

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA for Socialism | por el Socialismo



# Anti-trans campaign incites violence

By Melinda Butterfield

In the wake of Donald Trump's election, Nancy Mace, a far-right representative from South Carolina, has been the figurehead for a move to ban transgender people from using restrooms on Capitol Hill that correspond to their gender. Publically, this campaign was aimed at Representative-elect Sarah McBride from Delaware, who will be the first openly trans woman in Congress.

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, another fascist, backed Mace and implemented a rule banning trans people from Capitol Hill restrooms.

Unfortunately, the moderate Democrat McBride (who is also a Zionist supporter) followed her party's line and backed down from a fight, agreeing to submit to the new rule. McBride has a private bathroom in her offices, but the rule will harm trans people who work at the Capitol as well as visitors.

McBride (and, by extension, all trans women) are being subject to humiliating discussions of our bodies, misgendering, and dead-naming in the corporate media.

As many trans community voices predicted, McBride's capitulation was immediately followed by Mace introducing a bill to ban

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- Social Security for people's needs
- SFSC 1968: On strike, shut it down!



Ten things to know about Māori MP

- Biden's Aggression against Venezuela
- Dutch fascism: Nazi collaboration to Zionism



# COVID-19 denier and other quacks chosen for top public health jobs

By Stephen Millies

Should anyone trust a doctor who asked, “Is COVID-19 as deadly as they say?” as the pandemic was sweeping the planet? That was the title of a March 25, 2020, Wall Street Journal article that Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya co-authored as the pandemic was already killing thousands.

The doctor disputed the need for necessary public health measures and claimed that the coronavirus would kill at most 20,000 to 40,000 people in the U.S. Bhattacharya was echoing the late, unlamented radio bigot Rush Limbaugh, who had told his 12 million listeners a month earlier that COVID-19 was just the common cold.

As of Nov. 16, COVID-19 killed 1,211,535 people in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The World Health Organization estimates that 7,075,468 people have died globally as of Nov. 10.

Despite his record, Trump chose Bhattacharya to be director of the National Institutes of Health on Nov. 26. The agency has a \$48 billion budget that issues grants to tens of thousands of researchers.

Hundreds of thousands of lives in the U.S. could have been saved if the capitalist government and corporations had protected workers from the coronavirus instead of exposing them to it.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority ordered its 67,000 employees not to wear masks. In a memo dated March 6, 2020, MTA officials told workers that masks “are not part of the authorized uniform; they should not be worn by em-

## THE PRESIDENT-ELECT CHOOSES HIS CABINET



ployees during work hours.” At least 177 MTA workers died from COVID-19.

Donald Trump celebrated Workers’ Memorial Day on April 28, 2020, by ordering dangerously unsafe meatpacking and poultry plants to remain open. By the fall of 2021, at least 59,000 of the industry’s workers had fallen ill, and 269 had died.

Bhattacharya used his medical credentials and Stanford University perch to attack any actions needed to save lives. He told a Florida audience in March 2021 that “the lockdowns were the single biggest public health mistake.” By that time, the pandemic had already killed 538,000 across the United States, including 32,000 in Florida.

The panel discussion was convened by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who wants to drive Black History out of the state’s schools.

### Profits before people

Preserving their profits is more important for capitalists than saving lives, even possibly their own. Falling seriously ill from COVID didn’t stop Trump from failing to protect public health.

The wealthy and powerful consider the

loss of any of their capital to be a fate worse than death. That’s why they resisted the limited health measures instituted during the pandemic and why Trump is now appointing COVID-19 deniers.

The defeated French slave-masters in Haiti had a chance to escape on two vessels owned by Philadelphia ship-owner Stephen Girard. Instead of fleeing, they filled the ships with gold and other valuables.

Jean-Jacques Dessalines administered justice to these torturers and murderers. Girard sold the loot and ended up as the wealthiest person in the United States.

Dr. Huey P. Newton, who founded the Black Panther Party with Bobby Seale, called this behavior “avaricious,” meaning extremely greedy.

Karl Marx quoted T.J. Dunning about the lengths the rich will go to make a profit. “With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10% will ensure its employment anywhere; 20% certain will produce eagerness; 50%, positive audacity; 100% will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300%, and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged.”

Dr. Bhattacharya is part of this tradition. He was one of the three authors of the Oct. 4, 2020, Great Barrington Declaration, which was obscenely named after the Massachusetts town that was the birthplace of legendary scholar and activist W.E.B. Du Bois.

This declaration called for ditching most public safety actions. Instead, it

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# WAGE STAGNATION: The real threat to Social Security

By Lallan Schoenstein

No matter what they say about the U.S. economy, finding a job to support yourself is tough when you are starting out. Finding rewarding and meaningful work is an even greater challenge for most.

If you are that lucky, you're preoccupied with paying off student loans and having enough money to travel or afford your own home. Thinking about a secure future after a lifetime of work might not be your greatest concern.

But listen up! In mid-November, the New York Times reported that the Social Security fund that pays retiree benefits is projected to be depleted by 2033. While they acknowledge that it is not possible for Social Security to go bankrupt — they say beneficiaries could see their checks shrink by 23%.

The Social Security and Medicare trustees just released an annual report threatening that Social Security will only be able to pay 77% of benefits to retirees by 2033. Medicare will only have enough cash to cover 89% of payments for inpatient hospital visits and nursing home stays by 2031.

## Won by worker resistance during the 1930s Depression

Social Security Insurance (SSI) was a plan designed to provide pensions, an income that could not be outlived. It was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the failure of the capitalist economy to insure the survival of a stable workforce was threatened. Roosevelt took measures like this to save the system.

The SSI plan was set up with a payroll tax to be deposited into an insurance trust fund that would provide a retiree income, pay disability benefits, and an income for dependent survivors.

Medicare is a separate program from Social Security. People over 65 and the disabled on Social Security qualify for Medicare. It's financed in a similar way.

From the beginning, Social Security faced opposition from the wealthy sector, which had never experienced the threat of poverty or starvation. Right-wing politicians and their media pundits accused Roosevelt of a socialist plot.

Every year since then, there have been claims that the system is no longer via-

ble, and a plan has been floated to rob this vast fund produced by the labor of the working class. Every time politicians threaten cuts, they back off because of the massive outrage that ensues.

