

STRUGGLE★LA LUCHA

for Socialism por el Socialismo



¡Esencia no va!

War on Black people rages at home

By Colby Byrd

This country does not care about Black people. This system does not respect Black bodies. There is only so much that turning the other cheek can do when the enemy will continue to kill us whether we are appeasing the system or fighting it.

Since 2025, there have been a number of lynchings of Black people that have been underreported. Black men, Black women and Black children all found hanging. Demartravion "Trey" Reed was found in Mississippi in September 2025. Tory Medley was found hanging on a golf course in Wisconsin in November 2025. Kyle Bassinga was a 21-year-old man found hanging in Cobb County, Georgia in February. In June, Jerard "Jay" Jackson was found hanging near Rothbury, Michigan. Demetrius Fleming was found hanging in North Carolina this August. Tasia Fortune was a 29-year-old Black mother found hanging in Jackson, Mississippi this August. There are other cases

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A memorial and "Justice for Corey Ruiz" banner in Madison, Wisconsin, after police killed the 38-year old Black man in July 2026.

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WAGE
WAR

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Salad monopoly's deadly outbreak



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IRAN WAR, \$40 U.S. trillion debt & capitalist crisis

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White House can't force the world to blockade Iran

U.S. bombs a wedding in Iran

Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladić death revives NATO lies on Yugoslavia

The African Holocaust has never stopped – REPARATIONS NOW

By Stephen Millies

Aug. 29 – "They stole us! They sold us! They owe us!" The chant carried through Fulton Park in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn, New York, as 200 people came to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the World Conference Against Racism. The rally was called by the December 12th Movement and supported by the National Black United Front along with other organizations.

It was one of many rallies held that day across the United States and around the world. Rallies were also called in Detroit, Chicago, Washington, D.C., Greenville, South Carolina, Kansas City, St. Louis, London, Johannesburg, Juba, Paris, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

From Aug. 31 to Sept. 8, 2001, thousands of people came to Durban, South Africa, to demand reparations for the African Holocaust. Among them was Fidel Castro, the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution. Racism and xenophobia are not natural human instincts, Castro told the conference on Sept. 1, 2001.

They are born directly from wars, military conquests, slavery and the exploitation of the weakest by the most powerful.

Tens of millions of Africans were kidnapped and murdered in the slave trade that launched the capitalist era, along with the genocide of Indigenous peoples in the Americas.

Karl Marx wrote, "Capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt." The African Holocaust has never stopped.

The Durban 400 were those who went to the UN conference to support the righteous demand for reparations. The United States walked out of the conference rather than recognize that right, taking Israel with it. Britain and

the other big capitalist countries sought to sabotage it from inside.

This year the African Union pushed a new resolution through the UN General Assembly, declaring the trafficking of enslaved Africans and racialized chattel enslavement the gravest crime against humanity. It passed on March 25 with 123 countries voting in favor. The European countries abstained. Argentina, Israel and the United States voted against.

As the December 12th Movement wrote, "25 years ago, for the first time in history, the United Nations declared the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade a Crime Against Humanity. Crimes have criminals and they start with the U.S. government."

The rally featured talks along with cultural performances by

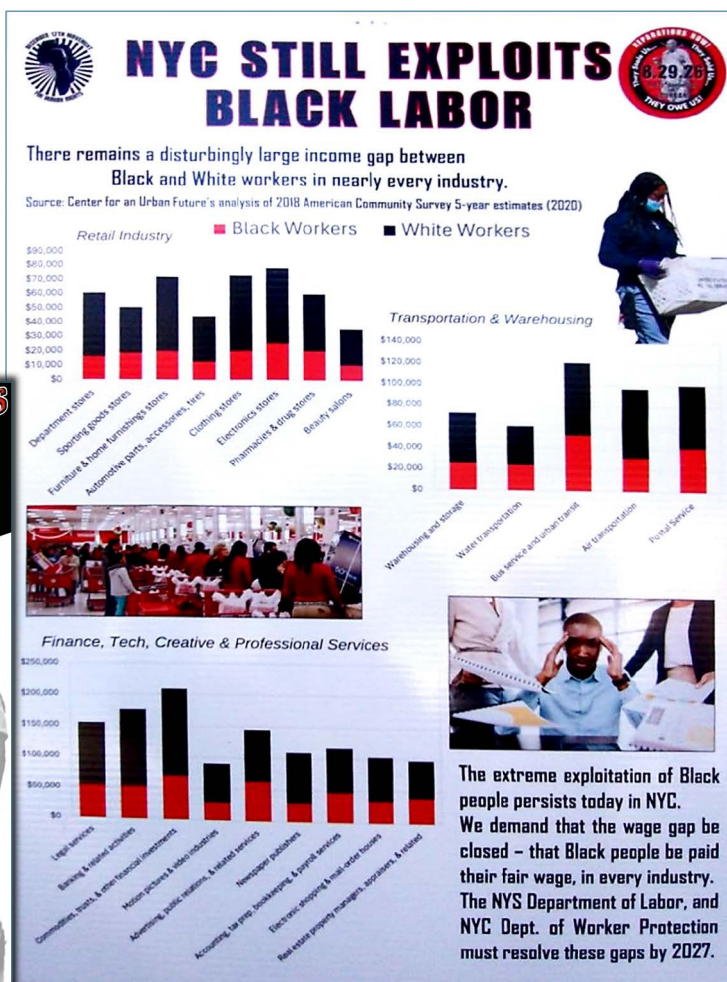
drummers and poets. Among those who spoke were the human rights attorney Roger Wareham of the December 12th Movement and Maxine Flowers of the National Black United Front. New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and New York State Senator Jabari Brisport demanded reparations.

December 12th chairperson Omowale Clay – who coined the slogan "They stole us! They sold us! They owe us!" – urged people to organize. Reparations now! #

RALLY FOR REPARATIONS
THEY STOLE US THEY SOLD US
THEY OWE US
REPARATIONS NOW!
SAT. AUGUST 29, 2026
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm / Harlem Robinson Park, NYC
 Fulton St. & Stuyvesant Ave. (across from Boys & Girls B.S.J.)
 A/C train to Malcolm X Plaza @ Utica Ave. Station

25th Anniversary
 Commemorating 2001 United Nations Durban Declaration:
 Historic Criminalization of Trans-Atlantic
 Slave Trade A Crime Against Humanity

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War on Black people

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of yet-to-be-identified individuals found lynched across the country, with a case regarding a 32-year-old individual in August North Carolina.

This summer alone, we have lost Black children like Nolan Wells, Anthoneil Williams II and Kohen Wiley. Nolan was lynched by a group of white students who claimed to be his friends. Evidence in the case shows that Nolan suffered bodily damage that could only be inflicted by other human beings. The state of Mississippi has allowed the killers to walk freely. These murderous villains, in the eyes of the state and the eyes of this white supremacist country, have done no wrong, and they not only get to walk around free but they get to assault and attack those who are seeking justice for the victim.

In the case of Anthoneil Williams II, he was murdered by a trigger-happy killer pig. Anthoneil's crime was holding a water bottle while being Black. His murder was akin to the murder of Tamir Rice, who was brutally murdered by Cleveland pigs in 2014, all for holding a toy.

Kohen Wiley was a one-year-old who was murdered when Mississippi pigs shot into his mother's car in an attempt to stop her from leaving with diapers for her child.

There is also the case of the killing of 38-year-old Corey Ruiz, who was shot dead by pigs in Madison, Wisconsin. Corey was accused of "looking into people's cars," which pigs used as an excuse to jump him and beat him in the street before ultimately shooting and killing him. Corey's crime was riding a bike while Black.

These cases, along with the many lynchings of Black bodies, are not random. They are not outliers. These cases are part of a larger web of violence that surrounds the Black community, a web that is put up, maintained and reinforced by the racist, white supremacist heart of this country.

Black workers across the country are being fired and let go at rates exponentially higher than their white counterparts. Black schools continue to be left underfunded and understaffed in comparison to their white counterparts. The city of Gary, Indiana, was without power for nearly two weeks after a storm knocked out electricity across the area. The city is 80% Black. Grocery stores have rotting food in them; there is no gas available; lights have been out, and there has been little to no coverage of their situation on the news.

To see Amerikkkan violence, you do not need to look at Iran or Venezuela or Palestine or Cuba or Haiti or Somalia. To see Amerikkkan violence, you can simply look at Amerikkka's



A dirt bike rider pulls a wheelie on a Baltimore street as spectators look on. Dirt bike riding has long been part of Black Baltimore culture – and a target of police repression.

Baltimore police wage war on Black communities

By Colby Byrd

The Amerikkkan Baltimore Pig Department is no different from the countless other murderous Pig departments, agencies and branches that continue to maim and kill Black and Brown people in the name of white supremacy. The Baltimore Pig Department maintains the web of violence that chokes Baltimore in the same way the military pigs enforce the web of violence that is currently carrying out a genocide across Southwest Asia and in the Caribbean.

In Baltimore, Pigs like Curlon Edwards can rape a child and have to serve only 6 years in prison of a 15-year sentence, when the average sentence is 20 years to life. Pigs can run people over with their cruisers the size of tanks and either get away scot-free or only be convicted of misdemeanors, like in the case of Robert Parks. Pigs can violate your supposed constitutional rights and stop you without

continued genocide against Black people within its borders.

There is a world war going on; a world war being waged in the name of white supremacy against all those that do not fit its criteria. George Jackson described this war as a war between the capitalists, the owners, the exploiters, and their victims. This war stretches as far as U.S. imperialism stretches. The web of violence, be it in a foreign country or in Amerikkka itself, will continue to choke, contain and kill those caught in it until either it kills us all or we kill the spider weaving the web. To kill this spider, we must take comrade George's words to heart and become a blade in the throat of fascism! #

reasonable suspicion or probable cause. They can raid your spaces, trash your belongings, and take what they want from what's left, all in the name of "public safety." They can play judge, jury and executioner as they gun you down by firing over 30 shots in busy, populated areas in the name of "public safety." They can kill your son, get paid time off for 6 months and then immediately kill someone else's son and face no repercussions like the Pig Omar Rodriguez. They can lie, falsify paperwork and plant evidence. They can harass you, your friends and your family all because they know that they have the immediate power in the form of a gun and a badge to get away with it.

The Baltimore Pig Department's shooting of a 29-year-old man on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, near Lexington Market, is the most recent example of this free rein to maintain the web of violence however they see fit. The man was shot trying to get away. He was shot trying to leave a situation where he felt unsafe. He was shot for moving his parked car and having expired tags in an area where vehicle registration and maintenance fees are exponentially higher than any surrounding state.

The solution to the violent Pig problem is not reform. It is not committees set up to investigate claims and ultimately either let the case be forgotten or side with the oppressors. The solution is the destruction of the Baltimore Pig Department and the jailing of all killer Pigs. The solution is the proper disposal of capitalism into the dumpster of history. The solution is revolution! The solution is the creation from the ground up of something new, something formed by the people that has the hearts, souls and minds of the people baked into its creation, not genocide and profit baked into it. #

Seneca Nation rejects Trump's colonial claim on Lake Ontario

By Gary Wilson

"The President cannot assert ownership over our culture or erase it."

Seneca Nation President J. Conrad Seneca said that on Aug. 28, the day after Donald Trump signed an executive order renaming Lake Ontario "Lake America." Seneca called for the order to be rescinded and for the name to remain as it stands, reflecting the Seneca people, the other Haudenosaunee nations and all the Indigenous peoples around the lake.

Long before the United States existed, Seneca said, and before settlers brought English to those lands, Seneca and Haudenosaunee ancestors traveled the lake and the waterways that fed it, including to conduct diplomacy among their nations. What Trump is doing now, he said, is the opposite of diplomacy.

The Seneca Nation has heard the United States make claims over its land before. The same government agreed in the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua never to claim Seneca territory later broke that promise for the Kinzua Dam, seizing more than 10,000 acres and driving hundreds of Seneca people from their homes.

Now Trump is claiming the power to erase an Indigenous name from the map.

