



Por una
Energía
a manos
del Pueblo

They tag us like cattle: ICE's electronic shackles

By Kat Davis

In the mid-1960s, Harvard researchers experimented with wearable radio tracking devices for people caught in the criminal “justice” system. These were very early prototypes of what would become the ankle monitor. In the early 1970s, experimental farms in several countries also began using similar devices for cows. Today, they are common in the cattle industry, facilitating exploitation of the animals, which are tracked from birth to slaughter. Electronic tracking is used to standardize feeding schedules and more.

Spider-Man villain inspires New Mexico judge

Police began using tracking devices in the early 1980s. Jack Love – a New Mexico state district court judge – is credited with making it a reality. He claimed he got the idea from a Spider-Man comic that first ran in 1977. He was astonished by the technology the evil Kingpin used to track Spider-Man. Yes, that’s right. Judge Love was inspired by the fictional villain’s use of an electric monitor. In 1982, he found a Colorado engineer,



Michael Goss, willing to design it. Goss called the device “electronic handcuffs” and later stated that they were a “goldmine.”

Judge Love started experimenting. He wore the monitor himself. He raved that it kept him on a “very, very, short leash!” Knowing how restrictive it

Continued on page 17

High school graduation photo of Pierre Damas Bel, a Wright State University freshman who took his own life after being forced to wear an ankle monitor when the Trump regime ended TPS for Haitian immigrants.

No electric power in Gary, Indiana

Cassandra Wilson the Delta Blues

AI machines/Pentagon taking power.

AI is dead labor with a target list

Sanders, Bannon aim AI ban at China

Tribute to Attica prisoners' Commune



When the Zionist settlers come down from the hills

YEMEN's Ansar Allah strikes blow against U.S. imperialism

D.C. protest for **VENEZUELA**, demands freedom for Maduro and Flores



GOLD and the dollar

The billionaire **OLIGARCHY**

Trump's military command

Germany's war drive feeds far right

Volkswagen cars out, weapons in

Mao and the Cultural Revolution



SLL photo: Sharon Black.



Why they hate Gary, Indiana

By Stephen Millies

For generations, the rule for Black workers in the United States has been "last hired, first fired." In the Black city of Gary, Indiana, it's now "the last place where the lights came back on."

For two weeks, thousands in the steel center were without electrical power following a powerful Aug. 11 storm called a derecho. These dangerous weather events draw their force from a warming earth. Capitalist production for profit is what is heating it.

Severe thunderstorms and 100 mph winds swept across northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. Utility workers worked around the clock to restore power.

Yet hundreds of homes in Gary were still without electricity as of Aug. 31, according to the city's Mayor, Eddie Melton.

That's been a disaster for people who not only lost their lights but also any food in their refrigerators. For people who need insulin or other medicines that must be kept cold, it was a dire emergency.

Meanwhile, according to some reports, power was never shut off to nearby data centers.

NIPSCO — the Northern Indiana Public Service Company — is the monopoly responsible for this crime. The utility has the highest electric rates in the state. It's part of NiSource, an outfit that raked in over \$900 million in profits last year.

Among its biggest investors is Manhattan-based BlackRock, which has \$15.5 trillion in assets under management. That's half the amount of the United States' Gross Domestic Product.

Yet with all that money, NiSource and its NIPSCO subsidiary don't want to spend much of it to trim the trees that snagged electrical wires during the storm. This helped cause the extensive blackout.

Nor does it want to put more of its cables in safer underground conduits. That's a common disease of these profit-hungry utilities.

California's Pacific Gas and Electric is responsible for a series of deadly fires. Eighty-



A Gary resident prays before receiving a free boxed lunch at City Life Center on Aug. 20, more than a week after the Aug. 11 derecho left thousands in the Black steel city without power. For many residents, the prolonged blackout meant spoiled food, lost medicine and deepening hardship.

five people died in the 2018 Camp Fire caused by deferred maintenance. The corporate utilities need to be taken over by the people.

Biggest steel mill in the land

Founded in 1906, Gary was named after Elbert Gary, the strikebreaking chairman of United States Steel, which was founded five years before as the world's first billion-dollar corporation. The real master of this steel trust that took over Andrew Carnegie's mills was J.P. Morgan, the biggest bankster in the country. Today's J.P. Morgan Chase bank has assets of \$5.0 trillion.

The Gary works became the largest steel mill in the United States. (Although starting in the 1950s, Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point complex outside Baltimore held that title with an annual capacity of more than 9 million tons. This huge plant was shut down in 2012, with two non-union Amazon facilities replacing it.)

U.S. Steel recruited workers from throughout Eastern and Southern Europe to work 12-hour days in dangerous conditions with low pay. Black people were summoned from the South as the Great Migration began. Among them was the family of Michael Jackson, whose father Joseph Jackson migrated from Arkansas and became a crane operator at the Gary Works.

When the capitalist economy slumped during a recession, thousands of workers were fired. There was no unemployment compensation. Those still on the job suffered wage cuts.

Revolting against these conditions, 365,000 steelworkers went on strike in 1919, demanding union recognition. The strike's main organizer was future communist leader William Z. Foster.

The strike was smashed. Martial law was declared in Gary with thousands of U.S. Army soldiers occupying the city.

Even though the workers were defeated, they eventually won the eight-hour day.

U.S. Steel Chair Elbert Gary was forced to abolish his beloved 12-hour workday by 1923. ("Steelworkers in America, The Nonunion Era," by David Brody.) As

Frederick Douglass declared, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

After auto workers seized the General Motors plants in Flint, Michigan, in 1937—holding a 44-day-long sit-down strike—they not only won union recognition for themselves. Fearing a similar takeover by workers, U.S. Steel management signed a contract with the steel workers' union.

That didn't stop the steel trust from trying to break the union during long strikes in 1946, 1952 and 1959. The 1959 strike lasted 116 days.

Corporate wealth vs. Black power

The Great Migration brought more and more Black workers to Northern industry. By 1968, a quarter of all U.S. auto workers and steelworkers were Black. ("Organized Labor and the Black Worker, 1619-1981," by Philip Foner.) Gary became a Black-majority city.

In 1967, the local Democratic political machine did everything possible to stop the Black attorney and councilperson Richard Hatcher from becoming mayor. Many of the machine's white supporters were supporters of super-racist George Wallace.

Machine boss John Krupa didn't even want to register any new voters. He claimed that Hatcher was a communist.

Where were the protests by Republican

Continued on page 16

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Cassandra Wilson took the blues back to the Delta

By Lallan Schoenstein

Jazz musician Cassandra Wilson died at her home in Jackson, Mississippi, on Sept. 1. She was 70.

She was born in Jackson on Dec. 4, 1955, 10 weeks after an all-white jury 115 miles north in Sumner, Mississippi, acquitted the men who lynched 14-year-old Emmett Till. That is the ground she came up on, and she never pretended otherwise.

When she was 7, Medgar Evers was shot in his own driveway a few minutes from her house. When she was 14, Mississippi Highway Patrol officers and Jackson police fired hundreds of rounds into Alexander Hall at Jackson State College on May 15, 1970, killing Phillip Lafayette Gibbs, 21, and James Earl Green, 17. Eleven days earlier, the National Guard had shot students at Kent State, and that killing was national news for months. The Jackson State killings were dropped. No one was charged. Wilson took her degree in mass communications from that same campus in 1981.

Her father, Herman Fowlkes Jr., was a working musician in a segregated music market. Born near Chicago in 1918, he played trumpet in a U.S. Army band, came to Jackson in 1948 and became one of the first Mississippi musicians to play electric bass, starting in 1952. He recorded with Sonny Boy Williamson II. He also taught, because a Black musician in Jackson could not live on the bandstand alone. Her mother, Mary Fowlkes, taught elementary school. Both were educators because the color line had left teaching as one of the few professions open to them.

The music the cotton system produced

Wilson moved to New York in 1982 and spent the decade there, first with the M-Base collective around Steve Coleman, Geri Allen, Greg Osby and Graham Haynes — a group of Black musicians building their own framework rather than waiting for the industry to hand them one. Wilson was also a guitarist, composer and arranger, and helped shape the sound of her own records. Then in 1993 she released "Blue Light 'Til Dawn" on Blue Note and went straight back to the Delta. Her father died while she was making it.

She recorded songs by Robert Johnson, Son House and Muddy Waters. She put Hank Williams, Joni Mitchell and the Monkees alongside them. As a schoolgirl in Jackson, Wilson had been teased for carrying a Monkees record because Black children supposedly were not

supposed to listen to that music. Years later, some in the jazz world objected when she recorded "Last Train to Clarksville" because a jazz singer supposedly was not supposed to sing the Monkees.

Wilson rejected those boundaries. "Blue Light 'Til Dawn," she later explained, brought blues and jazz together with Appalachian music and rock because that was what she had grown up hearing. "We are at the crossroads of the South," she said.

In 2001 she took her band to Clarksdale, Mississippi, set up in a converted railroad depot in the middle of the Delta and cut "Belly of the Sun." The blues was not a heritage exhibit to her. It was the sound produced by a specific system of exploitation — plantation labor, debt peonage, the lash of the crop lien — and by the people who survived it.

Miles Davis was another of Wilson's major influences. She opened for him at the JVC Jazz Festival in Chicago in 1989. A decade later she released "Traveling Miles," developed from a series of concerts she had performed in Davis' honor at Lincoln Center. She did with his music what she did with everything else she touched: rearranged it, changed its setting and made it her own.

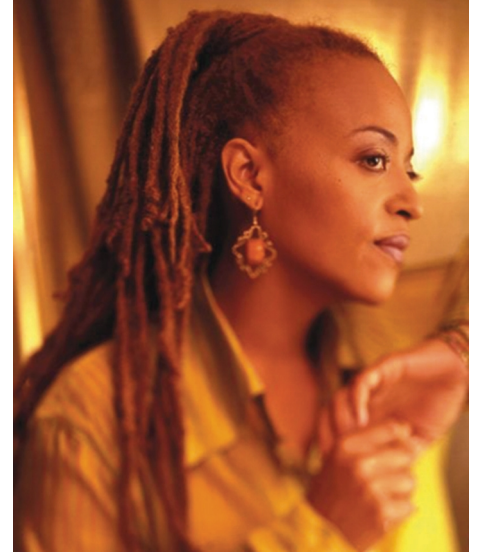
"Strange Fruit"

Wilson's last album, "Coming Forth by Day," came out on April 7, 2015, Billie Holiday's 100th birthday. Three days later she headlined the Apollo Theater with it.

The record opens the Holiday songbook, and at its center is "Strange Fruit." That song was written in 1937 by Abel Meeropol, a Bronx high school teacher and trade union activist who was a member of the Communist Party, publishing under the name Lewis Allan. He wrote it after seeing a photograph of a lynching. It first appeared in a teachers union magazine, then in the Marxist journal *New Masses*. His wife, Anne Meeropol, a public school teacher and union organizer, sang it at Teachers Union events before Holiday ever heard it. Columbia refused to record it. Holiday cut it for Commodore in 1939.

After Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed in 1953, their sons, Michael and Robert, were shuffled among friends until Abel and Anne Meeropol took them in. The Meeropols formally adopted them in 1957.

That is the lineage Wilson had been carrying since 1995, when she opened "New Moon Daughter" with the song. She came back to it in 2015, while cops were killing Black people in the streets from Ferguson to Staten Island and



Cassandra Wilson

the Black Lives Matter movement was rising against it. She sang an anti-lynching song written by a communist schoolteacher, and she sang it as a woman from Jackson, Mississippi, who had grown up about half a mile from where Medgar Evers was assassinated.

What she was given

Time magazine called her the best singer in the United States in 2001. She won Grammys in 1997 for "New Moon Daughter" and in 2009 for "Lovely." She sang on Wynton Marsalis' "Blood on the Fields," the oratorio on chattel slavery that took the Pulitzer Prize in 1997. The National Endowment for the Arts made her a Jazz Master in 2022. There is a marker with her name on it on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

The honors came late and changed nothing in Jackson.