One phony excuse they use when they talk about cutting Social Security is that the population is growing older and that there are not enough working people paying into the fund to support those who have retired. This divide-and-conquer tactic is false for many reasons:

- **This is invalid because of the development of technology.** Today's workforce is immensely more productive than when SSI was established.
- **Even so, wage stagnation is a problem.** The last time the program was seriously revamped was 40 years ago, in 1983. Social Security was projected to remain solvent for 75 years after the reforms. Since that time, shrinking wages have meant shrinking contributions. Any shortfall is because of the continuing decline in workers' wages.
- **The income cap is a blatant swindle** that allows the wealthy to shirk their responsibility to contribute to Social Security. In 1983, the payroll deduction for retirement insurance was imposed on about 90% of the wage income in the U.S. That shrank to about 82.5% by 2000. The wealthy, who don't work for wages, are not required to pay Social Security contributions. It is widely speculated that raising the cap on the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security deductions would eliminate a large part of the program's alleged funding shortfall.

"Growing wage inequality has put more and more earnings outside the

reach of the Social Security tax and is the largest factor behind the deterioration in Social Security's financial outlook since 1983," said Paul Van de Water, a senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

- **Under the law establishing the Social Security Trust Fund,** it was stipulated that it could only be used for Social Security benefits and the program administration. By law, Congress cannot directly divert these funds to be used for other government spending, such as bringing down a rocketing deficit driven by the Pentagon and the military industry.

Of course, there is a back door to raiding the fund. When Social Security's revenue exceeds its expenses, the surplus is invested in special non-marketable U.S. Treasury bonds. In that way, the trust fund indirectly finances the federal government's deficit spending. In 2007, the cumulative excess of Social Security taxes and interest received over benefits paid stood at \$2.2 trillion.

Because surplus funds are invested in Treasury bonds, the government can drain the money in exchange for issuing IOUs to the trust fund.

## Social Security benefits aren't enough

Social Security benefits are often insufficient, covering just a third of what's needed to stay above the poverty line. In the past, pay compensation in any half-way decent job included a guaranteed pension plan that Social Security could supplement. Since the 1980s, these types of pensions have all but disappeared.

Workers are now burdened with managing their own retirement investments through 401(k) plans, subject to the uncertainty of the stock market. Workers lose thousands of their savings every time there is a market downturn.

## Attacks have not let up

Congress has not increased Social Security benefits in over half a century. Cost of living adjust-

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**A protest in January 1931 during the Great Depression**

# San Francisco State College 1968:

By Clarence Thomas

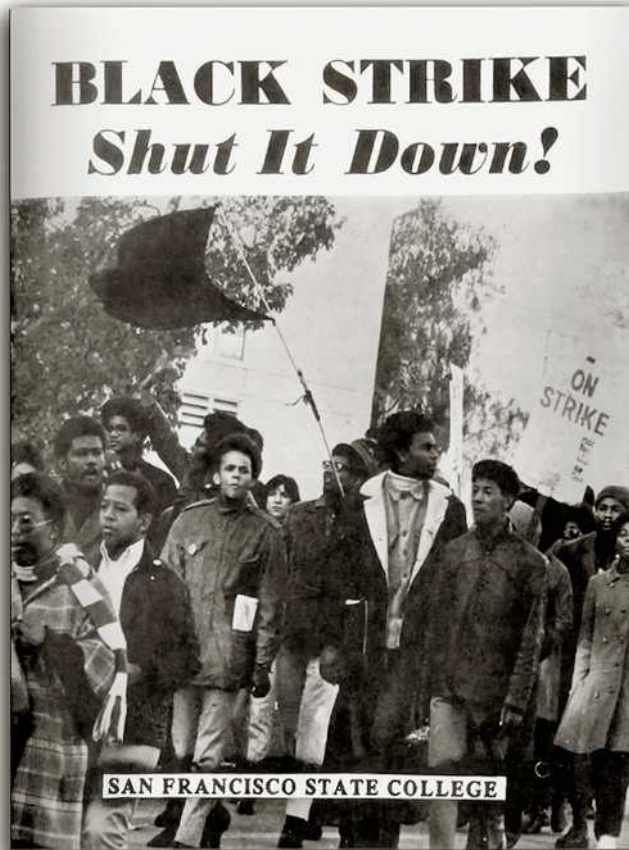
Following is an article by Clarence Thomas regarding the 56th Anniversary of the 1968 San Francisco State College Strike. On Nov. 6, 2024, the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University hosted a luncheon honoring veterans of the 1968 Strike that contributed to making the College of Ethnic Studies possible. The Strike, which lasted 5 months, was the longest student strike in U.S. history. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union played a significant role in the Strike. William “Bill” Chester, International Vice President of the ILWU, was part of the Select Committee, which was responsible for negotiating with student leaders to reach a settlement that resulted in establishing a Black Studies Department and a School of Ethnic Studies.

On Nov. 6, 2024, the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University held a luncheon to commemorate the “56th Anniversary of the 1968 Student Strike,” led by the BSU (Black Student Union) and the TWLF (Third World Liberation Front). I was invited to attend the luncheon as a veteran of the strike, whose activism, along with many others, contributed to the founding of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State and the movements for Ethnic Studies nationwide.

## History of the 1968 strike!

The BSU initiated the strike. The strike started on Nov. 6, 1968, and ended on March 21, 1969, making it the longest strike by students at an academic institution in the United States. The strike had an intended revolutionary character because we, the students leading the strike, “considered ourselves revolutionaries.”

This is how the U.S. government described the strike: “One of the most effective confrontations in the history of the U.S. student movement, the San Francisco State College (SFSC) strike will no doubt serve as a precedent for future campus disruption. The strike has been unique in many ways. Differing completely from the events at Columbia



University in 1968 or the recent disruptions at Cornell and Harvard. The SFSC strike witnessed the formation of new alliances, the use of new tactics, and the mobilization of unprecedented support. The effectiveness of the strike can be attributed primarily to the leadership of the SFSC Black Students Union.” \*

## On strike, shut it down!

The strike was initiated, as mentioned earlier, by the BSU. It was focused on challenging white supremacy in the curriculum of academia, specifically at SFSC, and creating a Black Studies Department as an alternative for Black students to increase the admission of Black students and students of color to the college.