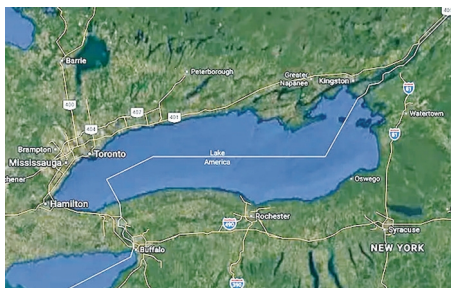
He signed the order on Aug. 27 in the Oval Office. It directs the Interior Department and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to make the change within 30 days and strike references to Lake Ontario from the Geographic Names Information System, the federal database covering more than 2 million physical and cultural features. Every executive department and agency is ordered to use the new name on maps, contracts, documents and communications.

The U.S. Geological Survey began updating the database within hours. Google changed the label on its maps for U.S. users by Aug. 30. MapQuest publicly refused.

Ontario is itself an Indigenous name. In the Seneca language, the lake is sga:nyodai:yoh, beautiful lake. In Wendat it is rendered oniatari:io or Ontari:io, translated variously as lake of shining waters or the lake is beautiful, the lake is big.

The name predates the United States, predates Canada and predates the arrival of the people who now propose to replace it. The Canadian province of Ontario took its name from the lake in 1867, not the other way around.

John Kane, a Mohawk living on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory and a syndicated radio host, told Buffalo Toronto Public Media that the order was a distraction thrown up by a president under pressure from the failures of his



Google Maps acts as a propaganda outlet for Trump, replacing Lake Ontario with "Lake America" and helping legitimize a colonial claim by putting it on the map. Screenshot of Google's propaganda map.

administration. He also said what most of the coverage would not: colonialism and racism cannot be separated, and this is a white man in the White House who believes he can drop "America" onto anything he wants.

U.S. government already broke the treaty

The Treaty of Canandaigua was signed on Nov. 11, 1794, by 59 Haudenosaunee leaders and by Timothy Pickering, President George Washington's sole agent. It set the Seneca Nation's boundaries beginning on Lake Ontario.

Its language was explicit. The United States "will never claim the same, nor disturb the Seneca Nation ... in the free use and enjoyment thereof: but it shall remain theirs, until they choose to sell the same to the people of the United States, who have the right to purchase."

Seneca President J. Conrad Seneca also made a constitutional argument. Article 6 says treaties are the "supreme Law of the Land," he wrote, and are to be honored as such. He called the order the latest in a long record of attempts to disregard what the United States' agreed to with the Seneca and the other Haudenosaunee nations.

The U.S. government did not offer that guarantee out of friendship. George Washington sought to prevent the Haudenosaunee from joining the Native nations resisting U.S. expansion in the Ohio Territory, a combination the young United States had good reason to fear. The treaty reflected that balance of forces.

The U.S. government respected the agreement only as long as it felt compelled to. In October 1956, the Army Corps of Engineers began surveying Seneca land along the Allegheny River for a dam presented to the Seneca Nation as flood control for Pittsburgh. Historian Laurence Hauptman, in "In the Shadow of Kinzua," says that the project's real motive was private hydroelectric development in Pennsylvania and state park and highway development in New York.

A federal judge ruled against them in early 1957. In *United States v. 21,250 Acres of Land*, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York held that the treaty "cannot rise above the power of Congress to legislate."

Federal agents could enter Seneca territory and eminent domain could proceed.

The decision rested on the doctrine that Congress could override treaties with Native nations whenever it chose. The judge cited *Lone Wolf v. Hitchcock*, the 1903 Supreme Court ruling that gave Congress the power to unilaterally break any Indian treaty. Lone Wolf in turn quoted earlier Supreme Court rulings that openly treated Indigenous peoples as conquered and dependent populations whose rights existed only so long as the U.S. government chose to recognize them.

On Sept. 16, 1966, the Corps flooded more than 10,000 acres of Seneca land. About 600 people were forced from the Allegany Reservation. The communities of Red House and Coldspring were burned out so people could not return. Burial grounds, hunting territory and fishing places disappeared beneath the reservoir and remain there today.

That is the record of the treaty now being invoked against Trump's renaming.

The treaty said the United States could never claim the land. The Army Corps of Engineers trashed the agreement.

The same government that flooded Seneca territory in 1966 is now deleting an Indigenous name from a federal database in 2026. The methods are different. The claim of power is the same.

What the order actually claims

Bruce Blakeman, running against Gov. Kathy Hochul in November, told Syracuse media that Trump was joking and would not really change anything. On Aug. 30, Ontario Premier Doug Ford said on ABC that it was something out of "Saturday Night Live."

But the order itself is not written as a joke.

It makes an economic, military and territorial case for the lake. It cites shipping, settlement, commerce and defense. It invokes Oswego and Sackets Harbor, the St. Lawrence Seaway, and Coast Guard operations that keep shipping lanes open through the winter.

It goes further. The order points to the deepest waters lying on the U.S. side and declares that "the United States claims most of the Lake's volume." That sentence states the claim plainly. The White House is asserting ownership over a waterway roughly 190 miles long that the United States shares with Canada and that both

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Federal workers get zero, federal cops get 3.8%

By Lev Koufax

Fascist in Chief Donald Trump has formally proposed a complete pay freeze for most federal workers. Under Trump's proposal, the vast majority of the federal workforce would be paid at the same rate in 2027 as they were in 2026. The pay freeze comes even as the U.S. faces its highest inflation rates in three years. In May of 2026, inflation hit 4.2%, a level it had not reached since April 2023. It stood at 3.4% in July.

That inflation has a source. Energy prices were up 14.7% over the year in July, with gasoline up 24.6%. The energy index sat at 0.5% in February 2026. It jumped to 12.5% in March, the month after Washington opened its war on Iran on Feb. 28, and peaked at 23.5% in May. Core inflation, stripping out food and energy, was 2.5% and falling. The war sharply raised energy costs and drove the new surge in inflation that federal workers are now told to absorb.

So, while workers struggle to put food on the table and to pay a myriad of bills, the racist demagogue Donald Trump has decided that about 2 million federal workers don't need a pay raise. Meanwhile, Trump's personal wealth nearly doubled in his first year back in office, from \$3.9 billion to \$7.3 billion. The poor get poorer, and the rich get richer indeed.

However, there is one key exception to Trump's federal pay freeze. All federal law enforcement

officers will receive an almost 4% raise. This is the same raise as they received last year. Murdering Renée Nicole Good, Keith Porter Jr., and Alex Pretti seems to have served federal law enforcement well. This consecutive raise for federal cops should be viewed as nothing less than blood money, while the rest of the federal workforce faces pay freezes, layoffs, and the slashing of union rights.

The message here is pretty clear. The same capitalist state forcing workers to absorb the costs of war and inflation is rewarding and strengthening the federal cops who enforce its rule at home. A decaying U.S. capitalism needs war abroad, and police terror at home, and driving wages backward is part of the same process. If anything, this reality should only strengthen the argument for the need for socialism. Reality for workers and oppressed people isn't going to improve as capitalism continues to decay, requiring drastic cuts of social programs and wages on behalf of the wealthiest 1%. Even if a Democrat wins in 2028, the masses of working-class people in this country will still face wage stagnation and racist police terror.

Even while Trump, Hegseth, Musk, and similar others justify the pay freeze as "fiscal



Federal workers and AFGE members protest attacks on jobs, pay and union rights. Trump proposes freezing most federal workers' pay in 2027 while giving federal cops a raise.

responsibility," corporate profits skyrocket. In the second quarter of 2026, U.S. corporate profitability reached an all-time record, with after-tax profits rising 8.2% to an annual rate of \$3.92 trillion.

Workers were moving in the opposite direction. Real hourly compensation in the nonfarm business sector fell at a 3.1% annual rate in the second quarter and was down 0.1% from a year earlier.

Profits may be surging, but labor's share is falling. In the nonfarm business sector, wages, benefits and other compensation paid to workers fell to 52.9% of output in the second quarter of 2026, the lowest since the government began tracking the series in 1947. When the series began, labor's share stood at 65.8%.

The fact is, even if labor's share of output were 70%, capitalism would still be based on exploitation. Under capitalism, the surplus produced by workers is appropriated by the capitalist class. Under socialism, that surplus would be socially controlled and used to meet human needs instead of enriching a small class of billionaires and millionaires.

Trump's federal pay freeze has nothing to do with fiscal responsibility or cutting the deficit. The war budget grows no matter who is in office, because a declining monopoly capitalism cannot do without it. The ruling class tries to push workers' wages and living standards down so that workers bear more of the costs of capitalist crisis, war and the capitalist state.

Freezing federal workers' pay is another part of a broader ruling-class offensive to cut workers' living standards while directing more of society's wealth toward profits, war and the capitalist class. No reform to the U.S. government will alleviate this phenomenon. The only way to ensure that all workers and oppressed people receive what they need to live is to smash the capitalist state and build a socialist one. #

Lake Ontario

Continued from page 4

settler states took from Indigenous peoples.

The order also came at a particular moment. Trade talks with Canada collapsed Aug. 21. On Aug. 22, the administration imposed 50% tariffs on some \$20 billion in Canadian goods, including dairy, alcohol, cement and hockey equipment. Ottawa responded with tariffs on U.S. steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics, with its measures set to take effect Sept. 8.

Most opposition from Democratic politicians has remained limited to that trade dispute. Rep. Debbie Dingell announced legislation to nullify the renaming while emphasizing Canada's importance as a U.S. ally and economic partner. Hochul said New York will not use Trump's name and argued that the White House should be repairing the trade relationship instead.

Their complaint is that the tariff war is hurting business.

The Seneca Nation is raising a more fundamental question: What gives Trump the right to claim the land and water in the first place?

Kane placed "Lake America" alongside Trump's talk of annexing Canada as a 51st state, taking Greenland and declaring the Strait of Hormuz U.S. territory. The same administration waging war in West Asia has spent the summer drawing new lines around what it says belongs to the United States.

Maps have always accompanied conquest. Naming is part of that process because it turns power into something that looks permanent and natural.

The Seneca people answered Washington in 1794. They answered again when federal surveyors entered their territory in 1956 and when the water rose behind Kinzua Dam in 1966. They are answering it now.

An executive order cannot make sga:nyodai: yoh into "Lake America." #

The salad monopoly behind the outbreak

By Gary Wilson

By Aug. 21, the *Cyclospora* outbreak linked to shredded iceberg lettuce sold by Taylor Farms had sickened 10,930 people in 17 states, hospitalized 454 and killed two. The illnesses began June 14.

Patient interviews and shipping records traced the lettuce to Taylor Farms. Investigators still do not know where the parasite entered it, and FDA testing has found no confirmed positive sample. On Aug. 13, inspectors went to the company's Guanajuato plant and nearby growers in Mexico – seven years after the FDA's last inspection there.

In a 2013 *Cyclospora* outbreak tied to the same plant, inspectors found recycled wash water used on salad mix but could not determine the source then either.

On Aug. 18, Farm Action published “Taylor Farms: How One Company's Reach Became a National Risk.” Marion Nestle summed up its finding: the root cause is industry consolidation.

Taylor Farms, founded in 1995, is now a \$7 billion corporation with more than 25,000 workers and 30 processing plants in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. It moves more than 265 million servings of fresh food a week and makes 40% of packaged salad kits sold in this country.

Most of that food carries someone else's name. Its lettuce went to Taco Bell in the current outbreak. Public records and recalls have also tied its products to McDonald's, Walmart, Costco, Kroger, Sysco and US Foods.

A shopper sees many brands. Behind them stands one processor.

Farm Action estimates that 80% to 90% of fresh produce in the U.S. reaches the market through a handful of grower-shipper-packers like Taylor Farms. Growers who once sold to many buyers now face a few and take the price offered.

That concentration can carry contamination across the country before anyone knows there is a problem.

The bathroom, again

The company has paid more than \$1 million in OSHA penalties for machine hazards, chemical exposure, amputations, sanitation failures and one death on the job.

In 2013 and 2014, workers at its Tracy, California, plant went to the Teamsters. They said they were pressured not to use the



A worker on a Taylor Farms processing line. The company operates 30 processing plants and moves more than 265 million servings of fresh food each week, making it one of the dominant corporations in the U.S. packaged-salad industry.

bathroom during shifts, denied meal breaks, fired after injuries and retaliated against for organizing.

Cyclospora originates in human waste. Contaminated irrigation or wash water can carry it onto produce. Investigators have not established where this outbreak began, but toilets, handwashing and clean water are basic food-safety protections.

Taylor Farms takes in \$7 billion a year. Yet workers said even bathroom access was restricted to keep the line moving.

