the day before through the afternoon of that day (and have a social after NDOM so that participants in NDOM can break their fasts). We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. NDOM is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in action and solidarity.

2024 NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Thursday, November 28, 2024 at 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST Cole’s Hill, Plymouth, MA

Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/NDOM2024>

For updates: Please join and check out the UAINE facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE> for updates on National Day of Mourning this year.

From Baltimore to Palestine: Resist police occupation!

By Colby Byrd

Good afternoon, sisters, brothers, and siblings in the struggle,

I'd like to open with some words from Frantz Fanon, a revolutionary thinker and writer, whose words describing the fight of the FLN against French colonialism in Algeria in the 1950s and '60s rings just as true today. It goes like this:

"Sooner or later, colonialism sees that it is not within its powers to put into practice a project of economic and social reforms which will satisfy the aspirations of the colonized people. Even where food supplies are concerned, colonialism gives proof of its inherent incapability. Once colonialism has understood where its social reform tactics would lead it, back comes the old reflexes of adding police reinforcements, dispatching troops, and establishing a regime of terror better suited to its interests and its psychology."

From tactics to uniforms, there are plenty of disgusting similarities between the Baltimore City Police Department and the Israeli Occupation Force. No knock raids CHECK, forced entries CHECK, corruption CHECK, public executions and humiliations CHECK, Overuse of force and violence CHECK. These similarities are purposeful. These are the tactics of imperialism and colonialism. Tactics that are meant to subdue and scare the members of oppressed and working-class communities. Frantz Fanon explains the dynamic like this:

"The colonial world is a world cut in two. The dividing line, the frontiers are shown by barracks and police stations. In the colonies, it is the policeman and the soldier who are the official, instituted go-betweens, the spokesmen of the settler and his rule of oppression. The policeman and the soldier, by their immediate presence and their frequent and direct action, maintain contact with the native and advise him by means of rifle butts and napalm not to budge.

"It is obvious here that the agents of government speak the language of pure force. The intermediary does not lighten the oppression, nor seek to hide the domination; he shows them up and puts them into practice with the clear conscience of an upholder of the peace; yet he is the bringer of violence into the home and

into the mind of the native. The native cities are deliberately caught in the conqueror's vise. To get an idea of the rigor with which the immobilizing of the native city, of the population, is organized, one must have in one's hands the plans according to which a colonial city has been laid out, and compare them with the comments of the general staff of the occupation forces."

How does the government respond to the issues plaguing our class siblings across the city? ... With more police. Food deserts across town, fill the lots with police to survey the community. Kids not taken care of in school due to poor infrastructure, scare them straight with officers in every school.

Workers wanna organize to protect their rights; they are met with police. People needing shelter and doing what they can to secure the means to survive the day are not met with assistance or sympathy but are instead met with brutality at the hands of police. They are so determined to keep communities policed and subdued that when met with a lack of new officers, instead of looking to solve the root issues in communities and alleviate the pressure on everyone, they double down with drones, AI, and any technological advantage.

Whether it be Baltimore or Palestine, the capitalist ruling class knows it is outnumbered. However, it also knows that to maintain its power, it must scatter its enemies by any means necessary.

In occupied Palestine, there are thousands of Palestinians held illegally by the Zionist state. These prisoners are kept in dehumanizing conditions, where they are forced to endure torture, collective punishment, starvation, rape, and finally be left to die in said prisons. Those that aren't held directly in Israeli Prisons have lived in an open-air prison whether they are in the West Bank or Gaza. Watched by cameras, drones, automated guns, soldiers, and illegal settlers, Palestinians have been forced to accept a world that does not offer them peace. And what little corners and pockets of peace they do find are snuffed out by AI targeting and tracking at a rate never before seen.