The Central Committee initially had 10 demands which included:

- The establishment of a Black Studies Department.
- The hiring of Dr. Nathan Hare as its chairman with a full professorship, and with the Department’s ability to grant bachelor’s degrees in Black Studies.

The author of this report, Clarence Thomas, head turned left, leading a picket line during the 1968 student strike. Others pictured include: Jo Ann Mitchell, Arnold Townsend, Robert Prudhomme, George Colbert, Jerry Varnado, and Sharon Jones.

- Open enrollment for Black students in 1969.
- That no disciplinary actions be administered to any students, workers, teachers, or administrators during and after the strike.
- That in the Fall Semester of 1969, all applications of non-white students be accepted.
- That George Murray, Minister of Education for the Black Panther Party, maintain his teaching position on campus for the 1968-1969 academic year.

## The Third World Liberation Front!

Members of the Central Committee of the BSU, led by Terry Collins, reached out to Mexican American student activist Roger Alvarado and many other third-world student leaders to organize the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF). This was truly a revolutionary concept that not only expanded the base of striking students but also put forward the demands of all students of color, circumventing the college administrators’ attempts to divide and conquer. This was a wonderful example of building unity and working-class solidarity.

The TWLF demands included:

- That a School of Ethnic Studies be established, having the right to hire and fire any faculty member, director, or administrator.
- That 50 faculty be allocated to the School of Ethnic Studies, 20 of which would be for Black Studies.
- That in the Spring Semester, the College would fulfill its commitment to non-white students by admitting those who apply.

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# On strike, shut it down!

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## International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) supported the strike!

During the student strike, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Local 1352 at SFSC “declared the first strike by faculty in higher education in California.” The San Francisco Labor Council approved the strike sanction. The union struck to protest against racism at the college. The ILWU local leaders and members walked the picket line. Local 10 provided casual longshore jobs to faculty members, workers, and students on strike, demonstrating once again that solidarity is not an empty slogan and that “An Injury to One is An Injury to All.”

## Lessons learned during the strike!

I entered SFSC in the Fall of 1967. Two months later, I was facing expulsion and prison time for defending the rights of Black students to have self-determination and a voice on campus. This was the precursor to Nov. 6, “On Strike Shut It Down”! It was at SFSC that I learned the true meaning of “dare to struggle, dare to win.” How to organize and build coalitions. The importance of political education. How to write a flyer, press release, and conduct a press conference — the importance of studying and applying what I learned into actual practice.

I can’t fail to acknowledge the training and knowledge I received during my participation in the Black Panther Party during those years while active at SFSC. I could not separate those organizations or struggles. Recognizing and understanding the importance of international solidarity. One of the most important lessons of all was working to build alliances with the community.

The BSU had an off-campus center in the Black community. We also had the support of elders such as Dr. Nathan Hare



Photo by Delores Lemon-Thomas.

This photo was taken in August 2024 at the memorial for Dr. Nathan Hare, the “Father of Black Studies.” Pictured are veteran activists of the strike: Hari Dillon, Pastor Arnold Townsend, Clarence “Buzz” Thomas, Professor Sharon Jones, Danny Glover and Dr Ramona Tascoe.

and Dr. Carlton Goodlett, progressive physician, PhD, writer, entrepreneur, publisher, and leftist; Ronald V. Dellums, Berkeley City Council member in 1968; Willie L. Brown, attorney and California assemblyperson; Dr. Asa Davis, PhD, historian; Eileen Hernandez, president of NOW (National Organization of Women); and Rev. Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

## Conclusion

The “1968 Student Strike” ended in partial victory. The BSU and the TWLF agreed to settle the strike with the Select Committee of the administration. In 1969, a College of Ethnic Studies was founded, the first ever in the nation, composed of Black Studies, Asian American Studies, and La Raza Studies departments.

The striking students did not achieve an autonomous School of Ethnic Studies. We could not secure the hiring of Dr. Nathan Hare, whom we in the struggle refer to as the “Father of Black Studies,” because of how he put his academic career on the line during the 1968 Strike! He should have been the first Chairman of Black Studies. This, indeed, was no small loss. The demand for an increase in the admission of students of color led to the formation of the Educational Opportunity Program at all California State Colleges. There were over 700 students and other strikers who were jailed, brutalized, and terrorized by the San Francisco Tactical Squad.

Many of the veterans of the strike were unable to attend the 56th Anniversary luncheon, such as Pastor Arnold Townsend, who recently passed away and was in attendance at Dr. Nathan Hare’s Memorial in late August. I was determined to attend the luncheon, notwithstanding my own health issues. I am grateful to be among those represented for this momentous occasion.

## In solidarity!

### Clarence Thomas

Class of 1970, San Francisco State College, Member of the Central Committee Black Student Union; International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10 retired; Co-founder DeClare Publishing  
Author:

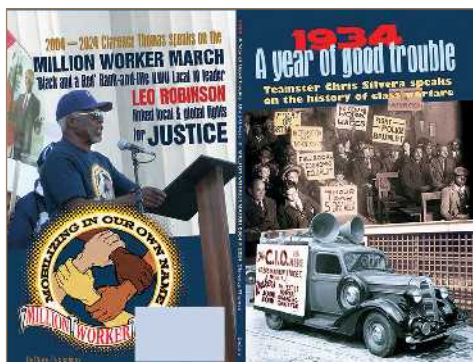
“1934: A Year of Good Trouble – Million Worker March Anniversary,” 2024

“Cleophas Williams: My Life Story in the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10,” 2023

“Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March,” 2021

[www.millionworkermarch.com](http://www.millionworkermarch.com)

\* Excerpted from: *Riots, Civil and Criminal Disorders, Hearings before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Government Operations, United States Senate, Ninety-First Congress- first session (part 22) pg. 571.* #



New release: [MillionWorkerMarch.com](http://MillionWorkerMarch.com)

# From sanctions to sabotage: U.S. backs loser in Venezuela

By Lallan Schoenstein

After imposing genocidal policies that cost his party the U.S. election, President Joe Biden is filling out his final days of office with a slash-and-burn agenda that is even worse than the one he instigated before the elections.

In an outrageous attack on a sovereign country, the U.S. government is attempting to deny the Venezuelan people the leadership of their freely elected president, Nicolás Maduro. The Biden administration declared its belated recognition of Edmundo Gonzalez, the U.S.-funded candidate and big-time loser, in the July elections four months ago.

