

SWP says, ‘Working class needs to take power’

BY MARY MARTIN

Going into the final week of the Socialist Workers Party’s fall campaign to expand the reach of its literature and raise \$100,000 to meet expenses, party members and supporters are reaching out to workers on their door-

SWP FALL ‘MILITANT,’ BOOK, FUND DRIVE

steps, plant gates, at strike picket lines and social protest actions.

In many places, SWP election campaigns helped boost the effort. When Cynthia Jaquith, SWP candidate for mayor of Miami, knocked on Sergio’s door in North Miami the week before the Nov. 7 election, he invited her to sit down and talk.

Sergio came here after his family fled Chile following the 1973 coup there orchestrated by Washington. He worked for decades as a baker in Miami’s hotel industry, and said he was all too familiar with what Jaquith described as the increasing carnage vis-

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Washington faces growing competition from Beijing

BY TERRY EVANS

Long-term conflicts between Washington and Beijing marked President Donald Trump’s 12-day tour of Asia. For years the U.S. rulers have confronted the steady rise of Chinese capitalist penetration in a part of the world they considered their prize won in the second imperialist world war.

Washington has grown relatively stronger, particularly in relation to London, Berlin and other rival imperialist powers in Europe, which lack any serious military strength to back up their investments abroad. The U.S. rulers also face a growing challenge from Beijing and Moscow. They are no longer just new markets for investment, trade and capital growth, but their rulers are increasingly aggressive capitalist competitors. In multiple markets, U.S. bosses confront moves by Beijing to muscle into parts of the world where the U.S. rulers are used to having their way.

Trump met with the heads of state of Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines. In particular he directed complaints at Beijing, arguing its regulations “prevent Ameri-

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Tehran, Saudi rulers contend over Mideast

Kurds fight attacks amid growing conflicts



Mustafa Abdi

Protest in Brussels Oct. 25 against assault by Iraqi army and Tehran-backed militias on Kirkuk and other Kurdish areas. After Kurds voted for independence, Washington gave green light to attacks in name of “preserving united Iraq.” Kurds in Syria fear similar attacks by Assad regime.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Deepening disputes between the capitalist regimes in Tehran and Riyadh are increasingly shaping politics in the Middle East today. The capitalist rulers in Iran have made significant gains in wars in Iraq and Syria, moving to secure a land bridge to their ally Hezbollah in Lebanon and access to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Saudi monarchy is seeking to counter Tehran, taking steps to curb the sprawling network of emirs and other princelings pursuing their own interests and to deepen alliances with other bourgeois Arab regimes in the

region.

With the defeat of Islamic State in all but a few isolated areas in Syria and Iraq, Washington — and Tel Aviv, Cairo, Ankara and other capitalist regimes there — are also looking to position themselves to advance their interests.

Tehran has made the most gains. Iranian Revolutionary Guard officers, Hezbollah fighters and Shiite-based militias, backed by Moscow’s air power, have pushed back the efforts of the Syrian people to bring down the dictatorial rule of Bashar al-Assad.

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Defend women’s rights! Protect right to presumption of innocence!

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Widespread and disturbing revelations about sexual attacks and abuse, starting with Hollywood and reaching into the halls of Congress, have come out over recent weeks. Something that has been widely known but talked about only behind closed doors

forming the same jobs, are progressively being breached in both imperialist and semicolonial countries,” the Socialist Workers Party explained

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Fall campaign to sell Militant subscriptions and books Sept. 16 - Nov 21 (Week 8)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	95	71	95	77
Atlanta	85	79	85	79
Chicago	115	106	115	93
Colorado	30	17	30	26
Lincoln	30	19	30	14
Los Angeles	135	106	135	75
Miami	45	30	45	37
New York	180	146	180	131
Oakland	125	127	135	134
Philadelphia	70	61	70	54
Seattle	105	90	105	63
Twin Cities	75	65	75	75
Washington	80	77	80	51
Total U.S.	1,170	994	1,180	909
Prisoners	20	28		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	65	73	65	70
Manchester	60	60	60	55
Total U.K.	125	133	125	125
CANADA				
Montreal	60	44	60	52
Vancouver	45	43	45	43
Total Canada	105	87	105	95
New Zealand	50	47	50	47
Australia	45	44	45	37
Total	1,515	1,333	1,505	1,213
SHOULD BE	1,500	1,333	1,500	1,333

Jury: NY cops are responsible for killing of Mohamed Bah

BY SHEILA LAWRENCE

NEW YORK — In an important victory in the fight against police brutality, a Manhattan federal jury Nov. 14 issued a \$2.21 million civil judgment against the New York Police Department in the 2012 death of Mohamed Bah. It took the jury only hours to find that Detective Edwin Mateo used excessive force in firing the shot that killed Bah.

“This is a victory for everyone,” Hawa Bah, Mohamed’s mother, told the *Militant*. “It will help ensure that other mothers do not face what I faced. It will protect my son’s legacy and protect the lives of other Black and brown young men.”

Mohamed Bah, a 28-year-old student and taxi driver, was killed Sept. 25, 2012, after his mother called 911 to ask for an ambulance to take him to the hospital. She had flown in from her native Guinea because her son was suffering from depression.

Instead of medical help, nine heav-

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COMMENTARY

has suddenly exploded into the open. To anyone who’s worked under a boss determined to get his own way and has control over hiring, firing, job assignments, pay raises and conditions at work, all this has a familiar ring.

But the situation is nowhere close to what it was half a century ago, before the modern movement for women’s rights emerged. “Women continue to be integrated into the workforce, and barriers to women and men working alongside each other as equals, per-

Inside

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

New evidence at trial exposes gov’t frame-up of rail workers

Madrid steps up attack against Catalan government, autonomy

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The Spanish government continues its attacks on Catalonia’s hard-fought autonomy, seeking to strengthen the central state’s political power. After taking over running the region, Madrid has followed up with arrests and charges that carry decadeslong prison terms against ministers in Catalonia’s government, members of parliament and leaders of parties that advocate independence.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy’s governing Partido Popular party called snap elections in Catalonia for Dec. 21, hoping a slate of candidates opposing independence will win. However, they also said that if independence supporters are re-elected, they will annul the vote and keep running the province from Madrid.

Rajoy’s government has used the judicial system to overrule decisions by legislative bodies and issue arrest warrants against legally elected representatives.

Madrid started running the Catalan administration Oct. 30 after the regional parliament declared independence three days earlier, defying the government’s orders to stand down.

Catalonia’s President Carles Puigdemont and four of his ministers fled to Brussels to avoid arrest and speak out against Madrid. Spain’s Attorney General José Manuel Maza filed charges of rebellion, sedition and embezzlement against them. If found guilty, they face 30 years in prison.

Maza got a judge to issue an international arrest warrant — good across the EU — for the five Nov. 3. They are free in Belgium until a Nov. 17 court hearing that will decide whether they

should be extradited to Spain. Meanwhile, eight other former members of the Catalan government are held without bail in pretrial custody in Madrid, facing the same charges.