Here in Baltimore, the police use nearly all the same tactics to surveil and suppress the people of the city. Who remembers



Working-class activists with the Peoples Power Assembly encounter Biden's limousine while flying for the "Amazon: Invest in Workers, not Genocide" campaign.

the introduction of the spy plane above our skies? Now, it's drones and cameras on corners, in lots and on the countless BPD vehicles parked around the city. In the prisons, inmates fend for themselves and are not given essentials and bare necessities. All the while, prison officials and correctional officers continue to abuse inmates and get away with further corruption. More people are being held without bail for exponentially longer periods of time awaiting their trials, and to no surprise, some have even died while in the hands of the government.

And this government is willing to pay out top dollar to any corporation that is in the business of oppression and apartheid. These businessmen are Google and Amazon with Project Nimbus, the IOF with its Lavender system, which includes the Where's Daddy? And The Gospel AI. Here in Baltimore we have X9 Intelligence as the newest tech company to attempt to profit off of the continued boot on the neck of Baltimore.

Whether it be in Palestine or Baltimore, state-sponsored thugs run loose, harassing oppressed communities, protected and armed by the wealthiest sponsors of imperialism, colonialism, and white supremacy. The Baltimore police

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Working class activists and U.S. President cross paths in Baltimore

By Struggle-La Lucha Baltimore Bureau

Oct. 31 — We and President Joe Biden had very different Tuesdays. But somehow, we crossed paths in Baltimore City, Maryland.

In the first place, Biden and these writers are very different kinds of people. We're members of the Peoples Power Assembly, working on the "Amazon: Invest in Workers, not Genocide" campaign. Biden is a segregationist from Delaware who, right now, is in charge of the biggest, most violent, and most profitable military apparatus in the world.

Resist police occupation!

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are no stranger to these sponsors. Read its history, and you'll see how from the beginning to now, all BPD has been is a front for white supremacy run by all levels of government in the United States, be it local, state, or federal. Likewise, the Israeli Occupation Forces trace their history back to the murderous gangs and militias of Zionist settlers.

On Oct. 7, when the resistance in Palestine rose up and broke the walls of the open-air prison and reintroduced the illegal occupation of Palestine on the international stage, they were also casting out the occupier who for decades was the sole cause of all hardship to their people.

Here in Baltimore, that same spark exists. We saw it during the George Floyd uprisings, just how powerful, determined, and ingenuitive the people of Baltimore can be. We saw how the people took their streets back from the cops and controlled the momentum of all that was ahead. Now more than ever, sisters, brothers, siblings, cousins, and comrades, with fascism here, we will need this spark. To quote the resistance in Palestine:

"There will be no retreat from the path of confrontation, no matter how great the sacrifices are. It is indeed a revolution until the liberation of the land and of the human being."

Long Live Palestine

Long live Baltimore

Long Live International Solidarity

Thank You #

When we woke up on Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024, all we knew was that we'd be leafleting around the Amazon warehouses, getting the word out about the campaign.

When Joe Biden woke up that Tuesday, his staffers and the Secret Service already had his itinerary mapped out. All the appropriate police and city officials had been contacted and coordinated with. Every photo op was carefully vetted, every available police and military vehicle had full gas tanks, and all personnel had a full kit.

His "visit" to the city was nothing more than a stop for ice cream (in one of Baltimore's most gentrified neighborhoods) and a speech at the port. Outside those two stops, Joe Biden traveled with a small army of armed security.

He must have been going to his speech at the port when we crossed paths.

We had already finished leafleting around the warehouse in Sparrows Point for the day. We'd been leafleting around the Broening Highway warehouse for maybe half an hour when we saw Baltimore City police shutting down roads. Curious, we hung around to see what was happening.

Sure enough, the motorcade appeared. We made sure to film its entirety so we could let Joe know we were there and what we were raising to the working class.

While we traveled on foot to meet the workers where they were, the president, boxed away in his "Beast" — the presidential armored limousine — pushed people as far away from him as possible. The sirens of the convoy rang out in unison until they spotted us. One by one the pattern switched and the volume intensified as if to deter us from filming our "public servant."