Biden waited until after the U.S. elections on Nov. 5 to more fully exercise his powers of “regime change” — a bid to overthrow a democratic election in Venezuela. Gonzalez is an old hand, a mercenary for the U.S. During the 1980s Contra war in Central America, Gonzalez, operating from then-President C. A. Pérez’s Venezuelan embassy in El Salvador, was instrumental in running the covert U.S. counter-revolutionary campaign responsible for murdering thousands of Salvadorans.

Even before the Venezuelan election took place, the United States government preemptively declared them illegitimate. Nicolás Maduro succeeded in winning the election despite widespread sabotage



The sign with the picture of Nicolás Maduro say The hope is in the street.

and an economy devastated by U.S. sanctions. The election was conducted with internationally recognized standards of transparency. Following Maduro’s victory, the U.S.-backed rightwing opposition encouraged street violence in an attempt to invalidate the election and ignite a civil war. This failed completely, and Gonzalez quickly fled to exile in Spain.

During his first term in office, President Donald Trump imposed harsh punitive actions by tightening sanctions and seizing Venezuelan assets. President Joe Biden maintained the brutal sanctions in punishment for Venezuela’s re-

sistance to the imperialist expropriation of their vast reserve of oil. Opposition in Venezuela is rooted in the oligarchy that profited from their affiliation with the U.S. oil companies.

Sanctions on Venezuela, as on Cuba and at least 13 other countries, have a lethal impact on the general population. Their imposition has been called “A War Without Bombs” in the outstanding book *The Social, Political and Economic Impact of Sanctions Against Venezuela*. An authorized abridged and edited version of the book is titled *U.S. Sanctions Are Killing Venezuelans*. #

## Anti-trans campaign incites violence

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trans people from using the correct restrooms in all federal facilities nationwide.

All of this unfolded on Nov. 20, the 25th annual Trans Day of Remembrance, when the community mourns those lost to anti-trans violence — every year, the vast majority of whom are trans women of color.

This attack is a signal that the new administration and Congress will move rapidly to enact measures intended to drive trans people out of public life, prevent us from living visibly or holding jobs outside the home, and vastly increase the incidence of violence and state repression.

The Democratic establishment has so

far given every indication that it will continue to capitulate as it seeks to secure a role under the new regime and move further to the right after its election losses.

In December, the U.S. Supreme Court will take up a case on health care for trans youth that is likely to result in strengthening restrictions and set the stage for a planned nationwide ban on life-saving gender-affirming care, including for adults.

Hateful anti-trans scapegoating, which originates with the billionaire class that both Trump’s Republicans and the Democrats represent, has other consequences.

On Nov. 10, a pogrom took place at a Minneapolis light rail station (in Minnesota, considered a liberal “trans sanctu-

ary” state). Two trans women were brutally attacked by men while onlookers cheered on the attackers.

Both women were knocked unconscious, with one having her nose broken and the other receiving “multiple contusions” on her ribs.

In the coming weeks, the trans community will be reckoning with how to respond to these assaults on our very right to exist. Working-class and progressive movements must be ready to play an important supporting role in these efforts.

In the meantime, understand that the trans community is in crisis. We have already lost people who have given up hope and will lose more. Reach out and offer support to the trans people in your life. In public, be supportive of our rights and stand up for people using the restrooms. #



# Dutch fascism revisited: From Nazi collaboration to defending Zionist-led pogrom

By Lev Koufax

As Struggle-La Lucha recently reported, the Western mainstream press has been flooded with alligator tears regarding alleged antisemitic attacks on “Israeli” soccer fans in Amsterdam. In fact, the recent events in Amsterdam constituted a racist Zionist-led pogrom against Amsterdam’s Arab community. The second that community fought back, the U.S. imperialist mouthpieces immediately cried antisemitism.

War criminal in chief Joe Biden referred to the Arab community and pro-Palestine movement’s self-defense against Zionist mobs as “antisemitic attacks” that “echo dark moments in history when Jews were persecuted.” Amsterdam’s mayor, Femke Halesma, went as far as to say that the pro-Palestine demonstrations that confronted the Zionist fascist mobs actually committed a pogrom against Jewish people. The King of the Netherlands echoed this sentiment, stating: “Jews must feel safe in the Netherlands, everywhere and at all times. We put our arms around them and will not let them go.”

The Dutch government’s newfound concern for the Jewish community clashes with their historical record of antisemitism.

There is a common national mythology in the Netherlands that all Dutch people were united in their resolve to combat Nazi occupation and the Holocaust. The Netherlands’ government and media often point to a general strike in February of 1941. The Communist Party of the Netherlands was the main force behind this strike and called the strike in response to the first round-up of Dutch Jews. In response to the strike, the Nazi occupation government and their Dutch counterparts apprehended and murdered over 2,000 communists.

The mythology is not that there was resistance. As just stated, there obviously was a communist-led resistance to Nazi occupation in the Netherlands.

The myth is that most Dutch people actively resisted the Nazis. However, the truth is that resistance came from the working class, with those in power collaborating instead.

After the initial Nazi occupation, the civilian government of the Netherlands actually ordered its bureaucrats and administrators to stay in place to assist Germany with its occupation. Unlike France or Belgium, the pre-war Dutch bureaucratic state mainly stayed in place during Nazi occupation. The Dutch police coordinated with Nazi authorities to round up the Jewish community, and the Dutch National Railway Company played an active role in deporting Jews to death camps.

The scope of Nazi collaboration in wartime Netherlands was expansive. The Dutch National Socialist Movement, about 100,000 members strong at the time, played an active role in enforcing Nazi social norms and crushing resistance. The “Germanic SS” units in the Netherlands found recruitment of agents seamless. At their height, the “Nederlandsche SS” had over 6,000 fanatical members.

As part of the Nazi’s final solution, the occupation government employed as many as 80 bounty hunters who roamed the Netherlands countryside searching for Jews. Those 80 “Jew hunters” arrested and delivered over 8,000 Jews to Nazi authorities, all of whom were delivered to death camps.

In 2025, the Dutch government will actually release a list of over 300,000 individuals who collaborated with the Nazi occupation government during World War II. Since the end of the war, a Dutch

law has kept the public from accessing these records to protect the families of Nazi collaborators.

