

El Niño heats the planet, the bankers dig graves

By Gary Wilson

In mid-September, the central Pacific waters that mark El Niño hit their highest temperature on record, about 5.5 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. The last El Niño this strong, in 1877, set off famines that killed tens of millions in India, China and Brazil.

On Sept. 23, the University of Chicago's Climate Impact Lab forecast that extra heat will kill 451,000 people from June 2026 through February 2027. That counts heat alone, not drought or famine.

The drought of 1877 was a force of nature. The mass death that followed was organized by colonialism. Today the same countries top the new forecast, and monopoly capitalism and its bankers are organizing the deaths.

1877: Famine made in London

When the monsoon failed in 1876, India still had grain. As historian Mike Davis showed in "Late Victorian Holocausts," it went by rail to the ports and out to Britain in record shipments while peasants in the Deccan starved.

Viceroy Lord Lytton ordered that nothing interfere with the market and banned private relief that might lower grain prices. On Jan. 1, 1877,

Continued on page 2



A worker cools off with water during extreme heat in Amritsar, India. El Niño raises the temperature. Wages, housing, electricity and health care decide who survives it.

ZIMBABWE will never be a colony! **CHINA** stood up – and it's still standing The night NATO sent 1,900 drones at Russia

The bosses are putting AI in charge **Trump welcomes Xi with bombers** German activists: Blockade U.S. Embassy

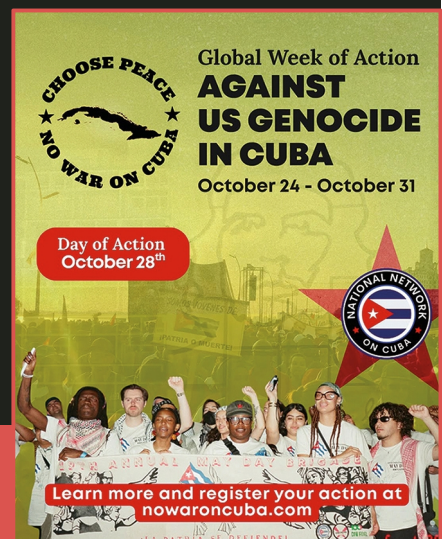
Pentagon ready for
a wider war on **IRAN**

Arrest Netanyahu!

Israel shuts out Arab parties



Eyewitness **CUBA**: Undefeated



Capitalism won't fall on its own
The ruling class can be stopped

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

As NYC hospitals cut deals with Trump, protesters demand trans youth care

By Melinda Butterfield



NYP protest 1, NYP protest 2, NYP protest 3

SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

"New York Pres, what do you say? How many kids did you harm today?"

The chant rang out on Manhattan's Upper East Side Oct. 1 as hundreds of people picketed New York-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP), one of three major hospital systems in the city that abruptly stopped providing gender-affirming health care for trans youth after pressure from the Trump regime.

Protesters – including trans youth and adults, families and community supporters – demanded that NYP immediately restore this essential and life-saving care. Large pink and lavender signs declared, "Trans lives are not bargaining chips," "Trans youth deserve trans futures," and "Honor your oath."

They also told NYP to reject a deal to permanently end services for trans youth. It's widely believed that such a deal is in the works, after the city's other two major hospital systems, Mount Sinai and NYU Langone, signed off on deals with Trump's Department of "Justice."

At the NYP protest, Qween Jean and other speakers warned politicians and hospital bosses

that they must take action to restore care, or face escalating actions.

New York State and City have enacted laws that are supposed to protect access to gender-affirming care and shield providers from legal attacks by the federal government and so-called "red state" lawsuits.

However, almost a year after the three big hospital chains ended care for trans youth, nothing has been done by state and city officials to punish the perpetrators and force them to restart services.

Another chant was, "Wake up, wake up, this is your fight too – when they're done with us, they're coming for you." Once the precedent is set for hospitals to abandon care for one marginalized group targeted by the government, everyone's right to health care is endangered.

This was the third protest in the past month organized jointly by the Gender Liberation Movement and ACT UP NY. Earlier actions were held outside NYU Langone and Mount Sinai facilities.

Another action is being planned for early November. #

El Niño heats the planet, the bankers dig graves

Continued from page 1

as the famine spread, he threw a weeklong feast in Delhi for 68,000 officials and princes to proclaim Queen Victoria Empress of India.

The starving broke rocks in labor camps to eat. Sir Richard Temple, sent to cut relief costs, set the ration at 1 pound of rice a day for heavy labor – less, Davis noted, than the Nazis fed prisoners at Buchenwald. Millions died in southern India alone.

In northern China, Britain's Opium Wars had wrecked the granaries that once carried people through drought. In northeast Brazil, drought hit peasants already ruined by the cotton bust. Wherever capital reached, the result was the same.

The famines helped make these countries poor. Survivors lost land, cattle and tools to

moneylenders and landlords, and their countries were bound tighter to export crops for Europe.

2026: The same map

Nigeria tops the new forecast, with more than 31,000 extra heat deaths expected by February. Sudan, Niger and Chad follow, then Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, India and Brazil. It is the colonial map of 1877.

Heat kills people who can't escape it. A fan needs electricity. Heatstroke needs a clinic with staff, water and ice. Where those are missing, a hot week becomes a massacre.

Imperialism keeps them missing. The IMF and World Bank pressed Nigeria for years to end its fuel subsidy and won in May 2023. Gasoline prices shot up, and gasoline runs the generators most households need when the power fails. Billions of people live in countries that pay more

to creditors than they spend on health care.

Heat is only the first blow. El Niño is bringing drought to three continents. Indonesia's rice crop is expected to fail. In the Dry Corridor of Honduras and Guatemala, corn won't sprout. The World Food Programme warns nearly 50 million people could face acute hunger. As in 1877, failed harvests send grain prices up, and the traders and agribusiness giants holding the grain cash in.

Sudan shows how this poverty is made and kept. Britain ruled it for more than half a century, turned the best land along the Nile into a cotton plantation for British mills, and left the west and south without roads, schools or hospitals. Sudan still lives by selling raw materials – cotton, then oil, now gold. The IMF bankers forced cuts to

Continued on page 3

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Port workers: No arms through our docks

By Lallan Schoenstein

With demands against war and militarization, unions representing workers in more than 40 Mediterranean and European ports have launched a common international day of action, calling for all dockworkers and port workers to mobilize together on Oct. 30.

The National Federation of Ports and Docks of the General Confederation of Labor (CGT FNPD – France), the Union of Container Handling Workers (ENEDEP – Greece), Langile Abertzaleen Batzordeak (LAB – Basque Country), the Port, Maritime, Shipyard and Warehouse Workers union (Liman-İş – Turkey), the Organisation Démocratique du Travail (ODT – Morocco) and Unione Sindacale di Base (USB – Italy) issued a declaration calling for the Oct. 30 mobilization at an Istanbul meeting in May. The port union ORSA Porti di Gioia Tauro, Italy, has since endorsed the declaration. Its demands are:

- An immediate end to the genocide of the **Palestinian people**.
- An end to the U.S.-Israeli wars of aggression



against **Iran and across West Asia**.

- Full solidarity with the peoples of **Cuba, Venezuela and Sudan**, support for the right of all peoples to resist occupation and for the right of self-determination.
- Ports must not be used for the transport of arms, ammunition, military equipment or troops destined for war zones. They must not become military bases for NATO, the United States or the European Union, nor serve as tools for shipowners and monopoly groups.

- No to the war economy, government rearmament plans, and the European project of militarization of ports and strategic infrastructure.
- Public resources must be used to meet people's social needs, not to finance war. Collective agreements must guarantee real wage increases, secure employment, reduced working hours, and fair pension provisions. Technological progress, mechanization and artificial intelligence must not be used to eliminate jobs or undermine workers' rights. Dockworkers and port workers say NO to the bosses' automation of ports.

In an action of international solidarity, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Oct. 30 Mediterranean port workers' mobilization.

The PCPA also passed a unanimous resolution to divest union stocks, bonds and other financial instruments from Israel at its convention in Tacoma, Washington, in September. The resolution was introduced by Bill Proctor, a retiree from Local 19 in Seattle. Proctor is known in the ILWU as one of the historic initiators of the Southern Africa Liberation Support Committee, which was instrumental in the decisive 11-day ILWU boycott of a ship carrying cargo from apartheid South Africa in 1984.

Clarence Thomas, an officer of the PCPA, cited the vote by United Auto Workers delegates at their June convention to divest union funds from Israel bonds when he presented the PCPA resolution to the Local 10 Executive Board in San Francisco following the PCPA convention. The ILWU Local 10 Executive Board proceeded to vote for divestment.

From the Mediterranean to the Pacific Coast, port workers are saying their docks will not load weapons for genocide and war. #



Dockworkers and supporters block the port of Genoa, Italy, demanding an end to arms shipments for Israel's war on Gaza. The banner reads, 'Block the arms.'

El Niño heats the planet

Continued from page 2

food and fuel subsidies, U.S. sanctions cut Sudan off from world banking for two decades, and partition took most of its oil.

Now the United Arab Emirates, a U.S.-backed regime armed mostly with U.S. weapons, arms a militia in a war that has wrecked hospitals, power and water systems and driven millions from their homes, while the Emirates collect Sudan's gold. El Niño has added the driest rainy season on record. Sorghum and millet cost more than double, and famine threatens Darfur and Kordofan. The U.S. war on Iran has choked fertilizer shipments through Hormuz. The Climate Impact Lab expects 17,500 more heat deaths in Sudan by February. Families in the displacement camps of the regions Britain kept undeveloped will face it with nothing between them and the sun.

The same line runs through the U.S.

The richest country in the world has its own map of who dies. In Maricopa County, Ariz., heat killed 645 people in 2023, and nearly half were homeless. Most Texas prison cells have no air conditioning, and prisoners have died in them. Black and Latine neighborhoods that the banks redlined in the 1930s, denied trees and

parks, still run several degrees hotter than nearby white neighborhoods.

In Los Angeles, the storms of the 2015-16 El Niño swept away homeless camps in dry riverbeds. California has declared an emergency for this winter's storms, but researchers admit its plans cover levees and roads, not the unhoused, the elderly or people with disabilities.

Here as in Lagos and Darfur, heat kills the same oppressed class: people robbed of everything but their ability to work, and those the system has thrown out of work altogether.

Workers push back

Where workers fought, they pushed the heat back. After farmworkers died in the fields, the United Farm Workers fought for and won a stronger California heat standard. In 2023, after drivers collapsed in their trucks, UPS Teamsters won air conditioning in new vehicles and fans, heat shields and ventilation in the rest of the fleet.

Lord Lytton could not stop the monsoon from failing, and no one can stop this El Niño. The famine of 1877 was decided in London. The 451,000 deaths now projected, and the hunger deaths no one has counted, are being decided the same way: by who owns the land, the grain, the power plants, the housing and the clinics, and by the debt imposed on whole countries. #

The bosses are putting AI in charge

By Gary Wilson

The big-business press and tech billionaires talk about artificial intelligence as a machine that might someday escape human control. Control is already being handed over. Driven by competition, capitalists and the Pentagon are turning decisions over to machines, step by step. Karl Marx laid out the law behind this more than 150 years ago.

The coercive law of competition

Whoever produces cheaper and faster takes the market. Marx wrote in *Capital* that competition imposes the laws of capitalist production on each capitalist "as external coercive laws."