What the money bought

On March 20, 2025, the FDA postponed for 30 months a rule requiring food companies to keep records that could trace contaminated food in hours instead of weeks. Six days later, Taylor Fresh Foods gave \$1 million to Trump's MAGA Inc. It later gave another \$1.1 million to Republican congressional campaign funds. Since the start of 2025, Taylor Farms has spent \$810,000 lobbying Congress on food regulation.

In November 2025, Congress barred the FDA from enforcing the rule until July 20, 2028.

Bruce Taylor, the company's chairman, has served on the boards of produce-industry trade groups that pressed the FDA to delay or weaken the tracing requirements.

Taylor Farms hired a former White House official as a lobbyist. On July 16, 2026 – the day the FDA and CDC announced their investigation – company executives were on a call with White House and FDA officials, pressing the government to back away from its conclusions and, according to reporting, hold off on announcing a recall.

Millions of people were eating the lettuce while that call was underway.

Capitalist monopolization

Farm Action calls this consolidation: fewer and bigger companies controlling more of the food supply. That is monopolization. But its remedies – stronger antitrust enforcement, regional processing, subsidy caps and restored tracing rules – leave ownership untouched.

Whether Taylor Farms is one corporation or several smaller ones, the fields, plants and distribution networks remain privately owned and run for profit. Workers still do not control the conditions under which food is produced.

Competition drives concentration. Bigger companies undersell, absorb or push out smaller ones,

leaving production in fewer hands. Taylor Farms grew from one company in 1995 to 30 processing plants across four countries.

Congress passed the Sherman Antitrust Act in 1890. In the 136 years since, U.S. capitalism has produced the largest monopolies in human history. Antitrust laws have not changed who owns and controls food production.

Consumer advice misses the point too. A worker grabbing lunch at Taco Bell did not choose Taylor Farms as the lettuce supplier. Neither did a hospital patient, a child in a school cafeteria or a prisoner. Most workers cannot shop their way out of a food supply dominated by giant corporations.

Where the power is

The people with real leverage over Taylor Farms are already inside it: the 25,000 workers who run its plants and warehouses, the Teamsters who struck at Tracy in 2013, and the farmworkers in the fields it buys from. Many are immigrants targeted by the Trump administration's deportation drive, making it more dangerous to report filthy conditions.

The last time toilets, clean water and handwashing stations came to California fields, they did not come from an antitrust suit. Filipino and Mexican workers struck the Delano grapes in 1965, carried a boycott across the country and forced the growers to sign union contracts in 1970. Those contracts put toilets in the fields years before Washington wrote the protections into federal law.

That is the record. The corporation's books should be opened when an outbreak begins, and the workers who harvest, wash, cut and pack the food should have the organized power to shut the line when conditions are filthy. #

Minnesota 15 hearing exposes political police operation

By Gary Wilson

A federal judge in Minneapolis heard arguments Aug. 27 over whether prosecutors must turn over more records from the government's surveillance of the Minnesota 15, labor unions and community organizations opposing ICE.

The 15 defendants, charged in June with conspiring to impede or injure a federal officer, pleaded not guilty. Their lawyers are seeking undercover reports and communications they say could show that the prosecution was politically motivated.

Defense attorney Kevin Riach asked U.S. Magistrate Judge David Schultz to order disclosure of undercover records and communications with officials in Washington. Riach says they could show whether opponents of the deportation campaign were selectively prosecuted. The government opposes the request. Schultz has not ruled.

Public records show how far the government went. Undercover Department of Homeland Security officers attended a Jan. 11 planning meeting. By Jan. 14, prosecutors acknowledge, they had entered an encrypted Signal chat and were reading plans for the Jan. 23 general strike against ICE as organizers discussed them.

Federal investigators examined union finances, monitored churches and political groups, and put 18 organizations on a chart DHS called "The Conspiracy." None was charged.

This was preparation by the capitalist state against movements that could interfere with deportations, war and the anti-union drive to squeeze more profit from workers.

Workers stop work – DHS infiltrates

Operation Metro Surge sent 3,000 federal officers into the Twin Cities. Federal agents shot and killed Renée Good on Jan. 7 and Alex Pretti, an AFGE member and VA intensive care nurse, on Jan. 24.

Workers organized resistance. Unions distributed food to members threatened by ICE, while rapid-response networks tracked immigration agents.

They called the Jan. 23 "No Work, No School, No Shopping" general strike. Tens of thousands filled the streets in subzero cold. Around 700 businesses closed and labor was withheld across the state. A week later, solidarity actions took place in more than 300 cities.

DHS was already inside the organizing.

Agents posed as protesters in churches, schools, parks and union halls. They recorded meetings, collected license plate numbers and built files on participants.

DHS put the Minnesota AFL-CIO, Democratic Socialists of America and a Minneapolis bicycle repair collective on its "Conspiracy" chart and showed it to a grand jury.

The prosecutor who convened that grand jury, Brian W. Lynch, had himself been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, photographed there in a Trump 2020 hat. Lynch is now co-director of Joint Task Force Vanguard, created to carry out National Security Presidential Memorandum 7, and authored the brief opposing Riach's motion.

At a Jan. 31 Sunrise Movement training on peaceful sit-ins and de-escalation, an undercover officer offered to build items for more "direct-action" protests. Riach says agents were at times "working to entice people into discussing or committing crimes."

Mass protests in Minnesota and across the country forced border czar Tom Homan to announce the end of Operation Metro Surge on Feb. 12. Several hundred agents stayed. The spying continued for months.

Union finances searched

Homeland Security investigators used administrative summonses – issued by the agency itself, with no judge involved – to obtain financial records from unions and community organizations.

They searched SEIU and CWA finances, union transactions reaching Canada, and PayPal and Venmo records for Voices for Racial Justice. The summonses called it an investigation of domestic terrorist financing under National Security Presidential Memorandum 7. What they found in SEIU accounts was union business: strike payments, dues and pension expenses.

The surveillance also reached anti-war organizing. HSI reports show agents monitoring a "Stop the War on Iran!" demonstration. Opposition to war was treated as part of the same conspiracy as opposition to ICE.

Supporters filled the courtroom. Afterward, defendant Isaac Sant said federal agents had been "spying on us from day one."

"If it wasn't us on trial, it was going to be one of you," he said.

From Minneapolis to Washington

On July 16, Secretary of State Marco Rubio brought representatives of 66 governments to Washington for a "Ministerial on the Resurgence of Political Terrorism." He claimed Cuba had created the far left in the U.S. and throughout the Western Hemisphere, and that Iranian networks were tied to left-wing movements worldwide. He presented no evidence.



Minneapolis rally in defense of the Minnesota 15.

Photo: Minnesota Reformer

Rubio named National Security Presidential Memorandum 7, issued Sept. 25, 2025, as Washington's strategy against these supposed networks inside the U.S.

Four days later, the State Department issued "Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism," treating Black Lives Matter and pro-Palestine campus organizing as part of the same supposed foreign network.

Washington has attacked Cuba for more than six decades because the Cuban Revolution broke the rule of U.S. capital. It targets Iran because Iran has resisted U.S. domination in West Asia. Now solidarity with those struggles is being used as evidence against movements inside the U.S.

Trump's Sept. 25 memorandum ordered federal agencies to investigate and financially disrupt organizations accused of political violence and map the people supposedly involved.

There is no federal law allowing Washington to designate U.S. political organizations as terrorist groups. Instead, the government designates movements abroad as Foreign Terrorist Organizations, then uses the sweeping and politically manufactured charge of "material support" against people in the U.S. accused of assisting them.

The administration is trying to extend that machinery to domestic opposition: brand it part of a violent network, then tie that network to Cuba, Iran or organizations designated as foreign terrorists.

But Minneapolis showed why the government is worried. On Jan. 23, workers stopped work, shut businesses and disrupted normal life across a major metropolitan area.

That is the power Washington is preparing against: workers acting together in workplaces and neighborhoods, and linking their own struggles to resistance against U.S. imperialism abroad. #

They pay poverty wages, cut food aid

By Gary Wilson

At Walmart, half the workers make less than \$30,520 a year. At Dollar General, half make less than \$18,876.

A new Government Accountability Office study of 11 states found Walmart among the top employers of workers receiving Medicaid or SNAP food assistance in every state examined. Walmart had 16,055 workers on Medicaid and 15,515 receiving SNAP. Amazon had 11,338 on Medicaid and 12,346 on SNAP. Both numbers were nearly three times their 2020 levels.

Profits moved the other way. Walmart's annual profit rose from \$14.88 billion in fiscal 2020 to \$21.89 billion in fiscal 2026. Amazon's rose from \$21.33 billion in 2020 to \$77.67 billion in 2025.

These corporations backed Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed July 4, which extended and expanded tax cuts while cutting Medicaid and SNAP. More than 5 million people have since been removed from food assistance, most still eligible but cut off by new reverification paperwork.

The richest 1% of U.S. households now hold nearly 32% of the country's wealth, about \$55 trillion. The richest 10% own more than 87% of stocks and investment funds held directly by U.S. households.

UBS puts average U.S. wealth at \$696,277 per adult. But median wealth – the dividing line between the richer half and poorer half – is about \$69,000. By median wealth, the United States ranks 28th among the countries UBS compared.

The richest 1% received 23.9% of all pre-tax cash market income in 1928, on the eve of the 1929 crash.

How the fortunes are made

Workers create more value in a day than they receive in wages. Capitalists keep the difference as surplus value, the source of profit. They increase it by holding down wages, speeding up work, extending hours and raising productivity.

Much of the \$55 trillion held by the richest 1% is in stocks, real estate and other assets whose prices can be driven far above their underlying value by speculation. But behind those paper fortunes are corporations, land and other property owned by capitalists, and the profits they take from workers' labor.

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh said Aug. 28 that the

U.S. economy was at or near full employment. The official unemployment rate for July was 4.1%.

The Ludwig Institute counted 24.9% of the labor force as unemployed, stuck in part-time work or working full time for poverty wages, with still higher rates for Black and Latine workers and women.

Immigration raids also shrink the official labor force. Workers who are deported or driven into hiding may no longer be counted as looking for work. Many are pushed deeper into an underground economy where bosses pay below the legal minimum, ignore safety rules and threaten workers with immigration authorities if they protest. That superexploitation drives wages and conditions down for the whole working class.

After raids reduced the farm labor force, the Labor Department cut required H-2A wages in October 2025 instead of forcing growers to raise pay. Farmworkers fought back. On Aug. 26, a federal court struck down the wage rule and warned employers they may owe workers back pay.

Where the money went

Workers with jobs are losing ground. Real average hourly earnings fell 0.2% over the year to July 2026. Gasoline rose 25%. Core services, including rent, health care, insurance and transportation, rose 3.7%.

Corporate profits reached a record \$4.8 trillion in the second quarter of 2026, up \$401 billion in three months. The share going to workers in wages and benefits fell to 60% of national income, the lowest since the 1950s.

The Institute for Policy Studies examined 100 of the lowest-paying corporations in the S&P 500. From 2019 to 2025, worker pay rose 20.7%, less than the 25.9% rise in prices. CEO pay jumped 41.4% to an average \$17.5 million a year.

Those companies spent \$718 billion buying back their own shares from 2019 through 2025.

Walmart alone spent \$8.1 billion on buybacks in 2025 – enough to have given each of its 2.1 million workers a \$3,851 bonus.

The same corporations demanding cheap labor offer little protection from immigration raids. Dollar General told managers at more than 20,000 stores to cooperate when agents came for an

employee. A day laborer fleeing an ICE raid at a Home Depot in California was killed after running onto a highway. In July, an immigration agent in Maine shot and killed a DoorDash driver who was authorized to work and was not the person named in the arrest order.

Low wages, benefit cuts and repression of immigrant workers all strengthen capital against labor.

The road to 1929

The years before the 1929 crash also combined enormous fortunes with expanding production, credit and speculation.

Capitalism produces for profit, not according to a social plan based on human need. Competition drives capitalists to expand production and capture larger markets. Credit pushes that expansion further, letting businesses produce more before earlier goods have been sold and speculators borrow against rising asset prices.

But the goods still have to be sold at prices that bring the expected profit. As overproduction grows, money markets tighten and borrowing gets more expensive. Companies dependent on new loans have trouble refinancing old debts. Orders are canceled, inventories pile up, factories cut production and workers are laid off.