Beyond civilian government and military cooperation, the Dutch industrial sector welcomed Nazi occupation with open arms. Dutch textile magnate C&A stole Jewish property and used Jewish slave labor during the Holocaust. Oil magnate Royal Dutch Shell, or “Shell,” was run by Nazis as early as 1929, and was openly supportive of a Nazi client regime in the Netherlands. The German government trusted Shell so much that the Germans allowed Shell’s ownership to stay in Dutch hands, which was rare for Nazi-occupied countries.

The depth and strength of this collaboration led to the extermination of 75% of the Netherlands’ Jewish community. In a way, the Dutch government, corporations, and media mouthpieces have been consistent in their support for fascism. The same way those institutions came to the aid of Nazi occupiers in the 1940s, the current U.S.-backed fascist project of “Israel” has found a friend in the Netherlands’ ruling class and its state apparatus.

The Dutch response alleging antisemitism is not a genuine defense of Jewish people, just another chapter in the long history of Dutch collaboration with fascism.

*Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.*

A Swastika flying in WW2 on the flagpole over the main entrance at the headquarters of Royal Dutch Petroleum in The Hague, Netherlands.



# People over profit: How China tackled climate change

By Scott Scheffer

It's so fitting that just after the 75th anniversary of China's revolution on Oct. 1, a milestone in China's efforts to deal with greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) has emerged in the narrative surrounding global warming. What they have accomplished shows how people's ownership of the world's productive forces, instead of a tiny clique of billionaires owning everything, will solve this planetary crisis.

Climatologists and scientists widely recognize that China will likely reach its peak greenhouse gas emissions in 2024, although further research will be needed to confirm this with complete accuracy. If the data ultimately shows that the peak does not occur in 2024, it is almost certain to happen in 2025. Even in that case, China would still achieve peak emissions five years earlier than its official target, which President Xi Jinping announced at the 2020 UN General Assembly. This target aimed to reach peak emissions by 2030.

Other countries have reached peak emissions as well, but because China is so huge, UN figures and climatologists are buzzing with excitement over this development. It has great implications for the entire world, particularly for the Global South.

U.S. corporate media often portray China's crowning achievement as a problem rather than progress.

## Mass production of renewables

Chinese mass production of renewable energy components — wind and solar — has driven down the prices globally. It isn't just the solar panels on rooftops that millions are aware of; China has developed renewables on an industrial scale — wind and solar farms built at much lower costs and capable of supplying energy for cities and industry.

What this means to the Global South cannot be overstated. For instance, a struggling country in Africa, Latin America, or Asia relying on coal for energy can now replace a decrepit coal-fired power plant with a solar or wind farm more cheaply than repairing or replacing that coal plant.

The flaw of wind and solar power's intermittent ability is still there. China is still running coal plants in its territory as a backup for those times when the sun



The panda solar farm in Datong, China.

goes down, or the wind stops.

On average, Chinese coal plants run half the time or less. This simple first step provided what seems to be an out-sized result, and it can be replicated where it is needed in the Global South until the intermittency problem with renewables is resolved via other methods.

## Control over the means of production

The Communist Party of China faces a real challenge — trying to balance raising and safeguarding the living standards of 1.4 billion people while still developing its scientific and productive capacities and combating climate change at the same time.

China's capacity to overcome significant challenges stems from the people's control over the means of production.

When the world's manufacturing shifted to China in 1979, private interests began to invest in mines and other power generation sources. But that didn't last long because the CPC recognized that energy has to belong to the people, and they began nationalizing the mines. That process began in the 1980s, and now the number of mines in private hands is insignificant, and they are the smallest, least productive mines.

## Inexpensive EVs

Chinese mass production of inexpensive electric vehicles has also been a factor in moving forward in the campaign to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Workers in China can now afford the price of a car, not only because 850 million people were lifted out of extreme poverty but also because China has wonderful, inexpensive electric cars.

Over the past decade, the Chinese state has spent \$230 billion on research and development of EVs and batteries. China's spectacular success in producing electric vehicles has prevented a surge in emissions from the increased use of cars.

Some of China's EVs sell for as little as 10,000 U.S. dollars. They are getting rave

reviews and are being sold in Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe.

The Biden/Trump tariffs make buying one in the U.S. difficult, but the no-emissions cars are now helping to cut emissions throughout the rest of the world. The sales and use of EVs in China's territory alone are a significant factor in reducing the world's GHG emissions.

Beyond cars, the shift to electric power for trucks and trains, both passenger and freight, has been crucial in curbing emissions and achieving peak emissions goals.

## Environmental protection in the constitution

The Communist Party of China has taken the significant step of incorporating environmental protection into both its party constitution and the constitution of the People's Republic of China.

The leadership of the CPC and the Chinese state do not face opposition from super-rich monopoly corporations. Still, this achievement of reaching peak emissions doesn't mean that reaching "net zero" by the year 2060 will proceed in a straight line.

Like many developing countries, China is still struggling to overcome what it calls the "century of humiliation," when imperialist Western countries robbed China of its resources and used their military advantage to enforce the theft. The 1949 revolution was only the first step, and it still faces challenges.

In the short term, China needs to develop AI, which will require a lot of electrical energy. Their goal is to power AI with renewables.

They are also investing in research and development of many projects, ranging from areas that seem nearly ready to use, like green hydrogen as fuel whose only by-product is water, to their "artificial sun," China's fusion energy project. All of this is being implemented and studied while also trying to help develop the resources for global south countries to mitigate global warming and help them adapt to climate change.

2024 will prove to be the hottest year on record globally. Alongside the horrors of the genocide in Gaza and the U.S. proxy war against Russia, capitalism has dished out the most punishment of the planet in recent memory. Only socialism can end imperialist war and save the planet. #



# Biden escalates NATO war on Russia

By Gary Wilson

In a menacing shift of U.S. policy with less than two months left in office, President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine to use U.S. long-range missiles for strikes deep within Russian territory, potentially engaging in a direct NATO war on Russia.

The authorization, reported on Nov. 17 by the New York Times, explicitly permits Ukraine to employ the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) — a long-range missile designed for support of ground troop incursions — against both Russian forces and North Korean troops allegedly operating in Russia's Kursk region.

Kim Jong Gyu, North Korea's vice foreign minister, described the dispatch of Korean People's Army forces to Russia as a "rumor." U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, at a news conference with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, seemed to admit this when he said that "we've not seen" North Korean troops in combat."