If a rival cuts costs with speedup or new machinery, the others must match it or go under. No one controls the outcome. Together, their moves produce what no one planned: crises, monopoly, whole regions ruined.

Machinery is a chief weapon in this fight. The Communist Manifesto called the worker "an appendage of the machine." The machine sets the pace. The worker keeps up or gets thrown out.

AI extends machinery into command itself. Scheduling, monitoring, hiring and firing have always been capital's work, done for the owners by paid managers. Now software does it.

The company that decides faster with fewer workers gains an edge, and its rivals must follow.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei urges the industry to slow down. But when OpenAI gained ground, Anthropic considered moving up a new model release. Stop, and a rival takes the market.

Capitalism is the runaway power

Marx described capital as self-expanding value, turning money into more money without end. Each capitalist must accumulate or be pushed aside. No one steers the whole.

That is the loss of control people sense in AI. The machine has no social interest of its own. Its purposes come from the capitalists who own it.

At work

In February, Amazon warehouse worker April Watson suffered a concussion, and her doctor told her to work at a slower pace. Getting that accommodation took more than a month. Amazon's AI assistant failed to provide the right medical form, and she could not reach a human. Meanwhile, the system flagged her, and she was reprimanded for moving too slowly.

In a United for Respect survey of Amazon and Walmart workers, more than half said AI had already led to staffing cuts.

The boss's command over labor is being built into software.

ProPublica workers, represented by the NewsGuild of New York, strike for a first contract. They won protections on AI use.

www.propublica.jpg



In war

War rewards the same speed. In the U.S. war on Iran, launched Feb. 28, the Pentagon used Palantir's Maven Smart System to combine satellite images, drone feeds and intercepted communications. Maven ranked targets, supplied coordinates and matched them with weapons. Anthropic's Claude was built into it. Maven helped the military hit more than 1,000 targets in the first 24 hours. The faster the target cycle, the less time anyone has to check.

War Secretary Pete Hegseth promised "no stupid rules of engagement." On the first day, a U.S. strike hit the Shajareh Tayyebbeh primary school in Minab, killing at least 168 people, 120 of them children. In September, a U.N. fact-finding mission found reasonable grounds to believe the U.S. committed war crimes there and failed to verify its targets.

A "human in the loop" does not fix that. Human approval cannot make bad targeting data accurate.

The Pentagon's rules

Anthropic refused to drop two limits from its military contract: no mass domestic surveillance and no fully autonomous weapons. On Feb. 27, Hegseth moved to brand Anthropic a "supply chain risk," cutting Claude out of Department of War contracts after a six-month phase-out. On Feb. 28, OpenAI announced its own classified-network deal with the Pentagon, permitting use for "all lawful purposes."

Punish the supplier that sets limits, reward the one that drops them. That is the coercive law of competition at the top of the tech industry.

The same drive runs through the U.S. government's policy of containing China, a form of warfare some call the New Cold War. The U.S. government bans chip exports to China, blocks Chinese firms and pours government money into U.S. tech monopolies. Every call for restraint gets the same answer: China will not wait.

The doomsayers

Former Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon went viral warning that the people building AI believe it could kill everyone by the end of the decade.

Doomsayers locate the danger in the machine because they cannot picture an end to its real source: capitalist competition and the drive of U.S. imperialism. As Fredric Jameson put it, "It is easier to imagine the end of the world than to imagine the end of capitalism."

So they want safeguards inside the machine. But a perfectly obedient machine is still a weapon when it obeys the Pentagon and a speedup when it obeys Amazon.

Lasting control means ending capitalist competition

Limits on AI still matter, and workers are winning them.

Hollywood writers and actors, video game performers and dockworkers have struck over AI and automation since 2023. ProPublica workers struck for 24 hours in April and won a first contract requiring transparency on AI use. Journalists at five McClatchy papers struck for a day in May and won a ban on using AI to replace staff or cut their pay or hours.

But as long as production runs on private profit, every capitalist who can cut labor costs through automation is driven to do it.

Real control means taking the tech monopolies out of private hands and planning AI around human needs, using it to shorten the workday instead of wiping out livelihoods. The class that can impose that control is the class that builds, runs and maintains the machinery.

Competition is handing more work and more war to machines. Workers can fight for limits now. Ending the force behind it means taking the machines out of the capitalists' hands. #

Pentagon holds forces ready for wider war on Iran

By Gary Wilson

President Donald Trump says the U.S. war on Iran will end “immediately after” the Nov. 3 midterm elections. His own officials describe another possibility.

U.S. officials told Axios on Sept. 17 that Trump could resume major combat operations after the midterms if Iran has not accepted a deal. Trump and War Secretary Pete Hegseth have ordered U.S. forces in West Asia held at their current levels through the end of the year, ready for renewed war.

At the same time, the Trump administration is preparing a \$2.8 billion transfer to Israel containing 40,000 one-ton bombs and 20,000 penetrator warheads.

The war is in an armed pause forced by Iranian retaliation and the depletion of U.S. interceptor stocks. Trump is arranging his next decision around the election calendar. The U.S. government opened this war on Feb. 28 to overthrow Iran’s government and take back its oil. It has done neither.

Forty thousand one-ton bombs

The Washington Post first reported the proposed transfer on Sept. 15. It has been submitted informally to Congress but is not yet final.

The package includes 20,000 MK-84 bombs and 20,000 BLU-117s. Each weighs 2,000 pounds. The BLU-117 is a version of the MK-84 with thermal protection for storage aboard ships.

The package also includes 20,000 I-2000 penetrator warheads. They are designed to break through soil, rock or concrete before exploding. Their targets include hardened underground sites like those the Pentagon has bombed in Iran since Trump launched the war on Feb. 28 and the bunkers Israel attacks in Lebanon.

The proposed transfer follows a \$2.04 billion package approved under emergency authority in February 2025, which contained more than 35,000 of the same one-ton bombs and 4,000 penetrator warheads. If the new transfer goes through, the two Trump packages will have given Israel more than 75,000 one-ton bombs in less than two years.

An MK-84 blast throws metal fragments hundreds of yards and can tear through concrete and leave a huge crater. Israel has dropped hundreds of these bombs on Gaza. It has dropped them on the areas where it had ordered Palestinians to go for safety.

An armed holding pattern

Trump held off on another round of major attacks in early August after Saudi Arabia and



Part of an MK-84 one-ton bomb in the rubble of Gaza City's Rimal neighborhood, dropped by an Israeli F-16 on May 18, 2021. The Trump administration is preparing to send Israel 40,000 more.

Qatar warned that Iran would retaliate against Saudi oil and gas facilities.

The U.S. government has continued its naval blockade of Iranian ports, suspended negotiations and imposed new sanctions. The Pentagon has kept its forces assembled for a return to full-scale combat.

Iranian retaliation has forced the Pentagon to burn through the interceptors protecting U.S. bases and Israel. It has used up nearly four-fifths of its THAAD interceptors and half of its Patriot interceptors. Every new round of U.S. bombing would draw further Iranian attacks and drain those stocks further. Mark Cancian of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said this depletion was a major reason Trump held off on another round of major attacks. Rebuilding the stockpiles will take years.

Forces kept in place, stocks that take years to rebuild, a war that has not achieved its aims. An army in that position could be pulled out. The price of that is set in Tehran. Iran’s terms for reopening the Strait of Hormuz are that the U.S. leave the region, release the Iranian money it has seized and lift the sanctions it has piled on for 46 years. Meeting them would mean giving up what successive U.S. governments have fought for since the 1979 revolution took Iran’s oil out of imperialist hands. Refusing them leaves the Strait closed. The Gulf monarchies that host the U.S. bases are watching which way it goes.

What Trump suspended was the next round of major attacks. The bombing has continued. On Sept. 1, U.S. forces struck about 100 targets in Iran. They also hit the engine rooms of two Iranian oil tankers, the first strikes under a policy Trump approved: U.S. forces answer any Iranian action by destroying the tankers that carry Iran’s oil. On Sept. 5, after Iranian forces fired ballistic missiles at a U.S. aircraft carrier and a destroyer, U.S. forces disabled two more tankers and sank a third. On Sept. 8, after an Iranian attempt to strike another U.S. warship, they destroyed five more tankers. The naval blockade of Iran’s ports now extends to the ships carrying its oil.

Officials told Axios that the military cannot be held this way much longer without a decision. On Sept. 20, Trump said he was considering destroying Iran, letting its economy rot or making a deal. “If and when do I blow the entire nation up? They better behave,” he told Fox News. He was talking about a country of 90 million people.

Iran’s military command said it had information that another U.S. attack was being prepared. The State Department issued a security alert for U.S. citizens across West Asia warning of possible escalation, flight cancellations and airspace closures.

Iran’s top security official, Mohsen Rezaei,

Continued on page 6

Pentagon holds forces ready for wider war on Iran

Continued from page 5

says Iran has sent terms for resuming negotiations through Qatar and Pakistan: end the fighting on all fronts, release Iran's frozen assets and lift the U.S. naval blockade. He said Iran is waiting for Trump's response.

On Sept. 22, Trump is scheduled to meet the heads of six U.S.-backed Gulf monarchies at the United Nations in New York: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman. They hold their thrones under U.S. protection, and U.S. bases sit on their territory. Any resumed assault would need those bases and their airspace. Iran has already demonstrated that the bases and the oil installations around them can be hit in return.

The new weapons package would replenish Israel for further attacks on Iran, Lebanon and Gaza. It would keep the bombing capacity in place whether Trump resumes full-scale U.S. attacks or continues the holding pattern.

Bombs beneath the talk of 'strain'

The Washington Post and The New York Times reported the bomb package alongside accounts of Trump's frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and what the Post called "unprecedented strain" between the two governments.

Nothing in those accounts describes a change in what the two governments do together. The Trump administration launched the war on Iran. U.S. aircraft carriers, bases and the blockade fleet sustain it, and the Pentagon is holding its forces in place for another round. Israel serves as the forward military base that the U.S. government arms for the same war.

What the strain stories accomplish is to put distance between Trump and the bombs. They appeared in the same week as the 40,000-bomb package, and they let Trump be reported as frustrated with Netanyahu while he arms him.

Government money for U.S. arms makers

The Post and the Times call the proposed transfer a sale. Israel would pay for it with Foreign Military Financing – money Congress appropriates for Israel to purchase U.S. weapons.

Nearly nine-tenths of the \$3.8 billion in annual U.S. military aid to Israel comes through this financing. The money passes through Israel on paper and goes to U.S. arms manufacturers

such as General Dynamics, which produces the MK-84 bomb body.

Israel receives the bombs. U.S. weapons corporations receive government money.

Congressional review has not stopped the weapons. In April, the Senate rejected resolutions to block about \$450 million in bombs and bulldozers for Israel. Secretary of State Marco Rubio can declare an emergency and send the weapons without any review, as he did for the \$2.04 billion bomb package approved in 2025. The Biden administration declared the same emergency twice during the Gaza war.

War prices before the vote

The election calendar hangs over the military holding pattern because the war has already reached the fuel, food and transportation on which daily life depends.

The average U.S. diesel price reached a record \$6.29 a gallon during the week of Sept. 14, two-thirds higher than a year earlier and well above the previous record, set in June 2022. In California, the statewide average passed \$8.

The increase comes from the war on Iran and Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries. Iran holds the door to the Strait of Hormuz, and a fifth of the world's oil moves through it.