Overproduction does not mean people have everything they need. Houses can stand empty while people are homeless and food can go unsold while people are hungry. For capital, goods are overproduced when they cannot be sold profitably.

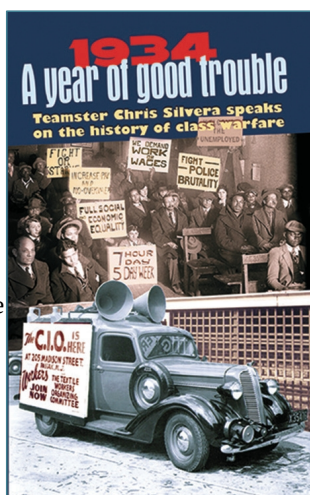
That contradiction erupted in 1929. Credit contracted, production fell and unemployment exploded.

Nearly a century later, some of the same mechanisms are developing again. Overproduction is growing, money markets are tightening and a financial crisis is already unfolding.

The AI data-center boom is one expression. Business investment averaged just 2.8% of GDP over the past decade, down from 5.3% in 1960-1974, even with the rush into AI data centers.

The buildout increasingly depends on borrowed money. Goldman Sachs counts nearly \$500 billion in AI-related debt issued so far in 2026, compared with about \$322 billion in all of 2025.

Continued on page 9



Teamster Chris Silvera speaks on the history of class warfare

1934 - A year of Good Trouble

www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2024/07/08/dockworkers-commemorate-bloody-thursday-2024/



and pile up fortunes

Continued from page 8

Borrowing is getting more expensive. On Sept. 2, the interest rate on 10-year U.S. Treasury bonds reached 4.81%, its highest in nearly three years. The war on Iran helped drive rates higher as oil climbed above \$95 a barrel.

Those rates set a benchmark across the economy. Corporations refinancing old debts or borrowing to expand must pay more interest, raising the danger of defaults and bankruptcies.

One corner of the AI boom cracked in July. The heavily indebted hedge fund Situational Awareness was forced to sell most of its \$16 billion stock portfolio and lost 67%. Citadel then bought a large part of the portfolio at about a 10% discount.

That was not a general capitalist crisis. It showed on a smaller scale how debt carries speculation upward during a boom and makes the fall sharper when lenders demand their money back.

A crash at the top does not redistribute wealth to workers. Between 1928 and 1932, average income among the richest 1% fell by about half. Millions of workers lost their jobs and wages collapsed. Capitalists with cash bought bankrupt companies, factories and property cheaply.

The Depression did not rescue the working class. Workers changed their conditions by organizing and fighting.

What workers changed

In 1934, nearly 1.5 million workers took part in 1,856 strikes.

In Toledo, National Guard troops killed two Auto-Lite strike supporters. Thousands more workers and unemployed people poured into the streets, and the strike won union recognition.

In Minneapolis, police killed two Teamsters pickets on Bloody Friday. The strike broke the employers' system of keeping unions out of the city.

On the San Francisco waterfront, police killed two workers on Bloody Thursday, helping set off a general strike as the longshore struggle spread along the Pacific Coast.

These struggles were built through years of organizing by Marxists and communists among unemployed workers and inside the shops. The victories of 1934 helped open the way for the CIO and the sit-down strikes of 1936 and 1937.

The CIO, pushed by communists and other militants, broke with much of the AFL's Jim Crow unionism and organized Black, Latine and white workers together in mass production. Union membership rose from 2.8 million in 1933 to about 14 million by 1945.



Amazon Teamsters strike for fair pay and safe jobs at the company's DJT6 warehouse in Riverside, California, Sept. 2. Workers launched a one-day strike over unsafe conditions, retaliation and Amazon's refusal to bargain.

The upsurge forced major concessions, including federal recognition of union organizing rights. But the Wagner Act and Social Security Act excluded agricultural and domestic workers, hitting Black workers especially hard.

Workers forced concessions. But the capitalist class kept ownership of the factories, mines and banks – and the state power protecting that ownership.

How the gains were taken back

The ruling class moved to take the gains back. The Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 restricted union power. The anti-communist offensive drove many militants who had built the industrial unions out of the labor movement.

From the 1970s on, plants closed, strikes were broken and taxes on the rich were cut. Corporations moved factories to the South and overseas in search of lower wages and weaker unions. Union membership fell from roughly a third of the workforce after World War II to about 1 in 10 workers today.

Employers found new ways to strip workers of protections. Millions are classified as independent contractors. Across nine states reporting employer data for SNAP, Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Grubhub and Instacart workers together numbered 22,709 SNAP recipients – more than Walmart.

The labor remains. What disappears is the corporation's responsibility to the worker.

The permanent answer

Global billionaire wealth reached \$18.3 trillion at the end of 2025, up 81% in real terms in six years. The 12 richest men now hold more wealth than the poorest half of humanity.

The financial crisis is already here. A broader

capitalist crisis is taking shape. As businesses fail and fortunes shrink, the ruling class will try to restore profits by cutting jobs and wages, slashing social programs and squeezing more out of the workers who remain.

But crisis can also drive workers into struggle. On Aug. 7, California labor officials verified that the California Gig Workers Union had won enough support among Uber and Lyft drivers to move toward statewide recognition. Covering roughly 100,000 active drivers, it is on track to become the world's largest rideshare drivers' union.

California Proposition 40, on the Nov. 3 ballot, would impose a one-time 5% tax on the state's roughly 200 billionaires, with 90% going to health care. Building a Better California, founded by Google co-founder Sergey Brin and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt, had raised more than \$156 million by Aug. 17 to fight it and promote measures designed to undercut it.

Taxes on billionaire fortunes can provide money for social needs. But taxation does not change capitalist ownership of the factories, banks and monopolies that control the economy.

The 1930s show how much mass struggle can win – and the limit of those victories. Workers won union rights, relief programs and other reforms. But capitalists kept the factories, mines, banks and monopolies. When the movement weakened, the ruling class used that power to take much of the ground back.

The workers of the 1930s showed how much an organized working class can win, even in the depths of depression.

The crisis now unfolding will pose the question again: not only how much workers can force from the capitalist class, but whether the wealth produced by the working class will remain the private property of the capitalist class at all. #

Capitalist climate crisis drives deadly Himalayan glacier collapse

By Gary Wilson

At about 9 a.m. on Aug. 26, a mass of ice and rock broke loose from the north face of Langtang Lirung, 17,000 feet above sea level on the Nepal-China border. Hydrologists described the flow as liquid concrete. It covered its first 14 miles at an average speed of 120 miles per hour.

The flood tore through Timure, Syapru Besi and Betrawati along the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers and wiped out Gyirong Port, Nepal's main overland trade route with China. The impact registered as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event.

By midday Aug. 28, 547 people had been confirmed dead in Nepal and five in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Nepali officials listed about 1,900 missing, including some 900 hydropower workers. Chinese state media reported another 558 missing in Gyirong County, though the counts may overlap.

Who was in the valley

The flood struck at the beginning of a working day. Porters at the Rasuwa customs yard were loading and unloading trucks. Hydropower workers were scattered through the valley; 13 projects were damaged. Dozens were cut off at Upper Trishuli-1 and Rasuwagadhi, while 60 people were trapped in a tunnel at Langtang Khola. Eighty-five Nepali security personnel were also missing.

Travelers were caught too. Nepal's Tourism Board listed 127 Nepali travelers and more than 500 foreign nationals from 32 countries as unaccounted for at the Rasuwagadhi gateway to Tibet.

About 430 megawatts of generating capacity was damaged, more than 12% of Nepal's total. Around 19 bridges and 25 miles of road were destroyed.

The same valley flooded last year

This was the second major glacier disaster to hit the same corridor in 14 months.

On July 8, 2025, a glacial lake in Tibet burst upstream from Rasuwagadhi. The flood destroyed the Miteri Bridge, wrecked the dry port and knocked out more than 200 megawatts of hydropower. Officials counted 11 dead and 18 missing in Nepal, with another 11 swept away in China.

Rasuwa officials received about an hour's warning. The district chief later estimated that without it, around 200 people might have died.

Fourteen months later, the customs yard, border post, hydropower camps, workers' housing and porters were still in the same valley.

Meanwhile the warnings grew stronger. In



Rescue workers help survivors through mud and debris left by the Aug. 26 glacier collapse and flood in northern Nepal.

adviser. Britain pledged £5 million. The U.N. released \$2 million. India sent 50 tons of supplies.

Capitalism is producing the disaster

Washington withdrew from the Paris climate agreement in January. In February, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin revoked the legal basis for federal regulation of greenhouse gases. The administration also cut climate research and weather-monitoring programs.

But the crisis is bigger than one administration. Giant energy corporations profit from extracting and selling oil, gas and coal. The imperialist powers compete for markets, resources and military advantage while carbon keeps accumulating in the atmosphere.

The porters of Rasuwa enter those calculations only as labor power.

Capitalism is not merely failing to stop the climate crisis. The drive for profit that governs capitalist production is producing it.

Built where investment is profitable

Nepal is a dependent capitalist economy, relying heavily on remittances, tourism and hydroelectric power. Its power stations, roads and workers' camps are built in narrow mountain valleys because that is where investment produces profits and export earnings used to pay foreign debt.

The July 2025 flood showed the danger. The infrastructure was rebuilt there anyway.

What has saved lives

In July 2025, one hour of warning may have cut a potential death toll of around 200 to 11. Afterward, Nepali and Chinese officials established a cross-border warning system for glacial lakes and floods.

The workers of Rasuwa did not burn the carbon melting the Himalayas. They carried the freight, built the power stations, worked in the tunnels and loaded the trucks.

The class whose corporations made fortunes from fossil fuels offers condolences, a few million dollars and another round of investment under the same capitalist rules.

The answer will come from the working class organizing its own power across borders. #

March, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development reported that glacier loss across the Hindu Kush Himalaya had doubled since 2000.

Scientists studying the Aug. 26 collapse point especially to thawing permafrost – frozen soil and rock that has held mountainsides together for thousands of years. As it thaws, slopes become unstable.

The 2025 disaster came from a growing glacial lake. This time, bedrock beneath part of the glacier gave way, sending ice and rock into the valley. A warning system built around lakes and river levels could not give an hour's notice for an avalanche moving at 120 miles per hour.

The heat behind the collapse

Four days before the mountain came down, another climate record was broken. On Aug. 22, average sea-surface temperature across much of the global ocean reached 70 degrees Fahrenheit, the highest since records began in 1979, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

The American Meteorological Society reported record greenhouse-gas concentrations, ocean heat and sea level in 2025. Land glaciers lost ice for the 38th consecutive year. That is the heat working on the glaciers and permafrost beneath Langtang Lirung.

The countries that caused the crisis

Nepal produces roughly one-tenth of 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The rich capitalist countries that produced most of the carbon destabilizing Nepal's mountains have promised compensation to oppressed nations suffering the consequences. Very little has arrived.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage has received pledges of about \$822 million since 2023. As of July, only about 55% had been transferred, and not one project had been approved.

After hundreds were killed, Washington offered Nepal \$500,000 and one disaster-response

235 years of capitalist revenge against HAITI

By Stephen Millies

U.S. steals Haitian wealth, deports Haitian workers

The Trump regime's mass deportations of Haitian people have begun. A planeload of more than 160 expelled Haitians landed in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, on Aug. 20.

That's 235 years after Dutty Boukman, an enslaved African, began the Haitian Revolution in August 1791 that overthrew slavery and threw out the French colonialists. The Haitian Revolution was the only successful revolution of enslaved people.

The Haitian people were able to accomplish what Spartacus – whose thousands of defeated followers were crucified by Roman aristocrats 2,000 years ago – was unable to do. They defeated armies sent by Britain and Napoleon. U.S. and European capitalists never forgave Haiti for it.

Six members of the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Bigot-in-Chief's revocation of protective status for Haitian immigrants. They ignored the Trump regime's obvious racism as pointed out in Justice Elena Kagan's dissent, which was joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Kagan reminded the court that during the 2024 presidential campaign both Donald Trump and JD Vance claimed Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating cats and other pets. Trillionaire Elon Musk repeated these lies to his over 200 million followers on X.

This is the sort of racist poison that the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis use to instigate lynchings and pogroms. A neo-Nazi gang called the Blood Tribe echoed the same message when they marched through Springfield in August, 2024, carrying swastika flags.