Carme Forcadell, the speaker of parliament, and five other legislators were released Nov. 10, four of them on bail. They had to pledge to comply fully with Madrid’s emergency powers and “renounce any actions outside the constitutional framework.” That means they can’t run in the December election on a platform calling for independence.

Madrid hopes its suspension of Catalan self-rule will quell the movement for national rights that has grown in recent years. The clash came to a head Oct. 1 when the Spanish government sent in thousands of police and soldiers to attempt to stop a referendum on independence. The attempt failed and the vote passed overwhelmingly, but less than half of those eligible to cast ballots took part.

Support for Catalan national rights had surged in preceding years on the heels of the deep economic downturn in 2007-2008 and a 2010 ruling in Spain’s Constitutional Court that revoked key aspects of Catalan autonomy, including parts of the 2006 Autonomy Charter that had been passed by referendum in Catalonia and adopted by the Spanish parliament.

A demonstration of hundreds of thousands — 750,000 according to municipal police — came out to protest Madrid’s arrests and charges Nov. 11 in Barcelona, demanding the release of the prisoners. There have also been siz-



Miquel Llop/Sipa USA via AP

Hundreds of thousands protest in Barcelona Nov. 5 for release of leaders of two main pro-independence groups and eight ministers in Catalonia’s government, all shown on placard, imprisoned by Madrid for helping to organize referendum on independence for Catalonia.

able actions in opposition to a split from Spain, drawing participation from all over the country.

The middle-class and professional layers that form the social base for Catalonia’s pro-independence organizations counted on a favorable reception to a breakaway from leaders of the EU. Instead, the bureaucracy in Brussels and capitalist governments of EU member states have backed Madrid’s crackdown, while remaining silent about the jailings and thuggish police assaults.

They fear a successful breakaway would encourage further splintering in the EU.

While street actions demanding the release of the prisoners have been numerous and sizable, a Nov. 8 general strike called by some smaller union federations and pro-independence groups did not draw large participation. Some roads and commuter train lines were blocked and caused traffic jams, but 85 percent of the union-staffed Metro services in Barcelona were running. The port area and other industrial zones were not affected.

The two main union federations — Commissions Obreres and Unió General de Treballadors — which represent 85 percent of union members in Catalonia, did not back the strike.

Support for separation is lower in the working-class districts of Catalonia. Both the federal rulers and the

Catalan pro-independence government responded to the deep crisis of capitalist production and trade beginning in 2008 that hit Spain hard with “austerity” attacks on wages, social benefits and working conditions. While these attacks sparked anger, many workers don’t see breaking away from Spain as an effective way to fight back.

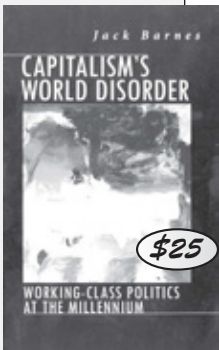
All pro-independence parties, as well as one that doesn’t back a split but says that it’s Catalonians’ right to decide, have announced plans to run in the elections.

Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

“In every single capitalist country in Europe today, there is a higher percentage than ever before of workers from other countries who are part of the working class. The working class in every imperialist country — and this will even begin to include Japan — is more multinational than at any time in its history.”

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The fight for safety on the job is at the center of strikes by International Association of Machinists at Bay Point, California, aerospace plant and by silver miners in Mullan, Idaho.

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IAM Local 1584 members picket Henkel Aerospace in Bay Point, California, Oct. 21.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

‘Workers need to take power’

Continued from front page
ited on working people by capitalism today.

Where once he had no problem holding down a union job, he said those jobs were now disappearing. He decided to retire and start working part time.

“We need to rebuild the labor movement. Our unions have been seriously eroded by decades of misleadership from the officials, who tell us to rely on electing Democrats, not the independent power of the working class,” Jaquith said. “We are the majority, the ones who produce all the wealth. We need to take political power to transform this society.”

Sergio bought a subscription to the *Militant* and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, one of five books on special offer for subscribers.

The heart of the *Militant* and book drive by members of the Socialist Workers Party, and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, is getting literature into the hands of workers and discussing the communist movement and its perspectives for fighting the disastrous effects of the capitalist rulers’ wars and economic crisis. The campaign runs until Nov. 21, concurrently with an annual drive to raise \$100,000 to finance the work of the party.

The other books on special discount with a subscription are *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Barnes; *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters; and *‘It’s the Poor who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System’* by the Cuban Five, Cuban revolutionaries who were framed up and imprisoned in the U.S. for up to 16 years for their actions defending their revolution.

“Bravo to the Albany branch of the SWP!” Party Fund Director Chris Hoepfner writes. Sergio Zambrana reports that Albany raised its quota by \$750. Along with a raise of \$600 from Los Angeles, this takes the pledges over the goal.

“I know you!” Elizabeth Chavarria told Walmart worker Pat Scott after she knocked on Chavarria’s door in Federal Way, Washington, Nov.

13. Scott had joined SWP members knocking on doors near the store where she works, where many recognized her from shopping there.

Chavarria, a restaurant kitchen worker, wanted to know what the paper was all about. She got a copy and asked Scott to come back after payday to discuss getting a subscription and some of the books.

Follow-up is crucial

Bill Arth in Los Angeles reports that a co-worker who got a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* wants to get together for dinner for further discussion.

“One of my co-workers at Walmart signed up for a sub and got the *Workers Power* book after we talked about the party’s perspective of workers taking political power,” Janice Lynn writes from Atlanta.

“I explained that one of the things she would see in the paper are articles about the Cuban Revolution. She said she had always heard that Castro was evil, but then she had seen a documentary about Cuba that opened her eyes and she’d be interested in those articles,” Lynn says. “I told her we need to follow the example of the Cuban Revolution and do the same thing here.”

Rachele Fruit participated in a team of SWP members from Atlanta and party supporter Samir Hazboun going door to door in Shelbyville, Tennessee, where a white nationalist rally and a counterdemonstration took place Oct. 28.

They met a factory worker and rap artist named Kannon Ragland at his apartment.

“It’s crazy that you are here at my door. For the past year I’ve been getting into a lot of things that are happening in the world and trying to understand them,” Ragland said. “I’ve noticed how social media tries to make it look like there’s more racism than there is.” Ragland said that he and many other African-Americans in the area stayed away from the counterprotest because people in similar actions elsewhere had ended up starting fights.

Ragland got a subscription and three books on special. “I didn’t know that



Militant/Edwin Fruit
“I know you!” Elizabeth Chavarria tells Pat Scott, right, when she knocks on her door in Federal Way, Washington, to discuss SWP and *Militant*. Chavarria shops at Walmart where Scott works.

the ending of welfare and the increase in the number of people in prison happened while Clinton was president,” he said. “They always tell you the Democrats are for working people.”

Hazboun told Ragland how much he learned about the Cuban Revolution and its example for working people here by going on the “In the Footsteps of Che” brigade to Cuba in October. “We need to start working now to make sure you can join us on the next brigade coming up in May,” he said.