Diesel runs the trucks, trains, ships, combines and tractors. A South Dakota corn, soybean and cattle farmer told Reuters that fueling one combine could cost him \$1,500 a day, twice what he paid last year.

The cost of trucking produce out of California has risen by 40% to 120% on some routes. Independent truckers buy fuel before they are paid for hauling the load. A freight analyst at DAT warned that many face bankruptcy.

Most food moves by truck. Higher diesel prices enter the cost at every step between the field and the grocery store.

Refining margins on diesel have reached record levels. Tanker owners now collect more than \$1 million a day to charter some ships through the Strait of Hormuz, five times the prewar rate.

Truckers, farmers and shoppers pay more. Refiners and shipping interests collect the proceeds.

U.S. refiners have continued exporting diesel to Europe. Senate Majority Leader John Thune

says he is "open to considering" an export ban.

Meanwhile, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has fallen to 285 million barrels, its lowest level since November 1982.

The U.S. Treasury borrows to pay for the war, and the banks and bondholders lending the money are charging it more. The war and the price of oil are why.

On Sept. 15, the same day the 40,000 bombs for Israel became public, the government agreed to pay more than 5 cents a year for every dollar it borrowed for 20 years – nearly three times what it paid five years ago. Over those 20 years, every \$1 billion in bonds will cost the government more than another \$1 billion in interest. It pays the lenders more than it borrowed. That morning, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had told Congress that recent sales of government debt were the "most successful" in 20 years.

The rise in interest rates does not stop with government debt. New mortgages cost more. Credit-card balances become harder to carry. Companies already loaded with debt must pay more to refinance it, pushing the weakest toward bankruptcy and putting jobs and wages at risk.

The Pentagon spends government money on war. Arms manufacturers take the contracts. Refiners, tanker owners and the banks lending the money collect the profits. Working people face higher prices, higher interest charges and threatened layoffs.

After the ballots are counted

The White House is drafting plans for West Asia after the present stage of the war. They center on containing Iran and pushing more Arab governments into formal relations with Israel.

Israel votes on Oct. 27 and the U.S. midterms are Nov. 3.

When the ballots are counted, the U.S. war machine will still be in place. But it was Iranian resistance, not ballots, that forced the pause in major attacks.

Trump opened this war on Feb. 28 to overthrow Iran's government and take back its oil. Seven months later, Iran's government stands, Iran's oil is Iran's, and Iran holds the door to the Strait of Hormuz.

The Pentagon has fired off four-fifths of its THAAD interceptors and half of its Patriot interceptors, and the arms industry cannot replace them fast enough to protect U.S. bases from the retaliation another full-scale assault would bring. Trump is holding U.S. forces in place through December and preparing to send Israel 40,000 bombs for the wider war he threatens. #

'WAR AND LENIN in the 21st Century'

Includes U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering

Vladimir Lenin, The revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote 'Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism' in 1916.

At tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



Arrest the war criminal Netanyahu!

By Stephen Millies

Sept. 24 – Ten thousand people marched on the United Nations in New York City to demand that Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be arrested for war crimes.

Biden, Trump and Netanyahu have killed over 70,000 Palestinians in Gaza, including 20,000 children. Thousands more have been killed with U.S.-made bombs and shells in Lebanon and Iran. Zionist settlers, many of them from the U.S., have been killing Palestinians on the West Bank.

Netanyahu was allowed to come to New York to speak to the UN's General Assembly despite having an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court. He faces charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including using starvation as a weapon against the people of Gaza. Israel is also charged with genocide in a case brought by South Africa at the UN's International Court of Justice.

Nearly 80 UN delegations walked out when the Zionist war criminal got up to speak. Netanyahu praised Trump, lauded the war on Iran and defended his genocide in Gaza.

There were protests all day against the war criminal. Congressional candidate Darializa Avila Chevalier, New York City Council Member Chi Ossé and Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon were among 100 people arrested blocking First Avenue outside the UN to demand Netanyahu's arrest.

Thousands gathered at the great reference library on Fifth Avenue at 4 p.m. Among the organizations calling this mobilization were the Palestinian Youth Movement; PAL-Awda; Muslim American Society; Code Pink; Democratic Socialists of America; Global Sumud US; Jewish Voice for Peace NYC; Palestinian Feminist Collective; Jewish Organization for Palestinian Liberation; 18MR; The People's Forum; Party for Socialism and Liberation; and About Face: Veterans Against the War.

A large contingent of anti-Zionist Orthodox Jews belonging to Neturei Karta came with banners denouncing Netanyahu and "Israel."

Demonstrators left to march down 42nd Street to the UN. Some played drums while others carried colorful signs and banners. Among them was a banner demanding freedom for Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, who is jailed and being tortured by Zionist occupation forces.



SLL photos: Stephen Millies

There were contingents from colleges, organizations and workplaces, including City Workers for Palestine. BAYAN and other revolutionary Filipino organizations marched together.

People on sidewalks were friendly and supportive. Few workers in the Big Apple like Trump or Netanyahu.

People marched to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza across from the UN where a rally was held.

After the rally, organizers led a thousand people on another march to Times Square, to cheers and applause from the crowded streets. Free Palestine!

#



Capitalism won't fall on its own

By Gary Wilson

Trillions of dollars are pouring into artificial intelligence. It is the biggest bet in U.S. history, more than was spent building the canals, the railroads and the electric grid combined.

The stock market gains have gone to the rich, and workers' pension funds are carrying the risk. Wall Street is calling it the everything bubble, and a great many people expect it to take the system down with it when it goes. The phrase that sometimes gets reached for is late-stage capitalism. From that a conclusion is being drawn: the system has finally run out of room, and what follows is its collapse.

That conclusion is a response to something real. The wreckage is there, and it has to be looked at squarely. But a crisis of sufficient depth does not bring the system down on its own. Capitalism has ways out of every crisis it has ever created, and it takes them unless it is stopped. Whether it is stopped is decided by class struggle and organization.

It is an old question in the movement. After the crisis of 1857 failed to revive the revolution of 1848, Marx and Engels gave up a view they had previously held: that the next great crisis of overproduction would itself trigger a revolutionary situation. Marx had watched the crisis come, in detail, month by month. It came, and the revolution did not.

V.I. Lenin took the question up directly on July 19, 1920, in his report on the international situation to the opening session of the Second Congress of the Communist International. He was talking to comrades wrestling with the same question, from working classes devastated by war.

What Lenin told the Second Congress

The first half of that report is a catalog of ruin. The big European powers owed seven times what they had owed in 1914. France, which before the war had been the money-lender of Europe, now owed three times what the rest of the world owed it. In every country Lenin named, the price of food had climbed faster than wages. Money itself was going bad: against the dollar, British money had lost about a third of its value, French and Italian money two-thirds, and German money nearly all of it. The trade and credit that tied the capitalist countries together, Lenin said, were breaking down.

Then he turned to what the crisis meant, and named two errors. Bourgeois economists were reducing it to "unrest." And revolutionaries, he said, sometimes tried to prove that the crisis was absolutely insoluble.

"This is a mistake. There is no such thing as an absolutely hopeless situation. The bourgeoisie

are behaving like barefaced plunderers who have lost their heads; they are committing folly after folly, thus aggravating the situation and hastening their doom. All that is true. But nobody can 'prove' that it is absolutely impossible for them to pacify a minority of the exploited with some petty concessions, and suppress some movement or uprising of some section of the oppressed and exploited."

Everything said about the recklessness of the ruling class and the depth of the crisis can be true. Lenin grants all of it: they are plunderers, they are committing folly after folly, they are hastening their own doom. What he refutes is the next step – treating catastrophe as proof that capitalism has no way out, or that economic breakdown will itself produce the revolutionary outcome. That is the mechanical error Lenin was warning against.

On the demand to prove that capitalism had no way out, he was blunt:

"To try to 'prove' in advance that there is 'absolutely' no way out of the situation would be sheer pedantry, or playing with concepts and catchwords. Practice alone can serve as real 'proof' in this and similar questions."

And he immediately turned the demand around on the delegates:

"All over the world, the bourgeois system is experiencing a tremendous revolutionary crisis. The revolutionary parties must now 'prove' in practice that they have sufficient understanding and organisation, contact with the exploited masses, and determination and skill to utilise this crisis for a successful, a victorious revolution."

It was mainly to prepare that proof, he told them, that the Congress had gathered.

Lenin spent much of the rest of the report on opportunism, which he called the main enemy. His example was Ramsay MacDonald, a leader of Britain's Independent Labour Party. MacDonald admitted the crisis was revolutionary. He admitted British workers were looking to the Russian Revolution and the soviets, the councils of workers and soldiers that had taken power there. Then he told his own party not to worry. It would pass. Things would settle down. On July 30, Lenin answered Giacinto Serrati of the Italian Socialist Party, who had said the situation in France was not revolutionary and so revolutionary preparation could wait. Even where the situation is not revolutionary, Lenin told him, revolutionary work can and must be carried on. The socialists refuse to do that work in every situation, he said, and that is what separates them from communists.

The idea that the crash will bring the system down and MacDonald's idea that the crisis will

pass point in opposite directions, but they share the same mechanical method. If economic catastrophe itself will compel revolutionary transformation, the outcome has already been supplied by the crisis. If the crisis will settle down on its own, there is no need to prepare for revolution. Each rests on the belief that the political outcome is already contained in the economic conditions and only has to play itself out. Lenin insisted on a third position: the outcome had to be decided in struggle.

Lenin also explained where the money for those concessions came from. Before the war, the capitalists of Britain, France and Germany were making billions a year from money invested abroad, much of it squeezed out of the colonies. Out of that, he said, hundreds of millions could be handed to union leaders and the best-paid layer of workers at home. He called it bribery, done in a thousand different ways. The plunder of the colonies paid off a section of the working class in the imperialist countries, and force was used against everyone else.

The same Congress adopted Lenin's theses on the national and colonial question, and he ended his report on the possibility of unity between the revolutionary workers of the imperialist countries and the hundreds of millions of people in the colonized world. The two halves of his report belong together. The bribery of a layer of workers at home and the plunder of the colonies were one system, and both had to be fought together.

Capitalism's ways out

Capitalism has ways out of the crises it creates, and every one of them has been used within living memory.

The oldest is the destruction and devaluation that the crisis itself carries out. Crises bankrupt weaker firms, strip value from factories and goods, drive down wages and concentrate more wealth and productive power in fewer hands.

An AI bubble would be no exception. In 2000, the stock market bubble in internet companies burst. Telephone and internet companies that had laid fiber-optic cable across the country and under the oceans went bankrupt. The cable was still there. It was sold off for a small part of what it cost to lay, and the companies that bought it cheap built today's internet on it. The data centers, chips, power plants and power lines being built now will still be there when the companies and investors that paid for them go broke. They will change hands cheaply, and the buyers will be whoever still has cash. A crash would concentrate the ownership of AI, and it would leave the technology in place.

Whether or not the bubble bursts, AI is being

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

built to deepen the exploitation of the working class, as every earlier wave of the scientific-technological revolution did: eliminate jobs, break down skilled work into low-paid work, speed up whoever is left, and push a new layer of workers into insecure, poorly paid, closely watched labor. The capitalists who own it will use it that way in the recovery and use it harder in the next bust. And the same technology is a Pentagon project from the ground up – targeting, surveillance, drone warfare, the policing of borders and cities. That is also what it is being built for, and it does not disappear when the stock prices do.