Of course, the public was not invited to his speech at the port.

It was his usual fare—folksy lip service that rang hollow. It's clear that the White House is desperate to protect its left flank and knows very well that it has to at least appear to address the issues of working people in Baltimore.

In one moment, he congratulated the dockworkers on the higher wages they earned through their strike against automation and, in

another, claimed his party would lead the way in the "modernization" of America's ports. This was a slap in the face of the dockworkers who continue to fight against the tide of automation.

Keep in mind that most of the funds the President announced for Baltimore's ports are still only theoretical. He made no real commitment to fund the rebuilding of the Key Bridge, only that he is "calling on Congress" to pass a bill.

It would go a much longer way if he accomplished any of the demands we raised on his most recent visit. There's a lot of money in the war budget that's funding a genocide that could be spent on infrastructure.

Ultimately, it's all far too little and far too late. No new bridges or tunnels are going to curb the rising police violence across the city. No "modernized" port is going to relieve the food deserts. Schools across the city don't have drinkable water, heat, or air conditioning.

While the ruling class and their personal army in Baltimore City Police continue to get money, the people of Baltimore continue to survive as their public infrastructure remains ignored and crumbling.

What the workers need is a revolutionary change that is far-reaching and absolute. No president or agency has the answers; only the people know what the people need. The people stand with the workers, not with war profiteers or genocide enablers!

Long live Baltimore's oppressed and working class, and long live international solidarity! #



Leafleting near the Amazon warehouses.

Cuba to Louisiana

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should have been the foundation stone of Reconstruction. Land reform did not happen in any meaningful sense. It is not the case that nobody at the time understood this necessity. On the contrary, radical champions of Reconstruction democracy like U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stephens and Senator Charles Sumner articulated the problem. They knew that having political rights was not enough. Black people needed their own economic resources, most especially land.

Nevertheless, as Vince Copeland says in “Southern Populism”:

“The revolutionary U.S. Freedmen’s Bureau had distributed some 800,000 acres to ex-slaves during Reconstruction. But this was relatively, very small. It would have come to less than one acre per Black family had it all been evenly divided. Furthermore, most of this land was taken back by the ex-slaveholders after the 1877 counterrevolution, some of it even before that time.

“By 1880 there were over 6 million Black people in the South. According to Dr. Rayford W. Logan in his ‘Betrayal of the Negro,’ there were 120,738 Black-owned farms in the whole country, most of them in the South. There were three times as many Black tenant farmers, says Dr. Logan, as there were owners. Most of the tenant farms, too, were in the South. Few of the independent farms could trace their origin to any division of the land – least of all to the revolutionary expropriation of slaveholders’ land that never really did take place.”

The U.S. did not have the necessary revolutionary leadership, and thus, land reform was a limiting factor in the Reconstruction process. The fact that this did not occur meant that a new white economic elite could assemble itself in the South, and masses of Black people were subjected to new forms of hyper-exploitation in tenant farming and sharecropping. So, despite the extensive political transformations opened up in this era, the material, economic basis for the oppression of Black people remained in place, and the new Bourbon Southern elite – with their Klan terror – were able to overturn Reconstruction.

All of this is to emphasize that the Black populists (and, by extension, the whole populist movement, which depended on organizing across race lines) was in a disadvantaged position from the outset.

Here is more from Copeland:

“The white Populists were land-hungry, especially in the West, where they saw the railroads and ranch-owners grabbing land a million or more acres at a time. But the Southern Black Populists needed land not only as a way of competing with big business and of growing prosperous. They needed it desperately in order to assert their human right to exist at all in the modern world – that is, in order not to sink into the same slavery that existed before the Civil War. This was only vaguely understood among the whites, who confined themselves to supporting the right of Blacks to vote and did not stir themselves to make an active alliance to help the Blacks get the land.”