Meet workers from across the world

“We had some great experiences this weekend,” Annette Kouri writes from Montreal. “We went to a neighborhood where there are many working people who are originally from Iran. We found real interest in the Communist League and its activities and sold three copies of *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* in Farsi, two with subscriptions. We sold two other books in Farsi, including *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

Katy LeRougetel reports that going door to door in Richmond in Vancouver’s Lower Mainland, Communist League members Joe Young and Francois Bradette met Nubia, who is

originally from Catalonia. Bradette pointed to the paper’s coverage of labor and political battles around the world, including in Catalonia.

“It is very important to be aware of what different social classes are doing in politics worldwide. We need to come together,” she said. “We are doing all the work and the rich are living it up.”

Nubia doesn’t support independence for Catalonia, but her family back home does. She said it’s up to the people there to decide. She got a subscription and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*

Nov. 22 is the last day subscriptions and book sales can be reported to the *Militant*. Contributions to the fund that come in the mail by Nov. 28 will be counted toward the goal. To help in the final push, contact the SWP or Communist League nearest you, listed on page 8.

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Socialist Workers Party Fund Drive			
Sept. 16 - Nov. 21- Week 8			
Area	Quota	Collected	%
Albany*	\$5,750	\$4,684	81%
Atlanta	\$11,200	\$7,817	70%
Chicago	\$12,000	\$7,267	61%
Colorado	\$700	\$500	71%
Lincoln	\$300	\$207	69%
Los Angeles*	\$10,000	\$8,540	85%
Miami	\$3,500	\$1,950	56%
New York	\$17,000	\$9,496	56%
Oakland	\$14,500	\$11,381	78%
Philadelphia	\$4,200	\$2,436	58%
Seattle	\$8,200	\$5,325	65%
Twin Cities	\$4,800	\$1,491	31%
Washington, DC	\$7,250	\$3,776	52%
Other	\$1,200	\$500	42%
Total	\$100,600	\$65,370	65%
Should Be	\$100,000	\$88,889	89%
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by Mary-Alice Waters

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\$7 EACH WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8.

Tehran, Saudi rulers contend

Continued from front page

And Guard leaders and the Hashd al-Shaabi militia have strengthened the rule of the pro-Tehran rulers in Iraq.

They have pushed back the Kurds as well. With a green light from Washington, these forces seized Kirkuk and pushed the Kurds out of more than 30 percent of the territory they have controlled and defended against assaults from Islamic State.

Tehran is one of the most developed capitalist countries in the Middle East, with increasing aid from Beijing and Moscow in getting credit and expanding trade.

In contrast, monarchical rule and a backward social structure in Saudi Arabia have held back capitalist development in the kingdom, despite its massive oil reserves. In a move aimed at altering this situation, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the son of the king, has led a deep-going purge against other ruling family members, including current and former ministers, as well as steps to reel in the semi-autonomous power of the Wahhabi Muslim ministry there.

Riyadh has announced plans to solicit investment in government-run Saudi Aramco, the largest oil producer in the world, worth an estimated \$2 trillion. The British government has promised a \$2 billion loan guarantee to Saudi Aramco if the oil company's stock offering is made on their exchange, while President Donald Trump has urged Saudi rulers to remember that using the New York Stock Exchange for the offering is "important to the United States."

The regime is also promoting more modern bourgeois social relations, including ending restrictions on women's right to drive and participate more broadly in public life.

The Saudi rulers immediate focus is on preventing Hezbollah and Tehran from strengthening their position in Lebanon. Riyadh has charged Tehran with attempting to start a war there. They got the pro-Saudi Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri to announce his resignation from the Saudi capital, saying he feared he was targeted for death. Riyadh also called for its citizens in Lebanon to get out "as soon as possible."

U.S. rulers pursue imperial interests

The propertied rulers in Washington, far and away the strongest imperialist power worldwide, back the Saudis drive to stem Tehran's advances, as they seek to impose a measure of stability for their interests in the region.

The Trump administration is planning to strengthen Washington's po-

sition, as well as that of Riyadh, Tel Aviv and its other allies, by pressing for what the president calls "the ultimate deal" between Israel and the Palestinians.

Washington is getting help from the rulers in Egypt as well as Saudi Arabia in pressing both the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Washington finds the moment "ripe" for this push, the *New York Times* reported Nov. 12, because these Arab regimes want to "refocus attention on Iran."

Trump is getting bipartisan backing for the effort, with former Barack Obama Mideast adviser Dennis Ross saying his team has "done a very good job."

Washington has set up some 13 military bases across Syria, most of which were aimed at collaboration with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces in beating back Islamic State, while simultaneously attempting to prevent Hezbollah and Syrian troops from connecting a route for Tehran from the Iraqi border across Syria to Lebanon.

The Assad regime now says they plan to push the SDF out of Raqqa and parts of Deir el-Zour province they have taken from Islamic State. The question is whether Washington will "negotiate" this territory away from the Kurd-led forces.

Meeting in Vietnam as part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit Nov. 11, Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Trump agreed to maintain the "deconfliction" channels between their militaries in Syria. Opposing Kurdish independence, they both reaffirmed backing for Syria's territorial sovereignty.

U.S. weapons used on Kurds in Iraq

In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, Kurdistan's former President Masoud Barzani elaborated on the role played by Washington in ensuring Kurdistan's independence referendum, which was approved by over 92 percent, would not be implemented and after the vote permitted the use of U.S. weaponry in attacks against Kurdistan by Iraqi forces and Iranian-backed Hashd al-Shaabi militia.

"I was not surprised that the Iraqi

NY cops at fault in killing Bah

Continued from front page

ily armed cops arrived. They refused to allow her back into the apartment to speak with her son. Bah was hit by several bullets, the final and fatal shot while he was lying on the ground.

The jury also found that Lt. Michael Licitra, who was in charge, had lost control over the cops.

Earlier this year, a federal prosecutor refused to seek an indictment of any of the officers, claiming insufficient evidence. A Manhattan grand jury in 2013 voted against bringing any criminal charges for similar reasons. Initially the city said that the knife that police claim Bah was threatening them with was lost. But in 2015 they changed their story, saying it wasn't lost, it had just been "contaminated" in Hurricane Sandy.

At first the city said the clothing Mohamed Bah was wearing when he was killed had been destroyed by

Oscar López: 'Cuban Revolution offers example'



Ismael Batista

"Ever since the triumph of the revolution, Cuba has offered us an example that a better, more just world is possible," Puerto Rican independence fighter Oscar López told a meeting in his honor in Havana, Nov. 13. "That example has to get to everyone."

López was jailed in the U.S. for 36 years on frame-up charges of "seditious conspiracy" for actions supporting independence for the U.S. colony. An international campaign won his freedom and return to Puerto Rico earlier this year.

Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), above right with López on his arrival at the airport the day before, also spoke to the overflow meeting at the ICAP office. It was attended by leaders of the Cuban government, the Communist Party, the Federation of Cuban Women, as well as visiting Puerto Ricans. González was one of the Cuban Five, imprisoned in the U.S. for actions to defend the Cuban Revolution from attacks by paramilitary forces in Florida. He shared a cell with López for four years at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. López called their time together "the best four years that I had in prison."

"The real reason they punished you was because you wouldn't surrender, you maintained your revolutionary values against all types of force and provocation from the most powerful government on the planet," González said.

"I am working, traveling to different parts of the world, to advance the cause of independence for Puerto Rico to show the world that colonialism is a crime against humanity," López said. "The Cuban people have been the biggest supporters of the fight for independence for Puerto Rico."

On Nov. 14, the Council of State awarded López the Order of Solidarity. He will tour across Cuba until Nov. 26, talking to workers about the revolution and U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico.

— SETH GALINSKY

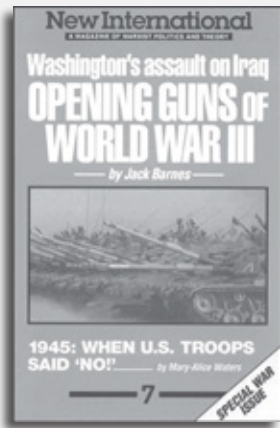
forces attacked Kurdistan," said Barzani. "But what surprised me greatly was the people whom America had listed as terrorists [Iranian militias], attacked us with American weapons under the eyes of American officers and officials."

The 30 million Kurds living within Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran are the largest nationality worldwide without their own state.

Barzani said Tehran and Baghdad were planning to attack the Kurds whether they conducted the independence vote or not. "If we would have lost our will, it would have been much bigger than losing some of the areas temporarily," he said.

Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes
In *New International* no. 7



"The Kurdish people have come to the center stage in world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as courageous and determined fighters for national rights."—Jack Barnes

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New evidence at trial exposes gov't frame-up of rail workers

BY JOHN STEELE

As the parade of witnesses for the prosecution continues in the frame-up trial of locomotive engineer Tom Harding and train controller Richard Labrie in the July 2013 derailment and fire that caused 47 deaths in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, more facts, many elicited in cross-examination, are pointing to Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway bosses and the federal government's Transport Canada as responsible.

Harding and Labrie, members of United Steelworkers Local 1976, face potential life sentences for "criminal negligence causing death," as does Jean Demaitre, a former low-ranking company operations manager.

Harding is the main target of the frame-up. Boss and government officials claim the cause of the disaster was that the unionist didn't set enough hand brakes on the 72-car oil train, allowing it to roll into town and explode.

But the hand brakes weren't the way the train was supposed to be secured. Under company policy, Harding left the lead engine running with its air brakes engaged.

Montreal, Maine and Atlantic bosses had gotten special dispensation from Transport Canada to run their trains with a one-person "crew." So Harding, who had worked 12 hours, was required to get some sleep before completing his run in the morning.

What happened next was a fire broke out on the engine. The bosses knew the unit had problems. Francois Daigle, one

of the three engineers, including Harding, who did the run through Lac-Mégantic, testified at the trial that he told company officials, including Demaitre, that the engine was belching black smoke and should be taken out of service. His concerns were ignored, he said.

Another prosecution witness, André Turcotte, the taxi driver who took Harding to his hotel, testified that the engine was spitting smoke and oil droplets. He said Harding told him the locomotive was being forced to work too hard, but the bosses said to keep going and to park the engine and leave it idling. Turcotte said Harding commented bitterly that the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic never checked their locomotives.

The prosecution called a number of firemen who put out the flames to testify. They reported that they were unaware the train was hauling crude oil. They said the train was not moving after the fire was extinguished, and that the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic official on site told them they could leave, assuring them everything was in hand. Harding, who had received a call about the fire, was told he wasn't needed when he offered to go help out. The railway boss left, and, without power, the locomotive's air brakes bled out and the train rolled into Lac-Mégantic and blew up.

Sébastien Pépin, a track maintenance foreman for Canadian Pacific Railway who witnessed the fire, testified he was astonished to see the engine left running with no crew around.

The train was equipped with an auto-



Reuters/Mathieu Belanger

Locomotive engineer Tom Harding, center, and dispatcher Richard Labrie, with face hidden, members of Steelworkers union, taken into custody May 13, 2014, after frame-up charges were filed against them in train derailment and explosion, killing 47 in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec.

matic brakes system that would turn on the air brakes on all the cars on the train, which would have prevented the train from moving no matter what happened to the engine. But Montreal, Maine and Atlantic bosses forbid workers from using this system. Whenever all the air brakes are set it takes time when restarting the train to wait for the brakes to bleed out. And, to make sure that all of them were released would require the one crew member to walk the entire train and check each brake. This would take time, and cost the bosses money.

As more of these facts come out, they raise questions of who is responsible for the disaster — the engineer who bitterly carried out the bosses' order or the company that put profits before safety.

This has long been the general sentiment in Lac-Mégantic itself, where many people consider Harding a hero. After the fire broke out, he got out of bed and ran to the site, helping firefighters uncouple oil cars that hadn't started burning. People there think the wrong party is in the dock.

As of Nov. 10 the prosecution had presented 20 of its 37 scheduled witnesses. Superior Court Judge Gaétan Dumas warned the jury that the trial, taking place in Sherbrooke, Quebec, which was projected to end Dec. 21, might continue into January 2018.

Messages in support of Harding and Labrie can be sent to USW Local 1976 / Section locale 1976, 2360 De Lasalle, Suite 202, Montreal, QC Canada H1V 2L1. Copies should be sent to Thomas Walsh, 165 Rue Wellington N., Suite 310, Sherbrooke, QC Canada J1H 5B9. E-mail: thomaspwalsh@hotmail.com.

Michel Prairie contributed to this article.

Dockworkers protest threats of job cuts in Papua New Guinea

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — Some 80 members and supporters of the Maritime Union of Australia took part in a spirited protest outside the Papua New Guinea Consulate here Oct 31. The demonstration was called to support port workers in Port Moresby, PNG's capital.

International Container Terminal Services Inc. bosses announced Sept. 25 they had signed 25-year contracts to operate terminals at Papua New Guinea's two biggest ports, Motukea and Lae. The terminal at Motukea is slated to replace current operations at Port Moresby, which is operated by union labor.

The International Transport Workers Federation is campaigning against the company's plans to open nonunion facilities, using contract labor. The bosses intend to let the union workers at Port Moresby go as they shift production to the new port, the federation says. The Papua New Guinea Maritime and Transport Workers Union says more than 1,000 dock and related jobs will be lost.

The union federation is campaigning against the union-busting drive, including publicizing International Container Terminal Services Inc.'s "disgraceful" record on safety and working conditions at ports worldwide.

The Philippine-based company operates 29 terminals, including the world's largest fully automated facility at the port of Melbourne. Company bosses are pushing to expand further into semicolonial markets, with new ports planned in Cameroon and Guinea-Bissau.