This also changes the terms of the bribery Lenin described. The scientific-technological revolution eats away at the privileged layer the plunder abroad once paid for. The skilled, secure, well-paid jobs that let that layer of workers in this country be told they were middle class have been shrinking for two generations, and AI is aimed at the ones that are left.

For decades after World War II, the enormous profits and world dominance of U.S. capitalism gave the ruling class more room to buy social peace at home. That helped sustain the illusion that a large section of the working class could permanently rise with the system. As that position has weakened and those secure jobs have been destroyed, the material basis for that compromise has narrowed too. As the material basis for those concessions narrows, the ruling class has less room to buy social peace and turns more readily to austerity and repression – unless organized workers force it to give ground.

Another way out is the bailout. In 2008, the U.S. Treasury saved the banks with government money and let the bankers keep their fortunes. Millions of working people lost their homes and their jobs, and nobody rescued them. The rescue also stopped the crisis short. The bankruptcies that cheapen everything and open the way to a new boom never ran their course, and the crisis was postponed.

It saved the capitalists by shifting their losses onto the government, and that can be done again.

In 2020 it was done again, on a bigger scale. The COVID-19 pandemic threatened what no ordinary crisis does: the working class whose labor produces the capitalists' profits. Governments shut down much of the world economy. Unemployment went higher than after 2008. Millions of people died around the world, more than 1.2 million of them in the United States, more than in any war in U.S. history. Most were working people kept on the job in hospitals, nursing homes, warehouses and meatpacking plants, which the Trump administration ordered to stay open. Black, Latine and Native Peoples



Dockworkers march in Genoa, Italy, on Sept. 22, 2025, during a nationwide strike in solidarity with Gaza and against arms shipments to Israel. Ports are one of the places where workers have the power to block the war machine – and shut one of capitalism's ways out of crisis.

died at far higher rates. Today that toll is barely mentioned. The ruling class that kept the plants running has moved on as if it never happened.

The U.S. government poured out trillions of dollars, most of it to corporations and banks. The shutdown also halted overproduction, and the crisis building since 2008 was put off again.

But every rescue has to be paid for – through more debt, inflation, austerity or some combination of them – and the war on Iran is already piling on debt at a record rate. The ruling class can still rescue capital, but the cost has to be imposed somewhere.

On Sept. 16, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in more than three years, because the war has driven up the price of oil and everything made or moved with it. Rising interest rates are one of the things that could set off the AI crash.

A third way out was opened by the counter-revolution in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The overthrow of the workers' states in 1989-91 handed the imperialist countries new markets, cheap labor and raw materials on a scale the capitalist world had not seen since the colonial conquests, and it gave U.S. capitalism three decades of expansion. Nobody in 1980 could have foretold that exit. Practice proved it.

And the decisive way out, in the epoch of imperialism, is war. Under monopoly capitalism, crisis sharpens the drive of the imperialist powers for markets, resources and control. Arms production is that drive in its economic form. It postpones nothing for long; it piles up debt and inflation while expanding the military machinery through which the ruling class pursues those aims. War destroys productive forces on a scale no financial crash can match

and opens the struggle to divide markets and resources again. That is why the drive toward war grows out of monopoly capitalism in decline. It is a structural tendency of the system, not a bad policy that can be voted out. For the U.S. ruling class, the seizure of Venezuela's oil in January and the war on Iran are the form that drive takes today, and both are aimed at China, the main buyer of Iranian and Venezuelan oil. The war of containment against China – which the AI buildout is openly being sold as a race to win – is the form it is being prepared to take next. U.S. imperialism kills whole peoples and wrecks whole countries in the struggle to restore the conditions for profitable investment.

Except for the destruction and devaluation carried out by the crisis itself, these ways out depend on government action. The Treasury and Federal Reserve can shift losses onto the population and rescue capital. The Pentagon organizes war. Police, courts and federal agencies are used to break resistance. The ruling class does not simply wait for a way out of crisis. It uses the government to fight for one.

Capitalism does not collapse just because its crises get deeper and more destructive. A financial bubble may burst. A new technology may deepen unemployment and crisis. War, debt and financial breakdown may bring enormous destruction. None of that proves that capitalism has reached its final crisis, or that the crisis itself will compel workers to choose revolution. Economic catastrophe can open the way to revolution, but it cannot by itself make workers revolutionaries, build their organizations or win the fight. Those have to be built through class struggle. #

The ruling class can be stopped

By Gary Wilson

Capitalism does not collapse just because its crises get deeper and more destructive. It has ways out of every crisis it has ever created – the destruction and devaluation the crisis itself carries out, the bailout, the new markets opened by the counterrevolution in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and, decisively, war – and it takes them unless it is stopped. Whether it is stopped is decided by class struggle and organization.

V.I. Lenin made the point on July 19, 1920, in his report to the Second Congress of the Communist International. "There is no such thing as an absolutely hopeless situation," he told the delegates. Nobody could "prove" that the ruling class was unable to pacify a minority of the exploited with some petty concessions and suppress the rest. The plunder of the colonies paid off a section of the working class in the imperialist countries, and force was used against everyone else. Lenin ended his report on the possibility of unity between the revolutionary workers of the imperialist countries and the hundreds of millions of people in the colonized world.

What the 1930s won, and how it was lost

The concessions Lenin would not rule out were paid here, in the 1930s, under the heaviest pressure the U.S. capitalists had ever faced.

The deepest crisis U.S. capitalism ever passed through did not end it, and not because the working class stood still. Unemployed councils, sit-down strikes and the Congress of Industrial Organizations won the organized power to force the capitalists to give ground. The CIO organized whole industries instead of separate crafts, and

it brought Black, Latine and other oppressed workers, and women, into the unions in numbers the labor movement here had never seen before. Communists were at the center of that organizing. That is the kind of organization Lenin told the delegates to build, and the 1930s produced it on a scale this country has not seen since.

The New Deal was the concession that power extracted. It did not end the Depression. The war did. Arms production and then the destruction of most of the industrial capacity of Europe and Japan restored U.S. profits, and U.S. capitalism came out of the war with the largest share of the world market any single power has ever held. The concessions won by workers helped stabilize the system at home.

What the movement of the 1930s did not do was break with the capitalist parties. The Communist Party's popular front line delivered the CIO to Franklin Roosevelt and the Democratic Party, and once the war was over, the ruling class collected the bill. In 1947, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which forced union officials to swear they were not communists and outlawed strikes in solidarity with other workers. The expulsion of the left-led unions from the CIO in 1949 and 1950 and the McCarthy purge finished stripping the unions of the communists who had built them. Everything the unions won over the next two decades – the wages, the pensions, the health coverage – could be taken back, and it was. The working class has forced the concentration of wealth down before. It did not take ownership of what produces the wealth, and the concentration came back. The lesson was not that organization failed, but that organization tied politically to the Democratic

Party could not carry the struggle through when the ruling class turned against it.

It happened again in 2020, on a much smaller scale.

With the pandemic threatening the workforce, and workers walking out of Amazon warehouses, meatpacking plants and hospitals, things that had been refused for decades suddenly became possible. There was a halt to evictions, bigger unemployment checks, cash payments to households, an expanded child tax credit and an end to water shutoffs in Detroit.

Once profits recovered, all of it was taken back. The Supreme Court struck down the eviction

halt in August 2021. The child tax credit was allowed to lapse at the end of that year. Detroit began shutting off water again in 2023, and in 2026 the money for its low-income water plan ran out. The ruling class gave ground while the pandemic and the walkouts pressed on it, and took it all back once the pressure eased. There was no organization of the 1930s kind to stop it.

A system that can be forced to give ground and then win it back is not one whose end can be read off a calendar. Lenin opened his report by calling imperialism the highest and final stage of capitalism, and in the same report refused to say it had no way out. Decay describes the epoch we have lived in since 1914, and that epoch has already lasted more than a century. It is not a countdown. Britain's industrial lead peaked in the 1870s, and its empire held on for most of another century, through two world wars.

"Late-stage capitalism" becomes a political problem when it turns the decay of the system into a timetable for its collapse. Imperialism can be decaying and still survive crisis after crisis, reorganize itself, make concessions, impose defeats and find new openings for accumulation. Calling the system "late" explains nothing if it means the end is already built into the conditions. If the capitalist system is simply running out its clock, there is nothing for a revolutionary organization to do but wait for it to run out.

Closing the exits

Capitalism's ways out are real. The boom and bust cycle runs on its own, but the other ways out are no more automatic than the system's collapse. Every one of them has to be fought for by the ruling class, against resistance, and every one can be blocked. A war needs troops, ports, rail lines, arms plants running three shifts and a labor movement willing to keep the ships loaded. Austerity needs unions that will not strike. Repression needs neighborhoods that can be isolated and picked off one at a time. Each of those is a place where the outcome is decided by the class struggle, and each is a place where the exit can be shut.

The ships have been refused before. In November 1984, longshore workers of ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco refused for 11 days to unload cargo from apartheid South Africa, until a federal court injunction threatened the union with fines. When Nelson Mandela came to the Bay Area in 1990, he singled them out for thanks. Since the genocide in Gaza began, dockworkers in Marseille, Genoa, Piraeus and Gothenburg have refused to load or unload weapons for Israel's U.S.-armed war and forced

Continued on page 11



Nearly 15,000 New York City nurses went on strike Jan. 12, showing the organized power workers can bring against some of the country's richest hospital systems.

Continued on page 10

ships to sail without their cargo, and on Feb. 6 dockworkers struck together at 20 ports in seven countries against arms shipments. Some truckers at U.S. ports, a workforce made up mostly of immigrants with few in a union, have refused to haul containers for Israel's biggest shipping line.

Dockworkers' unions in France, Greece, the Basque Country, Turkey, Morocco and Italy, representing workers at more than 40 ports, have called an international day of action for Oct. 30 against the genocide in Gaza and the U.S. war on Iran. Each union will choose its own form of action, starting from strikes, and together they are demanding that no port be used to move arms, ammunition or troops to a war zone and that no machine or AI be used to eliminate their jobs.

Repression is the exit the ruling class reaches for as the money for concessions runs short, and it is being taken now. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on workplaces, National Guard troops in U.S. cities, the militarized police in every Black and Latine neighborhood, the prosecution of women who seek abortions and of trans people who seek care, and the surveillance that AI is being built to run are the domestic side of the war abroad. The force Lenin said would be used against everyone the bribe did not reach is already deployed here. Whether it can isolate and pick off one neighborhood, one union, one community at a time is decided by whether the rest of the working class lets it.

The unity Lenin ended his report on is still the decisive question. The U.S. war on Iran, the genocide in Gaza, the containment war against China, and here at home the war on migrant workers and oppressed nationalities, the stripping of abortion rights from women, and the campaign against trans and other LGBTQ+ people are the fronts where the ruling class is trying to force its way out of this crisis. Defense of the oppressed nations and the socialist countries against U.S. imperialism, and of everyone the ruling class is attacking at home, is where a revolutionary movement in this country is tested, and where the ruling class can be beaten. Each of these struggles can block one of the ways the U.S. ruling class is trying to make workers and oppressed peoples pay for the crisis.

None of that waits on a forecast. It calls for a revolutionary organization rooted where workers and oppressed people are, a political line independent of the capitalist parties, and the capacity to move when the opening comes.