So, while there are no North Korean troops active in combat in Russia, the Biden administration's authorization for ATACMS missiles specifically says North Korean troops are a target, according to the New York Times.

The missile authorization also opens the door for U.S., British, and French long-range weapons to target Russian cities far from the front lines, including potentially Moscow itself.

This development crosses what Russian President Vladimir Putin has explicitly labeled a "red line." This can be taken as an act of war by NATO, not the Ukraine proxy army.

The Biden administration had delayed the authorization until after the presidential election, hoping a victory for Vice President Kamala Harris would provide a mandate for escalation.

A recent White House meeting between Biden and Trump ostensibly focused on ensuring a "smooth transition" of power, including "cordial" discussions about Ukraine. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan emphasized Biden's intention to use his remaining 70 days to continue the proxy war against Russia. Biden promised to extend arms and other resources to the war effort.

On Nov. 8, just days after the defeat of Kamala Harris (the defeat was in part a refusal to vote for the Gaza siege and her pro-war message — "I will ensure America always has the strongest, most lethal fighting force in the world"), the Biden



U.S. Army unit firing an ATACMS.

Photo: U.S. DoD

administration lifted a de facto ban on U.S. military contractors deploying to Ukraine to help the country's military maintain and repair U.S.-provided weapons systems, particularly F16 fighter jets and Patriot air defense systems. This sets up a potential tripwire scenario should U.S. military contractors be casualties of Russian airstrikes, which could serve as a justification for significantly escalating U.S. military involvement in the war.

The Biden administration's significant escalation occurs against the backdrop of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, intensified Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon and attacks on Iran, with growing talk in the U.S. media about the possibility of a "Third World War."

## COVID-19 denier and other quacks

*Continued from page 2*

called for the establishment of "herd immunity" as soon as possible. This meant letting many millions of people — hopefully younger and healthier — be infected with COVID-19, which could make them immune and supposedly help wind down the pandemic.

Bhattacharya was also against vaccinating children, demagogically claiming it would mean fewer doses "available for high-risk older people in Brazil, Congo, India or Mexico." As if Big Pharma was rushing to help: Pfizer would later overcharge South Africa for vaccines.

### More dangerously unhealthy picks

So it's fitting that Jay Bhattacharya was a 2024 recipient of the Bradley Prize, awarded by the ultra-right Bradley Foundation. Its endowment of \$850 million was from selling the electrical controls manufacturer Allen-Bradley, whose Milwaukee factory refused to hire Black workers.

A 2016 Bradley Prize winner was Charles Murray, who was the co-author of *The Bell Curve*, which claimed intelli-

genics was linked to race. Politico had declared this the World War III election. George Will wrote in the Washington Post that World War III is already underway. "Beginning Jan. 20, 2025, the next president will cope with today's axis: China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea," Will says.

Although Trump says he will end the Ukraine war quickly, he never says how. His is a "strongman" boast, not an anti-war message. In his first term in office, Trump's administration laid the groundwork for escalating NATO intervention. In 2019, Trump became the first U.S. president to authorize large-scale shipments of lethal weapons to Ukraine, a move seen as integrating the country's military into NATO, which eventually provoked Russia's Special Military Operation against NATO expansion.

In 2018, the Trump administration's national security strategy marked a pivot for U.S. foreign policy. It emphasized "great power competition" over the previous focus on combating terrorism, explicitly identifying China and Russia as the central priority of U.S. national security efforts. Trump comes now not to end war but to expand the war efforts. #

genics was linked to race.

Trump chose Robert Kennedy, Jr. — who scorns life-saving vaccines, including those against measles — as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Fox News commentator Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, who sells her own brand of dietary supplements, was appointed Surgeon General. The TV huckster Dr. Oz was picked to head the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Capitalists want to massively slash both Medicare and Medicaid. Over 72 million people depend on Medicaid, a drop of millions from 2022.

Meanwhile, the bird flu is getting worse and may cross over massively to humans to become another pandemic. It's already been found in raw milk, a favorite drink of Robert Kennedy, Jr., who disdains pasteurization. Louis Pasteur knew raw milk could be dangerous more than 150 years ago.

The Trump team will be even more useless in a possible future pandemic than it was against COVID-19. Only by fighting back can the people's and labor movements prevent such a disaster. #

# Ten things to know about Māori MP

By Arama Rata

On Nov. 14, 22-year-old Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke made global headlines when she performed a powerful haka, a Māori war cry, in New Zealand's Parliament, tearing a copy of a controversial bill as part of her protest. A TikTok video of the moment, posted by Māori Television, has since been viewed over 200 million times and has garnered over 25 million likes in just three days. Online pundits have debated the effectiveness of the theatrical protest, but the bigger questions remain: Who is this young lawmaker? Why did she perform this haka? And what impact is her action likely to have on the broader movement for Māori sovereignty? Here are ten things you should know about Hana's haka.

## Hana's election victory

Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke was elected to Parliament at just 21 years old, making her New Zealand's youngest Member of Parliament in 170 years. Her victory was surprising—not because of her age, but because she unseated one of the country's most seasoned politicians, Nanaia Mahuta, to win the Hauraki-Waikato Māori electorate seat.

Mahuta, a long-serving Labour MP, was widely considered certain to retain her seat. In 2017, experienced tribal leader Rāhui Papa had contested the seat against Mahuta with the full backing of the Māori King, only to suffer a crushing defeat in a race that seemed to solidify Mahuta's unshakeable hold on the electorate.

## Hana's rise in popularity

So how did Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke secure her historic election victory against such a formidable opponent? Part of the shift in voter preference can be attributed to declining support for the Labour Party, which, despite two terms in power, had delivered little for Māori. In contrast, the Māori Party's popularity had been rising since it secured two seats in the 2020 election with its campaign to be “unapologetically Māori.”

A key factor in Hana's rise was the series of threats she faced in the lead-up to the election—including home invasions, vandalism, and a threatening letter. When asked if these attacks had intimidated her, Hana responded with resolve: “Don't be scared, because the Kohanga Reo generation is here,” referring to the generation of Māori educated in Māori language immer-



**Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke made global headlines when she performed a powerful haka, a Māori war cry, in New Zealand's Parliament, tearing a copy of a controversial bill as part of her protest**

She was joined by members of her own party, Māori MPs from Labour and the Greens, and a packed public gallery.