Some 112,000 Haitians are employed across the United States in health care. Trump's mass round-ups can only increase the shortage of these absolutely essential workers.

Disabled people will suffer. The New York State Nurses Association has denounced these deportations.

Meanwhile, the White House has welcomed thousands of wealthy white farmers from South Africa who exploited Black people for generations under apartheid.

We urge New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani to follow the example of the abolitionists who fought the Fugitive Slave Act. Do the right thing and refuse to fire Haitian workers whose immigration status was revoked by Trump.

'Attack and Capture of the Crête-à-Pierrot,' an 1839 engraving after Auguste Raffet, depicting a major battle of the Haitian Revolution.



Financing the industrial revolution

From Texas to Maryland, U.S. slave masters lived in fear of "another Haiti" breaking out on their plantations. Denmark Vesey's 1822 plans to rise up in Charleston, South Carolina, were modeled on the Haitian Revolution. So was the 1811 German Coast Uprising in South Louisiana. That's when armed slaves freed themselves from plantations along the Mississippi River, emancipating others as they marched to take the city of New Orleans and form a free Black republic.

Forty years after Dutty Boukman began his revolt, Nat Turner and his followers rose up in Virginia on Aug. 21, 1831. Black August includes the assassination of Black Panther Party Field Marshal George Jackson on Aug. 21, 1971.

Haitian President Alexandre Pétion gave Simón Bolívar ships and guns to liberate much of South America from Spanish colonialism.

It wasn't until the U.S. Civil War that Washington established diplomatic relations with Haiti.

The riches produced by enslaved Africans working the sugar plantation death camps of Haiti and other Caribbean colonies jump-started the industrial revolution. James Watt's steam engines were financed by the slave trade. The historian Eric Williams, who was the first prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, showed this in his classic 1944 book, "Capitalism and Slavery."

Capitalism's revenge against Haiti included the restored French Bourbon monarchy outrageously demanding reparations in 1825 from Haitians for overthrowing slavery. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide – who was overthrown twice by the CIA – calculated the total amount at over \$21 billion.

It wasn't paid off until 1947. More than anything else, this odious debt made Haiti poor.

On Dec. 17, 1914, U.S. Marines marched into the National Bank of Haiti and carried off \$500,000 in gold – about half the bank's reserve. The loot went straight to the vaults of the National City Bank in New York, now called

Citibank, whose parent Citigroup holds \$2.9 trillion in assets. Citibank needs to pay reparations, too.

Seven months later, white supremacist President Woodrow Wilson sent troops to occupy Haiti. The Marines landed on July 28, 1915, and stayed for 19 years, until 1934.

NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson described Marine Corps raids rounding up Haitians to perform unpaid road building "most closely resembled the African slave raids of past centuries." (Scott Nearing and Joseph Freeman, "Dollar Diplomacy") Johnson wrote the lyrics to the anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Haitian leader Charlemagne Pèralte, who resisted this invasion, was assassinated by Marines who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for this war crime.

Haitian wealth helped build Philadelphia

The richest man in the United States from before 1810 until his death in 1831 was the Philadelphia shipowner and banker Stephen Girard. He made his wealth off the slave trade and by ripping off Asian countries while exploiting sailors mercilessly.

Girard was the biggest shareholder in the Bank of the United States. After the bank's charter expired, the miser launched the Girard Bank on May 12, 1812, with a capital of \$1.2 million. The year before, the entire U.S. federal budget had been just \$8 million. (Allen Schick, "The Federal Budget: Politics, Policy, Process")

Key to Girard's rapid accumulation of loot was sending out two ships that were supposed to rescue the slave masters in Haiti.

Instead of saving their worthless lives by getting on Girard's ships, these slavers were so greedy that they loaded their gold and other valuables instead. Black Panther Party leader Dr. Huey P. Newton would have called them

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100 years of Fidel & the reason Cuba holds

By Lallan Schoenstein

A Bronx delegate in blockaded Havana

The feat accomplished by the Cubans in hosting the international colloquium “Fidel: Legacy and Future” from Aug. 10 to 13 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fidel Castro’s birth was awe-inspiring.

More than 1,500 delegates participated. These included more than 900 foreigners from 63 countries – from progressive movements, unions and governments from countries around the globe – who shared reports and engaged in discussions with the Cubans. They talked about Fidel’s goals of solidarity with all the world’s people: to wipe out illiteracy, provide education; universal free health care; the development of medical resources and science – to eliminate poverty.

There, as a delegate from the Bronx in New York City, I shared two contradictory observations.

For years I have been awed by the vibrant enthusiasm of visitors returning from Cuba. The persistence of widespread support for the Cubans and their socialist government is surprising, coming from the U.S., where people are taught to believe that communism is their great enemy. This popularity has endured for 67 years in spite of U.S. official disinformation, the military blockade, and other acts of war against the Caribbean island whose greatest offense is its stubborn independence.



Photo: Bill Hackwell

Cuba needs to import almost all of its oil and gas. In January 2026, after U.S. forces kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores, they threatened any country selling oil to the island. The one country that could ignore the threat was Russia, already under sanctions and with nothing left to lose in the dollar economy. On March 31, a Russian ship came through with 730,000 barrels of oil. Since then fuel and practically every other shipment has been blocked by Trump.

So, from the start, as a delegate in the Colloquium I was prepared to expect conditions of scarcity caused by decades of the U.S. blockade. Unless you experience hardship yourself, it’s impossible to fully know its ramifications. Also, the experience of the international participants was colored by the

Cubans’ gracious preparations. We were buffeted by the provisions of good housing, busing to cultural events and ample food.

Even so, the signs of harsh deprivation were evident everywhere. Every effort by the Cubans to improve their lives is stymied by shortages, including food and sanitation. Crews could be seen working in the streets to clear refuse, because they lack the fuel needed to drive garbage trucks.

I don’t want to elaborate on the hardships which are being reported more accurately elsewhere. Instead, I want to say why I believe the Cubans have been able to endure,

and this is my second observation:

It is difficult to define, but during my visit to Cuba I experienced a sense of personal freedom and optimism – as if I were living outside the stifling culture and all-too-often toxic personal relations that characterize my daily life in the U.S. I thought about the free societies of escaped African captives in the Americas. Of reports of Indigenous people who manage to exist outside of capitalist social relations.

The ingenuity of the Cubans working to survive – to create and improve durable living conditions for each other and with oppressed peoples around the world infuses the social life. It is possible while in Cuba to experience a sense of being at the fulcrum of a great international socialist movement. #

235 years of capitalist revenge against Haiti

Continued from page 11

“avaricious.”

Their delay in getting out of Haiti allowed the liberator Jean-Jacques Dessalines and the Haitian people to administer justice to these monsters. They never got to enjoy their luxuries or torture Africans again.

Girard used the estimated \$50,000 worth of valuables – equivalent to many millions today – to build ships that made big profits off Chinese tea and silks. He became one of the biggest Philadelphia landlords and subscribed \$200,000 toward one of the first railroads in Pennsylvania, the Danville and Pottsville.

Girard’s example of continuously reinvesting his profits is what Karl Marx called “the process of capitalist accumulation” in Capital.

Historian Joel A. Rogers wrote that Girard actually stole much more money from Haiti.

Rogers claimed that Girard took \$6 million from Haitian leader Toussaint Louverture, which Girard refused to return after Napoleon treacherously imprisoned Louverture.

Girard also invested the wealth stolen from enslaved Africans in Pennsylvania canals and coal mining lands. By 1942, almost 120 million tons of anthracite coal had been mined from Girard’s thousands of acres. (James J. Raciti, “Girard: America’s Colonial Olympian”)

Irish miners dug this coal, and 20 Irish miners – the “Molly Maguires” – were framed and executed for organizing a union. The same capitalist class that hanged these heroes bombed the MOVE house on May 13, 1985, killing 11 Black people including five children. It framed Mumia Abu-Jamal and has kept him in prison for nearly 45 years.

By 1982, when it was gobbled up by the

Mellon Bank – named after the billionaire family that controlled Alcoa, Gulf Oil and the city of Pittsburgh – the Girard Bank had 145 branches.

Today its successor, the Bank of New York Mellon, has assets “under management” of \$525 billion. But its “assets under custody and/or administration around the world” area are a whopping \$59 trillion!

That’s around \$7,000 for every human being on the planet! But the capitalists and their media tell us we don’t have enough money for health care.

We need to fight for justice for Haiti, and to free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners. We also need to rename Philadelphia’s Girard Avenue after Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

(A source for this article was “History of the Great American Fortunes” by Gustavus Myers.)

Plumbing, infrastructure, and imperialism – Conceding to the U.S. will not fix Cuba's problems

By Andrew Matatag

While we were in Cuba, my comrade Sharon made an excellent point in an update to our comrades back home.

"If conditions were like this in Baltimore City," she wrote, referring to the water and electricity shutoffs and complete oil blockade, "there would be all out revolt. And it's a credit to the revolutionary Cuban government and their mass support among the Cuban people that they do not."

I thought our living conditions in Baltimore had prepared us for this time in Cuba. We also can't flush our toilet paper (yes, this is still a reality in the U.S., for more people than you'd think), we don't have air conditioning, and one of our toilets doesn't flush quite right.

That's a little bit of preparation, sure. But we mitigate our lack of air conditioning with electric fans. We mitigate our toilet problems with reliable running water. But without those mitigating factors in Cuba, what do we have? Backed-up toilets cooking in the still, stifling Caribbean heat.

The Cuban people have a system for this. When the water is on, they prepare by filling buckets to manually flush the toilets. The Cuban government is able, as much as possible, to provide rooftop water collection tanks that can be used for flushing. Much of Cuba's architecture is built to allow air to circulate naturally through a building. We, of course, had no such preparations. But for whatever inconvenience this was for us, this is daily life for the Cuban people.

This is not a problem created by Cuba's socialist system. It is a problem manufactured by U.S. imperialism. Over 200 Cuban entities added to a U.S. restricted list in January 2025; a fuel blockade in force since January 2026; ships filled with food and fuel, already paid for in full, sitting miles off Cuba's shores – all in a deliberate, genocidal act by the U.S. ruling class to starve 10 million Cuban people.

Conceding to U.S. imperialism solves none of these problems. There is no reality in which surrendering the Cuban Revolution even stops the shutoffs, much less fixes the plumbing.

Look no further than Puerto Rico and the Philippines to understand how the United States treats its colonies and neocolonies.

While in Cuba, I met Julio, a Puerto Rican activist who was visiting at the same time. I interviewed him about infrastructure in Puerto Rico.

"You have to remember that the energy grid was built for industrial corporations that no



A man carries two buckets of water as severe fuel shortages have disrupted water pumping and distribution in Havana, Cuba.

waste – it was humbling. Outside of the mansions of the big landlords and compradors, the company towns, and the mega malls, this is

longer exist," said Julio. "It's old and built on expensive, polluting fossil fuels. When the electricity goes out, unless you own specific converters, it can short circuit anything you have plugged in."

"We have to spend an inordinate amount of money on all manner of appliances – fridges, freezers, microwaves – because of the daily blackouts." As always, it is expensive to be poor.

Puerto Rico's power lines now belong to LUMA Energy, a Canadian-U.S. consortium that holds a monopoly over the island's grid. The power plants belong to Genera PR, a subsidiary of New York's New Fortress Energy. Neither company loses money when the lights go out.

In late July 2026, Puerto Rico's government declared a state of emergency as the island's reservoirs near depletion. The puppet governor Jenniffer González claims the situation is "out of our hands," but the Puerto Rican people know better – it is a manufactured crisis, born of deliberate austerity and under-resourcing of Puerto Rico's infrastructure – austerity dictated by a federal control board, and under-resourcing carried out by the private companies that now run the grid.

In the Philippines, I experienced it myself. My family's home in Bulacan had no flushing mechanism whatsoever. One of my uncles who I'd just met had to use a bucket to flush my

the reality for most of the Filipino people.

Being inside the borders of the United States doesn't guarantee running water and electricity.

As of Aug. 22, more than a quarter of Gary, Indiana, was still without power following severe storms on Aug. 11, 2026. That's almost two weeks without electricity. NiSource, parent company of the area's utilities monopoly, NIPSCO, boasted a half-billion dollars in profit in the first six months of 2026. The same company is spending billions on new power plants to feed data centers for Amazon and Alphabet – but somehow cannot fix the lines over Gary's streets. Gary is nearly 80% Black, the only majority Black city in Lake County, Indiana.