Lenin's warning stands: never declare in advance that capitalism has no way out. He gave the delegates a task. The proof he demanded was organization, ties to the exploited masses, and the skill to use the crisis. #

Israel's 'democracy' shuts Arab parties out



Supporters of the Palestinian nationalist Balad party at a 2022 election rally in Baqa al-Gharbiyye.

By Lev Koufax

Supporters of the zionist project known as Israel often fall back on the argument that Israel is the only "democracy" in West Asia. This lie is often repeated by Israeli politicians, U.S. Politicians, and other zionist figures.

Talking heads and corporate-owned hacks continue to spew this false assertion even as evidence exponentially mounts of the exact opposite. Since its conception by the imperialist powers, "Israel" has only ever been a U.S.-backed military outpost. Its purpose is simply to promote the economic and strategic agenda of the United States. That agenda has evolved over the years, but the core function has not.

A country like "Israel" could never be truly democratic because its entire existence is based on the suppression of the democratic will of another people. Social structures inside not only Gaza and the West Bank, but also the 1948 borders reflect that reality.

On Sept. 23, "Israel's" Central Elections Committee voted to ban from upcoming elections two main Arab political parties inside the 1948 borders: Ra'am and the Joint List. Without these two parties, the already severely repressed Palestinian vote would be without any representation, limited as it may have been.

The committee banned Balad Party's Sami Abu Shehadeh and Hadash's Ofer Cassif, who is probably the only genuinely progressive Jewish politician in the country. Some democracy.

This is not the first time "Israel" has attempted this ban. In 2022, the committee attempted a similar ban, which was eventually overturned by the "Israeli" Supreme Court. Many pundits currently believe that is the likely result in 2026. However, 2022 was before Oct. 7,

the escalation of the genocide in Gaza, and the outbreak of a regional war on Iran by the U.S. It is entirely possible the Supreme Court carries through the ban this time. It is yet to be seen.

For some context, 2022 was also the last time elections were held in "Israel." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has justified this lack of elections as part of his expansive war powers. However, the government that proposed the 2022 ban was not Netanyahu's, but the supposed opposition. Pick any aspect of "Israeli democracy," and one will find apartheid and fascism.

The horrid state of Israel's elections is just one indicator of its existence as a U.S. military outpost more than anything. Zionist forces continue to bomb southern Lebanon, murder civilians in Gaza, and impose a Jim Crow-style apartheid in the West Bank. Same as it ever was.

All of this points to a reality that the entire global working class, as well as the various world governments like China and Russia who are in a position to oppose U.S. imperialism, needs to embrace. The only solution to the genocide in Gaza or the occupation of the West Bank is for the entirety of the zionist state and society to fall.

Reform will never be close to enough. Ceasefires will continue to be toothless. The only way is to defeat the strongest U.S. asset in the region, Israel. This does not mean a whole-sale slaughter of Jewish people as many zionist supporters claim. An end to "Israel" simply means an opportunity for the Palestinian people to again assert self-determination and build a country as they see fit.

Until that happens, expect more electoral repression, more genocide, and more pointless war on the various peoples of West Asia. #

Trump welcomes Xi with bombers

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. government gave Xi Jinping a 21-gun salute at Joint Base Andrews on Sept. 23 and sent two B-1B bombers and a dozen fighters over his head as the U.S. anthem ended. At the White House ceremony the next day, it did it again: a B-2 stealth bomber and four F-22s directly over the South Lawn.

That is the whole summit in one picture.

Xi's Sept. 23-25 visit was the first state visit by a Chinese president in 11 years. The ceremony welcomed him. The warplanes showed what stood behind the welcome. The U.S. ruling class wants the profits it gets from China. The U.S. government keeps up its military, economic and technological drive to contain China.

The imperialist press and politicians looked past the bombers and asked who had won. A former Biden National Security Council China official told Semafor that Beijing believes it has "basically tamed the United States." Twenty-one Democratic senators accused Donald Trump of failing to confront China.

Containment continued through the state dinner

Ten days before Xi arrived, Air Force Secretary Troy Meink said the Pentagon "now has on-orbit space control weapons" – the first public admission that the U.S. has put weapons in orbit.

On Sept. 22, the day before Xi landed, Trump stood at the United Nations and threatened to "annihilate" Iran.

China buys most of Iran's oil exports. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has moved to isolate every country that trades with Iran: "You are either with us or against us."

The U.S. launched its war on Iran on Feb. 28. One aim is control over oil – who sells it, who buys it and on what terms. That pressure lands on China.

In April 2026, the Treasury Department cut Hengli Petrochemical, China's second-largest independent refinery, off from the U.S. financial system for buying Iranian oil. U.S. forces have also seized three tankers carrying Venezuelan and Iranian oil to China on the high seas since

December 2025, the last bound for Zhoushan.

The pressure goes beyond oil. In April 2025, Trump raised tariffs on most Chinese goods to 145%, more than doubling their price at the U.S. border.

China answered that same month by putting exports of seven rare-earth elements under government license. U.S. automakers and other manufacturers depend on them, and their pressure forced the Trump administration to retreat. In May 2025, it cut the tariff to 30% to get the licenses flowing.

In October 2025, China added a ban on rare-earth exports for military use, including sales to U.S. weapons makers. Rare earths go into F-35 fighters, Virginia- and Columbia-class submarines, Tomahawk missiles, Reaper drones, radar systems and guided bombs. They are part of the physical foundation of the Pentagon's war machine.

China had its hand on that supply line, and it is a government hand. Rare-earth mining and processing were consolidated into state-owned groups, and exports move only under government license.

Within three weeks, Trump agreed to a trade truce. The U.S. cut tariffs again and shelved a rule extending sanctions to the subsidiaries of sanctioned Chinese companies. China suspended the October rules for a year. The April licensing system stayed in force, and exports to the U.S. military and its contractors remain barred.

China had set a material limit on what the U.S. government could do, and the White House bowed to it.

The truce left the military pressure untouched. A \$14 billion weapons package for Taiwan, mostly Patriot and NASAMS missiles, cleared Congress in January 2026 and remains on hold. "It's a very good negotiating chip for us, frankly," Trump told Fox News in May. The Army has stationed Typhon missile batteries that can reach the Chinese mainland in the Philippines and Japan. Japan is rearming with U.S. backing.

The summit itself produced little. A new U.S.-China Board of Trade recommended lower tariffs on about \$30 billion in goods each way – Chinese toys and holiday decorations, U.S. seafood and

farm goods. No tariff has changed yet. China will buy U.S. coal. Two pandas will go to the Atlanta zoo. On rare earths, the two sides "continue to work." Nothing on chips. Nothing on Taiwan.

On Sept. 24, Xi called for "a constructive China-U.S. relationship of strategic stability." The two countries, he said, "stand to gain from cooperation and will both lose in confrontation." The B-2 had passed over the South Lawn minutes earlier.

Contradiction inside U.S. monopoly capital

The Sept. 24 state dinner explained the summit better than the communiques did.

The heads of the biggest technology and finance monopolies were there: Jensen Huang of Nvidia, Tim Cook of Apple, Elon Musk of Tesla and SpaceX, Sam Altman of OpenAI, Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Sundar Pichai of Google, Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Larry Fink of BlackRock and Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase. At the same tables sat the heads of Lockheed Martin and Boeing, two giants of the war industry.

These monopolies need the Chinese market and Chinese manufacturing. Apple builds there. Tesla's biggest factory is in Shanghai. China once supplied a fifth to a quarter of Nvidia's data-center revenue. U.S. chip bans have cut that to almost nothing.

The same monopolies are tied to the Pentagon. SpaceX launches military satellites. Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Oracle run Pentagon cloud computing under a \$9 billion contract.

Artificial intelligence is where the two sides of the table meet. The chip bans exist to keep China behind in AI. Nvidia, Microsoft, Google, Amazon and OpenAI sell that same AI to the Pentagon. The AI hotline the two governments discussed would be a hotline between the two sides of an arms race.

There is no peace wing and war wing here. The contradiction runs through U.S. monopoly capital itself. The corporations want Chinese markets, production and profits. U.S. imperialism wants to stop China from developing independently and to keep U.S. domination in Asia. Trump's job at the summit was to serve both: dangle chip sales before the corporations and keep the Taiwan weapons in reserve.

Nothing about this began with Trump. Barack Obama launched the Pivot to Asia in 2011, moving three-fifths of the Navy's fleet to the Pacific. Trump's first administration cut off chip and technology sales to Huawei and ZTE. Joe Biden banned advanced chips and chipmaking machinery for China, built military alliances against China, including AUKUS, put a 100% tariff on Chinese electric cars and

Continued on page 13

CHINA: Building socialism in an imperialist world By Gary Wilson

This report looks at how more than 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 examines how socialist construction laid the foundations of modern China, and how market reforms after 1978 widened inequality and allowed new privileged layers to grow. It also looks at current efforts to strengthen state ownership and planning.

China is treated not as a ready-made template, but as a workers' state whose advances and contradictions are rooted in the unfinished struggle of socialist construction begun in 1949.



overhead

Continued from page 12

barred Chinese cars from the U.S. market. Since February 2026, a trickle of an older Nvidia chip has been let through – each one inspected on U.S. soil and taxed 25%.

What actually holds imperialism back

Chinese diplomacy calls the world it wants multipolar. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit on Sept. 1, Xi called for "an equal and orderly multipolar world" with "equal rules for all countries." BRICS communiques repeat the idea. So do many writers on the left in the U.S. and Europe, and capitalist governments looking for room to maneuver under U.S. pressure.

To them, China's rare-earth victory looks like proof that a new balance among powers is restraining U.S. imperialism. That gets it backward. The U.S. accepted no equal rules. China forced the retreat because its planned industry controlled materials that U.S. industry and the Pentagon need.

The giant banks and monopolies compete for markets, investment outlets, raw materials and profits. The governments they dominate use tariffs, sanctions, blockades and military force to defend those interests. As U.S. economic power declines, the ruling class fights harder to hold what it has.

The world before 1914 was divided among several major powers. So was the world before 1939. Those poles were imperialist powers – Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the U.S. – driven by their own finance capital to fight over markets, colonies and spheres of control. The balance among them did not prevent war. Neither did the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 or the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact renouncing war.

Imperialism does not end because other countries ask it to follow equal rules. It has been held back only by the resistance of the socialist countries, the national liberation movements and the working class inside the imperialist countries.

Peaceful coexistence and class struggle

A workers' state surrounded by capitalist powers needs periods of peace. The first Soviet government made trade deals, arms agreements and temporary compromises. The Bolsheviks never confused them with an end to the struggle between the two social systems.

In the 1970s, Soviet leaders called the policy détente. Détente itself was not the problem. The danger begins when a tactical agreement is turned into a permanent theory – when concessions forced by the balance of forces are presented as if the conflict had disappeared. Nixon went to Beijing and Moscow in 1972 while the U.S. was still bombing Vietnam. Détente did not make the



U.S. Air Force B-1B bombers fly over Joint Base Andrews during Chinese President Xi Jinping's arrival Sept. 23. The U.S. government welcomed Xi with a military show of force.

Photo: U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Gabriel Jones

Vietnamese struggle unnecessary.

A workers' state may have to make concessions. It should call them concessions and keep supporting the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples.