The haka Ka Mate was composed in 1820 by celebrated Māori leader Te Rauparaha of the Ngāti Toa Rangatira tribe.

sion schooling from an early age. Rather than weaken her campaign, Hana's steadfastness in the face of these threats only secured greater support.

## Why Hana performed a haka

Hana performed the haka Ka Mate during Parliament's first reading of the controversial Treaty Principles Bill—an attempt by the far-right coalition government to strip Māori of their Treaty rights. The bill is widely regarded as one of the most egregious measures in a series of legislative changes pushed by the government, which Māori view as direct attacks on their health, language, culture, and land rights.

A 9-day nationwide hīkoi (protest march), beginning at the northern tip of New Zealand's North Island, was planned to arrive at Parliament on the day of the bill's first reading. However, with just two days' notice, the government moved the first reading forward, scheduling it for a date just four days into the hīkoi—when the marchers had only reached the Waikato region. This move was widely perceived as a cynical, anti-democratic attempt to stifle debate and avoid the pressure of Māori exercising their right to protest. By performing the haka, Hana disrupted parliamentary proceedings as the votes were being counted.

## What Hana said in Parliament

Hana began by calmly stating in her native language, “Six votes opposed.” She then performed a pao—an impromptu song—reminding members of Parliament of their place within the country: “Government! You were made a guest by me!” Despite Speaker of the House Gerry Brownlee's attempt to interrupt, Hana launched into the iconic haka Ka Mate.

It speaks to moments of “life or death” and celebrates the triumph of surviving seemingly insurmountable odds, making it an apt protest against the controversial bill.

Hīkoi is a Māori word meaning “walk,” but as a form of activism, it has taken on a deeper significance and played a central role in the Māori sovereignty movement. The tactic was famously used in the 1975 Land March to oppose the theft of Māori land and again in 2004 to protest the Foreshore and Seabed Act.

The latest hīkoi was led by Toitū Te Tiriti, a group with strong ties to Hana's political party. It began at Te Rerenga Wairua, the northernmost point of New Zealand, and involved relay teams physically traversing the land, accompanied by car convoys traveling between protest action points. In this way, the land was symbolically and physically reclaimed, while momentum built as the hīkoi progressed toward Parliament. On Tuesday, November 19, the hīkoi reached Wellington, where the march on Parliament was one of the largest in the nation's history.

## Hana's role in the hīkoi

While Hana has received widespread praise for her haka, less attention has been given to her earlier work that day in the Waikato region, 550km north of Parliament. Hana met the hīkoi in her hometown and completed a 16km relay leg through her electorate. There, she delivered a speech and expressed a mix of weariness and hope, saying, “I'm sick of fighting.” She urged Māori to update the rallying cry, Ka whawhai tonu mātou! Ake! Ake! Ake! (We will fight forever and ever and ever), to Ka ora tonu mātou!

*Continued on page 11*



# Hana's haka

*Continued from page 10*

Ake! Ake! Ake! (We will live and be well forever and ever and ever).

## Hana's international recognition

Despite being only one year into her political career, Hana-Rāwhiti Mai-pi-Clarke has already received international recognition. This year, Time magazine named her as a 'next generation leader', and she was one of four people to be awarded the 'One Young World Politician of the Year'.

## Hana's view of the world

Hana is a member of Te Pāti Māori (The Māori Party), which currently holds six seats in Parliament and has been vocal in its criticism of New Zealand's foreign policy. In a statement on Gaza, the party condemned the government for "turning a blind eye to genocide" and urged New Zealand to end its role in "providing political cover for US-funded imperialism" and "acting as a Pacific spy base for the Five Eyes Alliance." The party also demanded "an immediate ceasefire in Gaza" and called for New Zealand to "expel the Israeli and United States ambassadors" until a ceasefire is achieved.

## Reactions to Hana's haka

The viral video of Hana's haka has sparked online debate about the effectiveness of using haka as a protest tactic, particularly when performed by a mem-



ber of Parliament. Critics who argue that a haka alone won't achieve meaningful change often fail to acknowledge the broader context of the concurrent mass mobilization. Meanwhile, those who label Hana's haka as "uncivilized" can be dismissed as racist.

Some critiques, however, have raised important points—ones that those within the Māori protest movement are acutely aware of. Protest movements should be led by the people, not politicians. Yet, the group leading the recent hīkoi has become closely associated with Hana's Māori Party, creating a contradiction: the type of transformative change needed cannot be achieved through electoral politics alone. A broader political solution, such as constitutional transformation, is essential. Māori must remain vigilant to ensure the movement for constitutional justice is not co-opted for electoral gains within the settler government framework.

# Social Security

*Continued from page 3*

ments (COLAs) are an inflation-adjusted increase that is part of the plan. The COLAs have never kept up with the actual rate of inflation, thus reducing the benefit payment over the years.

In 1983, when the program was revamped, Social Security benefits became taxable income.

The 1983 revamp also gradually increased the full retirement age. Before 1983, everyone's full retirement age (at which you receive 100% of your calculated benefit) was 65. The full retirement age is now 67 and beyond.

Another vicious attack was levied on those who needed benefits the most. In 1996, people suffering from drug or alcohol addiction were no longer eligible for disability benefits.

2009 saw two major cuts to Social Security. People without citizenship docu-

mentation were barred from receiving SSI, even though they had very low incomes and needed it.

The Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act of 2009 revoked the right of incarcerated individuals to receive Social Security benefits. This affected people of color who are disproportionately jailed. Many prisoners are forced to work for pennies a day, sometimes in dangerous conditions. None of their labor is accounted for in pension benefits.

If the threat to overthrow hard-won rights protecting same-sex marriage is carried out, it means that hundreds of thousands of spouses would no longer receive survivor benefits.

The struggle for Social Security never ends. We must fight to protect it.

We need Social Security to support everyone with an income that ensures the well-being of all. #

Additionally, hīkoi as a tactic alone would be insufficient unless it is clear that the mass mobilization is prepared to escalate if their demands are not met. Hana hinted at this potential, stating that if the government continues to push the bill, "honestly, it's going to cause riots."