Ryan McGibbon Thompson, a dockworker at Hutchison Ports in Sydney, told protesters the Maritime Union of Australia branch there "is committed to fighting for the workers" in PNG.

"Our weapon is solidarity, coming together and fighting together," said Paul McAleer, the union's Sydney branch secretary.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 27, 1992

NEW YORK — Workers at the STC Knitting Inc./Maxion Manufacturing Corp.'s sweater factory in Queens began a strike shortly after the Immigration and Naturalization Service raided the plant October 22 and arrested 10 workers. The owner of STC, Bill Mok, called the INS in response to the successful organizing drive by the workers, who in September voted 36-10 to join the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 155.

Strikers explain in a fact sheet that the INS raid was only the most recent attack by the company. In May the owner took away vacation and holiday pay and medical insurance. He imposed a 49-hour workweek with no overtime pay. In June, after workers began the union-organizing campaign, the six members of the organizing committee were fired. All won their jobs back.



November 27, 1967

PHILADELPHIA — Nov. 17 may well have been the most significant day in the recent history of the Afro-American struggle here. At 10 a.m. over five thousand Black students at a dozen Philadelphia high schools marched out of their classrooms and began to converge on the board of education headquarters. They were demanding Black control of the ghetto schools.

Two hours later their peaceful rally was turned into a bloodbath as hundreds of club-swinging police charged in and indiscriminately smashed heads. Fifty-seven students were arrested, most of them under 18 years old; many of the arrested had been brutally beaten, and most were denied hospital treatment while in police custody. Injured who had not been arrested were left lying on the ground at the scene of the police rampage.



November 28, 1942

During the same week that the American authorities clasped hands with the French Quisling, Darlan, in Africa and sought collaboration with the Fascist Franco in Spain, here in the United States they took the first steps to suppress a bona-fide anti-fascist workers' paper — *The Militant*.

Post Office authorities have struck at the mailing rights of *The Militant* without even specifying which article or editorials are objected to.

To cap these crimes, news of these suppressions has itself been suppressed. The managers of the paper were not notified of the suppressions and were informed of them only after they had inquired concerning the non-delivery of the paper. None of the big capitalist papers has published reports of this blow against the freedom of the press.

Related reading...



"Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party." — Farrell Dobbs

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‘Young Karl Marx’ portrays birth of communist movement

The Young Karl Marx, 2017 film, directed by Raoul Peck.

BY JOHN STEELE

Acclaimed Haitian director Raoul Peck’s new film, “The Young Karl Marx,” is an inspiring and historically accurate portrayal of the 1847 formation of the first international revolutionary working-class party — the Communist League. Peck has also directed the films “Lumumba” and “I Am Not Your Negro.”

The League’s goal was to win workers to its program, the Communist

IN REVIEW

Manifesto, drafted by two young fighters, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and published the following year. The two revolutionaries were 29 and 27 years old at the time.

The film — based on correspondence between Marx and Engels, with free-flowing English, French and German dialogue and distributed with subtitles in 20 languages — vividly transports viewers back to this turning point in history. The 1848 bourgeois revolutions in Europe would break out shortly, with the rising industrial bourgeoisie struggling for political supremacy against the declining feudal landowners and their monarchies, but at the same time more and more fearful of the growing industrial working class.

These momentous changes in social and economic relations were reflected in radical challenges to traditional philosophical and political thought in the halls of academia in Germany and elsewhere, and among a vanguard layer of revolutionary factory workers and artisans in cities like Paris; London; Manchester, England; and Cologne, Germany.

Harassed by the Prussian police for writing newspaper articles criticizing the rulers’ treatment of workers and peasants and challenging the philosophical justifications for the

established order, Marx and his aristocratically born but highly political wife Jenny Marx and their children are forced to flee to Paris.

Here, the film shows how Marx met Engels in 1844. Engels was born into wealth, unlike Marx who lives in poverty. His father is a German industrial capitalist and co-owner of a cotton spinning mill in Manchester. Engels works there as a skilled clerk in the office with a bird’s-eye view of the class struggle on the factory floor, realistically presented by Peck. Mary Burns, a militant mill worker in the plant, becomes Engels’ wife and introduces him to the conditions faced by Irish workers in England.

Marx and Engels find they’re on the same political wavelength. The meeting is the beginning of a lifelong political collaboration between the two.

We are with them as they begin to wage a struggle against their political opponents and clarify their own ideas in the debate. They explain the capitalists are class enemies and that the working class is destined to lead a revolutionary movement to abolish the capitalist system. Polemics they wrote that helped shape revolutionary Marxism come to life as we see them take on Pierre Proudhon, known as the founder of anarchism, and others.

Over the course of the film, as they did in life, Marx and Engels are increasingly attracted to a group of workers organized in the League of the Just as they seek to convince them of their materialist and scientific views. This culminates in a dramatic scene where Marx and Engels are accepted into the organization by the group’s leaders in London, who ask them to help draft a new program and organizational structure to present to the next congress of the League.

Communist League founded

In a rousing scene at the congress, Engels makes a speech explaining that all men are in fact not brothers. Capitalist factory owners are enemies of the working class. Finally a pro-

New Zealand exhibit draws interest in Cuban Revolution



Militant/Felicity Coggan

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Mario Alzugaray Rodríguez, Cuba’s ambassador to New Zealand, introduced the art exhibit “I Will Die the Way I’ve Lived,” showing 15 watercolors by Antonio Guerrero, at the Linwood Community Art Centre here Oct. 30. Guerrero served over 16 years in U.S. prisons, framed up along with four other Cuban revolutionaries for their activity in defense of the Cuban Revolution. Guerrero painted the watercolors while in prison. He was released in 2014. All of the Cuban Five are now back in Cuba, continuing to defend their revolution.

The paintings are reproduced in a book by Pathfinder Press with commentary from Guerrero, as well as Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino, two other members of the Five.

Fifty-six people attended the opening event, organized by the Christchurch Cuba Friendship Society. Asked about Cuba’s views on developments in Korea, Alzugaray said the source of the tensions on the Korean Peninsula is decades of U.S. wars and provocations there. “The U.S. government should get their troops out of Korea,” he said. “Why should anyone trust the opinion of the only country on earth that has ever used a nuclear bomb?”

Pointing to Washington’s baseless charges that the Cuban government is using “sonic weapons” to cause mystery illnesses among U.S. Embassy staff, he said that Washington sought “an excuse to freeze relations with Cuba and pull most of their diplomats from Havana.”

— RUTH GRAY

grammatic document prepared by Marx and Engels is adopted by majority vote with much cheering and shouting. The old League slogan “All men are brothers” is transformed into “Workers of all countries unite!” The name of the organization becomes the Communist League, a public organization proudly proclaiming its revolutionary program.

The film concludes with Marx and Engels drafting the Communist Manifesto, reading aloud as they write.

Just before the credits roll Peck presents a striking photomontage of world events today. It is effective in getting across the idea, which Peck expressed in a question and answer session I participated in following the screening of the film in Montreal, that the Communist Manifesto is as relevant today as it was when it was published by the

League 169 years ago.