Under Mikhail Gorbachev, the retreat became a rout. His "new thinking" put "universal human values" above the class struggle. Peaceful coexistence stopped being a tactic and became the goal itself. That was surrender dressed up as theory. It went hand in hand with the rise of forces inside the Soviet Union moving toward capitalist restoration. In 1991, those forces took power and destroyed the workers' state.

Socialist countries can and do negotiate. But negotiations cannot replace the class struggle.

The U.S. ruling class has only ever accepted peaceful coexistence on one set of terms: the socialist countries set aside the struggle, and U.S. imperialism does not. Its "peaceful competition" has always meant blockade, boycott and economic strangulation, each phase preparing the next military one. The chip bans, tariffs, tanker seizures and orbital weapons are that pressure today. The bombers over the South Lawn were the reminder.

China and the pressure of coexistence

China is a workers' state defending itself against imperialist encirclement. It has no colonies and no troops fighting abroad. Its one overseas military base is in Djibouti.

China is not a capitalist country, though capitalist relations exist inside it. The government owns the key sectors of industry, technology and banking and plans major parts of the economy. The Communist Party controls the military and the political system.

But the market reforms that began in the late 1970s also created a large private sector, widened income gaps and fostered a privileged layer whose outlook leans toward capitalism. Under Xi, the government has moved to check these tendencies. They have not disappeared. Capitalist restoration, as in the Soviet Union in 1991, has not happened in China.

This contradiction shapes China's foreign policy too. A workers' state surrounded by imperialism needs peace and trade – time to

build and defend itself. The private sector and the privileged layer want something else: a secure place in the world market on whatever terms the imperialist powers allow. China's diplomacy of peaceful coexistence and multipolarity reflects both pressures. Beijing promotes multipolarity as a national strategy inside a capitalist world system, not as a socialist project.

States are not classes

That is why multipolarity works against socialism. It describes relations among governments, not social systems. It says nothing about who owns the banks, who controls production, who takes the profits or which class holds power. Those questions decide whether a country is socialist or capitalist. A multipolar world is still a capitalist world, and still an imperialist one.

Multipolarity tells workers and oppressed peoples to look for protection to a balance among governments, most of them capitalist, instead of to their own struggle and their solidarity with each other.

The "Three Worlds" theory of the 1970s, which lumped the U.S. and the Soviet Union together as "superpowers," made the same mistake. It turned the world struggle into a contest among governments and made cooperation with U.S. imperialism look normal.

What the summit settled

Trump posted Sept. 25 that "tremendous things will be happening." What the U.S. government brought to the summit was bombers over both ceremonies, weapons in orbit, tankers seized at sea, war on one of China's main oil suppliers and \$14 billion in weapons for Taiwan held in reserve.

Trump and Xi meet again at APEC in China in November and the G20 in the U.S. in December. The trade truce may be extended again when it runs out on Jan. 10. Extensions can move deadlines. They cannot remove the contradiction that produced them.

The U.S. ruling class still wants the profits it gets from China while the U.S. government prepares for the possibility of war against China. For now it is doing both, and the bombers show which way it leans. #

China stood up – and it is still stand

By Sharon Black

On Oct. 1, 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China from Tiananmen Square. Days earlier, he told the assembly that founded the new republic that "the Chinese people, comprising one quarter of humanity, have now stood up."

Seventy-seven years later, the revolution is still standing. It overthrew landlords and foreign domination. The ruling class in the United States never accepted the Chinese Revolution and is escalating its pressure because China is breaking monopolies on which imperialist profits depend.

What 1949 overthrew

Before the revolution, imperialist powers had carved China into spheres of control. Foreign gunboats patrolled the Yangtze. Landlords took crops and kept farmers in debt. Warlords ruled the countryside. About four in five people could not read. Average life expectancy was around 36 years.

After decades of struggle against Japanese occupation and the Kuomintang, backed by the United States, the revolution ended landlord and capitalist rule. Land went to those who worked it. Arranged marriage, concubinage and child betrothal were outlawed. The foreign gunboats left.

Building a new society

The new workers' and farmers' state began in one of the poorest countries on earth. It built heavy industry and brought clinics, schools, electricity and irrigation into the countryside. Adult literacy rose from below 20% to more than

95%. By Mao's death in 1976, life expectancy had nearly doubled.

The claim that China only began to develop after it turned toward the market has the story backward. The foundation for everything that followed was built in those years.

A privileged layer of officials also grew inside the new state and pulled toward the old society. In 1966, the Cultural Revolution called on workers, farmers and students to challenge that layer. Millions in motion blocked a turn back toward capitalism.

A revolution for the world

China's revolution changed the balance of class forces worldwide. Chinese volunteers fought the United States Army in Korea. China supplied Vietnam, aided liberation movements in Africa and built the Tanzania-Zambia Railway so newly independent countries could move goods without apartheid-controlled territory.

Its influence reached the Black liberation struggle in the United States. Malcolm X pointed to China as a real revolution, which fought for land. Mao issued a 1963 statement supporting the Black freedom struggle.

Imperialism never let up

In 1950, President Harry Truman sent the Seventh Fleet into the Taiwan Strait. The United States threatened China with nuclear weapons, embargoed its trade, kept it out of the United Nations for 22 years and surrounded it with military bases.

When isolation failed, tactics changed. United States capital poured into China, betting that market growth would produce a capitalist

class strong enough to take power. That bet failed. Today the United States is arming Taiwan province, expanding military deployments and using chip bans, export controls and sanctions against Chinese technology.

Why the United States is escalating

United States imperialism rests on monopoly – control of finance, technology, patents and markets, backed by military force. The biggest super-profits come from capturing new industries before others can compete.

China is closing that window. In solar power, electric vehicles, batteries, telecommunications and high-speed rail, it has built on a scale Western monopolies cannot match. They can no longer simply dictate prices, hoard technology or block others from developing.

China can do this because the foundations laid after 1949 survive: public ownership and planning power that can direct investment where private profit will not. The war on China is a fight to preserve the monopoly foundations of imperialism.

China against imperialist war

When the United States launched its war on Iran on Feb. 28, 2026, China condemned the attack and kept buying Iranian oil despite United States sanctions. As the United States strangles Cuba with an energy blockade, China is building solar parks across the island.

China is not an imperialist power. Its currency is not world money. Its banks do not dictate policy to other countries, and its loans do not come with IMF demands for austerity and privatization.

The struggle inside China

After Mao died in 1976, the left inside the Communist Party was defeated. From 1978, market reforms expanded a large private sector and opened China to foreign capital. A privileged layer grew rich. In the 1990s, tens of millions of workers lost state-enterprise jobs and the lifetime security known as the iron rice bowl.

But capitalism was not restored. Land remains publicly owned. The major banks and major industries remain under government control. The Communist Party controls the government apparatus and military; capitalists do not hold political power.

When that planning power was turned on poverty, cadres went village by village and household by household. Roads, power lines and water systems reached places no market would serve. By 2021, China had eliminated extreme rural poverty under its national standard. Over four decades, close to 800 million people rose

The U.S. war drive against China, what it means for workers

Compiled and edited by Sharon Black

The revolution ended China's "Century of Humiliation," which began with British imperialism's First Opium War in 1839. Over the past 75 years, there has been significant progress for the masses and China's working class.

Today, China is a global scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in high-speed trains, affordable electric vehicles, pollution reduction, carbon emission control, and space exploration. The People's Republic has also made significant strides in health care, education, and sports.

At no point has U.S. monopoly capitalism adopted a hands-off approach toward the development of socialism in China or elsewhere. It has consistently intervened against socialism worldwide.

The maneuvers by U.S. imperialism have been increasingly more dangerous and now point in the direction of war.

The global working class, including U.S. workers, must stand united in solidarity with the working class of China. This book, "The U.S. War Drive Against China: What it Means for Workers," aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and reveal the working class's real enemies.



www.struggle-la-lucha.org/books/the-u-s-war-drive-against-china-what-it-means-for-workers/

Continued on page 15

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Founded Oct. 1, 1949:
Socialist China at 77

Continued from page 14

above the World Bank's international extreme-poverty line.

The conflict between the socialist base built after 1949 and capitalist pressure remains open.

Workers have a stake

The United States ruling class needs workers here to see China as the enemy. Scare stories about Chinese spies, hackers and AI turn anger away from the bosses who close plants and cut wages. Tariffs are sold to unions as job protection, tying workers to the bosses' war drive.

The same ruling class bombs Iran, blockades Cuba and attacks migrant workers, oppressed nationalities, women and LGBTQ+ people at home.

The gains of 1949 were won by millions of workers and poor farmers in motion. Their future will be decided by the workers and farmers of China, against imperialism from outside and capitalist pressure from within. Workers in the United States have a task of their own: fight the ruling class's war on China. #



Chinese and African workers build the Tanzania-Zambia Railway in the 1970s. China helped construct the line so newly independent African countries could move goods without relying on routes controlled by apartheid South Africa and Rhodesia.

Zimbabwe will never be a colony

By Stephen Millies

Forty-six years ago, Zimbabwe won its freedom from a racist colonial dictatorship propped up by the United States and Britain. On Sept. 19, activists gathered in New York City's Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza – across from the United Nations headquarters – to declare that Zimbabwe will never be a colony again!

People came to show their support for Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who was in New York to address the UN General Assembly. The freedom fighter is the world's only head of state to have been on death row. His sentence was commuted to years in prison.

Zimbabwe gained its independence by waging a long revolutionary war called a Chimurenga. Thousands of Africans died during this struggle.

The rally was called by the December 12th Movement, Friends of Zimbabwe, and the Zimbabwe African National Union / Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) chapters in the United States and Canada.

People marched within the park while chanting "Long Live Zimbabwe!" They carried Zimbabwe flags and the African Liberation flag, designed by the Honorable Marcus Garvey.

Speakers from the December 12th Movement, ZANU-PF, the Palaver Collective, PAL-Awda and Struggle - La Lucha newspaper denounced the



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

cruel sanctions imposed by the United States and Britain against the African country.

The people of Zimbabwe's "crime" was to take back their land and farms from white settlers. The sanctions are no different than Trump welcoming racist whites from South Africa who

mourn the overthrow of apartheid.

These measures, like those against Cuba, were meant to strangle Zimbabwe. With the support of other African countries and the People's Republic of China, Zimbabwe is growing. Zimbabwe will never be a colony again! #

The night NATO sent 1,900 drones

By Gary Wilson

The largest attack yet on Moscow, launched overnight Sept. 19-20 on the final day of Russia's parliamentary election, was meant to show the Russian people that the war could reach their capital. Instead, it showed a U.S.-NATO war camp divided and cornered.

The strike rallied Russian voters behind their government. It brought the conflict between the U.S. government's sanctions policy and its need for affordable fuel into the open. It came as the ruling classes of Europe were reorganizing their economies for war and telling workers to prepare for call-ups and greater sacrifice.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said 450 drones headed for the capital were shot down. Russia's Defense Ministry reported more than 1,900 drones, eight guided aerial bombs, eight cruise missiles and four rockets were shot down overnight. At least three people were killed in the Moscow region, and the Moscow Oil Refinery was hit.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the attack included the new Flamingo cruise missile and the Pelican long-range winged drone, apparently the first time the Pelican has been used against Russia.