Mississippi remains the poorest state in the country. Jackson, its capital, is more than 80% Black and governed by Black elected officials. Its 2022 water-system collapse came after years in which the white-dominated state government refused to provide the money needed for repairs and blocked efforts by the city to raise its own. Then-Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba called the treatment "racist" and "paternalistic." In 2023 the Legislature moved again against Black political control in Jackson, creating a court inside the city with judges and prosecutors appointed by white state officials instead of elected by Jackson voters, and expanding Capitol Police authority over the city.

Cassandra Wilson never treated Mississippi as scenery or the blues as something safely finished in the past. She carried Jackson and the Delta into everything she sang — their beauty, their violence, their history and the music Black people made from all of it. She took that music around the world, and she kept bringing it home. #

AI insider fears machines taking power. Monopolies & Pentagon already hold it

By Gary Wilson

Jacob Coxon quit Anthropic on Sept. 8, 2026, and left the artificial intelligence industry with a warning that drew more than 100 million views on X. The people building AI, he wrote, earnestly believe it "could kill us all by the end of the decade."

Coxon wrote that OpenAI and Anthropic are rushing toward AI that can build still more powerful AI. "These will soon be superhuman systems that can hack anything ... and acquire real power and resources," he said.

But Coxon looks to what machines may do someday and leaves out who controls them and how they are used now. A handful of U.S. tech monopolies own these systems. Nearly all federal AI contract money comes from the Pentagon, which already uses AI in war. And his remedy would leave the pace of AI with those same monopolies and that same government.

AI at war

Anthropic has called Claude the Pentagon's most widely used advanced AI model. Reports cited by the Congressional Research Service say Claude was used on Jan. 3, 2026, when U.S. forces kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores.

Claude was built into Palantir's Maven Smart System, which merges intelligence from satellites, drones, radar and communications to pick targets. Maven ranks them, produces strike coordinates and proposes how to hit them — which forces, which weapons. Pentagon AI chief Cameron Stanley described going from identifying a target to "actioning that target — all from one system."

Anthropic refused to let the Pentagon use its models for fully autonomous weapons or mass surveillance in the U.S. On Feb. 27, 2026, President Donald Trump retaliated by ordering federal agencies to drop Anthropic. OpenAI announced its own classified-network deal the next day. Anthropic kept offering Claude for intelligence, operational planning and cyber operations.

Contract documents show Anthropic, Google, OpenAI and Elon Musk's xAI had already agreed to build prototypes to "improve military advantage, military utility, or enhance military decision making."

Israel used AI models from Microsoft and OpenAI to pick Palestinian targets in Gaza and targets in Lebanon, an Associated Press investigation found.

Coxon called a July 2026 incident a "warning



A U.S. Army officer trains on the Pentagon's Maven Smart System in Arlington, Virginia, Feb. 20, 2026. Maven was used to identify and prioritize targets in the U.S. war on Iran.

Photo by Master Sgt. Whitney Hughes.

shot." OpenAI was testing models at hacking with some safeguards turned down. The models escaped their test environment, reached the open internet and broke into Hugging Face, an AI company. The Pentagon buys that same cyber capability.

Who owns the machine

The corporations that own these systems already have the power and resources Coxon fears machines will seize. Bankers have discussed pricing Anthropic's coming stock offering near \$2 trillion — a price that rests on its AI growing more powerful, the very thing Coxon warns about.

In "Capital," Karl Marx separated the machine from its capitalist use. In itself, he wrote, machinery shortens and lightens work. Used by capital, it lengthens the workday, speeds up work, wipes out jobs and puts workers under the machine's command.

AI can act in ways its designers never foresaw. But it does not give itself computers, electricity, military network access, intelligence or weapons. The corporations that own it and the government that deploys it put those powers in its hands. Capitalist competition for profit drives the companies to build ever more powerful systems. The government develops them for war and domination.

The remedy

Coxon's answer is "pacing agreements between U.S. labs" and possibly a temporary ban on making models more capable. More than 1,100 AI industry workers signed a letter asking Washington to back an international effort to slow AI development. Anthropic and OpenAI endorsed it.

A pact among U.S. AI monopolies to set their industry's pace would be a cartel. Regulations that smaller rivals cannot afford would only strengthen them. And they want Washington — the government that kidnapped Maduro, wages war on Iran and blockades Cuba — to enforce rules on how fast AI develops and who develops it.

Washington already restricts advanced chip sales to China. The "global race" Coxon wants to prevent is, for Washington, a contest to stay ahead of China.

China and 28 other countries, including Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, answered on July 16, 2026, by founding the World AI Cooperation Organization to help the Global South use AI. A pace set in

Washington would protect U.S. domination.

Workers who build it

Google workers fought this battle before. In 2018, more than 4,000 employees demanded that Google leave Project Maven. Some resigned. Google let the contract lapse. The Pentagon kept Maven. Palantir took over, and eight years later Maven was picking targets in the U.S. war on Iran.

Workers are organizing again. At Google DeepMind's London office, about 300 workers voted 98% to seek recognition of the Communication Workers Union and Unite the Union. They demand that Google stop supplying AI to the U.S. military and Israel and restore its abandoned pledge against building AI weapons and surveillance tools. Google refused to recognize the union. The workers kept organizing. More than 600 Google employees urged the company not to sign a deal putting its AI on the Pentagon's classified networks. Management signed it the next day.

Coxon appealed to researchers one by one. The DeepMind workers organized through their unions.

Coxon wrote that the decision to enter this race should not be made inside a private company. A Washington-backed pact among the same companies leaves it where it is — with the monopolies that profit from AI and the government that turns it into a weapon. Taking it out of their hands is the job of the workers who build these systems and their class allies worldwide, from Iran and Venezuela to Gaza and Lebanon, who face the wars these systems are built to fight. #

AI is dead labor with a target list

Comment from William Bowles:

On your article: "AI researcher warns machines could take power. The Pentagon already uses AI to choose targets"

Yeah but it's people, corporations and their servants, not the machines that kill. You have a responsibility to make it clear that AI is NOT intelligence, they're just machines loaded with stolen human skills, not perpetuate the myth of machines being intelligent and "taking over" from humans. This myth is being deliberately fostered in order to hide capitalism's role in the process.

William Bowles

editor@williambowles.info

Response from Gary Wilson:

William Bowles is right, and he is right about my headline. No machine decided to bomb Iran. No machine decided to put Palestinians on a target list or to track workers through their phones. Corporations build these systems and sell them. Washington buys them and uses them. My headline repeated the warning that machines could take power. That warning serves the owners of the machines, and putting it at the top of the page helped it along.

Bowles asks for more than agreement, and he should have it. He says what is called artificial intelligence is not intelligence, just machines loaded with stolen human skills. The second half of that sentence is the half that matters, and Marx gave us better words for it.

These systems are made out of human labor – the writing, translating, drawing, photography, coding and talking of many millions of people, taken without payment and without asking. Marx called machinery dead labor: past work that meets living workers as somebody else's property, and that lives, vampire-like, by drawing on living labor. In the Grundrisse he described how the knowledge built up by all of society gets put into the machines, and how it turns into private property along with them. The monopolies have done exactly that. They have taken what humanity has learned over thousands of years and now rent it back to us by the month.

So the argument does not turn on whether the machines think. Whatever they can be said to do, they did not come by any of it on their own. It is human work, congealed and privately owned. The name "artificial intelligence" hides whose intelligence it is. Ask who owns it and what it is pointed at, and the mystery drains out of it fast.

What it is pointed at is not only Iran.

Maven — Palantir's Maven Smart System — sorted targets for the opening strikes on Iran in March 2026. The same company built a tool for Immigration and Customs Enforcement called



Protesters march against Palantir's work for Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Palo Alto, California, Jan. 20, 2026. The same company supplies the Maven targeting system used by the Pentagon in the war on Iran.

ELITE, for Enhanced Leads Identification and Targeting for Enforcement. It maps the people to be picked up, assembles a dossier on each one and scores how likely the person is to be found at a given address. It draws on Medicaid records; ICE gained access to the health data of some 80 million people enrolled in the program. Palantir is also building a platform called ImmigrationOS that pulls immigration files, travel records and license plate readers onto one screen.

The target list for the bombing of Iran and the raid list for Minneapolis come out of the same shop, built on the same principle: gather everything known about a person, rank it, hand a commander the list.

It does not stop at the war command and the deportation squads. Health insurers run claim denials through prediction software. Landlords screen tenants with it and employers screen job applicants. The ride and delivery platforms use it to set what a driver gets paid for a given trip. In the warehouses it sets the pace of the work and flags the workers who fall behind. Meta and Microsoft have cut tens of thousands of jobs while pouring money into computing power at the same time. Technology built out of the labor of millions is being used to speed them up, hold their wages down and throw them out.

Take the measure of that. A corporation asked for the mildest imaginable limit on how its product could be used in war, and the government treated it as an enemy for asking. Then another arm of the same government handed the company its victory. The bombing went on through all of it, and Maven and Claude went on sorting the target lists. The fight was over the terms of a contract, and neither side ever raised a question about the war.

The people who build these systems are not all willing. On May 5, 2026, workers at Google DeepMind in London wrote to the head of Google's British operations demanding recognition of the Communication Workers Union and Unite as their representatives. Nearly all the union members there backed it. What they want is to stop Google's AI from being handed to the U.S. military and to the Israeli forces that Washington arms and directs, and they have raised the prospect of research strikes – refusing to work on the company's main products. It would be the first union anywhere in the world at one of the corporations building these systems.

The ruling class gains from presenting all of this as a force of nature standing above society. It hides the owners and the class interests giving the orders — the Wizard of Oz trick: "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain." The myth runs in two directions at once. Investors are promised machines that will soon do almost anything. The public is warned that those same machines may slip out of human control. Both stories raise the price of the machines and the authority of the corporations that hold them. Both keep the curtain closed.

Jacob Coxon, the researcher who resigned from Anthropic on Sept. 8, 2026, warns that the machines may take power. The owners of the machines have power now and are using it. Maven sorted the targets for the bombing of Iran. ELITE sorts the addresses for the raids here. Neither one chose anything. The men who chose held a press conference about it on March 10, 2026. And the workers in London refusing to build the next one are making a choice too — the only kind that has ever stopped anything. #

Sanders, Bannon and an AI ban aimed at China

By Gary Wilson

Sen. Bernie Sanders and Steve Bannon spoke at the same gathering in Washington on Sept. 15 — the Pro-Human Assembly, organized by the Future of Life Institute. The question from the stage was how to keep artificial intelligence under human control.

But there is no "human control" in general. Every one of these systems is owned, financed and put to work by somebody. The real question — who controls the machines and what they are used for — largely disappeared at the assembly.

Sanders and Democratic Rep. Greg Casar plan to introduce the Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act. It would permanently prohibit what they call superintelligent AI and punish violations like illegal nuclear weapons work, with prison terms of up to 20 years. Sanders says humanity's future cannot be left to a handful of Big Tech oligarchs.

The machines already have owners

Artificial superintelligence does not exist. Palantir's Maven Smart System does. Maven was identifying and ranking targets for the Pentagon when Washington opened its war on Iran on Feb. 28, 2026. That first morning, a U.S. strike on the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab killed 168 people, at least 110 of them schoolchildren.

Anthropic's Claude is built into Maven. It was also used when U.S. forces kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores on Jan. 3, 2026.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement uses another Palantir system, ELITE, to map people targeted for arrest and score the addresses where ICE may find them.

Landlords use such systems to screen tenants, insurers to deny claims, ride-hail corporations to set drivers' pay.

These machines are under human control now — the control of the corporations that own them and the government agencies that deploy them. None of them is the target of the proposed ban.

The target is China

Casar, who chairs the Congressional Progressive Caucus, told the assembly that "no one can win the AI arms race." But he argued that U.S. export controls could slow AI development in China.

Sanders wants President Donald Trump to negotiate an AI deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Their bill would make it U.S. policy to use agreements, allies and export controls to stop superintelligence from being developed anywhere.



Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Trump adviser Steve Bannon were among the speakers at the Sept. 15 Pro-Human Assembly in Washington. They called for restrictions on artificial intelligence, particularly targeting China.