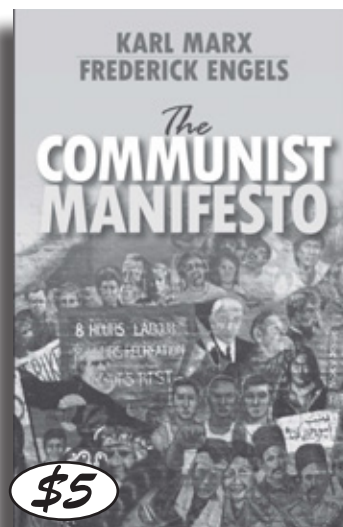
I thoroughly enjoyed the film. Peck’s minor conflation in the story — like his decision, for time reasons, to present the League’s first two congresses with Marx and Engels participating as one — don’t weaken the credibility or impact of the film.

Those looking for a way out of the deepening, economic, social, political, and moral crisis of the capitalist system should see this film. It shows the birth of the movement that the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. trace their continuity to.

I recommend you contact these parties to learn what you can do today to advance the fight to overthrow capitalist rule and open the door to the construction of a socialist world.



Marx depicted in movie speaking at June 1847 League of the Just congress in London. Engels is at far right. Gathering cemented fusion of Marx and Engels with working-class League.



“In the national movements of the proletarians of the different countries, communists point out and bring to the front the common interests of the entire proletariat, independently of all nationality.”

— Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, “springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes.”

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Venezuela: Effects of debt crisis, US sanctions hit workers hard

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the face of the deepening capitalist economic crisis, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced Nov. 2 that his government needs “to refinance and restructure” Venezuela’s debt, estimated at as much as \$150 billion.

Since Maduro took office in 2013 after the death of Hugo Chávez, Caracas had not missed a single payment, shelling out more than \$70 billion in interest and towards the principal, including \$2 billion in the past month alone. The interest on some of the bonds is as high as 30 percent.

But on Nov. 14, the Standard & Poor’s financial ratings agency downgraded Venezuela’s debt from “junk” status to “selective default” because of a skipped interest payment, though it still views the government as “committed to honoring its international debt.”

Washington and some of its allies in Latin America are trying to use the Venezuelan government’s debt crisis as a lever to force Maduro to give up a measure of political power to the U.S.-backed bourgeois opposition. They say they won’t accept any bond restructure proposal that isn’t backed by the moribund National Assembly dominated by the opposition bloc.

The price of oil — the source of 95 percent of the government’s hard currency — dropped from a peak of about \$100 a barrel in 2014 to \$50 or less today. Oil income has declined even further because production from the state-run oil fields has fallen to less than 2 million barrels a day, its lowest level in 30 years, a result of bureaucratic mis-

management and corruption.

Moscow announced Nov. 14 it wouldn’t forgive but would restructure \$3.15 billion of Venezuela’s debt, stringing it out over a decade. The Russian foreign ministry said that they hoped the step would encourage other governments and creditors to follow suit.

The U.S. government has opposed Venezuela’s “Bolivarian Revolution” ever since Chávez became president in 1998. The U.S. rulers opposed the new government’s collaborative relations with Havana, and the flowering of pride, self-respect and combativity that spread in the working class after the Chávez government came to power.

As much as half of Venezuela’s foreign debt is in the hands of U.S. bondholders and hedge funds.

Washington, Ottawa and the EU are all imposing new sanctions against the Maduro government. On Nov. 9, the U.S. Treasury Department added 10 current and former Venezuelan officials to its list of those banned from traveling to the United States and whose bank accounts are subject to seizure. They claim these officials are “associated with undermining electoral processes, media censorship, or corruption.”

The Venezuelan government responded that they are a free and sovereign country and U.S. sanctions “are part of the systematic campaign of aggression” against them.

Workers and farmers hardest hit

Workers and farmers in Venezuela bear the brunt of the capitalist economic crisis and an estimated 35



Venezuelans line up in Caracas Jan. 20 to get ID card for government-subsidized food. Workers bear brunt of debt crisis, economic attacks by Washington, skyrocketing inflation, food and medicine shortages. U.S. rulers and their imperialist allies are pressing to tighten the squeeze.

percent drop in the country’s gross national product since 2014.

The International Monetary Fund reports that inflation is running at 653 percent so far this year.

With hard currency going to pay the debt — Venezuela’s foreign currency reserves have dropped from \$30 billion in 2013 to about \$10 billion today — the government has cut food and medicine imports by more than 70 percent.

Malnutrition is growing among children. Nearly 11,500 infants died in 2016, a 30 percent increase from the year before, according to CNN. Malaria cases were up to 240,000, a 76 percent rise.

Health Minister Luis López stated Nov. 12 that there had been a significant increase in diphtheria in nine states. He said that “there is no emergency,” but refused to give any figures on how much the deadly disease has increased.

The measures to ameliorate the crisis taken by the Maduro govern-

ment — including subsidizing food for working people, periodically raising the minimum wage, clamping down on black marketeering, setting up food fairs with hard to find products at subsidized prices — are all aimed at trying to somehow administer the capitalist market. But without organizing working people to take control of industrial production and agriculture to meet the needs of the vast majority, these measures offer no way to end the social disaster facing the working class.

Discontent among workers

Despite widespread discontent among working people in the cities and rural areas, the pro-imperialist opposition, grouped in the Democratic Unity Roundtable, failed miserably in its efforts to get toilers to boycott the July 30 election to a new 545-member Constituent Assembly. Maduro and the Unified Socialist Party of Venezuela organized the vote to bypass and supplant the opposition-dominated National Assembly.

The Roundtable organized large mostly middle-class demonstrations across the country for weeks leading up to the vote, but never succeeded in gaining traction among working people. Workers and farmers know from bitter experience that the pro-imperialist parties have no solution to the crisis other than even bigger attacks on their living conditions and rights.

The Roundtable splintered after the vote. Some member parties now say it was a mistake to boycott the vote for the Constituent Assembly, arguing that their only way to challenge Maduro is through the elections. Since then different factions in the Roundtable have accused each other of being “thieves,” “tumors” and “traitors.”

The revolutionary government of Cuba has repeatedly denounced U.S. interference in Venezuela, speaking out in defense of Venezuela’s sovereignty and the right of the people there to determine their own future.

US gov’t orders Russia Today to file as ‘foreign agent’

BY SETH GALINSKY

In an attack on freedom of the press and workers rights, the Department of Justice ordered Russia Today to register as an agent of a foreign power by Nov. 13. The Russian state-owned media company has operated in the U.S. since 2005.

Faced with the possibility of up to five years in jail, a fine of \$10,000 and confiscation of the news channel’s assets, “we are forced to choose registration,” said RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan.

Under the 1938 Foreign Agent Registration Act, RT will have to post a disclaimer on its material and periodically turn over to the government its financial records and to disclose the names of all its employees.