A note on Cuba

The question of military occupation notwithstanding, perhaps Cuba is the workers’ state whose experience is most apt to compare with the South. Like the U.S. South and Haiti, Cuba was part of a bigger Caribbean world dominated for centuries by slavery and the plantation system. Slave rebellions shook Cuba in the 1840s. One of the most famous insurrectionists was Carlota Lucumí, a Yoruba woman who led an uprising at the Triumvirato sugar mill. She is counted in the immortal ranks of revolutionaries like Haiti’s Toussaint L’Ouverture and Charles Deslondes, who led a slave rebellion in south Louisiana in 1811, inspired by the Haitian Revolution. But, the “peculiar institution” of slavery was not abolished in Cuba until 1886, 21 years after the end of the U.S. Civil War.

Cuban revolutionaries won independence from Spain in 1898. With the Spanish out, Washington and Wall Street took over, turning the country into a sugar plantation neo-colony. Havana became a mob-run haven for foreign sex tourism.

Dictator Fulgencio Batista’s Cuba of the 1950s was a nightmare for the great majority; he was Washington’s hand-picked stooge. Countrywide, per capita income was half that of Mississippi, the poorest state in the U.S. The average Cuban was living on 312 pesos or \$6 per week. Few rural areas had schools, and children often died early from infectious diseases. Most workers were employed on the huge farms and were out of work – suffering from malnutrition and other plights – during the off-season.

But between 1959 and 1963, Cuba’s revolutionary socialist government carried out land reform, breaking the cycle of rural poverty. They did what the radical Reconstructionists dreamed of

doing. So, even though Cuba has a very similar history of colonial genocide against the Indigenous people and enslavement of Africans, its social reality today is starkly different from the U.S. South. Cuba is as multinational as the U.S. but is infinitely further along on the road to racial equality and is not riven by economic inequality.

This author visited Havana as part of the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation in May 2023. Being from southern Louisiana, this author was struck by how much the old city looked like the New Orleans French Quarter. The architecture is similar – Spanish colonial. But there was one tremendous difference. The beautiful old houses were being used as homes. Colonial mansions were transformed into the headquarters of democratic mass organizations like the Federation of Cuban Women and the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX). There were no homeless people.

New Orleans’ French Quarter used to be residential, but today is an adult Disneyland. Very few people can afford to live there, and tourist shops and short-term rentals take up the historic buildings. Contrasting Cuba and the U.S. South – and U.S. society generally – shows what happens for the common people when the exploiting classes are expropriated vs. what happens when they are not.

The working-class unity that was needed

The Civil War involved a tremendous revolutionary upsurge of the Black masses. It wiped away the power of the planters and advanced many of the unfinished bourgeois revolutionary tasks that were not on the agenda in 1776. But, the crucial economic task of land reform was blocked by a lack of political will. This great labor struggle of the Black masses posed the question of a broader revolution of the laboring classes against not only the retrogressive Southern planters but also Northern industry and finance.

This is perhaps a characteristic feature of revolutionary processes; they carry the seeds of their own overcoming within them. The bourgeois French Revolution necessarily relied upon the laboring masses whose interests did not perfectly coincide with the rising middle class (the bourgeoisie or capitalists) against the aristocracy. It thus posed the question of a laborers’ revolution. This

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was realized some 70 years later with the Paris Commune of 1871 when the workers of Paris established the first workers' state, which lasted for 72 days. The second workers' state, the Soviet Union, lasted about 70 years. The workers' states of China, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, and the DPRK are still standing.

There was a possibility inherent in the post-Civil War situation for freed Black labor, poor Southern white people, and Northern industrial laborers to form a solid bloc. This was the potential, general power of labor made possible by the Black freedom struggle. They could have made common cause with the Indigenous people, too; the U.S. government was carrying out genocide against them before, during, and after the war.

