

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
Cuba's socialist revolution uprooted  
anti-Chinese discrimination  
— PAGES 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 81/NO. 48 DECEMBER 25, 2017

## SWP: 'For recognition of a Palestinian state & Israel'

The following statement, drafted by Steve Clark, was released Dec. 11 by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary, on behalf of the SWP National Committee. It is being widely circulated by John Studer and Jacob Perasso for the 2018 election campaigns of the SWP for U.S. Senate, state governors and U.S. House of Representatives, as well as for the Young Socialists.

### SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

The Dec. 6 decision by President Donald Trump, backed by Democratic Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, "to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel" and "begin preparation to move the American Embassy" underlines the political necessity for the Israeli and Arab governments and leaderships of

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## Washington says will move US Embassy to Jerusalem

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump announced Dec. 6 that the U.S. is recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, calling it "a long-overdue step to advance the peace process and to work towards a lasting agreement" between the Israeli government and Palestinian officials.

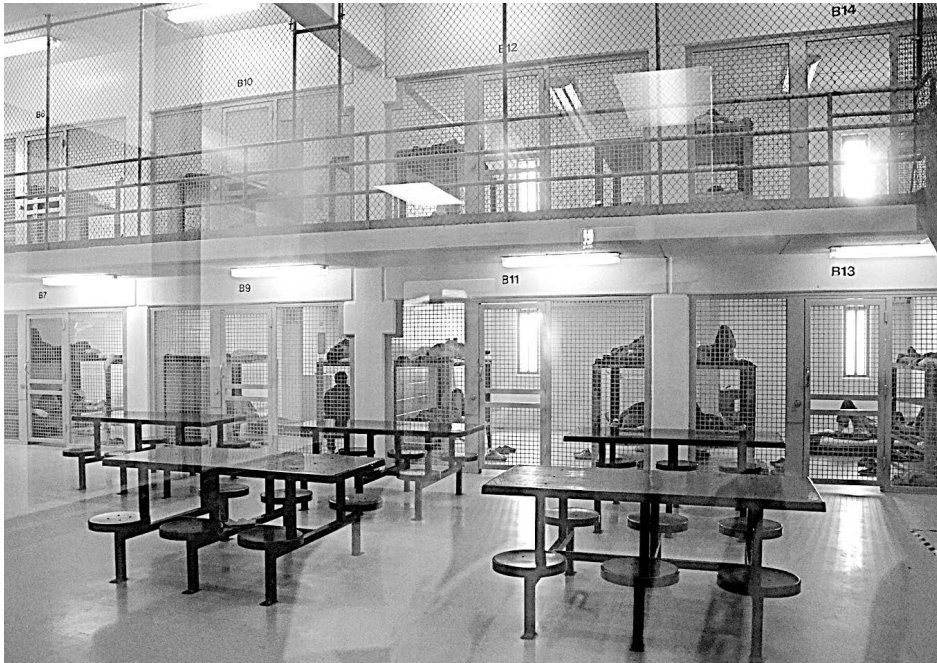
He said the U.S. would move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, but not for three or four years. Trump then signed a waiver required under the 1995 U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act to officially put off any move during the next six months.

The announcement has stirred a debate over whether the recognition advances or damages possibilities of negotiations that can lead to a settlement. The editors of the *New York Times*, who like most liberals look at all politics filtered through an anti-Trump lens, charged the president had unnecessarily made concessions to

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## 'Militant' wins victory over prison censorship

Florida officials lift ban on socialist paper



Prisoners on lockdown at Flagler County Jail, Bunnell, Florida, in 2012 because "they didn't tidy up their cells." The *Militant* sees workers behind bars the same way we see workers in factories, mines, mills and retail. There are more prisoners in U.S. per capita than anywhere else.

BY SETH GALINSKY

We won another round against prison censorship in Florida! The Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee informed the *Militant's* lawyer David Goldstein Dec. 7 that the impoundments of both the Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 issue "were overturned. Those issues will be allowed into Florida correctional institutions."

This is a victory for free speech, freedom of the press and for the rights of workers behind bars.

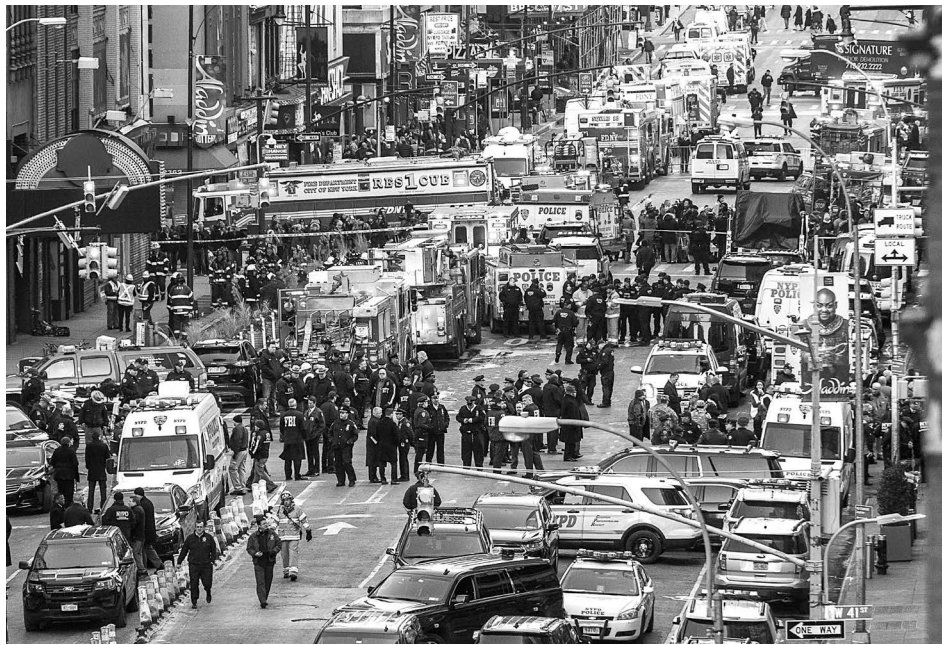
The *Militant* sees workers behind bars just like we see workers in the factories, mines, mills and retail —

political people, targets of the bosses relentless drive to intimidate, punish, divide and weaken the working class, to prevent us from organizing to challenge their political rule and their dog-eat-dog capitalist system.