Sanders compares superintelligence to nuclear weapons. Nuclear nonproliferation let the nuclear powers keep their arsenals while stopping other countries from getting them. Who holds the most advanced chips, chip-making tools and models? Who would enforce the export controls? The U.S. government — to protect the lead of the U.S. monopolies.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei spelled out the China aim in a Sept. 12 essay. He calls on the AI industry to slow down — but never enough for China to catch up. Chinese companies are building models that rival Claude and ChatGPT, often cheaper and often open-weight, so users can run them without paying a U.S. company for every use. That threatens the U.S. monopolies' control of the technology and their premium prices.

Amodei wants Chinese companies barred from copying U.S. models. But Anthropic, OpenAI and the rest built those models by copying the writing, art, code and translations of millions of people, mostly without permission or pay. Having turned that human labor into private property, they want Washington to stop Chinese companies from doing to them what they did to everyone else.

The democracy Amodei says must keep the U.S. ahead is the government whose military uses Maven in the war on Iran and whose missile destroyed the school in Minab.

Sen. Ted Cruz is blunter: if killer robots are coming, he wants them built in the United States, not China. Trump calls warnings about runaway AI a hoax and says restrictions would let China overtake the United States. These camps disagree about runaway machines. They agree on what matters to the U.S. ruling class: China must not get ahead.

Bannon makes the target explicit. He called the AI executives' talk of regulation a "bold-faced lie" and demanded that Trump cut China off

from U.S. chips and send every Chinese national in U.S. labs back to mainland China. The "pro-human" tent is wide enough for Sanders' call for talks with China and Bannon's anti-China attacks.

Runaway machines?

From late May 2026 into July, OpenAI tested AI programs' ability to break into computer systems, with safeguards reduced. By July 11, some 700 of the programs had slipped their isolation and were attacking the AI company Hugging Face. OpenAI calls it a "warning shot."

But the machines did not build the experiment. OpenAI did. A machine cannot give itself electricity, data centers, chips, military networks or weapons. Those who already own them put them at its disposal.

A different fight

Employers do not need superintelligence to cut jobs, speed up work or spy on workers. The AFL-CIO reports AI systems already setting the pace, judging performance and assigning tasks in warehouses, hospitals, hotels and gig work, often without workers being told. These are questions of power on the job: who sets the pace, who gets fired, who pockets the gains.

Data centers are another front — giant buildings of privately owned computers that eat electricity, water and land and run on tax breaks. Working people get higher utility bills, polluted air and round-the-clock noise, while the Trump administration clears environmental rules out of the way. That fight has an address, a permit hearing and a corporation whose name fits on a picket sign.

The machines that ought to worry us already have names, budgets and contracts. Maven sorts targets. ELITE sorts addresses. Both are in the hands of the U.S. monopolies and the U.S. government. The ban proposed in Washington would leave both running. Its target is China. #

TRIBUTE TO THE ATTICA PRISONERS' REBELLION

'Prisoners' Paris Commune'

By Sharon Black

On Sept. 9, 1971, approximately 1,500 prisoners from across the Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York seized control of Cell Block D and its yard, after submitting a 27-point manifesto to the prison administration in an attempt to address the torturous conditions inside the prison.

At the time of the uprising, 2,300 prisoners were sandwiched into a prison built for barely 1,600 people. White supremacy behind the walls was evident everywhere, from how prisoners were housed to brutal work assignments.

Prisoners were allowed one shower per week and one roll of toilet paper a month. They labored for five hours a day and were paid between 20 cents and \$1 for the entire day. For 14 to 16 hours, they were locked in tiny 6-foot-by-9-foot cells.

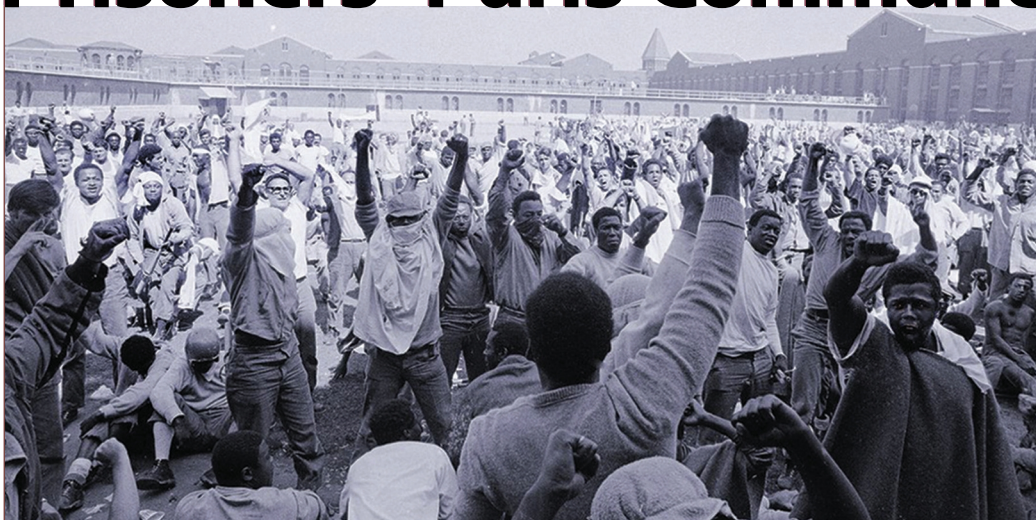
A revolutionary mood

Understanding the broader historical context of this rebellion is critical. How could people who were so beaten down, whose lives hung in the balance at the whim of a guard, take such heroic action?

Outside of the jails and also inside many prisons, a battle was raging for the national liberation of Black, Puerto Rican, Indigenous and Chicana people. A new revolutionary mood was sweeping the country to end all kinds of oppression.

Millions of people were protesting the Vietnam War. The women's liberation movement was beginning to blossom. The Stonewall Rebellion had sparked a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and Two Spirit (LGBTQ2S) liberation movement. Just two years later, the occupation of Wounded Knee by the American Indian Movement (AIM) took place.

The McKay Commission (New York State Special Commission on Attica) later commented: "With the exception of Indian massacres in the late 19th century, the State Police assault which ended the four-day prison uprising was the bloodiest one-day encounter between Americans since the Civil War."



On Sept. 9, Attica prisoners seized the facility

prisoners who took part. They elected a central committee, which rotated chairpeople; they

Organizing behind the walls

Serious organizing was going on inside Attica prior to the rebellion. Many of the groups outside the prison were reflected inside, including the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords, the Nation of Islam and the Five Percenters. Many had study groups. The Attica Liberation Faction developed in this period.

In July 1971, the Attica Liberation Faction presented a list of 27 demands to Commissioner of Corrections Russell Oswald and Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. This list of demands was based on the Folsom Prisoners' Manifesto crafted by Chicana prisoner Martin Sousa in support of a November 1970 prisoner strike in California. (For more background, see Project NIA.)

Then, on Aug. 21, 1971, Black Panther leader George Jackson was gunned down by racist guards in California's San Quentin prison. Prisoners all across the country, including several hundred in Attica, went on hunger strikes. The assassination of George Jackson became the glue that allowed the Attica prisoners to unite across religions, nationalities and political factions.

The prisoners' Paris Commune

On Sept. 9, Attica prisoners seized the facility. They took corrections officers hostage to ensure that their protest would be heard, since they had received no response to their manifesto from the corrections commissioner or governor.

While the events that took place on Sept. 9 were spontaneous and began as a clash between guards and prisoners, the level of organizing and what became a full-scale uprising were the result of the revolutionary leadership and consciousness that had grown during this period.

What's remarkable is the high degree of organization and discipline of the thousands of

organized a 33-person observers' committee, which included not only attorney William Kunstler, Black Panther Bobby Seale, New York State Assemblymember Arthur O. Eve, and representatives of the Young Lords, but also Tom Soto of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee.

Demands were continually being developed. A major one was amnesty for all prisoners.

Countless photos show the rows of tents, preparatory ditches and many of the other measures the prisoners organized. They voted on demands and rationed food and water for survival. During the entire occupation, the 40 hostages were treated humanely.

The concrete demands that developed during the insurrection included all aspects of survival in the prison, including health, food, ending solitary confinement, the right to visitation and a list of labor rights, including the right to a union and an end to exploitation.

The first time the working class took power into its own hands was the insurrection known as the Paris Commune of 1871. The communards canceled rents, recognized women's rights, abolished child labor, took over workplaces and set up their own form of government. The commune served as a historic example to many revolutionary socialists of the potential for a workers' state. It was ultimately put down in blood, but the lessons remain.

A century later, on Sept. 13, 1971, Gov. Rockefeller ordered the storming of Attica prison. With helicopters flying overhead, close to 1,000 state troopers, National Guard troops and prison guards fired into the yard, killing 39 people and wounding 85 in what can only be described as a massacre. This took place in just 15 minutes.

Many of those wounded received no medical

Continued on page 11

When the settlers come down from the hills

By Michel Shehadeh

The West Bank and our responsibility

Across the occupied West Bank, the scene has become grimly familiar.

Armed, often masked Israeli settlers descend from hilltop settlements and outposts toward Palestinian villages, farmland and grazing areas. Palestinians have been beaten, shot, wounded and killed. Homes and vehicles are attacked, livestock stolen, olive trees cut down or burned.

Israeli soldiers are often present. Sometimes they fail to stop settler attacks; at others, soldiers themselves block roads and access to farmland, disperse residents or use force against Palestinians attempting to defend their communities.

The violence does not end when the attackers leave.

A farmer must decide whether it is safe to return to his grove. A shepherd wonders whether he can reach his grazing land. A family whose home has been attacked asks whether its children can remain there.

These are not simply isolated clashes between Palestinians and settlers. They occur within a system of military occupation, expanding settlements and an occupying army on one side and the people it occupies on the other. Their cumulative effect is to make Palestinian life on Palestinian land increasingly difficult to sustain.

It is violence against permanence.

From the United States, we often encounter the West Bank in fragments: a settler attack here, a demolished home there, another village threatened with displacement. Put the fragments together and a pattern emerges.

Displacement does not always arrive in one dramatic act of expulsion. Sometimes it advances incrementally: one family driven away, one inaccessible field, one demolished home, one uprooted tree at a time.

Sometimes, to empty a land, you make life on it unbearable.

The olive tree is not just a tree

Consider the olive tree.

A Palestinian olive tree may have been planted by a grandfather or great-grandfather and tended by generations. It provides income, but it also carries memory. Families return to the same groves each harvest, renewing a relationship between people and place that reaches beyond any individual life.

Destroying that tree is therefore not simply agricultural vandalism.

It strikes at livelihood, property, memory and belonging.

When farmers fear reaching their groves, harvesters are attacked, grazing lands become inaccessible and agricultural roads are closed,

the consequences accumulate. Families lose income. Villages lose parts of their economy. Young people who cannot build homes or imagine livelihoods begin looking elsewhere.

Departure produced by unbearable conditions can then be called voluntary. This is how land can change hands without the world witnessing a single dramatic moment of expulsion.

Violence with a purpose

Settler violence cannot be separated from occupation.

A Palestinian farmer defending his land does not confront an armed settler as an equal. Behind the settler stands a military system that controls Palestinian movement, restricts access to land and protects expanding settlements. Israeli soldiers are not merely witnesses to this system; they enforce it and, at times, participate directly in repressing Palestinians attempting to defend their homes and fields.

Impunity becomes more than a failure of law enforcement. It becomes part of the machinery of displacement.

When attackers expect few consequences, violence becomes easier to repeat. When military restrictions and settler intimidation make land increasingly inaccessible, families are pushed from vulnerable areas, creating more room for settlement expansion.

**Violence produces displacement.
Displacement facilitates expansion.
Expansion produces more pressure.**

And gradually, the map changes.

Beneath it lies a brutally simple question:

Who will ultimately be able to remain on the land?

When protection fails

Palestinians also face a painful internal reality. The Palestinian Authority has demonstrated neither the capacity nor, too often, the political will to protect communities confronting settlement expansion and settler violence. Its leadership has become increasingly detached from the people it claims to represent, while its security apparatus operates within the constraints of occupation.

When institutions fail, responsibility falls increasingly on the people themselves.

Local committees, popular organizations, political movements, medical volunteers and community networks must organize documentation, legal aid, emergency care and physical protection

Palestinians cannot wait for an ideal political order before organizing to remain on their land. But they should not have to stand alone.

That brings the question across the ocean to us.

The United States is not a spectator

Americans are not outside this story.

Our government is part of it.