Kiev may pull the trigger, but the war is directed from the NATO capitals. They finance Ukraine's long-range arsenal and supply the satellite and targeting intelligence that makes deep strikes possible. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced in May 2025 that Germany, Britain, France and the U.S. had lifted all range limits on the weapons they send. Berlin's draft budget for 2027 sets aside more than 11 billion euros for Ukraine.

The vote they tried to disrupt

Sobyanin said the attack was planned to disrupt the election. It had the opposite effect.

Turnout rose sharply over the last Duma vote in 2021. The ruling United Russia party took nearly three in five party-list votes, up from about half, and is set to retain a two-thirds majority in the Duma.

"Over the past few days the enemy has made titanic, colossal efforts to undermine the outcome of the election," said United Russia chair Dmitry Medvedev. "This has only served to unite the voters."

The U.S. government's diesel problem

On Sept. 20, hours after the strike, President Donald Trump spoke with Zelensky by phone. According to Axios, Trump repeatedly asked him to stop hitting Russian oil refineries because the attacks were driving up diesel prices worldwide.

"The word 'diesel' came up many times during the call," a source told Axios. It was not the first time Trump had made the demand.

The root of this diesel panic lies in West Asia. The U.S. war on Iran, launched Feb. 28, has virtually closed the Strait of Hormuz and pushed oil above \$100 a barrel. High oil prices raise costs throughout the economy and drive inflation higher. Banks and other investors then demand more interest to lend the U.S. government money. On Sept. 15, they demanded the highest rate since 2007 for a 10-year loan. The government now spends more paying interest on its debt than it spends on the entire Pentagon.

Yet on Sept. 18, Trump signed a law authorizing tariffs of up to 100% on countries buying Russian oil and gas, aimed chiefly at China and India. At the same time, he is demanding that Ukraine stop striking Russian refineries because the loss of refining capacity is driving diesel prices higher. The U.S. government wants to force Russian energy off the world market while keeping Russian diesel flowing. It cannot have both.

Special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner were in Kiev this month pushing a U.S. settlement plan. Trump and Zelensky have agreed to meet in New York during the UN General Assembly.

With its forces tied down against Iran and its policy of containment against China, the U.S. ruling class is trying to manage the Ukraine front rather than widen it – for now.

Berlin and Brussels push harder

The European NATO powers are pushing in the other direction.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen used a hollow German accusation of a Russian attack as a pretext for escalation. The alleged attack was a microwave-sized quadcopter found on the ground at Leipzig/Halle Airport on Aug. 4. It never exploded or caused any damage or injury. Berlin waited nearly a month to blame Moscow and has released no evidence supporting the charge.

"Europe and NATO will not just maintain our pressure on Russia. We will increase it. And we will not stop," von der Leyen said Sept. 2.

The buildup reaches across NATO. Trump demanded that its member governments devote 5% of their economies to military and military-related spending. Germany backed the demand, and NATO adopted the target in 2025. Its members pledged another 70 billion euros in military equipment, aid and training for Ukraine in 2026.

The European Union is driving the same buildup. Its ReArm Europe program aims to mobilize up to 800 billion euros for military spending and weapons production.

German imperialism leads the European drive. For decades, much of Germany's indus-

trial strength rested on cheap Russian energy. That supply disappeared in 2022. Energy costs rose, civilian production contracted and German industry lost ground in world markets.

The German government and major corporations are now redirecting industrial production toward weapons. The draft 2027 budget raises regular military spending by nearly a third, to almost 110 billion euros. Government money guarantees orders and profits for weapons manufacturers. The German government is also positioning German corporations to profit from rebuilding Ukraine's power plants, electrical grid, industrial facilities and transportation networks as the country is drawn into the EU market.

This is the present form of Germany's drive east. NATO's military expansion clears the way for corporate expansion through Ukraine. The larger imperialist aim is to weaken Russia as an independent power and expand Western corporate control eastward. Russia's enormous oil, gas and mineral resources would certainly be part of the prize if Western capital could subordinate or break open the Russian economy.

The hunt for profits and resources abroad goes together with militarization at home. Workers in Germany face plant closures, wage pressure, cuts in social spending and demands that they remain on the job longer before retirement. The same program threatens them with conscription.

Preparing minds for war

On Sept. 17, the BBC ran a long feature asking whether Britain was "psychologically ready" for war. It reported that the government was rewriting its "war book" for the first time since the Cold War era and wanted people to stockpile canned food and drinking water.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, Sir Richard Knighton, called this the "most dangerous" period of his 35-year career. A former NATO deputy commander called for "some form of call-up" on the Finnish and Norwegian models.

The BBC quoted psychologist Jim Orford, who said wars require people to think "in terms of enemies and heroes," and that Britain was "well into the 'contemplating war' phase."

The BBC feature is part of the campaign to prepare the British public for war.

Military budgets and arms factories are only one part of war preparation. The ruling class must persuade workers to accept a war economy. It must prepare them to enter the military and send their children into another war.

Different pressures, the same war drive

The attack on Moscow was supposed to demonstrate the reach of the NATO war machine. Instead, it strengthened the Russian government.

Continued on page 17

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Continued from page 16

It also exposed a tactical conflict among the NATO powers. The Trump administration wants Ukraine to stop attacking Russian refineries because the strikes are driving up diesel prices. With U.S. forces tied down against Iran and military preparations aimed at China, it wants to contain the Ukraine front.

Germany and the other European powers want the Ukraine front intensified. Their dispute with the U.S. government concerns timing, fuel prices and where to concentrate military power. All are pouring government money into weapons production, preparing to draft people into military service and moving toward wider war. #



Flames and smoke rise from the Moscow Oil Refinery during the NATO-backed Ukrainian drone attack on Sept. 20, 2026.

The world according to Donald Trump

By Nahia Sanzo

As host country of United Nations headquarters, the United States again used its power over visas to exclude representatives it did not want in New York. They included the Palestinian Authority, despite Mahmoud Abbas's acceptance of Trump's proposals, Russia's deputy foreign minister and much of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's team.

The spectacle captured the larger contradiction of the gathering. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had to request security from the same government that had threatened him with death if Tehran refused its terms. From the U.N. podium, Donald Trump presented force as peace and domination as sovereignty.

His administration, Trump said, is "shaping the world stage" and solving problems others only talk about. Iran, he claimed, was once the region's "number one sponsor of terrorism" but had now been brought to heel. Then he supplied the governing principle more plainly: "to the victor belong the spoils."

That line runs through the Trump administration's policy in Latin America. The United States is tightening its grip across the continent while seeking to isolate Mexico and Brazil. Venezuela has faced military aggression and the kidnapping of its president. Cuba remains under blockade and economic war. Elsewhere, the White House backs far-right governments and candidates that define sovereignty as obedience to U.S. demands.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio offered his own version: every country has the right to remain sovereign, he said, while using "sovereignty" to justify shutting migrants out of the U.S.

Trump went further, accusing Cuba of working with "left-wing radicals and communist networks" inside the United States and declaring that



"freedom will come to Cuba and security will come to Mexico." Including Mexico in the same threat points to what the White House expects from the Sheinbaum government: submission to U.S. military, intelligence and political pressure.

In West Asia, the same pattern is even clearer. Western governments condemn Iran's response to attack while demanding a return to the conditions that existed before Feb. 28. European Commission Vice President Kaja Kallas called for ending the United States-Iran war and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, but coupled that demand with lectures about repression in Iran and offered no solidarity to a population hit by war and economic siege.

The treatment of Gaza follows the same logic. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney spoke of "immense human suffering" there, then immediately centered supposed threats to Israelis from Hamas, Iran and their allies, while Israel and its backers continue the destruction of Gaza.

Trump devoted much of his speech to West Asia because control over oil, shipping lanes and

raw materials remains central to U.S. power. He again invoked Iran's nuclear program to justify his wars and threaten another attack.

His words were explicit. Trump asked whether he would make a deal allowing Iran to rebuild, or "annihilate the Islamic Republic" and leave it "with no possibility of survival or hope of greatness." He then suggested an agreement might come after the election.

At the same time, he urged other governments to join the campaign against Tehran, claiming this would eliminate "Iranian terrorism" and lower oil prices. Resistance to an unprovoked attack is thus folded into the same terrorism label the United States has used for decades to justify war.

Europe received less attention, but Trump's message was no less clear. The continent is rearming while governments and media normalize the possibility of a wider war. "War may be coming. Are we psychologically prepared?" asked a recent BBC headline.

Trump praised NATO for pushing military spending toward 5% of GDP and treated Europe largely as a market for U.S. weapons, technology, agriculture and industry, while demanding tighter immigration controls and political conformity.

"There is no world government," Trump declared as he attacked the United Nations for supposed far-left policies and mass migration. Yet the government able to threaten allies and enemies, wage wars, impose blockades, control trade routes and interfere in elections is the United States itself.

Trump says his government has renounced the struggle for global domination. His own speech showed the opposite.

Translated by Melinda Butterfield

Cuba stands undefeated – end the blockade!



SLL photo

By Andrew Matatag

The following talk was given on Sept. 12, 2026, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland, at an event entitled "Eyewitness: Cuba." It is a short report back from the Centenary of Fidel Brigade, which visited Cuba from Aug. 1 through Aug. 15, 2026.

This was my third time in Cuba. My first brigade, but my third trip.

My first trip was in 2019. The Cuban government invited our party via our publication Struggle-La Lucha to send delegates to a conference entitled the Anti-Imperialist Meeting of Solidarity, for Democracy and against Neoliberalism.

That was a much different trip. Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was a special guest at this conference. Today he is being held by the U.S. government as a prisoner of war in a federal prison in Brooklyn, New York.

In 2019, Havana was celebrating the 500th year of its founding. The Malecón, Havana's 5-mile coastal seawall and roadway, was lit up with stages, dance floors, and temporary bars and restaurants every night we were there. All of them were full of people. Again, a much different trip.

When I first visited, if I hadn't known Cuba had been under a blockade for over half a century, I genuinely don't know if I would have ever guessed it.

The only real difference with my everyday life was the toilet problem. You do not flush the toilet paper. One of the very first and most visceral effects of the blockade is an inability to import important infrastructural construction materials. Cuba's plumbing infrastructure is old, most of it built more than a century ago. It was not built for anything other than human waste.

This had been reiterated to me for weeks leading up to the trip. Do not flush the toilet paper. If you flush the toilet paper, you gotta go get it.

Other than not having cell service, which is going to be the case for me anywhere I go outside the U.S., I'm not sure I would have guessed this place was under a decades-old blockade.

I credit that partly to the power of socialism, that is to say the power of the Cuban working class to genuinely participate in and build their society, and partly to historical context. In 2019, Cuba was still enjoying some of the relief from the Obama era of U.S.-Cuba relations. Trump's first-term sanctions were only beginning to bite.



Sept. 12, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland, at an event entitled 'Eyewitness: Cuba.'

This August's trip was much quieter. The rolling blackouts are real. The food shortages are real. The inflation of the Cuban peso is real. The oil shortage is real. Cuba's last shipment of oil was in March 2026, a tremendous display of material solidarity from the Russian Federation.

I saw very few gas-powered vehicles driving on Cuba's roads. Certain vehicles hold priority for fueling. Socialist society as it is, health care and emergency vehicles have first priority. Then public water infrastructure, then infrastructure maintenance, then agriculture and food production, then tourism.

But I did see a lot of new vehicles. Electric bikes. Electric cars. Tricycles with passenger cabs, powered both by pedaling and by a solar panel attached to the roof of the passenger cab.