The Brookings Institution, a supposedly nonpartisan “think tank,” backed the thought-control move. “RT is not a ‘news service’ in any meaningful sense of the term,” it wrote. “RT has no regard whatsoever for basic journalistic values like objectivity or the pursuit of truth.”

But if disregard for pursuit of truth were the criteria for tossing aside the constitutional rights to freedom of the press, what bourgeois news media in the U.S. would still be in business?

The Foreign Agent Registration law was passed on the eve of the second imperialist world war, along with the Smith Act and other anti-labor, anti-political-rights laws, adopted by the

propertied rulers as they prepared to attack the unions and groups like the Socialist Workers Party as an integral part of their war efforts.

Starting in 1940, the FBI began investigating members of the SWP under the Foreign Agent law, but never used it to concoct charges. Instead 18 members of the party and leaders of the Teamsters union were convicted and jailed on frame-up charges of “conspiracy to overthrow the government” for their activities leading the union in Minnesota and advocating a revolutionary perspective for workers to fight to take political power.

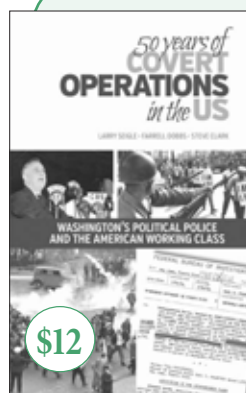
The rulers continued to use the Alien Registration Acts, including against the Communist Party, the growing movement against Jim Crow segregation and against supporters of the Cuban Revolution. In 1951 well-known Black historian W.E.B. DuBois was charged but acquitted on charges of failing to register as a foreign agent. He was accused because of his collaboration with the pro-Moscow Communist Party.

Cuban revolutionary Arnaldo Barón, a founding member in New York of the July 26 Movement, was indicted and convicted in 1958 on charges of acting “as an agent of Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement of Cuba without having filed the registration statement required.” The law is written to allow accusations of acting as an “agent” to

be based on ties to any person or group based outside the United States, not just foreign governments.

And failure to register as an “agent” of revolutionary Cuba was among the trumped-up charges Washington filed against Cuban revolutionaries known as the Cuban Five, along with false accusations of “conspiracy to commit espionage.” The Five served between 13 and 16 years in U.S. jails, for defending Cuba from violent attacks by Florida-based counterrevolutionary organizations.

The *Militant* has no brief for the political line of RT or Vladimir Putin’s rule in Moscow. But we join wholeheartedly in protesting the use of this witch hunt law against them and the precedent Washington hopes to set to use against the working class and revolutionary parties as the class struggle heats up in years to come.



For further reading ...

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US: Washington’s Political Police and the American Working Class

by Larry Seigle, Steve Clark, Farrell Dobbs

Includes “Imperialist War and the Working Class” by Farrell Dobbs

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Uncovering women's real history advances fight for rights

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Liberals and other fair-minded men do not object to the feminist movement — providing women restrict themselves to activities on such practical issues as equal rights, conduct themselves in a ladylike manner, and above all avoid controversial theorizing on the source of female oppression and its solution. Howard Haymes is one of these

Evelyn Reed speaking in Japan, May 12, 1973. Reed, inset, debated in defense of women's rights in U.S. and many countries worldwide.

He surveys the galaxy of feminist writers who have articulated the problems and prospects for liberation over the past few years and finds cause for dissatisfaction. ... But he is most distressed by the widespread influence of Engels and his Marxist followers upon the thinking of the movement. ...

The sharpest dividing line between the contending schools of anthropology is over the question of method. [Lewis] Morgan, [Edward] Tylor, and other nineteenth-century scholars regarded their science as a study of prehistoric society from its beginnings up to the civilized period. Whatever their shortcomings and mistakes, which are inevitable in any new science, they made brilliant beginnings in reconstructing our most ancient history through their application of the evolutionary method.

Their twentieth-century successors, however, rejected the evolutionary method and changed the definition and goal of anthropology. Separate studies of diverse primitive cultures and peoples became an end in themselves, without reference to the clues they provided for reconstructing a connected chain of human development from one social level to the next. ...

The repudiation of the Morgan-Tylor school was provoked by their discomfiting discoveries that primitive society was a matriarchal, collectivist organization, featuring economic, social, and

sexual equality. These findings exposed the myths that private property, the rule of the rich, and male supremacy had always existed, and that women were “by nature” the eternally inferior sex. As Engels pointed out, the downfall of women occurred when the primitive egalitarian society was overthrown by patriarchal class society a few thousand years ago. But this was not the end of the historical process. This degrading and oppressive society would in its turn be abolished and replaced by a higher form of egalitarian organization — socialism. Women, so long reduced to the second sex, would rise again to their rightful place in society.

These revolutionary conclusions were unacceptable to the new academic schools of anthropologists who took command of the science. ...

A graphic example is the matrilineal kinship system, which still survives in many primitive regions even though the rest of the world is overwhelmingly patriarchal. In most such instances today the paternal relationship between a woman's husband and her child is recognized, but in a weak, underdeveloped form. All the decisive kinship ties — descent, succession, and inheritance — pass through the maternal line in a matrilineal region. This matrilineal kinship represents a survival from the former matriarchal epoch. To toss out these vestiges of the past as irrelevant and useless can only serve to block off the way back to the matriarchy and an un-

derstanding of the place of women in that period.

Yet the modern descriptionist and functionalist schools refuse to recognize the role survivals can play in reconstructing social evolution. ...

Having disposed of theory and science in a rather superficial manner, Haymes gets down to the practical activities for women. They should concentrate on the three remaining areas of work: educational, artistic, and legal. His suggestions for dramatizing the injustices of women who are denied equality — pressuring departments of education into nonsexist education and demanding legislation such as the ERA [Equal Rights Amendment] to fight against job discrimination — are acceptable and already being done. But Haymes goes wrong when he advises women to confine themselves to these activities, and he has illusions that these will suffice to give women all that they need and want.

Over the past six years the women in the liberation movement have made considerable gains in their practical activities. But Haymes is naive if he thinks that “a stroke of the pen” such as passage of the ERA — or any other legal or constitutional amendment — will “erase” discrimination against women. Such legislative and judicial strokes of the pen did not bring full freedom to Blacks, nor will they to women. Even now, women are obliged to defend the legal right to abortion — a right they won through unremitting struggle — against the powerful clerical forces campaigning to rob them of their victory.

Women know that they have to struggle to make practical gains here and now, and must also fight to retain them. Their accomplishments thus far testify to their capabilities in these areas. But this does not end the matter for growing numbers of feminists. They are determined to find out how women became the oppressed sex and whether, as they are constantly told, there is "no exit" out of an eternally inferior status. Women have a healthy suspicion that they will learn something different from their own history — once it is brought out of hiding. ...

They will pursue their own intellectual course and will not cease their explorations until they find what they are looking for — the truth about woman's evolution.

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Defend women's rights, political rights

Continued from front page

in its 2005 resolution, "Their Transformation and Ours."