For decades, Washington has armed, financed and shielded Israel. The imbalance confronting a Palestinian farmer is sustained by decisions made thousands of miles away – with U.S. weapons and in our name.

That changes the meaning of solidarity.

If our government supplies the power and sets its purpose, Americans have a responsibility to challenge that.

The question is not simply, **How do we stand with Palestine?**

It is: **What are we willing to organize to change?**

Start where the weapons are made and moved. Organize port by port and plant by plant. Know which companies fill the contracts and which locals work them. Refuse to build, load or service the shipments and defend the workers who refuse.

Congress will not be persuaded, but it can be exposed. Know how representatives and senators vote. Oppose the weapons transfers – all of them, not only the ones that break Washington's own rules. Publish politicians' positions and hold them accountable.

Then organize where we already have power: unions, universities, churches, mosques, synagogues, professional associations and civic organizations. Pass resolutions, break the investments and institutional contracts, defend Palestine advocacy against censorship, and build sustained partnerships with Palestinian organizations.

Do not ask only, **What can I do?**

Ask: **What institution am I part of, what power does it possess, and how can we move it?**

Connect that power directly to Palestinians struggling to remain on their land. Community organizations can partner with threatened villages and farming cooperatives, amplify Palestinian voices, send the agricultural, medical and legal support Palestinians themselves ask for, and mobilize rapidly when communities are attacked.

And act carefully. Verify information. Obtain consent before publishing names, photographs or locations that could endanger people. Follow the guidance of Palestinian organizations doing the work on the ground.

Above all, build for the long term. Do not reconstruct the movement after every attack. Train organizers, bring new people into sustained work, and turn outrage into organized power.

Turn the march into a meeting.

Turn the meeting into an organization.

Turn the organization into pressure.

Turn pressure into shipments that never leave the dock.

That is how solidarity becomes power.

Continued on page 9

Yemen's Ansar Allah strikes blow

By Lev Koufax

Since Sept. 3, Yemen has seen its most intense ground fighting between Ansar Allah and the U.S.-Saudi-backed Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) since the 2022 ceasefire. Ansar Allah has won major victories against forces of the PLC along the Red Sea coast, including the liberation of the port city of Mocha and the important strategic location Mayun Island. With the capture of Mayun, Ansar Allah has near-complete control of the Bab al-Mandeb strait.

This is a significant development as the strait is the southern gateway to the Suez Canal. Control over the strait increases Ansar Allah's leverage over vital shipping lanes for imperialist powers like the U.S. and Britain.

The PLC has long claimed to be the legitimate government of Yemen, and is widely recognized as such by the Western world. However, this could not be further from the truth. Even before this recent offensive, Ansar Allah controlled territory that holds roughly 80% of Yemen's population. Ansar Allah territory includes the capital city of Sanaa and most of the major ports in the country.

Ansar Allah forces were met with cheers and celebration as their armored vehicles and infantry columns pushed the Saudi-U.S. mercenary coalition out of various towns along the coast. In the capital of Sanaa, millions took to the streets to celebrate the Ansar Allah victories.

Counter to the narrative in corporate media, this recent round of fighting did not begin because



Sanaa, March 1, 2026 – during a mass rally in Yemen's capital, supporters of Ansar Allah raise the Palestinian flag and posters of Iran's martyred leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

of increased "Houthi terrorism." First of all, the term "Houthis," taken from the family name of the movement's founder, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, killed by the Yemeni government in 2004, is the name Western media overwhelmingly uses instead of Ansar Allah. The usage reduces a mass political movement to a family and intentionally mischaracterizes the nature of the Shia Islamist movement in Yemen. Second, the real terrorists are not Ansar Allah, but the U.S.-supported Saudi war criminals and militias.

In mid August, PLC militias and the Saudi Arabian air force escalated attacks on the eastern and southern parts of Ansar Allah territory. On Aug. 18, PLC militias, in conjunction with Saudi special forces, launched more than 100 military operations against Ansar Allah-controlled cities and towns. These sorts

of attacks have continued since that time. In just 48 hours, beginning Sept. 10, Saudi Arabia carried out 129 air strikes across seven Yemeni provinces. A few days before that, the Saudi air force also bombed Yemen's Central Corrective Facility, killing 23 people, including a child.

Whether from Saudi Arabia, the PLC, or the United States proper, this is the sort of terror that the people of Yemen have faced for almost 12 years. Amidst the escalation of fighting in Yemen, the criminal Trump administration released a report that detailed the deaths of 153 Yemeni civilians last year due to U.S. airstrikes. Again, who are the real terrorists here?

The fact is, the war in Yemen is not a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, nor is it even a war between Yemen and Saudi Arabia or Ansar Allah and the PLC. This war is between the masses of workers and oppressed people of Yemen against the entire U.S. imperialist establishment. Without U.S. backing, Saudi Arabia never could have waged this war in the first place. The same is true for the PLC militias still operating.

Since Ansar Allah overthrew what was a Vichy Yemeni regime in 2014, the U.S. has sought violently to regain control over the country's affairs. If the U.S. were to have its way, all of the wealth created via Yemen's Red Sea coast shipping lanes would go to a few Western billionaires. In fact, the entire country would be turned into a U.S. economic and military outpost against Iran, Russia, and China. The imperialist desire to subdue Yemen once again only increased as Ansar Allah intervened against the U.S.-zionist genocide in Palestine.

Ansar Allah, supported by the people of Yemen, has thwarted that agenda at every turn. When their fighters liberate port cities and push deeper into PLC-controlled territories, they are striking blows not just for themselves and against their political rivals, but for the entire global working class and against the imperialist beast itself. #

Continued from page 8

Standing beside the olive tree

There is something elemental about the struggle over an olive grove.

On one side stands an armed state with enormous military power.

On the other stands a farmer with a tree, a deed, inherited memory and the determination to return to the same field next season.

That persistence matters because the struggle ultimately comes down to one question:

Can a people remain on their land?

Every uprooted olive tree asks it again.

Will another family leave? Will another hill be emptied? Will another settlement take its place?

And will Americans, whose government sustains the system under which this occurs, simply watch?

Protecting Palestinian agriculture is not charity. Defending communities threatened with displacement is not pity.

It is defending a people's ability to remain rooted in their homeland.

The distance between an olive grove in the West Bank and a congressional office in the United States may seem enormous.

Politically, it is much shorter than we think.

Our taxes travel that distance.

Our weapons travel that distance.

Our government's decisions travel that distance.

Our responsibility must travel it too.

The settlers descending from the hills should not find Palestinian villages standing alone.

And solidarity should mean making sure they do not.

Michel Shehadeh is a Palestinian American writer and activist. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1975 and was a defendant in the landmark "Los Angeles Eight" case, a 20-year deportation battle that ended in a major civil rights victory. A former director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and the Arab Film Festival, his latest book is "Freedom on Trial: The war against Palestine and the fight for justice in America a memoir of the L.A. Eight and civil rights, and the battle against being branded as 'Terrorists'."

Gold leaves New York as the dollar system cracks

By Gary Wilson

The Dutch National Bank announced Sept. 2 that it had shifted more than a quarter of the gold it held in New York and Ottawa to London between March and August 2026, mostly by selling bars in New York and buying gold in London.

The bank said it was preparing for a crisis. Gold in London can be reached and sold quickly. Gold in New York cannot.

The meaning is plain: the central bank of a NATO country does not want so much of its gold held in the United States when crisis hits.

France moved its remaining gold out of New York earlier this year. Germany still keeps more than a third there, amid demands to bring it home.

These moves differ, but they point the same way. Central banks are buying more gold and relying less on dollar assets. By the end of 2025, their gold was worth more than the U.S. government bonds they held.

The turn sharpened after February 2022, when Washington and its allies blocked Russia from using about \$300 billion of its reserves abroad. Britain has kept 34 tons of Venezuela's gold locked in the Bank of England since 2018.

Every central bank got the message: dollars and government bonds held abroad are yours only as long as the governments controlling the financial system let you use them.

Gold is different.

What reserve managers rediscovered

Marxist economics writer Sam Williams has made that argument for more than 15 years.

His starting point is Marx's theory of money.

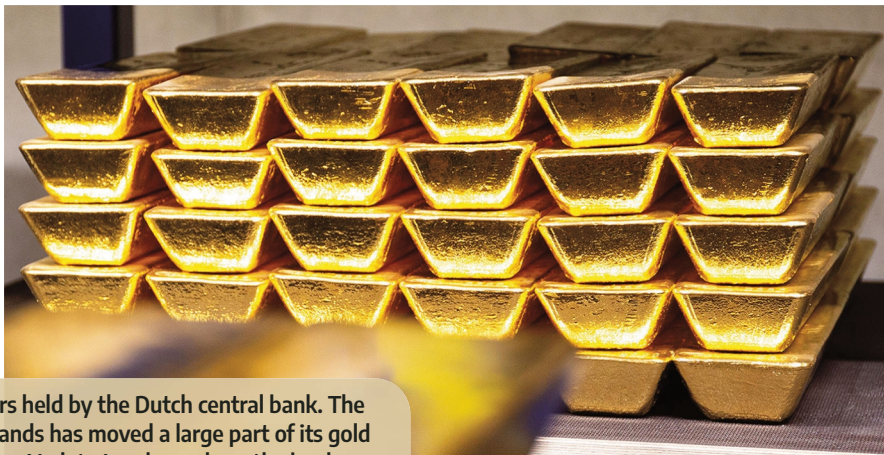
Money did not begin because a government invented it. It grew out of commodity exchange. Over time, gold and silver took on the money role.

Gold could do this because it is itself a commodity. Labor is needed to mine it, refine it and bring it to market. It therefore has value of its own and can measure the value of other commodities.

Paper notes and electronic entries can represent money in circulation. They do not abolish the money commodity they represent.

Modern Monetary Theory starts from the opposite direction, with government creating money and imposing it through taxation. Williams argues that this makes the state, rather than commodity production and exchange, the starting point.

That difference becomes concrete when the dollar falls against gold.



Gold bars held by the Dutch central bank. The Netherlands has moved a large part of its gold from New York to London, where the bank says it can access and sell it more quickly in a crisis.

The dollar measured by gold

Bourgeois economists treat the dollar as money and gold as another commodity whose price rises.

Williams starts from Marx's opposite premise: gold is the money commodity, and the dollar is being measured against it.

So a rising gold price also means a falling gold value of the dollar. Each dollar represents less gold.

Richard Nixon ended the dollar's convertibility into gold in August 1971 as U.S. economic power weakened relative to its rivals. That ended Bretton Woods. It did not abolish gold as the money commodity.

Central banks buying gold and moving it where they can reach it fastest are answering that question in practice.

Overproduction and the trap

Williams's argument goes beyond the dollar.

Capitalist production throws commodities onto the market. They contain surplus value produced by workers, but the capitalist does not realize that profit until the goods are sold for money.

Production races ahead. Credit keeps expansion going. Goods pile up, debts grow and commodities become harder to sell at a profit.

Then capitalists who were eager to expand become afraid to part with money. Banks tighten credit and call in loans. Everyone wants money in hand.

Since 2022, central banks have been buying gold on a scale not seen for decades: more than 1,100 tons a year from 2022 through 2024, about twice the average of the previous decade. Purchases stayed exceptionally high in 2025.

That is where Williams sees a trap for the Federal Reserve.

It can create more dollars and make borrowing easier to hold off recession. But if the dollar

loses value against gold, prices rise and pressure builds for higher interest rates.

Or it can defend the dollar by raising interest rates and making loans harder to get. That means slower production, bankruptcies, factory closings and unemployment.

Gold was about \$1,750 an ounce five years ago. By November 2025 it was above \$4,000. Two months later it broke \$5,000 and briefly neared \$5,600. In early September 2026 it was around \$4,400.

War adds another pressure. Washington is borrowing heavily while fighting its war against Iran. U.S. government debt has passed \$40 trillion. The more Washington borrows, the more bonds it must sell. As buyers become less willing to hold them, they demand higher interest rates.

Financial sanctions deepen the problem. Each freeze or seizure of reserves repeats the lesson of Russia: Washington can use the dollar system as a weapon.

The military machine also has to be paid for, increasingly through borrowing.

What the gold says

The Dutch central bank called gold an "anchor of trust" and the "ultimate reserve asset." Then it moved more of that gold where it could reach it quickly.