The Cuban people understand that allowing the U.S. to re-colonize them could never solve their problems. They remain united and dignified even under a genocidal blockade, much like the people of Palestine. They continue to work around the effects of the blockade both creatively and scientifically. Both government and non-government entities continue to build solidarity among the peoples of the world.

The Cuban people are doing their part. Revolutionaries in the U.S. must continue to build a fighting mass movement that is capable of ending the genocidal blockade of Cuba. #

LOVE IS THE LAW **CUBA's**
Queer Rights Revolution
Book by Gregory E. Williams

tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw

tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEistheLAW



Iran war, \$40 trillion debt and the next capitalist crisis

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. war on Iran is hitting workers in the wallet – and pushing the capitalist economy toward a wider crisis.

Since the war began, gasoline and diesel prices have risen about 40%. Diesel is around \$5.60 a gallon and gasoline about \$4.10. Because diesel moves trucks, trains and farm machinery, the increase spreads through food and other prices.

The average 30-year mortgage has climbed from 5.98% before the war to 6.65%, while credit card rates remain extremely high.

Workers are borrowing just to live. U.S. households spent \$160 billion through “buy now, pay later” loans last year, nearly twice as much as in 2023. Half of users said they could not make ends meet otherwise. Lenders now finance rent, electricity, health insurance and other necessities out of future wages.

Behind those rising costs, pressure is building in the market for U.S. government bonds.

War must be paid for, and the capitalist state pays for it largely by borrowing. Every bomb dropped, carrier deployed and missile fired is wealth destroyed. War production builds no housing or schools and produces no goods workers can use. The weapons are consumed; the debt remains.

On Aug. 18, the interest rate on 30-year government bonds reached 5.337%, its highest in 19 years. Federal debt has passed \$40 trillion, and the government is spending nearly \$2 trillion a year more than it takes in. As war-driven inflation weakens future dollar payments, lenders demand higher returns.

This has produced growing talk of a U.S. “debt crisis.” The debt is real. But debt becomes explosive when credit can no longer postpone the deeper crisis developing in capitalist production.

Debt is not capital

A government bond is a loan to the government. It promises interest and repayment, but it is not a factory, railroad or machine. It does not produce commodities or profits by putting workers to work.

Marx called securities of this kind fictitious capital. They bring income to their owners, but what they hold is a claim on future payments, not productive capital.

The wars add directly to that pile. An independent estimate puts the direct cost of the Iran war above \$103 billion in its first 120 days. In June, the White House asked Congress for another \$72 billion in war funding. On Aug. 17, the Navy awarded Raytheon a seven-year, \$22.9 billion contract to rebuild and expand Tomahawk production.



The government paid \$963 billion in interest from October through July – about \$3.2 billion a day flowing to banks, investment funds, wealthy investors and foreign governments holding U.S. debt.

Vietnam: when war broke the dollar

The Vietnam War was also financed heavily through borrowing. War spending drove inflation higher and weakened the dollar.

Under Bretton Woods, foreign central banks could exchange dollars for U.S. gold at \$35 an ounce. As the dollar lost buying power, they increasingly traded dollars for gold, draining U.S. reserves.

On Aug. 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon ended that commitment. Attempts to patch the system together failed, and Bretton Woods collapsed by early 1973.

The Iran war is exposing the same basic weakness. Gold jumped more than 4% on Aug. 19 and has climbed above \$4,500 an ounce. Gold remains the money commodity behind the international monetary system. The Federal Reserve can create more dollars. It cannot create gold, and it cannot create value.

China has cut its Treasury holdings to \$633 billion, down more than 13% from a year earlier and the lowest since 2008. A loss of confidence in the dollar shakes the promise behind \$40 trillion in U.S. government debt.

Washington pushes the crisis outward

Washington is pushing the costs of its war drive onto other imperialist powers and their workers. The U.S. demands that European NATO governments and Japan rearm, much of it with U.S. weapons. U.S. arms corporations take the profits. Other governments take on more debt, while workers face taxes, social cuts and attacks on living standards.

The government bond market has not broken down. But in March 2020 it did.

As the COVID crisis spread, banks, funds and corporations needed cash. They sold stocks, corporate bonds and finally U.S. government bonds. Trading in parts of the Treasury market nearly stopped.

The Federal Reserve halted the panic by creating hundreds of billions of dollars and buying bonds, as it had after the 2008 crash.

Creating dollars does not create value. It also encourages banks and funds to borrow and gamble more heavily, expecting another rescue when the next crisis comes.

The AI boom and overproduction

War is not the only source of heavy borrowing. Amazon, Alphabet, Meta and Oracle have borrowed about \$223 billion through bond sales this year to finance AI data centers, chips and power plants – more than twice what they borrowed in all of 2025.

The AI boom shows how capitalist expansion prepares its own bust. Spending raises sales and profits, encouraging more investment and borrowing. But expansion cannot accelerate forever. Once growth slows, facilities that seemed urgently needed can become excess capacity that cannot be used profitably.

During a boom, capitalists build factories, add machinery and borrow in expectation of future profits. Credit lets expansion run further. But production is not planned to meet human need. Each capitalist produces for profit and fights for markets.

Sooner or later, goods, factories and debts pile up faster than the market can absorb them profitably. Money gets tight. Interest rates rise. Credit contracts. Factories close, businesses fail and workers lose their jobs. That is the capitalist crisis of overproduction.

Both roads lead to the workers

The Federal Reserve is caught between two pressures, and both choices attack the working class. If it creates money on a large scale to drive interest rates down, the dollar can weaken and prices can rise. When wages fail to keep up, workers take a real wage cut.

If it keeps money tight, weaker businesses fail, layoffs spread and unemployment grows. Employers then use unemployment to press down wages and speed up those still working.

Either road restores profits by increasing the exploitation of the working class. The Fed is not choosing whether workers will pay. It is choosing how.

The Treasury can shuffle its debts and central banks can rescue financial markets again.

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Iran strikes disrupt USS Lincoln supply line

By Gary Wilson

Iranian missile and drone strikes heavily damaged the U.S. Navy base in Bahrain that supplied the USS Abraham Lincoln, forcing the Navy to shift logistics thousands of miles away. The result was repeated shortages aboard the carrier while the Trump administration concealed the extent of the damage.

MS NOW senior national security reporter David Rohde reported Aug. 18 that Department of War boss Pete Hegseth had hidden how badly the Bahrain base was hit. The Navy shifted supply operations to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, roughly 2,200 miles from the Gulf of Oman. At that distance, the Lincoln kept running short.

The carrier has now been relieved by the USS George Washington and is heading home after nearly nine months at sea. The George Washington, normally based in Japan, reached the Arabian Sea Aug. 19. The story began Feb. 28, the first day of the U.S. assault on Iran.

Iran immediately struck U.S. bases across West Asia, including Naval Support Activity Bahrain in Manama, headquarters of the Navy's Fifth Fleet and a logistics center U.S. naval operations had depended on for decades. The scale of the destruction was kept largely from public view.

The Washington Post reported May 6 that Iranian strikes damaged or destroyed at least 228 structures or pieces of equipment at 15 U.S. military sites. Bahrain was hit especially hard.

A Wall Street Journal investigation on June 26 found that repeated Iranian missile and

drone attacks extensively damaged the Bahrain base. The command headquarters, more than a dozen other buildings and two satellite communications terminals were hit. Most U.S. personnel were evacuated. A U.S. official told the Post the damage was "extensive" and said the Fifth Fleet headquarters was being relocated to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Rohde reported that the destruction knocked out the Navy's main logistics hub supporting the Lincoln. Hegseth concealed the damage while the Navy tried to sustain the carrier from Diego Garcia, home to a U.S.-British base south of the Maldives.

The disrupted supply line showed that the bases Washington uses to bomb Iran were themselves within Iran's reach. Iran had brought the war back onto the base network the U.S. military depends on throughout West Asia.

Sailors and families push back

The consequences fell directly on the rank-and-file sailors aboard the Lincoln.

About 5,000 sailors and Marines went more than 200 days between port calls while carrying out thousands of sorties. Families and sailors reported shortages of fresh food and basic supplies, contaminated water, broken toilets and plumbing, lost mail and severe exhaustion.

There were also reports of sailors attempting to jump overboard and worsening mental health aboard the ship. Hegseth dismissed reports about conditions as "completely misrepresented."

On Aug. 6, about 200 family members confronted Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao and other senior officials at a meeting in San Diego. Another meeting was held online that evening. Families demanded answers about food, water, working conditions, safety and when their relatives would come home.

Recordings were leaked to MS NOW. Sailors and relatives also spoke to military and civilian news outlets. What Navy leaders had kept inside the ship was suddenly public.

Young enlisted sailors were working exhausting shifts in a war zone, under continuing threat of Iranian missile and drone attack, after months with little relief.

Trump answered with contempt. Asked about the extraordinary length of the deployment, he said it was "not nearly long enough." Hegseth rejected reports of poor conditions.

There has been no organized refusal aboard the Lincoln. But rank-and-file discontent has become open resistance to how Navy leaders handled the deployment and tried to control information. Sailors are talking. Their families organized, confronted senior officials and made those confrontations public.



Currently serving U.S. military personnel march against the war on Iran in Philadelphia on July 4. At least a dozen members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines joined the Service Members' Anti-War Contingent organized by the Center on Conscience and War.

The resistance reaches beyond the Lincoln. On July 4, at least a dozen active-duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines – officers and enlisted personnel – marched in a Service Members' Anti-War Contingent in Philadelphia organized by the Center on Conscience and War. Several more were denied leave. The center said it was the largest gathering of serving military personnel at an antiwar protest since the Vietnam War.

The significance goes beyond one ship. Military command depends partly on keeping rank-and-file grievances inside the chain of command and separating service members from the people at home. On the Lincoln, that barrier began to break.

The Navy finally sent the George Washington from the Pacific to relieve the Lincoln, temporarily leaving the western Pacific without a U.S. aircraft carrier. The Iran war was straining U.S. forces far beyond West Asia. Replacing one carrier with another only shifts the problem.

Washington entered the war assuming its bases, carriers and advanced weapons would let it pound Iran while preserving overwhelming military superiority. Iran's counterstrikes showed that the base system itself could be hit.

The Department of War could minimize the damage and keep wrecked bases out of public view. It could not hide the consequences forever.

They appeared thousands of miles at sea: a carrier cut off from its normal supply base, exhausted sailors, angry families and another carrier pulled from the Pacific to take its place.

The sailors who kept the Lincoln running for nine months are working-class youth, most 26 or younger, sent to enforce a blockade and bomb a country that never attacked them. Iran's missiles hit the bases. The cost of the war hit the crew. When their families confronted the acting Navy secretary and leaked what he told them, they gave the war managers something new to fear: the people ordered to fight this war beginning to fight back. #

\$40 trillion debt

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But they cannot abolish the contradictions of capitalist production, and they cannot make war produce anything but destruction.

The next crisis will not stay on Wall Street

The fall in government bond prices does not mean a general crisis has begun. But it contains the danger of one.

In a panic, falling bond prices create losses. Losses create demands for cash. The scramble forces more assets onto the market until buyers disappear and credit breaks down.

When capitalism can no longer postpone its contradictions through credit, they erupt in bankruptcies, unemployment and falling production.

Capitalist crisis also changes the conditions of class struggle. Factories close. Millions can be thrown out of work. Wages and living standards come under attack.

The next crash will not stay on Wall Street. It will enter the workplaces and the streets as a new stage of the class struggle. #

U.S.-brokered 'ceasefire' in Lebanon means bombing every week

By Lev Koufax

For a war front supposedly under a ceasefire, southern Lebanon has faced repeated Israeli bombing and shelling over the past four months. In August alone, the IOF has killed at least 18 people, including 11 people in a single day on Aug. 15.

Why is the time span of four months important? It has been a little over four months since the Israeli and Lebanese governments agreed to the first U.S.-brokered cessation of hostilities in the war that resumed on March 2. The April 16 truce was extended in May, followed by a conditional ceasefire agreement on June 3 and then a formal "framework agreement" signed in Washington on June 26, 2026.