I want to be clear about one point. When I say quieter, it's not for lack of activity. Everywhere we went – urban Havana, the rural areas around it – these were not ghost towns. Not like we see more and more in the deindustrialized, disinvested, hyper-exploited, majority-Black port city of Baltimore. Even in the rural areas outside of Havana, people are still there – going to work, going to the market, living their lives. Are there fewer people on average than what I've personally witnessed? Of course. But this is a society still functioning, undefeated.

I was in Cuba in November 2025. In January 2025, 200 Cuban entities were added to the restricted trade list. Some conditions had worsened, in a limited way. Only about half of the hotel we stayed in had electricity at any given time. There was always food, but the selection was limited. Gasoline was limited, but not rationed.

But that was just before the U.S. ruling class

launched its latest assault. They kidnapped Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores, leaders of one of Cuba's greatest allies. Though technically this is not a sanction, it put Venezuela, a major oil producer in the same hemisphere as Cuba, under the gun. The U.S. is now holding Venezuela hostage, and claiming Venezuela's oil as its own. This was one of Cuba's last hopes for importing oil.

This is not a problem created by Cuba's socialist system. In fact, it is the socialist system that allows Cuba to accomplish what it does. The problem is manufactured by U.S. imperialism. The fuel blockade has been in force since January 2026. Ships filled with food and fuel, already paid for in full, sit miles off Cuba's shores. All of it is a deliberate, genocidal act by the U.S. ruling class to starve 10 million Cuban people.

And that's the sentence I want you to take away from this talk. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is trying to murder 10 million people. Their decades-long blockade has failed to break the unity of the Cuban people. So the U.S. ruling class has turned to a different weapon in their arsenal: genocide. They want Cuba to be another Gaza.

In 2024, we hosted Dr. Hina Syed at this very church for an eyewitness account of working in a hospital in Gaza. The stories are the same, and the numbers will bear that out. Stories of hospitals running out of supplies; the overcrowded hospital hallways; the electricity going out in the middle of an operation.

You might ask – wouldn't a concession, even a small one, help alleviate the suffering? Would it not be an act of harm reduction?

Continued on page 19

German activists stand with Cuba in symbolic blockade of U.S. Embassy

On Sept. 19, German Cuba solidarity activists plan to symbolically blockade the U.S. Embassy in Berlin to culminate in a week-long, around-the-clock vigil protesting the U.S. oil siege and blockade, which violate international law and United Nations principles. Tourists and Berliners alike, drawn to the famous Brandenburg Gate adjacent to the U.S. Embassy, found daily news from Havana, roundtable talks, discussions, music, exhibitions and movies at the solidarity installation.

The weeklong event began on Sept. 12 with a 120-participant bicycle parade that began at the Cuban Embassy. The parade went to the German Foreign Ministry – approximately 4 miles – to launch the weeklong protest exposition at the U.S. Embassy. The dramatic protest was timed to the opening of the high-level U.N. General Debate, which runs Sept. 22–28.

As was seen at the United Nations in July, when Cuba petitioned for additional U.N. attention to address the new U.S. fuel siege – not covered in Cuba's annual report for March 2025 to February 2026 – the U.S. openly threatened and bullied United Nations



German Cuba solidarity activists gather at the U.S. embassy near the Brandenburg Gate.

members, pressuring them to vote against the Cuban request. Certainly, these strong-arm tactics will again remind sovereign countries that the imperialist dictatorship in Washington and Wall Street has been monitoring their statements and will monitor their votes on Oct. 27 and 28 during the debate on Cuba's resolution.

Since 1992, Cuba has put the unilateral,

illegal U.S. economic, financial, and commercial "embargo"/blockade before the countries of the world at the U.N. General Assembly. Every annual vote has called for an end to the economic war on Cuba, which is now reaching an unprecedented level of cruelty. Only the United States and the Zionist entity have voted against it year after year.

For more information, visit unblock-cuba.org.

Cuba stands undefeated – end the blockade!

Continued from page 18

The Cuban people know better. The Cuban people know there is no reality in which surrendering the Cuban Revolution even stops the shutoffs, much less fixes the plumbing.

Look no further than Puerto Rico and the Philippines to understand how the United States treats its colonies, past and present. Look no further than Flint, Michigan, or Gary, Indiana, to understand how the United States treats its own people.

Because of decades of disinvestment and privatization of its public infrastructure, Puerto Rico is entering the second month of its drinking water crisis. Electrical blackouts are still daily. And outside the megamalls, tourist hotels, and military bases, most Filipinos do not have flushing mechanisms for their toilets. I've seen it myself.

Flint, Michigan, was without drinking water for five years, arguably longer. The majority-Black city of Gary, Indiana, was without electricity for at least two weeks. And the Cuban people, who are universally educated, know this.

I want to talk about Fidel a little bit. One of the reasons we were there was for the First International Colloquium entitled "Fidel:

Legacy and Future." And what a tremendous event. Thousands from across the world gathered in the same building to honor not just Fidel himself, but the Cuban Revolution, and his contributions to it.

I am always quick to dispel any notion of the "great men of history" fallacy – the idea that history is shaped by exceptional individuals. This is not only an anti-Marxist idea, but an unscientific one. History is shaped by the masses and their influence on social, economic, cultural, and political forces.

The trick is that we experience life, and thus history, as individuals. But none of us can shape the trajectory of history alone. It means we each have a job. This is a job that Fidel took very seriously.

Miguel Díaz-Canel, president of the Republic of Cuba and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, at the opening of the colloquium, described Fidel as a "relentless worker and permanent student." There is no more apt description of Fidel. And there is no better example of revolutionary leadership.

So many stories told during the colloquium describe not only a leader who guided the

building of a revolutionary nation, but one who was deeply involved in every aspect – a relentless worker.

So many stories were of Fidel listening and learning, to profound effect, from the many cadres and workers involved in carrying out that construction of a revolutionary nation – a permanent student.

Fidel's qualities were not only based on his merits as an individual. They flowed from his understanding of Cuba's working class and oppressed. He understood them so thoroughly because he genuinely integrated with the masses not only to learn their conditions, but to formulate solutions alongside them.

That is our job. We must become permanent students and relentless workers.

We also have a job as people who live in the United States. It is the United States government that enacted this blockade, and it's them who can end it. But they will not do it out of their own benevolence. Trump certainly won't do it. And if there is an election in November 2028, whoever wins will not do it on their own. It is on us to build a fighting mass movement to end the blockade. #

Idioma y Fondos Federales esclavizantes

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Estos días se está discutiendo en Puerto Rico la Orden Ejecutiva que Trump firmó en marzo del 2025 declarando el inglés como idioma oficial en los Estados Unidos. Y honestamente, es como un déjà vu en nuestra historia como país porque rápidamente la Administración para Niños y Familias federal, es decir, de los EUA, ha propuesto que la enseñanza en los Programas de Head Start, que sirven a la infancia temprana, sea obligatoriamente en inglés. Estos centros sirven a gran parte de nuestras niñas y niños aquí en PR.

Esto trae a colación dos problemas fundamentales, la enseñanza del idioma materno, y la prevalencia de los susodichos fondos federales en Puerto Rico.

Pero primero toquemos la cuestión del idioma.

No tenemos suficiente tiempo aquí para resaltar lo crucial para el desarrollo del ser humano, que en sus edades tempranas la educación sea en su lengua materna. No solo es la base de su identidad, su cultura, su autoestima, su instrumento para pensar y comunicarse, sino que empodera y libera todo su potencial futuro.

Cuando los gringos nos invadieron en 1898, convirtiéndonos en colonia yanqui, prohibieron el español y rápidamente impusieron la enseñanza en inglés. Pero desde el principio, tanto el pueblo, los estudiantes y la clase magisterial, se opusieron firmemente. Resistieron hasta que el gobierno local tuvo que revertir esta orden yanqui supremacista y la enseñanza regresó consolidando nuestra lengua, el español puertorriqueño,



Clase de inglés para adultos en Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico, 1 de marzo de 1968. La lucha por el idioma en la educación puertorriqueña atraviesa más de un siglo de dominio colonial estadounidense.

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salpicado de palabras de nuestro pueblo originario Taíno.

Ahora, con la orden de Trump, y ayudado por la clase sumisa en nuestro gobierno local, nuestro idioma materno vuelve a estar amenazado. Así que ahora, añadimos otro frente de lucha dentro de nuestra guerra por la independencia y soberanía.

La otra cuestión es la de los Fondos Federales otorgados por el imperio a 30 años de su invasión. Éstos no son más que otro eslabón en la cadena de esclavitud que impide nuestra libertad para generar una base económica fuerte basada en nuestros propios recursos. El

gobierno federal nos impone unas cadenas disfrazadas de ayuda para Educación, Salud, y Vivienda, entre otras. Pero están diseñadas para sofocar nuestras capacidades de desarrollo. Para que continuemos siendo colonia "agradecida" al gran imperio. Ayudas que muchas veces ni responden a las necesidades reales del país. Son la forma de pagar malsanamente su explotación de nuestro territorio.

Por eso decimos No a la imposición del inglés, Sí a la defensa de nuestra lengua materna y nuestro desarrollo.

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



Vivienda pública y Privatización

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana, el pueblo amaneció indignado ante la terrible noticia de que un envejeciente fue forzosamente removido de su apartamento en un residencial público. En ese apartamento, los atacantes intentaban establecer un centro de operaciones para llevar a cabo actividades ilícitas de trasiego de drogas.

Desgraciadamente, esta noticia no es un hecho aislado. En lo que va de este mes, la policía ya ha recuperado 185 apartamentos públicos que se estaban utilizando para ese fin.

La vivienda pública es un alivio para familias y envejecientes que no pueden costear los precios exorbitantes de venta o alquiler de casas o apartamentos regulares. Han sido espacios seguros para criar generaciones hasta que en la década de los 90, el gobernador Pedro Pierluisi, privatizó la compañía pública de vivienda. Desde entonces, con el proceso Neoliberal de dismantelar todos los servicios públicos esenciales, las administraciones de residenciales públicos han pasado a manos de compañías



Las Gladiolas complejo de vivienda pública en Hato Rey, San Juan, antes de su demolición en 2011

privadas que solo piensan en el lucro. Muchas de estas compañías han sido ejemplos de corrupción y malos manejos. Incluso involucrando a personas allegadas al mismísimo gobierno.

Un ejemplo reciente fue durante la pasada administración del gobernador Pedro Pierluisi, cuyos dos primos fueron arrestados y condenados por corrupción y robo de fondos públicos asignados a la vivienda pública. Sin fiscalización por parte del gobierno, estas compañías convierten un servicio

esencial tan básico como la vivienda, el hogar para muchas familias, en antros de extracción de ganancias para sus bolsillos de buitres.

Y mientras tanto, hay 20,142 familias en una larga lista de espera por una vivienda pública segura y digna donde puedan criar a sus hijos e hijas en paz, atender a sus progenitores envejecientes, y poder contribuir con su trabajo a esta patria.

Pero eso no pasará mientras sigan las privatizaciones empujadas por el coloniaje y sus representantes locales.

Por eso, mientras luchamos por nuestra independencia y soberanía, también tenemos que luchar por revertir todas las privatizaciones. Imponer proyectos y leyes que las prohíban, además de prohibir la venta de nuestros recursos y terrenos a personas extranjeras. #

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