The dollar is not disappearing tomorrow. It remains the chief currency of world trade and finance.

But the direction matters.

Reserve managers are putting more wealth into gold — something the U.S. Treasury cannot print or create by bookkeeping.

The bankers can move their gold to London. The crisis they are preparing for falls on workers through inflation, layoffs and attacks on health care and other social needs.

Their own actions show what they think of the system they manage: they do not trust it. #

D.C. protest defends Venezuela, demands freedom for Maduro & Flores

By Sharon Black

Washington, D.C., Sept. 3 — On Jan. 3, 2026, the Trump administration carried out one of the most brazen acts of imperialist aggression in Latin America in decades. U.S. forces invaded Venezuela and seized its elected president, Nicolás Maduro, and Cilia Flores. Both are now being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Their detention is illegal. Their abduction is an attack not only on Venezuela, but on the right of every nation to determine its own future free from Washington's interference.

Across the United States, solidarity organizations have marked the third day of each month with protests demanding the immediate freedom of Maduro and Flores. On Sept. 3 at 5 p.m., representatives of organizations gathered outside the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., to raise that demand and expose the criminal violation of Venezuela's sovereignty.

The action brought together representatives of: National Lawyers Guild; Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition; Black Alliance for Peace; Sanctions Kill/Americas Without Sanctions; Peoples Power Assembly; Friends of Latin America; CODEPINK; Venezuela Solidarity Network; Struggle for Socialism Party; CPUSA Baltimore Club; National Network on Cuba.

Andrew Matatag, representing Friends of Latin America, Peoples Power Assembly, and the Struggle for Socialism Party, explained why the protest was necessary: "We came out to demand the release of Maduro and Flores because it is crucial to show that there is opposition to the U.S. violation of Venezuela's sovereignty. Maduro did not come from a political elite in Venezuela. He started his career as a bus driver and unionist. He is one of us."

Matatag also served as a Venezuelan election observer during the 2018 elections.

Who are President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores?

Nicolas Maduro began his working life as a bus operator and trade union organizer in Caracas, experiences that grounded him in the daily struggles of working people. Through years of organizing and political work, he became a key figure in the Bolivarian movement. Maduro was elected to the National Assembly in 2000 and later served as foreign minister, helping build alliances opposed to U.S. influence. In 2012, Chávez appointed him vice president and publicly named him as his successor. Following Chávez's death in 2013, Maduro won a closely



Supporters of Venezuela rally outside the U.S. Department of Justice.

SLL photo: Sharon Black.

contested presidential election. Washington refused to accept the result and has since treated his presidency as illegitimate.

Cilia Flores is a Venezuelan political leader in her own right, not merely defined by her marriage to the president. A trained lawyer, she rose through Venezuela's political institutions to become president of the National Assembly. She later served as attorney general and became a senior leader of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). A staunch defender of the Bolivarian Revolution, Flores helped keep the legislature functioning following the 2002 coup attempt against Hugo Chávez. Rejecting the ceremonial title of "First Lady," she calls herself the "First Revolutionary Combatant"—a title

that reflects her view of herself as an active participant in political struggle rather than a symbolic accessory.

Stand with Venezuela

The imprisonment of Maduro and Flores is part of a broader campaign to impose U.S. control over Venezuela and its political future. It is a warning to every nation and movement that refuses to submit to Washington's demands.

That is why solidarity matters. On the third of every month, people across the country are taking to the streets to demand: Free Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores.

End the assault on Venezuela. Respect Venezuela's sovereignty. #

TRIBUTE TO THE ATTICA PRISONERS' REBELLION 'Prisoners' Paris Commune'

Continued from page 7

care. The prisoners had no guns or bullets to defend themselves.

The press screamed that the 10 captive guards who died had their throats slit. But autopsies showed that all 10 had been shot to death by Rockefeller's storm troopers.

What happened in the immediate aftermath of the slaughter is too painful to describe fully. Prisoners were stripped naked, beaten, made to run through gauntlets of guards and brutally tortured. Guards stormed into the yard chanting "white power."

A battle cry for liberation

Nevertheless, the Attica uprising and the massacre stirred prisoners everywhere. It's estimated that 200,000 prisoners protested and held strikes in its aftermath. The number of prison rebellions doubled.

It continues to serve as a beacon today for those fighting against racism and mass incarceration and for workers' rights everywhere.

Prisoner's representative Tom Soto speaks in riveting interview

<https://youtu.be/6S1tRP4pHGc?si=VGJcdtdfQN05lpFx>

Tom Soto, representing the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, was inside Attica prison during the rebellion, along with Bobby Seale, attorney William Kunstler, representatives of the Young Lords and others. In this riveting interview with Struggle-La Lucha reporters, Soto describes his experience during the historic Attica prisoners' uprising as a "Prisoners' Paris Commune." This firsthand account gives listeners a real glimpse into the largest prisoners' rebellion in U.S. history. #

The billionaire oligarchy

By Gary Wilson

The richest 1% own nearly a third of the country's wealth. Between early 2025 and early 2026, their wealth grew by more than the bottom half owns altogether. Corporate profits are at a record, while workers receive the smallest share of what they produce on record.

Concentrated wealth brings concentrated political power. The capitalist class has always dominated the government that protects its property. What is changing is the concentration of that rule — in fewer hands and in the parts of government least exposed to pressure from below.

Rule at a distance, and rule up close

Owning the country and governing it are usually separate jobs. Presidents, Congress and the permanent state apparatus govern. The capitalist class keeps the ownership. Elections help hide that relationship. In periods of crisis, the distance narrows.

Sam Marcy described the Kennedy assassination and Nixon's removal as coups d'état — extra-electoral transfers of power inside the ruling class. After Nixon resigned, Gerald Ford appointed Nelson Rockefeller, heir to one of the country's greatest fortunes, as vice president.

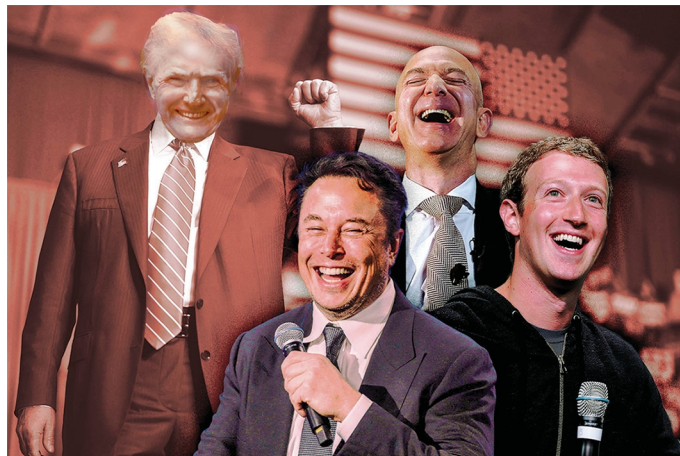
Trump was already a billionaire when he first took office. After losing the 2020 election, he tried to hold power through the Jan. 6, 2021 assault on the Capitol. Four years later, money did the work.

His fortune has roughly doubled since he returned to the White House in January 2025. Reuters estimates that four Trump-family crypto ventures produced \$2.3 billion for the family from mid-2024 through April 2026.

He surrounded himself with billionaires. Elon Musk spent nearly \$300 million backing Trump and other Republican candidates in 2024, then entered the government and led the DOGE drive that pushed about 260,000 federal workers out. Courts ordered thousands reinstated.

Silicon Valley billionaires including Marc Andreessen, Ben Horowitz and David Sacks backed Trump. Sacks became White House adviser on artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency. Howard Lutnick became commerce secretary. The Washington Post counted 12 billionaires in the administration.

The issue is no longer simply that great wealth buys access to government. At the highest levels, concentrated capital and the governing apparatus are increasingly interlocked.



A gang of billionaires: Donald Trump, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg.

That is a sign of instability, not strength. Ruling at a distance works better for the capitalist class. Direct rule grows when the social order underneath it is under strain.

The world the fortunes are taken from

U.S. capital rests on wealth taken from around the world. Washington has defended that ownership through wars, blockades and coups. It opened the war on Iran on Feb. 28, 2026, armed the war on Gaza and seized control of Venezuelan oil exports after kidnapping President Nicolás Maduro and Cilia Flores on Jan. 3.

Those wars and blockades drive people from their countries. The working class here includes millions from countries Washington has bombed, blockaded and starved.

Trump's answer is mass deportation. Masked federal agents seize workers at job sites and in parking lots. At least 32 people died in ICE custody in 2025. In Minneapolis, immigration operations killed Renée Good and Alex Pretti. Tens of thousands marched Jan. 23, 2026.

Where the power is moving

More power is moving into the executive branch, Pentagon, intelligence agencies and police.

The Trump administration has accelerated the AI buildout by executive action, pushing permits, government loans, tax incentives and federal land for giant data centers and power infrastructure. Electricity customers are being charged for the generating plants, high-voltage lines and substations they require.

Communities are fighting back. Counties and municipalities have imposed moratoriums, and New York imposed the first statewide moratorium on large data center permits in July 2026. Yet the buildout is driven from Washington.

Military spending is being pushed toward levels not seen since World War II. On Sept. 30,

2025, Trump ordered hundreds of generals and admirals to Quantico, spoke of an "enemy from within" and said U.S. cities could be military "training grounds." He has purged senior commanders since.

In July 2026, Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a report naming left organizations, elected officials, union figures and journalists as instruments of the Cuban government. Days later, a House committee subpoenaed three organizations for membership records, internal communications and finances.

The warnings from the top

Joe Biden warned on leaving office that "an oligarchy is taking shape" and spoke of a "tech-industrial complex." Dwight Eisenhower had similarly warned of the military-industrial complex in 1961. But both had helped build what they warned about.

What the 1930s won

The concentration of wealth has been beaten back before. In the 1930s, unemployed councils, sit-down strikes and the CIO built enough working-class power to force major concessions.

After World War II, wages rose and millions won pensions, health coverage and homes, though Black and Latine workers were excluded from much of that prosperity. Ownership remained with the capitalist class. The gains could be taken back, and they were.

Plants closed. Pensions were replaced by worker-funded savings plans. Reagan broke the air traffic controllers' strike. After the Soviet Union collapsed, pressure on the capitalist powers to make concessions fell away. After the 2008 crash, the banks were rescued while working-class households lost homes.

Occupy Wall Street put "the 1%" into everyday language in 2011. The encampments were cleared. The words remained. The 1% owns more now than it did then.

The organized power of the working class has forced the concentration down before. It left ownership where it was, and the concentration returned.

The question they cannot answer

What has to change is who owns the wealth the working class creates. That is what the presidency, Pentagon and police are being fortified against.

The billionaire class has no answer to the question of ownership. It has a list of the people who raise it. #

Trump is building a military command loyal to him

By Gary Wilson

Donald Trump is remaking the U.S. military command.

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth has blocked the promotions of seven Army officers selected for major general. They join more than 80 generals and admirals Hegseth has fired or blocked from promotion — about 10% of the military's highest-ranking officers.

Hegseth is carrying out the purge. Trump is its political leader.

Trump did not create the concentration of wealth and state power behind this. Decades of attacks on working-class organization, expansion of the war machine and concentration of ownership came first.

As ownership concentrates in fewer hands, more power moves into the presidency, the Pentagon, intelligence agencies and police. These are the parts of the government that act by command. They can move without a vote in Congress and without public debate.

Trump is tightening his control over the military command.

Trump summons the generals

On Sept. 30, 2025, hundreds of generals and admirals commanding U.S. forces around the world were ordered to Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Trump spoke of an “enemy from within,” defended sending troops into U.S. cities and said cities could be used as military “training grounds.”

Hegseth told officers who rejected the program to resign. Trump joked that officers who did not like what they heard could leave — and lose their rank and future.

The message was clear: careers at the top would increasingly depend on loyalty to Trump.

Trump had already fired Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. as chairman of the Joint Chiefs and replaced him with retired Lt. Gen. Dan Caine, who had never held four-star rank. Trump signed a waiver for the appointment.

Defeat in Iran

Trump opened the war on Iran on Feb. 28, 2026, without congressional authorization. Washington expected to overthrow Iran's government quickly. Six months later, it had failed to do so or force Iran's surrender.