The scale of the assault has been enormous. By Aug. 25, the Lebanese Health Ministry had recorded 4,350 people killed and 12,310 wounded since Israel resumed its offensive on March 2. The death toll has continued to rise despite the U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

However, even with this supposed ceasefire in place, the U.S.-backed Zionist offensive against Lebanon has not stopped. On Aug. 29, Israeli forces again attacked southern Lebanon, carrying out drone and air strikes, artillery fire and demolitions in and around Nabatieh, Mansouri, Houla and other towns. Two days earlier, an Israeli strike killed a newlywed woman and wounded six other people, including a child and two older adults.

Throughout the various air and artillery strikes since the ceasefire began, the IOF has also continued some level of ground offensives with infantry and Merkava tanks. All of this Zionist onslaught has occurred while the formal Lebanese government has engaged in seven rounds of talks with Israeli and U.S. officials. To be clear, the Lebanese government seated in Beirut does not speak for Hezbollah.



Smoke rises over Nabatieh in southern Lebanon after Israeli airstrikes on Aug. 28. Israeli attacks continued the next day despite the U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

Yet, the U.S. and Israel refuse to negotiate with Hezbollah directly.

As the various imperialist wars of 2026 are being waged, whether against Iran, Cuba, Palestine, Lebanon, or Yemen, it has become abundantly clear that "ceasefires" and "negotiations" are simply tactical maneuvers by the U.S. in the furtherance of those wars. The U.S. government, which represents big defense corporations like Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics as opposed to the masses of working-class people, is not interested in ending these wars.

They are only interested in crushing any resistance in the Global South to make way for transnational corporate investment and a permanent military presence. Israel's war against Lebanon is in furtherance of that same goal. Wars waged by Israel against places like

Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iran, and Yemen do not happen in a vacuum. These wars are waged on behalf of U.S. capitalism.

It is for this exact reason that no level of reform in Israel nor any "ceasefire" agreement will ever do enough to end the oppression Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, and Yemeni people face at the hands of the U.S. via Israel. This oppression will only end when the Zionist project is completely defeated, because it would mean the U.S. was strategically defeated in the region.

Without this sort of victory by the various oppressed peoples of West Asia, there will be no relief from U.S. imperialism. Liberal Zionism is not the answer. Ceasefires are not the answer. A two-state solution is not the answer.

The only answer is the complete defeat of the U.S. and its allies in the region.

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.

U.S. bombs a wedding in Iran

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wedding in Kakarak, Afghanistan. An Afghan government investigation found 48 people killed and about 117 wounded, most of them women and children.

On May 19, 2004, U.S. aircraft and ground forces attacked a wedding gathering at Mukaradeeb in Iraq. Iraqi officials and hospital staff counted 42 dead, including 11 women and 14 children. The U.S. military denied bombing a wedding and called the site a military target.

On Dec. 12, 2013, a U.S. drone struck a wedding convoy near Rada'a, Yemen. Human

Rights Watch documented 12 men killed and at least 15 wounded, including the bride. U.S. and Yemeni officials initially called those killed militants.

The U.S.-armed Saudi coalition carried the same method into its war on Yemen. In 2015, airstrikes hit a wedding at al-Wahga, killing 131 people, at least 80 of them women. In 2018, another coalition strike hit a wedding at Bani Qayis, killing at least 22 people, including eight children, and wounding 54.

Four countries. Twenty-four years. The weapons change. The explanations change.

The result does not.

On April 2 – Sizdah Bedar, when Iranian families spend the day outdoors – U.S. missiles struck the unfinished B1 bridge at Karaj. Eight people were killed and more than 95 wounded. According to Fars News Agency, first responders rushed in to help.

Another U.S. strike followed.

A rural wedding in West Asia can mean a large gathering, a convoy of vehicles and celebratory gunfire. Through the machinery of U.S. warfare, ordinary parts of life can become signs on a targeting screen. The system already decides how many civilian lives can be

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Washington can't force the world to blockade Iran

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. Treasury has told the world to choose sides in Washington's war on Iran. In an Aug. 20 CNBC interview, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent promised "the greatest coordinated economic isolation in the history of the world" and put the threat plainly: "You are either with us or against us."

Any government, bank or shipping company that keeps doing business with Iran, Bessent said, would face the "full might and force" of the U.S. government.

Washington wants to turn its war into a world-wide economic blockade – cutting Iran off from oil buyers, banks and shipping while forcing other countries to help enforce it. The U.S. has used the same economic warfare against Cuba for more than six decades.

But one word in Bessent's boast gives away the problem: "coordinated." Washington does not yet have the coalition it needs.

The contrast with Russia in 2022 is sharp. By early that year, Washington and its European allies were already preparing a coordinated economic attack if the crisis became war. When Russia launched its Special Military Operation on Feb. 24 in response to the growing NATO threat and in support of Donbass, the sanctions were ready. The U.S. and its allies immediately moved against Russia's biggest banks and financial system.

Nothing like that exists today. Bessent is saying Washington still has to get an agreement – demanding that its allies enforce a blockade they never signed onto.

In March, those same allies refused to send

warships to join the U.S. effort to force open the Strait of Hormuz.

The United Arab Emirates announced Aug. 19 that it was halting trade and financial transactions with Iran. But Abu Dhabi had already suspended direct cargo shipping in early March, then quietly resumed it through Dubai's Jebel Ali Port in late June. And the UAE is not Iran's main oil customer. China buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil.

Bessent insisted markets were "misinterpreting what this economic pressure means." But oil prices rose after his threats and held near \$94 a barrel on Aug. 21. "We've got a spike in oil prices today that I don't really understand," he told reporters.

The reason is straightforward. If Washington knocks more Iranian oil off the market while shipping through the Strait of Hormuz remains disrupted, less oil is available and prices rise. So far, the market is moving opposite to Bessent's claim that more pressure will quickly end the war.

The wall in Beijing

China is the biggest obstacle to Bessent's plan. Much of Iran's oil goes to independent Chinese refineries through trading companies and tanker networks built over years of U.S. sanctions.

U.S. sanctions reach far beyond U.S. borders because so much world trade still depends on the dollar and banks tied to the U.S. financial system. Washington can threaten banks and corporations anywhere with loss of access to dollar payments, U.S. banks and the U.S. market.



Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent speaks to reporters at the White House on Aug. 20, threatening governments, banks and shipping companies that continue doing business with Iran.

China has spent years reducing that pressure on its Iranian oil trade. Independent refineries with relatively little U.S. business buy crude through intermediaries and tanker networks designed to withstand sanctions.

Washington has already sanctioned Chinese refineries for buying Iranian oil. Beijing answered in May by ordering that U.S. sanctions against five of them not be enforced in China. Iranian oil kept moving.

Washington can threaten larger Chinese corporations and banks. But cutting major banks in the world's second-largest economy out of dollar finance could bring retaliation and disrupt trade far beyond Iran. U.S. corporations themselves are deeply tied to China.

That is the contradiction Bessent cannot threaten away. Measures strong enough to seriously damage China could also impose heavy costs on the U.S. and the world capitalist economy.

Beijing has rejected unilateral U.S. sanctions and says its trade with Iran is its own affair.

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U.S. bombs a wedding

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sacrificed to military objectives.

The second strike at Karaj showed something more. A first strike can be called a mistake. The second required someone to watch rescuers arrive and fire again.

Trump has dismissed renewed negotiations, ordered a "tanker for tanker" policy of striking Iranian commercial shipping and threatened Iran's main crude export terminal at Kharg Island. Each step pushes the war deeper into civilian life – ships, ports, plants and the electrical system.

Washington began the war believing overwhelming U.S. firepower would force Iran to



People inspect the wreckage of a house in Kuestak, Iran, hit by a U.S. missile during a family wedding on Sept. 1.

submit. It has not. Iran continues to fight. U.S. bases have been damaged. Naval operations have been pushed farther from the battlefield.

Washington's answer is to widen the destruction.

The strain is also reaching into the U.S. military. Sailors and Marines have spent months at sea under exhausting conditions and short-

ages aboard U.S. warships. Some military personnel are beginning to question what they are being ordered to do, while antiwar veterans reach out to active-duty troops.

This is not yet an organized antiwar movement inside the military. But every unsuccessful imperialist war can sharpen the class conflict between the ruling class that orders it and the workers in uniform sent to fight it.

The generals can shift deployments, move ships and planes and order another round of bombing. None of that solves Washington's basic problem: the Iranian people have not surrendered. #

Mladić death revives NATO lies on Yugo

By Gary Wilson

On Aug. 27, the New York Times announced the death of Bosnian Serb Gen. Ratko Mladić with a headline calling him the murderous “Butcher of Bosnia.” It told readers that Mladić had been convicted in the killing of “some 8,000 Muslims at Srebrenica,” which it called Europe’s deadliest massacre since World War II.

The Times does more than repeat the NATO version of Srebrenica. It turns Mladić into a cartoon villain whose role in the war was simply to slaughter Muslims. Missing are the civil war, the armies fighting on all sides, Washington and NATO’s role in breaking up Yugoslavia, and the years of warfare that led to Srebrenica.

Mladić was military commander of the Bosnian Serb army in a civil war. The Times replaces that history with a morality tale: criminal Serbs, helpless Muslim victims and NATO coming to their rescue. That was the story Washington needed to justify deeper military intervention and the destruction of Yugoslavia.

As the war unfolded, the International Action Center in New York documented another history, collected in “NATO in the Balkans: Voices of Opposition and Hidden Agenda: U.S./ NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia.”

Born from the fight against fascism

Yugoslavia’s socialist federation grew out of the Communist-led Partisan struggle against Nazi occupation during World War II. The Partisans united the country’s different national-

ities and became the largest resistance movement in Europe, more than a million strong.

British writer Basil Davidson, who fought alongside the Partisans, described how village networks, political organizing and multinational unity allowed Tito’s movement to defeat both the Nazi occupiers and nationalist forces that collaborated with them.

From 1945 to 1991, Yugoslavia was a multinational federation of six republics. Large industry was socially owned, national rights were guaranteed, medical care and education were free, and the right to a job was established.

Marxist writer and organizer Sam Marcy rejected the claim that Yugoslavia fell apart because “ancient ethnic hatreds” burst through decades of communist rule. “The establishment of the socialist federation of Yugoslavia was a historic victory,” he wrote. It had united peoples previously subjected to rival imperialist powers and created a state capable of resisting outside domination.

To break Yugoslavia apart, the imperialist powers had to break that unity. Washington and other Western powers intensified economic and political pressure, imposed austerity and backed separatist and right-wing nationalist forces. Germany and Austria supported the secession of Slovenia and Croatia. Right-wing and fascist organizations that had survived in exile became channels for money and arms.

Yugoslavia had internal contradictions. But Western intervention deepened the national

divisions until the socialist federation collapsed into civil war.

Washington armed the breakup

U.S. military involvement steadily grew. European newspapers reported CIA training of the Bosnian army, U.S. satellite intelligence, weapons shipments, construction of airstrips and training of Bosnian and Croatian forces.

At the same time, NATO and the corporate media portrayed the Serbs as the new Nazis of Europe – a grotesque reversal of Yugoslavia’s World War II history. Under Nazi occupation, Serbs were targeted for mass murder along with Jews and Roma. The fascist Ustashe regime in Croatia slaughtered Serbs, Jews and Roma.

By 1992, television images from Trnopolje were being broadcast worldwide as proof of Serbian “concentration camps.” German journalist Thomas Deichmann later challenged how the famous barbed-wire images had been presented.

This propaganda prepared public opinion for NATO intervention and divided the anti-war movement. Important sections of the left came to accept the picture of Serbs as fascist aggressors and NATO as protection for their victims.

The imperialist powers sharpened national divisions inside Yugoslavia and used those same divisions to fracture opposition to war abroad. Once the argument centered on whether the Bosnian Serbs deserved support instead of whether the U.S. and NATO had the right to intervene, a united anti-war movement became harder to build.

Krajina and Srebrenica

Washington had been preparing the Croatian military. In September 1994, the Pentagon contracted Military Professional Resources Inc., run by former U.S. military officers, to train the Croatian army. The U.S. and Croatia signed a military agreement that November, and a U.S. intelligence operations center was established on the Adriatic island of Brac.

In August 1995, the Croatian army launched Operation Storm against the Serbian population of Krajina. Some 200,000 refugees fled. Unlike Srebrenica, there were no demands in Washington for sanctions or NATO attacks on Croatia. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the offensive was “to our advantage.”