The entrenched nature of racial prejudice (stoked by the rich and their propagandists in the press), the lack of land reform, and other factors kept working-class and oppressed unity from fully developing. The defeat of Reconstruction in 1877 and the unleashing of Klan terror turned the clock back – not just for Black people but for the whole working class and all the oppressed. This meant the industrial capitalists could consolidate power, now unencumbered by the backward slave system. Just a few years later, the populist movement would come to challenge the capitalist dictatorship under the hard conditions of Jim Crow. #

Una perspectiva cubana

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nación por color de la piel, que puedan aún estar presentes en la sociedad cubana, para nada son comparables con la situación en EEUU. Todos los cubanos, disfrutan por igual, de los mismos derechos y acceso a oportunidades bajo el amparo legal de la Constitución de la República.

GEW: Gracias por esa explicación. Esto proporciona un buen contexto para que la gente lo entienda. Por supuesto, el racismo es un problema continuo debido a los siglos de opresión colonial racista, como usted dice. Pero Cuba es proactiva y logra nuevos avances, y no se basa simplemente en viejos logros de la revolución.

Esto es algo que realmente respeto del enfoque revolucionario cubano. Al igual que con los derechos del género y la sexualidad – áreas en las que Cuba está avanzando – es una cuestión de cómo avanzar. En cambio, con los ataques de la clase capitalista en Estados Unidos, estamos retrocediendo. #

A Cuban perspective on race and revolution

By Gregory E. Williams

In preparing Part 4 of this series on the history of the populist movement, I included a section comparing the starkly different post-slavery trajectories of Cuba and the U.S. While preparing that material, I spoke with a young Cuban woman of African descent. We met her during our U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation to Havana in 2023. Here, she is identified as “R” for “respondent.”

Gregory E. Williams: My article concerns the legacy of the Civil War in the United States. Both Cuba and the U.S. abolished slavery after a long struggle. But the reality in the two countries is quite different today because of the two different social systems: capitalism in the U.S. and socialism in Cuba.

Cuba doesn't have racist housing discrimination or police murdering hundreds of Black people every year like in the U.S. So I am comparing that in one section of the article.

What do you think about the progress Cuba has made regarding equality of people of African descent since 1959? Does Cuba have racism in any way comparable to the United States?

R: In Cuba, the triumph of the Revolution in 1959 brought radical changes to the lives of people of African descent.

But, although the progress is unquestionable, manifestations of racial discrimination still persist since it is not so easy to reverse centuries of racist and discriminatory attitudes in 65 years.

In 2019, the National Program Against Racism and Racial Discrimination was created as a strategy at the highest management level to provide a definitive solution to these issues.

However, it is important to mention that the signs of discrimination based on skin color, which may still be present in Cuban society, are not at all comparable to the situation in the United States. All Cubans equally enjoy the same rights and access to opportunities under the legal protection of the Constitution of the Republic.

GEW: Thank you for that explanation. It gives a good context for people to understand. Of course, racism is a continuing problem because of the centuries of racist colonial oppression, as you say. But, Cuba is proactive and making new advances, not just resting on the old achievements of the revolution.

This is one thing I really respect about the Cuban revolutionary approach. As with gender and sexual rights — areas where Cuba is advancing — it is a question of how to move forward. By contrast, with the capitalist class's attacks in the U.S., we are moving backward. #



A sign reading 'La Habana de todos' or 'Havana for everyone' in downtown Havana, Cuba, in 2023.

SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams.

Elecciones en Puerto Rico, inicio de más luchas

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El pasado 5 de noviembre se celebraron las elecciones generales en Puerto Rico. La gran esperanza con la que miles de boricuas, sobre todo, la población juvenil votante quería que se convirtiera en realidad, no ocurrió. Los meses de propagandas mentirosas y asquerosas en contra de la Alianza compuesta por el Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño y el Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana, influyeron en la ciudadanía envejecida que representa la mayoría en esta colonia y que ha sido golpeada por un sistema colonial neoliberal diseñado para servir a los grandes intereses del imperio gringo y sus secuaces aquí en el archipiélago. Los actos de corrupción y las muchas irregularidades en el proceso electoral por parte del partido oficialista, el Partido Nuevo Progresista, incluyendo votos de personas ya fallecidas, que fueron intentos desesperados para frenar el empuje de la Alianza, favorecieron a su candidata Jeniffer González.