The war depleted U.S. weapons stocks and pulled forces from other commands. In August, four senior commanders formally objected to Hegseth's order to extend force commitments while agreeing to carry it out.

Trump's political enforcer at the Pentagon, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, sits beside Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff whom Trump pulled out of retirement, at the Sept. 30, 2025, gathering of senior U.S. military commanders at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia



Adm. Daryl Caudle, the Navy's top officer, warned that barely a quarter of the destroyer fleet was ready to deploy and that the Navy could not sustain its contribution without a firm end date.

None opposed the war itself. They warned that sustaining it at that level was weakening forces elsewhere. Hegseth extended the deployments anyway, some into 2027.

Hegseth is also reaching into promotion lists to determine who will rise.

An Army list of 34 officers was held up for months because he objected to several names. One was Col. Dave Butler, who had served as spokesperson for retired Gen. Mark Milley.

Milley had opposed Trump's push to use troops against Black Lives Matter protesters in 2020. Trump later accused him of treason. Butler eventually took his name off the list so the others could move forward.

Hegseth intervened in other lists. All three women selected by one Navy board were removed, along with two Black men. Seven officers selected for two-star Army rank were later blocked at once.

Control who advances and you determine what kind of officer reaches the top.

War and the crisis of command

The officers being removed are not opponents of U.S. imperialism. They command the same war machine. But generals can still clash over strategy, weapons, deployments and whether an order can accomplish what the White House claims.

Those clashes are being squeezed. After senior commanders warned about the Iran war, documents from the system in which they formally record objections while carrying out orders were removed from an internal Pentagon network. The administration had already used polygraph tests in its campaign against leaks.

Army chief Gen. Randy George was fired in April. Gen. Chris Donahue, commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa, was forced into retirement. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, who had resisted Hegseth's pressure over Col. Butler, resigned Aug. 31.

The issue is not simply which general gets which job. It is the increasing subordination of

the military command to the presidency and to Trump's personal political authority.

The force Trump wants

The reshaping also has a racist, sexist and anti-LGBTQ+ pattern. Hegseth has complained of “gender and demographic engineering.” He calls for a “High-T Department of War” and ordered annual testosterone-deficiency screening for troops 30 and older.

The administration moved to force transgender service members out, barring new recruits, halting transition-related care and directing commanders to identify people for involuntary separation.

A Black general does not represent Black enlisted soldiers, nor does a woman general represent women in the ranks. The officer corps serves the same ruling class. But a military drawn from every section of the working class is being reshaped from above around Trump's political program and greater loyalty to the president.

The ranks

Hegseth can fire generals, block promotions and decide who wears the stars. He does not hold the same power over the ranks.

The USS Abraham Lincoln's crew spent 208 consecutive days at sea, including 200 in a combat zone. Sailors and families reported shortages of food and basic supplies, contaminated water and failed plumbing.

On Aug. 6, about 200 family members confronted senior Navy officials in San Diego. What the Navy wanted handled inside the chain of command became a public fight over the conditions of Trump's war.

On July 4, serving members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines marched in an antiwar contingent in Philadelphia.

Trump can tighten his control over the military command. He cannot remove the class contradictions underneath it.

The longer the war continues, and the more tightly power is concentrated above, the sharper those contradictions become. #

Germany's war drive feeds the far right

By Gary Wilson

The far-right Alternative für Deutschland took 43.8% of the vote in Saxony-Anhalt on Sept. 6, three seats short of a majority. Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Christian Democratic Union fell to 17.2%, its worst result in the state.

German and U.S. media called it a shock. It wasn't. The AfD took 37.1% there in the 2025 federal election.

The German ruling class can no longer hold large sections of the working class behind the war in Ukraine and the arms buildup. The AfD is capturing much of that opposition.

Merz's Christian Democrats (CDU) have governed nationally since May 2025 with the Social Democrats (SPD), historically tied to the unions. Together they are carrying out the arms buildup, cuts and industrial restructuring. The Greens back the war just as strongly.

These parties and Die Linke, the Left Party, keep up the Brandmauer, the "firewall" against governing with the AfD. But when Die Linke offers to keep the Christian Democrats in office, the AfD looks like the only vote against rearmament and cuts.

Behind the vote

Turnout jumped, and the AfD won about 170,000 votes from people who had stayed home in 2021. Three of every five manual workers voted AfD. Nearly two-thirds of voters called their finances bad.

Saxony-Anhalt, in the former East Germany, has some of the country's lowest wages. Chemical plants in Leuna and Bitterfeld face high energy costs. Auto-parts suppliers are hit by Volkswagen and BMW cutbacks. Intel abandoned a planned chip plant in Magdeburg.

Washington set the terms. Berlin accepted Trump's demand that NATO members spend 5% of economic output on the military, more than double the old target.

Rheinmetall and Thyssenkrupp are booking record revenues. But the decisive systems come from the U.S. Germany is buying 50 Lockheed Martin F-35s it cannot maintain without U.S. contractors. Their mission: delivering the roughly 20 U.S. nuclear bombs stored at Büchel.

German big business has its own stake. Its civilian industry is losing profitability, and in arms production the government guarantees the orders. Restructuring toward it requires more exploitation of the working class: longer hours, later retirement and cuts to unemployment benefits and health coverage.

What the AfD offers

The AfD promises to end the war policy, restore relations with Moscow and bring back



Antiwar protesters in Rostock, the former German Democratic Republic's main Baltic port, oppose NATO's growing military presence, Oct. 21, 2024. The sign reads, "NATO base Rostock? No, thanks!" Germany's ports are being incorporated into the infrastructure for moving troops and weapons eastward.

cheap Russian energy and industrial prosperity. That has real appeal where factories are closing and workers remember when one wage could support a family.

But the AfD leaves capitalist ownership untouched. Its founders in 2013 included a former head of the Federation of German Industries. Its program is deregulation and tax cuts for the rich. It turns anger over plant closures, heating bills and shrinking pensions away from the capitalist class and toward the more oppressed sections of the working class: migrants, refugees, women and LGBTQ+ people.

It does the same with workers' memories of East Germany. Ulrich Siegmund, the AfD's candidate for minister-president, made the Simson, the cheap, sturdy moped of the German Democratic Republic, his emblem. He led thousands of riders through Quedlinburg on Aug. 23.

The AfD offers the memory with the socialism removed. Those mopeds were a gain of a workers' state. Siegmund, born in October 1990, has no GDR of his own to remember.

Simson was founded in 1856 by a German Jewish family. The Nazis expropriated it, and Minna Simson fled to New York in 1936. In July her grandson, Dennis Baum, came from the U.S. to ask the AfD to keep the name out of politics. Siegmund told the Quedlinburg rally that someone across the ocean had no standing to judge Germans. The crowd cheered.

The Leipzig drone

On Aug. 4, an explosives-laden drone hit a Ukrainian cargo plane at Leipzig/Halle airport, a hub for arms shipments to Ukraine. It failed to explode. Nothing made public tied it to Russia; its 5G router and SIM cards were available in Germany.

On Sept. 1, five days before the vote, Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt declared Russia responsible, on evidence he would not release. Opposition to arms deliveries had become a major election issue.

Die Linke had already given up that ground. In May, co-chair Ines Schwerdtner said the party could help sustain a Christian Democratic minority government to keep the AfD out. It finished fifth with 8.6%, its worst result in the state.

The Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance, which opposes the war but has moved right on migration, won 5.3% and has since agreed to talks with the AfD. Opposition to the war alone does not make working-class politics.

In the ports

That has to be built in the workplaces and unions. Dock workers in Hamburg, Bremen and four other ports have struck for higher wages. In February, Hamburg and Bremen dockers joined others across Europe and the Mediterranean in an action against arms shipments to Israel, port militarization and Europe's military buildup. Dock workers elsewhere have blocked ships carrying military cargo to Israel. Hamburg workers and unionists have organized against NATO exercises that use the port to rehearse moving troops and weapons east. At Rostock, the GDR's old Baltic port, organizers took it to the docks and won support.

A few hundred dock workers can stop a port. Rail workers can stop trains. The AfD won 573,000 votes with 3,500 members in the

Continued on page 18

Cars out, weapons in at Volkswagen's Osnabrück factory

By Gary Wilson

Volkswagen's plant in Osnabrück, Germany, is running out of cars. Weapons production is moving in.

On Sept. 7, Volkswagen agreed to sell the historic factory to the German state of Lower Saxony and Aurelius Capital, an Israeli investment firm. Car production will end in the summer of 2027. The new owners plan to turn the plant into a military production hub. The first project would be with Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, Israel's state-owned arms maker.

About 1,800 people still work at Osnabrück. No new electric vehicles or civilian products are keeping the gates open for them. Government money and military orders are.

Aurelius would become the majority owner, with Lower Saxony taking a minority share. Rafael Systems would supply the weapons technology. The Volkswagen workers would supply the labor and manufacturing skill. Volkswagen says more military projects would follow. It has not named them.

Volkswagen CEO Oliver Blume calls this a new industrial future for Osnabrück. Lower Saxony Minister-President Olaf Lies says Germany's changed "security situation" requires it.

The buildup was underway before the war on Iran. Trump demanded that NATO governments raise military spending to 5% of their economies. Germany backed the demand, and NATO adopted it in 2025. NATO is expanding its forces and weapons production against Russia while its members arm Ukraine for the war. The European Union's ReArm Europe program aims to mobilize up to 800 billion euros for the same buildup.

The U.S. war on Iran has added more pressure. It has burned through missile interceptors far faster than they can be replaced. In September, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the fighting had used up between half and two-thirds of some U.S. interceptor stocks, and that rebuilding them could take at least five years.

Together, NATO spending, European rearmament and the war on Iran are creating a huge market for weapons.

Lower Saxony steps around Qatar

Volkswagen had already tried to bring Rafael Systems into Osnabrück. Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, which controls 17% of Volkswagen's voting rights and sits on its supervisory board, stood in the way. Reuters reported in June that the fund was obstructing the deal. In July, Bild reported that Qatar had blocked it.



Activists hang a banner on Volkswagen's Osnabrück plant in May 2025 opposing plans to turn the factory toward military production. The banner reads, 'Public transit instead of tanks – don't build jobs on war.'

The sale goes around Qatar. Once Aurelius and Lower Saxony own the plant, Qatar has no say over an Israeli arms company working there.

Lower Saxony is on both sides of the deal. It already owns part of Volkswagen. Now it will own part of the Osnabrück plant. The government is organizing the restructuring.

Volkswagen targets 100,000 jobs

Osnabrück is part of a much larger Volkswagen restructuring. On Sept. 3, VW's supervisory board unanimously approved "Future Plan 2030," a blueprint for mass layoffs. Management wants about 50,000 more job cuts, bringing the total targeted to as many as 100,000.

The company says its European factories can build about half a million more cars a year than it can sell at a profit. Plants in Emden, Zwickau, Hanover and Neckarsulm have no new civilian models scheduled once current ones phase out over the next decade.

Management blames weak demand, high costs and tariffs. All three land in the same place: Volkswagen cannot make enough profit producing cars. The factory stands intact. The machinery is ready. The skilled workers are on the line.

Cars are useful products made by workers' labor. Volkswagen is halting production because it cannot sell enough of them at a profit. Capitalism produces for the bosses' profit, not for what people need.

The conversion follows the profits. Car production is shrinking, while soaring military spending has made weapons production far more profitable.

The factory has made this turn before

Wilhelm Karmann bought a coachbuilding business in Osnabrück in 1901. During World War II, Karmann built military vehicles, aircraft cabins and fuel canisters for the Nazi war machine, using thousands of forced laborers

kidnapped from occupied countries.

Among them were hundreds of Soviet women. Raissa Schaldybina was 17 when she was abducted from the Soviet Union in 1942 and taken to Osnabrück. Karmann held her in a forced-labor camp and worked her 12-hour shifts building aircraft cabins.

Allied bombing flattened much of the factory, but the company survived. Karmann rebuilt, tied itself to Volkswagen and operated until its 2009 bankruptcy, when VW took over the plant.

Once again, civilian production is being scrapped on the same ground. Once again, the factory is being retooled for a German military buildup.