I traveled to Bangladesh a couple years ago to talk to garment workers, and this was really brought home to me. Millions of women had left their villages and started working together in a fast-growing garment industry. For the first time, they were part of a collective workforce, fighting together. In addition to safer workplaces, higher wages and shorter hours, they stressed the important gains they were making against the bosses' sexual harassment and threats. This was a central demand of their unions and labor federations.

The same thing happened in the U.S. earlier. As barriers to women's employment in one job and industry after another were battered down, so too were sexist behavior and abuse beaten back.

This political fight for women's rights and dignity needs to be on the banner of the unions, an issue for all working people.

Anyone who says they've faced such abuse must have their charges seriously considered. If convicted, the perpetrators should go to jail.

But just because the acts are so despicable, it's important not to throw out the window political rights and protections the working class has won over decades of battle. What's involved are key questions for the working class.

Today the "politically correct" liberal media act self-righteously as prosecutor, judge and executioner all at the same time. Actors have been fired, dropped from future productions and publicly pilloried without any chance to defend themselves. None of the accusations have so far led to charges, let alone indictments.

This liberal hysteria has totally thrown out any presumption of innocence.

"The presumption of innocence has taken hundreds of years for working people to win," SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes told a September 1988 meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, on the eve of the opening of

the frame-up trial of party member and packinghouse unionist Mark Curtis on charges of rape. It is "one of the most important milestones on the march to human solidarity."

While the courts are not an arena where working people find justice, the presumption of innocence is one elementary protection from being railroaded to prison or executed at the whim of the ruling class and their anti-labor press.

"It's not that you're innocent until proven guilty. You are innocent. *Innocent*," Barnes said. "This is a country where everything is the opposite. It's the presumption of guilt that dominates in the 'democratic' United States."

In addition to the presumption of innocence, other indispensable rights workers have won include the right to face and confront your accuser, not to be tried twice on the same charge and laws covering statutes of limitation.

Whenever the rulers want to frame up and victimize someone, they whip up a campaign in the media and move to undercut our rights. It helps them a lot if they've chipped away at those rights beforehand, using particularly vile incidents to do so.

When inroads are made into these protections, it comes down hardest on the working class, especially the most vulnerable among us. We will find no justice in the rulers' "justice system" — their cops, prosecutors and courts, their crooked grand juries and "plea bargain" system. We shoot ourselves in the foot if we allow ourselves to be convinced to throw out the presumption of innocence in the name of fighting abuse.

Today workers face blows from the boss class's drive to make us pay for the crisis of their capitalist system. We can expect bigger battles ahead over our rights and more frame-ups promoted by the employers and their government.

Defend women's rights! Protect the hard-fought political rights we've won and need!

Washington vs. Beijing

Continued from front page

can companies from being able to fairly compete within China."

Like his predecessors, Trump claims to advance "American interests." But in reality, he means something else. There is no "America," there are two contending classes in the U.S. — the working class and the propertied owners — with sharply opposed interests. Trump fights for the interests of U.S. bosses and bankers in cutthroat competition with their rivals abroad over markets and trade.

During the tour Trump reiterated his decision to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, favoring what he called "bilateral agreements," and announced new business deals along the way. But neither the current nor previous administrations have come up with any effective way for the U.S. rulers to contain the increased reach of Chinese capital.

Growth of working class in China

Over more than three decades the Chinese government has lured foreign capitalist investment, promising low wages and state-controlled trade unions to keep workers in line. The massive expansion of Chinese industry — and the explosive growth of the working class there — has turned that nation into the world's largest manufacturer and exporter. The spread of capitalist exploitation led to some 8,000 strikes or job protests between 2011 and 2016.

To advance Chinese capitalists' fight for markets, Beijing has pressed trade deals and huge infrastructure projects on other nations, known as its "Belt and Road" policy. It is constructing railways, roads, fuel pipelines and power stations across Asia that will expand its reach into Europe and Africa. These projects require use of Chinese materials and labor, to the detriment of the toilers there.

Beijing opened its first overseas military base this August in Djibouti. The country already hosts U.S., French and Japanese military installations.

India's rulers have responded to these initiatives with alarm. New Delhi is concerned about Beijing's rising clout and closer relations with its rival Pakistan.

During his Asian tour Trump repeatedly referred to the region as the "Indo-Pacific," a remark that was widely read as an effort to draw India closer to Washington's orbit. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said last month that Washington was determined to counter Beijing's Belt and Road projects with U.S.-backed competition.

President Trump took advantage of the trip to press Beijing and Moscow to step up economic and political measures to pressure North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program. Washington has imposed numerous rounds of sanctions against the government there that have hit working people the hardest.

Both Trump and Chinese leaders sought economic and political deals with other Asian rulers during the week's meetings. In particular, Trump worked to reforge Washington's links with the government of President Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines. Duterte has been increasing ties with China and Russia.

Despite China's growing economic and political weight, Washington holds significant advantages over its rivals. Some 64 percent of all foreign reserves worldwide are held in U.S. dollars.

Above all the U.S. rulers hold a military might no rival comes anywhere close to matching. In addition to its nuclear arsenal and unsurpassed naval and air power, Washington deploys 39,000 troops in Japan and an additional 23,000 in South Korea. It has tens of thousands more worldwide, including deployed in conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Niger and elsewhere.

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Rallies oppose Canberra's treatment of refugees



Refugee Action Coalition

Refugees on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea rally against Canberra shutting down camp while barring them from Australia.

BY JOANNE KUNIANSKY

SYDNEY — Over 500 people rallied here Nov. 4 to demand the government allow refugees being held on Manus Island, in Papua New Guinea, to come to Australia. A sister rally of well over a thousand took place in Melbourne.

Chanting "Bring them here! Let them stay!" the crowd marched through the streets gathering strength as many young people joined, some taking part in their first protest.

The two parties that have run the Australian government — the Liberal and Labor parties — have presided over a brutal policy of stopping people seeking to sail to refuge here, seizing their boats and incarcerating them in "processing centers" on nearby islands like Papua New Guinea — a former colony.

The Manus Island detention center was closed by the PNG government Oct. 31. Without water, electricity, food or medical care the 580 men held there have refused to leave. The Australian government claims alternative housing is ready, but media photographs

and reports exposed that it was still under construction and uninhabitable.

"They are staying in the compound because outside is a mobile PNG police squad which has been responsible for bashings in the camp before," Nicole Judge, a former support worker on Manus Island, told the protesters.

"We are here today to make it clear that there is a growing mood against the actions of the governments of Australia and PNG," said Ian Rintoul, a leader of the Refugee Action Coalition. He described how local people on Manus have come to the decommissioned center bringing food to pass to refugees.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull negotiated a deal with the Barack Obama administration in 2016 for Washington to take some of the refugees,

but so far only 54 have been resettled in the U.S. Before anyone is admitted, Washington insists they must pass a vigorous vetting process.

Turnbull refused an offer by the New Zealand government to resettle 150 refugees there. Australian authorities said it would just "put sugar on the table" and "encourage people smugglers."

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