## Hana's own reaction to her haka

After halting proceedings with her haka, Hana exited the House, where she was immediately surrounded by reporters asking why she had performed the haka. Hana casually responded that she was simply being Māori, as that's all she knows. Her words reflected those of the late Māori King, Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII, who addressed legislative attacks on Māori at a gathering earlier this year. In August, he said:

"The best protest we can make right now is being Māori. Be who we are. Live our values. Speak our reo. Care for our mokopuna, our awa, our maunga. Just be Māori. Be Māori all day, every day. We are here. We are strong."

## Upholding Te Tiriti

On Tuesday, November 19, the hīkoi arrived at Parliament. While the Treaty Principles Bill is unlikely to pass its second reading, there remains the possibility of a citizen-initiated referendum on the bill. If this occurs, Māori—who make up 17.8% of New Zealand's population—could face the tyranny of the majority, similar to what happened during Australia's Voice to Parliament referendum.

However, the hīkoi has always been about more than the Treaty Principles Bill. The Toitū te Tiriti hīkoi is a movement to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi—the true Treaty, written in Māori. If fully honored, the Treaty calls for radical constitutional change in Aotearoa. While the current far-right government's attacks on Māori have been distressing, they have also served to unite, galvanize, and radicalize the community. As Hana herself put it:

"Why are they [the Crown] consistently dictating over us when that's not what the Treaty says? That is not what our founding document says. It says, you look after your people, we'll look after our people, and we can get along. It does not say you govern over us. And that's the bigger question that we're starting to ask ourselves now."

*Dr. Arama Rata is a Māori independent researcher in Aotearoa New Zealand.*

*Source: Peoples Dispatch*

# Las armas secretas eran de Trump

Por Rosa Miriam Elizalde,  
La Jornada

Mentir no es complicado, sino aguantar una mentira en el tiempo.

Han pasado siete años del gran embuste conocido como el “síndrome de La Habana”, según el cual diplomáticos estadounidenses padecieron supuestas agresiones acústicas en Cuba que comprometieron su salud. Una de las especulaciones en boga era que los “sonidos dolorosos” que percibían de manera selectiva los funcionarios se debían a ataques con armas de microondas. Con el tiempo, el bulo se fue desvaneciendo por falta de evidencia científica

—no hubo manera de explicar cómo un sonido ataca a unos individuos y a otros no en una misma habitación—, pero ahora nos enteramos de que el gobierno de Estados Unidos es quien ha experimentado con sistemas de microondas de alta potencia (HPM, por sus siglas en inglés) para detener vehículos o embarcaciones al interferir sus sistemas electrónicos.

De acuerdo con una investigación publicada por la revista estadounidense Wired (<https://acortar.link/s0CXpG>), la Agencia Central de Inteligencia de Estados Unidos tiene al menos un misterioso sistema capaz de inutilizar “de manera encubierta (y no violenta)” barcos, incluidos los de gran tamaño. El dispositivo fue considerado para su uso contra los buques cargados de petróleo que navegaban entre Venezuela y Cuba durante la presidencia de Donald Trump.

“La administración Trump pensó que si EU interceptaba o sabotaba de alguna manera los barcos petroleros que navegaban desde Venezuela a Cuba, podría asestar un golpe a ambos regímenes”, declaró una fuente de la CIA a Wired, que publicó esta revelación el pasado 31 de octubre como parte de una investigación más amplia sobre los esfuerzos fallidos de Washington para derrocar al presidente venezolano, Nicolás Maduro, entre 2018 y 2020.

El sistema en cuestión no sólo tiene capacidad de emplear técnicas para detener o ralentizar una embarcación sin causar daños en la estructura del barco, sino que se complementa con ataques



La embajada de Estados Unidos en La Habana.

Foto: Bill Hackwell

TWZ asegura que contratistas de defensa de EU trabajan desde hace años en sistemas emisores de microondas especialmente desarrollados para derribar enjambres de drones de forma rápida y a muy bajo costo. Existen al menos dos

programas para el uso de estas armas, como el High Power Joint Electromagnetic Non-Kinetic Strike (Hijekns) y el Counter-electronics High Power Microwave Missile Project (Champ), al parecer usados contra buques iraníes en el mar Rojo y al amparo de la alianza entre Washington y Tel Aviv.

Eliminada la pista esotérica del “síndrome de La Habana” que engañó incluso a respetables académicos estadounidenses, queda lo que sí pueden hacer el gobierno de Estados Unidos y algunos de sus satélites. Ahora sabemos que el alboroto de la primera administración Trump por los supuestos ataques a sus diplomáticos no era más que la proyección de lo que se cocinaba en Washington y de lo que el gobierno estadounidense se negaba a ver de sí mismo: su violencia, su injusticia, su desprecio por la verdad, su indiferencia por la suerte del otro, su feroz individualismo.

No olvidemos que con el pretexto del “síndrome de La Habana” se impusieron más de 240 sanciones adicionales de bloqueo a Cuba, que ha llevado al país caribeño a la crisis actual. Y si así fue la primera temporada de Trump y sus halcones, ¿qué otras armas secretas nos esperan? ¿Con qué mentiras intentarán politizar sus nuevas canalladas? #

electrónicos que interfieren las comunicaciones claves de la embarcación. Según Wired, la CIA valoró el uso de microondas que requieren acercarse discretamente al objetivo, lo que implica el uso de plataformas no tripuladas o disfrazadas para reducir el riesgo de detección.

“Al menos una opción involucraba a la CIA, que tiene un sistema móvil que puede inutilizar barcos de manera encubierta (y no violenta). Los funcionarios de la administración Trump querían que la agencia trasladara el sistema cerca de Venezuela, para atacar algunos de sus buques de combustible”, continúa Wired. “La agencia se negó. Los funcionarios de la CIA explicaron que sólo tenían uno de estos sistemas, que en ese momento estaba en otro hemisferio y que no querían trasladarlo al extremo norte de Sudamérica.”

El detalle de que la CIA sólo tenía uno de estos sistemas en otro hemisferio, es muy significativo, según The War Zone (TWZ), plataforma de análisis de temas militares: “Esto parecería indicar que el sistema en cuestión ya se está desplegando fuera del hemisferio occidental, y posiblemente con un objetivo muy específico en mente. Esto también podría indicar una reticencia a exponer potencialmente lo que este sistema puede hacer, a menos que se produzca una crisis especialmente grave u operaciones clandestinas de muy alta prioridad”.

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