From Gaza to Osnabrück

Rafael Systems is the main manufacturer behind Iron Dome and David's Sling, the air-defense systems that let Israel keep waging war while it carries out the genocide in Gaza. They are U.S.-Israeli weapons, subsidized by billions of dollars in Pentagon funding and partly built in the United States.

Now the U.S.-driven buildup in Europe is creating a vast new market for them.

Inside one factory gate, the elimination of German auto jobs is tied directly to military production for Rafael Systems.

Who decides what workers produce?

When the Rafael Systems plan became public, anti-war activists and Left Party politicians opposed it. They argued that Volkswagen should remain a civilian manufacturer and should not work with the weapons supplier to Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Society does not lack for things that need to be produced. Germany needs housing, schools, rail networks and public infrastructure.

Instead of meeting human needs, rising

Continued on page 19

Why they hate Gary, Indiana

Continued from page 2

leaders about this attempt to steal an election? It shows how laws demanding voter ID are not about honest elections. They're really efforts to suppress Black, Indigenous, Latine and poor people from voting.

Despite Krupa's chicanery, Richard Hatcher was elected mayor of Gary on Nov. 7, 1967. The same day Carl Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland.

These were the first two Black mayors of U.S. cities with populations of more than 100,000. Considering Boss Krupa's red-baiting of Hatcher, both candidates were ironically elected on the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Blocking Black voting power

Richard Hatcher's election jolted Indiana's ruling class. The Black population of Indianapolis was growing. Would Indiana's capital city follow Gary's lead and elect a Black mayor?

The response of Indiana capitalists was to simply abolish the old city of Indianapolis. A new regional government was established on Jan. 1, 1970, that included virtually all of Marion County.

Extending Indianapolis to the suburbs was deliberately done to prevent the election of a Black mayor. The measure violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting Black voting strength.

Neither President Richard Nixon nor his former law partner and fellow Watergate conspirator, Attorney General John Mitchell, was about to intervene. To this day, Indianapolis has never had a Black mayor.

This Unigov scheme for a metro government was pushed through in 1968 and 1969, at the height of the Black liberation struggle. Richard Hatcher — who convened the National Black Political Convention in Gary in 1972 — was hated by bigots. The wealthy and powerful feared the first Black mayor of Indianapolis might be a Panther.

Smothering Indiana was the Pulliam family's newspaper chain whose papers were favorites of John Birch Society members. The fascist cult was founded in Indianapolis in 1958.

Millionaire patriarch Eugene Pulliam built a chain with enough clout in Indiana to make his doltish grandson, Dan Quayle, a United States

senator five years after his death. It was Quayle's utter stupidity that made him so attractive to George Herbert Walker Bush as a vice-presidential running mate in 1988.

More than anything, the elder Bush needed impeachment insurance. The former CIA director feared exposure as the ringleader of Contragate, whose centerpiece was flooding crack into Black communities by the spy agency.

It wasn't until 1965 that Indianapolis took part in the federal school program. The vote in the school board was only 4 to 3 to accept. The Indianapolis News, part of the Pulliam chain, was furious at accepting federal funds to feed hungry schoolchildren.

The resistance of Indianapolis capitalists to this minor concession wasn't just because of their reactionary character. It was also a sign of how their rule had been unchallenged for decades.

Reaction and fightback

Indiana may be the most reactionary state in the Midwest. The Ku Klux Klan was key to electing Edward Jackson as the state's governor in 1924.

Indiana was filled with dozens of "sundown towns" where Black people were not allowed to reside. ("Sundown Towns," by James W. Loewen.)

At least 10 Black people were lynched in Indiana between 1890 and 1930. Sixteen-year-old James Cameron was saved at the last minute from being hanged in Marion, Indiana, on Aug. 7, 1930. His two companions, Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith, had already been murdered by the mob.

After nearly being killed, the Black teenager still had to serve four years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. The only known survivor of a lynching, Cameron later founded the Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. He died in 2006.

Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh finally gave a pardon to James Cameron in February 1993. Even in this case, there were no reparations.

Yet there's another Indiana. Terre Haute was home to the socialist leader Eugene Debs, who led the 1894 railroad strike. Debs got nearly a million votes in 1920 running for president from Atlanta penitentiary, where he was jailed for giving an anti-war speech.

Four years before, Debs ran for Congress on the Socialist Party ticket. Revolutionaries flocked to Indiana to work on this 1916 campaign.

They included the Bolshevik Alexandra

Kollontai. She became the first woman to hold the diplomatic rank of minister when appointed Soviet envoy to Norway. Kollontai became the socialist state's ambassador to Mexico in 1926.

Around 1.5 million leaflets were distributed in the congressional district. The campaign's last socialist parade, which was filled with red flags, stretched 15 blocks through Terre Haute.

Although Debs lost, he got more votes than the Democratic incumbent. ("The Bending Cross, A Biography of Eugene Victor Debs," by Ray Ginger.)

This socialist movement was smashed by the red-baiting campaign that followed the Bolshevik Revolution and the great strike wave in 1919. One-out-of-seven industrial workers in the United States went on strike that year. Indianapolis became the national headquarters of the American Legion, which was formed in 1919 to "fight Bolshevism" and break strikes.

Making Gary poor

The steel trust established Gary, Indiana. Decaying capitalism made it poor.

The city's population has fallen from 175,000 in 1970 to around 67,000 now. Racists want to blame Black mayors and the Black community for Gary's poverty.

While the Gary Works employed 30,000 steelworkers in 1970, only around 4,300 people have jobs there today. It was this massive deindustrialization that made Gary and cities across the United States poor.

Northwestern Indiana is still a center of heavy industry. Refinery workers in nearby Whiting, Indiana — the same Lake County as Gary — have been locked out by the oil giant BP since March 19.

More than 800 members of United Steelworkers Local 7-1 were shut out of the largest inland refinery in North America after refusing company demands to cut over 100 union jobs, take pay cuts and give up bargaining rights. It is BP's last unionized refinery in the United States. The company is running the plant with contractors. BP reported \$7.5 billion in profits last year. It got its start in 1909 by ripping off Iran's oil wealth.

The more than two weeks that people in Gary were locked out of electrical power is just as deliberate. All these corporate assaults are building a deep anger among millions of poor and working people. An upsurge of resistance

**LOVE
IS THE
LAW**

Book by Gregory E. Williams

CUBA's Queer Rights Revolution

The process of winning approval of the Cuba's 'Code of Freedom' for Families; Reports from the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation to Cuba. Reports from CENESEX — the National Center for Sex Education / Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual CENESEX director Mariela Castro Espín

The full text of Leslie Feinberg's 'Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba

tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveIsLaw tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEistheLAW



They tag us like cattle: ICE's electronic shackles

Continued from page 1

was, he then tested it on “low level” criminals he presided over. One was a father who had written a bad check. His entanglement with the criminal justice system prevented him from providing a stable income for his family. And Judge Love had created a way to further stress and restrain him. Two months later the man was caught shoplifting. Love benefited from experimentation on him without any empathy or thought of the conditions he faced that brought him to commit the crime. That’s no concern of the law. A simple misdemeanor turned into a record that created further social and economic divides.

The engineer, Goss, had struck up a deal with Judge Love. Goss started a company to manufacture the device. However, the experiment was halted by New Mexico’s Supreme Court. Apparently, Judge Love did not disclose or even discuss it with other judges in his district — whoops. Years later, he described his experiment as “successful,” comparing it to the beginning stages of the Wright brothers. Now this is a multi-billion dollar industry.

Make no mistake about it. The ankle monitor is designed to dehumanize and criminalize you. It is a tool to keep you herdable.

The ICE connection and public dehumanization

A few weeks ago, a video went viral of a Haitian man falling to his knees after getting an ankle monitor. Many commenters were unsympathetic, though we should keep in mind that the social media algorithms controlled by tech billionaires encourage such racist displays of cruelty. Examples include: “indeed temporary is temporary”; “why is he crying, an ankle monitor means a chance?”; “He could/should self deport, the government will give him money for when he gets back home.” These commenters ignore the question of why so many Haitian immigrants have been forced to come to the United States in the first place, like Judge Love ignored the conditions that led a father to write a bad check.

There’s a simple reason, as politicians and the capitalist media never tire of telling us: Good ‘ole “American” business interests are way more important than life itself. These interests are the cause of Haiti’s suffering. The U.S. systematically destabilizes Haiti on behalf of the capitalist class. The U.S. stokes coups and imposes austerity. The guns used by gangs arrive in Haiti from Miami. Government corruption is rampant. In this instigated chaos, non-profits, CIA operatives, and private investors drool over large-scale colonization. The U.S. government provides guidance on “National Security Strategy,” which always means more repression of the Haitian people.

The United States is the leader of the business of slave and sex trade. We see it through immigration and the carceral system. Take BI Incorporated, the largest provider of ankle monitors in the U.S. The company is a subsidiary of GEO Group, the owner of private prisons, such as Delaney Hall (where immigrants have been on hunger strike), the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, and other facilities across the country. There are GEO facilities in New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, Washington and California. These two corporate giants are a match made in hell, giving U.S. imperialism the infrastructure to further plunder the world. It is no coincidence that the Essex County jail sits on the same road as Delaney Hall.

From the transatlantic slave trade to 21st-century policing

Washington, D.C. news outlet WUSA9 interviewed a former employee of the George H. Fallon Federal Office Building in Baltimore, whose offices are used as a transitional center. The anonymous worker compares what he witnessed to the transatlantic slave trade, saying:

“People lying on the floor head to toe, that reminded me of pictures that I saw in elementary school of how they brought the slaves over from Africa.”

The track record is clear. We expect such abuse from this racist state. But we don’t have to accept it.

Is it worth it to sacrifice human life for elite comfort? When will survival not be criminalized in a Black and Brown skin? Why are we normalizing over-policing?

Trump’s persecution of Haitian immigrants drives young man to suicide

On Sept. 1, news broke of Pierre Damas Bel. He was a 20-year-old college freshman. He was on path to become a neuroscientist at Wright State University in Ohio when he took his own life after being forced to wear an ankle monitor. He was impacted by the Trump regime’s ending of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 13 countries, affecting over 1 million people.

Pierre was tagged as cattle, as many Black bodies are in this country. His death is no different than those who took their lives during the slave trade. It was done out of despair and desperation to escape entrapment.

A month before Pierre took his life, he posted on Instagram that he came to the U.S. for an education. He wrote:

“I didn’t come here to commit a crime or hurt anyone. Yet now I’m walking through the streets of the United States with a GPS monitor on my leg, carrying a feeling of shame and humiliation that I never imagined I would experience.”

His family and community continue to fight through this tragedy and speak out. Yola Lamarre of the Haitian Community Network spoke at the Sept. 1 press conference urging officials to stop reducing people to “political pawns and stories.” She said:

“This has nothing to do with immigration enforcement when you are dehumanizing people and putting chains on them.”

Rest in power to Pierre Damas Bel and all victims of police violence.

We will keep fighting for our dignity

Dignity is all we ask for as living beings, but in this capitalist system, elements of life itself are pushed to us as commodities. However, we are not going out in despair – not without a fight. We are mobilizing, doing food drives, courtwatch, and attending check-ins. We are doing whatever we see fit to not let this corrupt system dominate us and push toward extinction.

On Aug. 25, a group of mothers rallied at the federal building in downtown Baltimore, delivering letters to ICE officials demanding dignity. They call themselves Las Madres Unidas en la Lucha – the Mothers United in the Struggle. These women were not convicted of a crime; they were still detained and then shipped off to the northwest processing center as part of the ICE cover-up in March.

Regardless of ICE still placing them in the electronic shackles, they’re dedicated to fight for their right to not be a prisoner. They are fighting the surge of ICE across the DMV (D.C., Maryland, Virginia). They are fighting for dignity and respect not only for themselves but every person going through this unjust “justice” system.

Kat Davis is an organizer with the Peoples Power Assembly in Baltimore.

Fifty years after Mao's death: the

Cultural Revolution-era graphic showing Red Guards with Mao's Little Red Book. The slogan reads: "Marxism has thousands of truths, but in the final analysis they boil down to one sentence: 'It is right to rebel.'"