Sin embargo, fue un evento histórico donde el candidato por la Alianza, el dirigente del PIP, Juan Dalmau, logró

posicionarse en el segundo lugar, desplazando así al Partido Popular Democrático, que por décadas se había turnado con el PNP, la administración de este gobierno colonial.

Pero los próximos cuatro años prometen ser uno de luchas incessantes que se convertirán en la pesadilla del nuevo gobierno. El despertar de toda una nueva generación de jóvenes y del 60 por ciento del pueblo que votó en su contra, así ya lo está dejando mostrar en sus expresiones de repudio con el dicho “yo no me quito”.

El gabinete que está formando la nueva gobernadora está plagado de hombres misógenos y violentos que así ya lo han demostrado en administraciones pasadas y que ella ha rescatado.

Somos colonia de EUA, y por lo tanto, no somos inmunes a su realidad. ¿Cuál serán las repercusiones de la victoria de Trump aquí? La Jeniffer pertenece al Partido Republicano de EUA y siempre ha salido a la defensa de Trump.

Por otro lado, está el inversionista gringo radicado en PUR para beneficiarse de la Ley 60 de exenciones con-



tributivas, el billonario parásito John Paulson que se ha hecho propietario de los hoteles más lujosos de la isla y construye mansiones para que millonarios extranjeros se radiquen aquí y sigan desplazando a nuestra población. Se dice que será nominado para Secretario del Tesoro en la administración Trump. Su política extrema de reducir los gastos del gobierno abonará asimismo a la política de la nueva gobernadora para el abandono del pueblo que ya ha sufrido por la imposición del neoliberalismo extremo.

Esta combinación peligrosa será indudablemente un combustible más para nuestra lucha por la independencia.

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



Una perspectiva cubana sobre la raza y la revolución

Por Gregory E. Williams

Al preparar la cuarta parte de esta serie sobre la historia del movimiento populista, incluí una sección que compara las trayectorias marcadamente diferentes de Cuba y EEUU después de la esclavitud. Mientras preparaba ese material, hablé con una joven cubana de ascendencia africana. La conocimos durante nuestra delegación de Amigos de Estados Unidos contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia a La Habana en 2023. Aquí, se la identifica como “R” de “encuestado” o “respondent” en inglés.

GEW: Mi artículo trata sobre el legado de la Guerra Civil en los Estados Unidos. Tanto Cuba como Estados Unidos abolieron la esclavitud después de una larga lucha. Pero la realidad en los dos países es bastante diferente hoy debido

a los dos sistemas sociales diferentes: el capitalismo en Estados Unidos y el socialismo en Cuba.

Cuba no tiene discriminación racista en materia de vivienda ni policías que asesinan a cientos de afrodescendientes cada año como en Estados Unidos. Así que estoy comparando eso en una sección del artículo.

¿Qué opinas sobre los avances que ha logrado Cuba en materia de igualdad de los afrodescendientes desde 1959? ¿Cuba tiene un racismo comparable al de Estados Unidos?

R: En Cuba, el triunfo de la Revolución en 1959, trajo consigo cambios radicales para la vida de los afrodescendientes. Pero, si bien los avances son incuestion-



ables, aún persisten manifestaciones de discriminación racial, pues no es tan fácil revertir en 65 años siglos de actitudes racistas y discriminatorias.

En 2019 fue creado el Programa Nacional contra el Racismo y la Discriminación Racial como una estrategia, al más alto nivel de dirección, para dar solución definitiva a estos temas.

No obstante, resulta importante mencionar que las muestras de discrimi-

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