Srebrenica itself was not an unarmed civilian “safe area.” A May 30, 1995, report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Bosnian government troops had incorporated several U.N.-declared safe areas into their military campaign and maintained “a substantial number of troops in Srebrenica,” violating the demilitarization agreement.

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Washington can’t force world to blockade Iran

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Washington is demanding that China accept the U.S. Treasury’s right to decide whom Chinese companies may trade with. Beijing is refusing.

Sanctions can still hurt

None of this makes the blockade harmless. The existing U.S. naval blockade is already cutting Iranian oil shipments.

China’s imports of Iranian oil fell to about 534,000 barrels a day so far in August, down from about 1.4 million barrels a day on average in 2025, according to tanker-tracking firm Kpler. That cuts directly into Iran’s export income and puts greater pressure on imports, production, prices and living standards.

Trump’s first “maximum pressure” campaign also drove Iranian oil exports sharply downward and inflicted real economic damage. It did not force Iran to surrender.

Iran and its trading partners adapted. New tanker networks appeared. Payments moved through channels harder for Washington to

control. Chinese independent refineries became major buyers. The Treasury sanctioned tankers, trading companies and refineries, but the trade found new routes.

Bessent is now promising a much bigger version of a policy that already caused heavy damage without forcing surrender.

The dollar and U.S. banking system still give Washington enormous power to hurt countries that resist it. But decades of sanctions have also pushed targeted countries to build new trade routes, payment systems and financial ties and rely less on channels Washington controls.

China is still buying Iranian oil. U.S. allies refused to send warships to force open the Strait. Yet Bessent promises “the greatest coordinated economic isolation in the history of the world” while Washington is still trying to recruit the countries needed to carry it out.

The U.S. can still make Iran suffer. What it has not shown is that it can force China and the rest of the world to help make Iran surrender. #

Yugoslavia

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Washington had helped build the Bosnian government army with arms, training, advisers and intelligence. Bosnian government troops operated from the Srebrenica enclave, and the fighting there in July 1995 came out of the continuing war.

The Times presents a simpler story: Mladić's forces entered a civilian refuge and murdered some 8,000 Muslims.

The figure of 8,000 was not originally a count of bodies found at Srebrenica. It came from Red Cross tracing requests for people missing after the enclave fell. Thousands of men left Srebrenica in an armed column of Bosnian army troops and civilians that fought toward Tuzla, suffering casualties from fighting and mines.

That military context disappears when Srebrenica is presented simply as the massacre of an unarmed civilian population.

Judge Prisca Matimba Nyambe, presiding judge in Mladić's appeal, dissented from the tribunal's judgment. She noted that even the prosecution acknowledged a legitimate military objective in the Bosnian Serb attack around Srebrenica. She wrote that illegal killings outside combat were reprehensible but "not tied to Mr. Mladić," and concluded that the Trial Chamber had erred in convicting him on the Srebrenica charges, including genocide.

NATO bombs, Dayton rules

In August 1995, an explosion at a Sarajevo marketplace killed 43 civilians and wounded 75. Washington immediately blamed Bosnian Serb forces and used the explosion to justify a massive NATO bombing campaign.

New York Times correspondent David Binder reported that military specialists disputed whether the mortar could have come from Serbian positions. NATO went ahead with more than 3,515 sorties and dropped 1,026 bombs on 338 targets.

Bombing, blockade and military pressure forced the Bosnian Serb leadership and Yugoslav government into U.S.-brokered negotiations at Dayton, Ohio. The agreement stopped the fighting, but it also brought tens of thousands of NATO troops into Bosnia under U.S. command.

The Dayton settlement closely resembled proposals Washington had previously opposed. The essential difference was that the earlier plans would not have put Bosnia under a U.S.-led NATO force. Dayton did.

An appointed High Representative received sweeping authority over civilian government. The International Monetary Fund was given control over the Bosnian Central Bank, while Western financial institutions directed the restructuring and sale of socially owned assets.

The country had been broken apart politic-



ally. NATO occupied it militarily. Western banks and financial agencies took control of its economic reconstruction. A war sold as humanitarian intervention ended in military occupation and colonial-style administration.

The Hague tribunal completed the story

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia gave NATO's political story the authority of a court.

Created by the U.N. Security Council in 1993 while the Bosnia war was still underway, the tribunal was heavily backed by Washington. Madeleine Albright was a driving force behind its establishment. U.S. official David Scheffer acknowledged that it was "supported, financed, staffed and provided information" primarily by the United States. NATO spokesperson Jamie Shea said NATO countries were among its "majority financiers."

Almost 60 of the first 76 people publicly indicted were Serbs. The tribunal could prosecute people from the former Yugoslavia, but it could not put the broader conduct of the NATO powers on trial. The governments intervening in Yugoslavia helped create and finance the institution judging their opponents.

Nyambe's dissent also challenged Mladić's trial itself. She found that the Trial Chamber violated equality of arms by refusing two defense witnesses and that prosecution disclosure failures impaired his defense. She would have ordered a retrial on every count except hostage-taking.

Bosnia opened the way to 1999. Dayton did not end Washington's intervention. It established a bridgehead for the next stage.

U.S. bases followed the Bosnia operation. NATO expanded deeper into Eastern Europe. Washington and Germany backed the Kosovo "Liberation Army," and by 1998 NATO had prepared plans for another attack on Yugoslavia.

On March 24, 1999, NATO began bombing what remained of Yugoslavia. For 78 days, U.S. and NATO aircraft struck factories, bridges, electrical systems, television facilities, hospitals and other infrastructure.

NATO said it had gone to war to stop massacres. The result was the overthrow of the government in the region that had resisted U.S. rule and a network of NATO military bases in Croatia, Bosnia, Hungary, Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo.

NATO bombing damage in Belgrade, 1999. The U.S.-led war against Yugoslavia followed years of propaganda that portrayed NATO intervention as necessary to stop Serbian aggression.

The history behind the obituary.

Mladić's death gives the New York Times another occasion to repeat NATO's version of Srebrenica and the destruction of Yugoslavia.

Its caricature leaves out the socialist federation born from the Partisan victory over fascism; the economic pressure and political intervention that sharpened national divisions; the CIA operations and U.S. training of selected armies; the destruction of Serbian Krajina; the NATO bombing campaigns; and the military, political and economic controls imposed through Dayton.

The same method of division is still used.

In Venezuela, attacks have increasingly centered on Acting President Delcy Rodríguez. After the U.S. kidnapping of Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores, some voices suggested that Rodríguez had been complicit. Few accepted that claim. The broader attack has been that she has not resisted strongly enough as Washington moved to seize control of Venezuelan oil and finances.

The effect is to turn the anti-war movement away from the central issue – U.S. aggression and takeover – and into an argument over whether the Venezuelan government deserves support.

That resembles the method used against Yugoslavia. Slobodan Milosevic and Ratko Mladić were made personal embodiments of the crisis, so the question became whether they were worthy of defense rather than whether the U.S. and NATO had the right to break up and bomb Yugoslavia.

In Iran, the method is more direct: the government and its leaders are portrayed as monsters whose destruction can be presented as liberation.

The form changes, but the purpose remains: shift attention from U.S. aggression to the character of the targeted government, divide the anti-war movement over its leaders and make united resistance to intervention harder to build.

That was one of the lessons of Yugoslavia. U.S. propaganda exploited national divisions inside the country and political divisions in the anti-war movement abroad. Both helped clear the road for the U.S./NATO assault.

The destruction of Yugoslavia became a model for later U.S. wars sold in the name of human rights. Mladić's death should not be used to revive the propaganda that made NATO's war appear humanitarian. The history buried beneath the Times obituary is the U.S./NATO destruction and takeover of Yugoslavia. #

¡Esencia NO VA!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

A pesar del enorme problema de sequía que padecemos y la falta de efectividad para resolver los problemas de infraestructura que llevan años provocando el desperdicio de más del 60 por ciento del agua potable que produce el departamento de Acueductos y Alcantarillados, los inversionistas extranjeros siguen empujando un megaproyecto turístico-residencial lujoso en la costa suroeste de Puerto Rico. Este proyecto, llamado Esencia, cubre más de tres millas cuadradas de un territorio que alberga recursos naturales protegidos, incluyendo yacimientos arqueológicos, fauna y zona marítimo terrestre que es esencial para el mantenimiento de nuestras costas. De lograrse su construcción, drenaría el área del agua que sirve a la comunidad circundante, además de las fuentes de energía, tan problemáticas desde que privatizaron este servicio.

Compañías extranjeras que recibirían grandes exenciones contributivas del gobierno local, incluyendo las que pertenecen a John Paulson, un parásito multimillonario estadounidense, que comenzó a enriquecerse como gestor de fondos de cobertura y se estableció en Puerto Rico en el año 2013 amparándose en la vergonzosa y muy generosa Ley de Exenciones Contributivas para millonarios extranjeros que se muden a nuestra isla. Otras compañías extranjeras, como la multimillonaria de los Hermanos Reuben, que tienen intereses en Israel, son parte de ese grupo de buitres que están salivando con poner sus garras en nuestro territorio, a expensas de los intereses y del bienestar de nuestro pueblo.



Foto: Raúl Colon

Según el Centro de Periodismo Investigativo, muchas de estas compañías además, 'han dejado rastro de daños en otras comunidades del mundo'.

Pero el pueblo ha rechazado esta agresión. Ha denunciado hasta la saciedad, la facilitación por el gobierno de permisos de ubicación, de falta de vistas públicas, de las falsas representaciones que ocultan los daños que este proyecto podría acarrear a las comunidades y al ambiente. Ha marchado en el noreste en San Juan y en el suroeste en Cabo rojo, el lugar del proyectado complejo. Se han organizado foros educativos que están dando resultado al orientar a la población sobre el daño que podría ocasionar.

Se impulsaron además vistas en la Legislatura donde por fin la Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados y la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica

admitieron que no disponen de la capacidad para dar esos servicios que requiere el proyecto.

Hay que recordar también que Esencia no es el único proyecto de lujo que compañías extranjeras y locales multimillonarias impulsan en nuestro territorio. Hay más de 10 proyectos en el archipiélago que intentan robarnos nuestra tierra, nuestros recursos y dañar nuestro ecosistema.

Por eso, el pueblo sigue resistiendo. No se puede contar con el gobierno, al contrario, es el facilitador de estos robos.

Así que lo que queda es el Pueblo vs los multimillonarios extranjeros buitres.

Y como dicen en las calles: ¡Esencia no va!

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



U.S. bombs a wedding in Iran

By Gary Wilson

On Sept. 1, a U.S. missile hit a house in Kuhestak, a small coastal town in Iran's Hormozgan province, where a family was celebrating a wedding. Iranian state media reported at least four people killed in the U.S. attacks there and at least 68 wounded.

That same night, eight explosions were reported along Qeshm Island's southern coast. Iranian television said a fishmeal plant in Suza was hit. U.S. strikes also hit a fishing pier and a Ports and Maritime Organization tower at Sirik. A projectile struck outside the runway area at Jiroft's civilian airport. Power outages were reported in Hormozgan.

U.S. Central Command said it struck air-defense sites, radar systems, maritime assets, mine-laying capabilities and communications sites.

Put the two lists side by side. A fishmeal plant becomes a maritime facility. A fishing pier becomes a maritime asset. A harbor tower becomes a communications site. The wedding disappears altogether.

Kuhestak, Suza and Sirik are fishing towns on the Strait of Hormuz. The fishmeal plant grinds the catch into feed and fertilizer. The pier is where the boats tie up. The people killed and wounded in Kuhestak were a family and their guests at a wedding.

These were among the civilian sites struck on the 186th day of a war Washington has been unable to win.

Six months of war have not broken Iran. Iranian missiles and drones have damaged or destroyed radar, communications and air-defense equipment at U.S. bases

across the region. An Iranian attack destroyed much of the U.S. Navy base in Bahrain and forced the Navy to shift its main logistics hub to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Iran says it has now downed its 50th Reaper drone.

The U.S. military can inflict enormous destruction. It has not forced Iran to surrender. So the destruction spreads outward – to ports, power systems, fishing towns and wedding parties.

The U.S. war command can call Kuhestak a mistake. It has used that explanation before.

On July 1, 2002, U.S. aircraft attacked a

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