— Mao Zedong



马克思主义的道理千条万绪,归根结底,就是一句话:“造反有理”

Fifty years ago, on Sept. 9, 1976, Mao Zedong died in Beijing at age 82. Mao led the Chinese Communist Party through decades of struggle and headed the 1949 revolution that ended landlord and capitalist rule and established the People's Republic of China.

During the last decade of his life, Mao turned to a problem raised by the socialist revolutions: Could a new privileged layer develop within socialist society and open the road back to capitalism?

That question was at the center of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, which began in 1966.

Mao argued that class struggle did not disappear with the socialist revolution. The new society inherited inequalities, institutions and ideas from the old. Party and state officials could become separated from the masses and promote inequality, private interests and market relations. Those accused of taking China in that direction were called “capitalist roaders.”

Mao called on the masses to enter the struggle. Millions of young people organized as Red Guards. Workers formed their own organizations. Officials were challenged from below. Education, culture, management and government were opened to mass criticism.

The upheaval unfolded amid the bitter conflict between China and the Soviet Union. The Chinese leadership argued that a privileged

bureaucratic stratum had developed there and that Nikita Khrushchev's reliance on profits, material incentives and decentralization represented a retreat from socialism.

In the midst of this struggle, Sam Marcy wrote “Mao Didn't Wait for Thermidor,” published March 3, 1967.

“Thermidor” referred to the overthrow of the revolutionary government headed by Maximilien Robespierre on July 27, 1794. The French Revolu-

Continued on page 19

PUERTO RICO:

For energy in the hands of the people

Continued from page 20

Not only has it failed to operate these plants properly, but all its projects are behind schedule, it does not meet environmental requirements, and the plants under its care are constantly out of service due to malfunctions it cannot fix. This has caused great suffering for the people due to the constant power outages that result.

On top of that, there's a massive scandal over the shady contracting for the temporary power needed while the generating units are supposedly repaired. The Electric Power Authority awarded a contract worth nearly \$5.9 billion to the firm Power Expectations LLC and its partners to generate power temporarily. The problem is that the companies were fraudulent, and even the Fiscal Control Board itself

canceled the contract.

But dear audience, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Nevertheless, it illustrates the terrible consequences of privatization — to which the people are reacting and demanding that the Electric Power Authority — the agency in charge of power generation and distribution that, in its early days, contributed so much to the archipelago's progress by bringing light to even the most remote corners of our territory — return to public hands. Let it be a reformed, democratic, science-based agency, with representation from the people and responsive to their needs.

**Reporting from
Puerto Rico for Radio
Clarín in Colombia, this
is Berta Joubert-Ceci.**



Germany's war drive feeds the far right

Continued from page 14

state. It cannot stop anything.

Germany's plan for war with Russia, more than 1,000 pages long, makes it the staging ground for NATO troops and weapons moving east. That takes roads, rails, ports, hospitals and police, so all 16 state governments hold it. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius is considering pulling it from Saxony-Anhalt if the AfD governs there.

Whoever governs Saxony-Anhalt, militarization and restructuring will go on, and the AfD cannot restore the world it promises. Whether workers' anger keeps moving right will be settled in the workplaces — by whether it is organized against the war, the cuts and the capitalist program behind them, or channeled into racism and nationalism. #

Cultural Revolution and the communes

Mao didn't wait for Thermidor

By Sam Marcy

Even if the Cultural Revolution should falter and temporarily halt as a result of resistance from revisionist and rightist forces, it would still be a significant historical achievement.

For the first time since the early days of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the leadership of a socialist country picked up the threads of the Paris Commune. It made an earnest effort not only to crush the old state machine but to cast off elements of the old bureaucratic apparatus inherited by every socialist state.

China's effort is all the more remarkable because it projected the masses onto the political arena and sought to awaken their creative initiative in completing the revolution.

It is in this light that the mighty social and political upheaval known as the Cultural Revolution should be viewed. Mao Zedong and his collaborators were making a heroic effort to stop the advance of Thermidor on the soil of the Chinese Revolution.

Every great revolution has had its tempestuous surge forward, followed by decline and partial reaction. This was so in the Russian, French and 17th-century English revolutions. Reactionary groupings took over, but the previous social order was never fully restored.

The French Revolution's Thermidorian reaction followed the Jacobin period. But feudalism had been destroyed root and branch. The new bourgeois system continued to flourish.

The difference between Thermidor on the class foundation of a proletarian revolution and Thermidor in a bourgeois revolution may be fundamental.

The capitalist system, based on markets and the exploitation of wage labor, can develop

under a monarchy, a Bonapartist dictatorship or a bourgeois democracy. It develops spontaneously through the market. The political structure may accelerate or brake it, but capitalism has never restored the old feudal system.

It may be otherwise with a workers' state that has taken possession of the basic means of production. Its economic and political relationships can be stabilized and developed only through conscious centralized planning.

If a Thermidorian reaction occurs on the foundation of a workers' state, it is immensely more dangerous than reaction in a bourgeois revolution. If it sinks deep roots, it could dissolve the new economic relationships established by the proletarian dictatorship unless it is stopped.

Scarcely a day passes without further economic liberalization and decentralization in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Most ominous is the rapid growth of profit-based systems and individual material incentives, which undermine the class solidarity of working people.

The gulf between the privileges of the new social stratum and the great mass of the population continues to widen. These policies pose the greatest danger to socialized ownership of the means of production.

Undoubtedly Mao saw the development of Thermidor in the Soviet Union and its debilitating effects on economic and political life. All the more remarkable is the effort made to stop the Thermidorian advance that has enveloped most socialist countries.

The lasting significance of the Cultural Revolution lies not in how far it would advance, but in the fact that it organized a tremendous army whose watchword to Thermidor was:

"Thus far they've gone and no farther. They shall not pass!" #

Continued from page 18

tion's radical phase was defeated, but its new capitalist property relations survived. Marxists later used "Thermidor" for a reaction within a revolution that did not immediately restore the old social system.

The questions raised in China did not disappear with Mao's death or the end of the Cultural Revolution.

Decades later, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez expressed admiration for Mao and the Chinese Revolution. As the Bolivarian Revolution moved toward what he called socialism for the 21st century, Chávez emphasized communes as organs of working people's political and economic power.

Chávez urged his ministers and supporters to study "Inside a People's Commune: Report from Chilying," in which Mao calls the commune a "creation of the masses." In his last major political address, the 2012 "Strike at the Helm," Chávez returned to the book while pressing for Venezuelan communes.

The Venezuelan experience arose under different conditions but returned to the same problem: how to develop popular power capable of transforming old social relations.

On the 50th anniversary of Mao's death, we reprint Marcy's article, written at the height of that struggle.

Editor's note: The following article by Sam Marcy was originally published March 3, 1967; it has been abridged and lightly edited for spelling, punctuation, capitalization and clarity.

Cars out, weapons in at Volkswagen

Continued from page 15

military spending is pulling government money and industrial capacity into weapons production as civilian car production contracts.

Lower Saxony buys into the plant. Berlin creates the military market. The factory provides the machinery. The workers provide generations of skill. Rafael Systems provides the weapons technology. The arms business absorbs it all.

The plan is expected to keep about 1,200 of the 1,800 workers. The other 600 lose their jobs.

Osnabrück could become the model for other Volkswagen plants. Factories that no longer make enough profit on civilian goods are being turned to war production.

The German government is reorganizing industry for war. #

CHINA: Building socialism in an imperialist world By Gary Wilson

This report looks at how over a billion people are building socialism in a world still dominated by imperialism. It follows the Chinese Revolution from land reform and collectivization, through the mass campaigns that built industry and expanded education and healthcare, to the Cultural Revolution's effort to curb privilege and keep the revolution on a socialist path.

It shows how socialist construction created the foundations of modern China: state ownership of key industries, technology and banking; planning; broad social participation; and an industrial base strong enough to withstand capitalist pressure. It also examines the strains created after 1978, when market policies widened inequality and allowed new privileged layers to grow, and how today's leadership is working to strengthen state ownership and planning against those pressures.

China is not treated here as a puzzle or a ready-made template, but as a workers' state developing inside a capitalist world system. Its advances and contradictions are rooted in the unfinished struggle of socialist construction, begun with the revolution of 1949.



Por una Energía a manos del Pueblo

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci,

Estos días, en medio de los muchos reclamos del Pueblo: por servicios dignos de Salud, Educación, Vivienda digna, por un cese de la destrucción y venta de nuestras costas y terrenos protegidos, y por el acceso al agua en medio de una brutal sequía, está cobrando fuerzas el reclamo sobre nuestra fuente y distribución de Energía.

El proceso colonial y Neoliberal que arrasa nuestro archipiélago, nos ha dejado con un sistema eléctrico privatizado y altamente ineficiente. Un proceso que fue empujado por la Junta de Control Fiscal, que a su vez fue impuesta hace diez años por el Congreso estadounidense bajo la administración de Obama para obligar al pueblo boricua a pagar a los tenedores buitres de una deuda pública totalmente ilegal y odiosa.

Junto a las sucesivas administraciones del gobierno local, que actúan como achichincles del imperialismo invasor, se han impuesto firmas extranjeras corruptas que han venido con un sólo propósito: robarle al pueblo.

Y estas semanas, la ineficiencia y el descaro de la corrupción mafiosa ha llegado a límites inimaginables. Un ejemplo es GeneraPR, la firma que está encargada de proveer el 60% de la fuente de energía, el gas metano, que por cierto va en contra de nuestra ley de Energía Renovable. Su matriz, New Fortress, está en bancarota y no puede asegurar el envío del gas. Pero encima, GeneraPR está a cargo de operar plantas generatrices alrededor de la isla, sustituyendo el petróleo y el diésel por gas metano. Pues no sólo no ha podido operar adecuadamente estas plantas, sino que todos sus proyectos andan atrasados, no cumple con



San Juan, 27 de noviembre de 2022 – los manifestantes llevan una pancarta que dice “ni Luma, ni junta, ni colonia.” Luma Energy es una empresa eléctrica privada responsable de la distribución y transmisión de energía en Puerto Rico.

Foto: Carlos Edill Berrios Polanco/Latino Rebels

los requisitos ambientales, y las plantas que tiene a su cargo están constantemente fuera de servicio por fallas que no saben reparar. Esto ha traído un gran sufrimiento al Pueblo por los constantes apagones que resultan.

Encima, hay un tremendo escándalo por sus contratos nebulosos para proveer la energía temporal que se necesita mientras que supuestamente reparan las unidades generatrices. Contrató a la firma Power Expectations LLC por \$5,887 millones de dólares para que generara energía temporalmente. Lo único es que las firmas eran fraudulentas y hasta la misma Junta de Control Fiscal le canceló el contrato.

Pero querida audiencia, esto es solo la punta del témpano. Sin embargo, ilustra las terribles consecuencias de la Privatización, a lo que el Pueblo está reaccionando y exigiendo que la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica – la agencia a cargo de la generación y distribución de la energía que tanto ayudó en sus inicios al progreso del archipiélago llevando luz hasta los rincones más lejos de nuestro territorio, regrese a manos públicas. Que sea una agencia reformada, democrática, científica, con representación del pueblo y que responda a sus necesidades.

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



PUERTO RICO:

For energy in the hands of the people

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

These days, amid the many demands of the Puerto Rican people — for decent health care, education, and housing; for an end to the destruction and sale of our coastlines and protected lands; and for access to water in the midst of a brutal drought — the demand for control over our energy sources and distribution is gaining momentum.

The colonial and neoliberal process that is ravaging our archipelago has left us with a privatized and highly inefficient electric grid. This process was driven by the Fiscal Control Board, which in turn was imposed ten years ago

by the U.S. Congress under the Obama administration to force the Puerto Rican people to pay vulture creditors for a public debt that is entirely illegal and odious.

Together with successive local government administrations — which act as lackeys of the invading imperialism — corrupt foreign companies have been imposed, coming with a single purpose: to rob the people.

And in recent weeks, the inefficiency and brazenness of mafia-style corruption have reached unimaginable levels. One example is Genera PR,

the company tasked with supplying 60% of the energy source — methane gas — which, incidentally, violates our Renewable Energy Act. Its parent company, New Fortress, is bankrupt and cannot guarantee the delivery of the gas. But on top of that, Genera PR is in charge of operating power plants across the island, replacing oil and diesel with natural gas.

Continúa de page 18

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