We make special efforts, including offering subscriptions at reduced rates, to engage in political discussion with fellow workers in prison, and to inform them about the revolutionary views and activities of the Socialist Workers Party. This includes publicizing books written by leaders of the party, and offered to inmates at

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## Gov't uses NY subway bombing to attack immigrants, workers' rights



Hundreds of cops converge on Port Authority and Times Square after Akayed Ullah partially detonated pipe bomb. U.S. rulers are using attack to undermine democratic and political rights.

BY TERRY EVANS

NEW YORK — Officials in Washington and local authorities here are using the Dec. 11 reactionary terror attack in the New York subways, the second attack in the city in two months, to ramp up calls to restrict the rights of working people.

Taking advantage of the fact the attacker, Akayed Ullah, a U.S. resident, was born in Bangladesh, President Donald Trump called for new restrictions on immigration. Others called for increasing government spying and

surveillance, and used the incident to try and boost support for further unleashing the cops. New York cops increased their heavily armed presence around the city after the partially detonated pipe bomb attack.

Ullah hoped to kill and maim hundreds of commuters at the Port Authority station during the morning rush hour. He survived and told cops he acted for Islamic State. His botched explosion injured three others.

President Trump called for an end

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## Holiday greetings to workers behind bars from the 'Militant'

The *Militant* sends New Year's greetings to fellow workers behind bars. We send solidarity and a commitment to continue to fight to get news about the struggles of workers worldwide to you and report regularly about the conditions you face.

Over 2.2 million people are in U.S. prisons and jails, making the world's dominant imperialist power far and away the world's biggest jailer. The criminal "justice" system and its prisons are the true face of what workers confront under the dictatorship of capital.

All in all, there are just under 7 million people behind bars or on probation or parole.

Under capitalism, prisons are organized to demoralize and break those incarcerated and serve as a warning to millions of other working people to submit to the boss's dictates.

Prisoners are subject to solitary confinement, use of Tasers by guards and other abuses and indignities.

Those in prison are disproportionately African-American, with one in 11 adult Blacks either in prison or on parole or probation.

And the denial of basic constitu-

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### Inside

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Stalin's 1932 'killing by starvation' marked in Ukraine 5

—On the picket line, p. 5—

City workers strike for wage raise in Oakland, California

Truckers in Russia set strike as gov't labels union 'foreign agent'



# Australian, Papua New Guinea cops move protesting refugees

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY — Under the direction of Australian Federal Police, Papua New Guinea cops violently attacked and forcibly evicted some 420 refugees from Canberra’s detention camp on Manus Island, in Papua New Guinea, Nov. 23. This is the latest chapter in the long-running, brutal treatment of asylum-seekers by successive Australian governments seeking to prevent them from reaching the country.

The detainees, all men and mostly from Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Syria, had held a sit-in protest for over three weeks after the compound was ordered shut by the PNG government. After they refused to leave, all food, medical supplies, power and water were cut off. The detainees met daily, Behrouz Boochani, a Kurdish journalist detained for four years and a leader of the refugees’ sit-in, told the *Saturday Paper*. They shared food smuggled into them by supporters, including to their adopted stray dogs.

Thousands of protesters have mobilized across Australia in recent weeks, demanding “Bring them here!” There also was a protest supporting them by residents of Manus Island.

The refugees have been calling for Canberra to take responsibility for their welfare after years of incarceration. They said they feared for their safety if moved to another camp on PNG.

The PNG cops “kicked people’s legs, dragged and bashed us, swearing at us that this was not our country,” Abdul Aziz, a Sudanese refugee at the camp, told the *Militant* by phone Dec.

3. “The Australian Federal Police were standing behind, directing the operation from outside.”

The cops stole refugees’ personal belongings, smashed bedding and other furniture and destroyed food and water supplies.

PNG Police Commissioner Gari Baki claimed the eviction was done “peacefully and without the use of force.” Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton said reports of violence were “exaggerated.” But photos on social media clearly show men with bruising and welts on their backs or arms from beatings by PNG cops.

“None of us went voluntarily,” Aziz said. All the detainees were forced onto buses for relocation to other sites.

The Australian rulers are determined to keep them confined indefinitely in PNG to try to force them to give up and return to their war-torn countries, or to resettle elsewhere.

Doctors from Australia and other countries who volunteered to examine and treat the refugees were denied access to them. Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said, “We will not be pressured to let [the refugees] come to Australia.”

Aziz said the new facilities they were forced into were not fully built; many had no electricity, toilets or other basic necessities. Up to 65 people had no housing at all, with some told to sleep “in classrooms.”

In 2001, Canberra sent commandos to intercept a cargo ship, the Tampa, with hundreds of refugees rescued at sea on board, to prevent it from docking on



Refugees in Papua New Guinea, Nov. 3, protest Australian government efforts to move them to new detention camp. PNG cops raided Nov. 23, forcing refugees to unfinished facility.

Australian shores. Offshore detention centers were set up with aid promised to the government of Papua New Guinea, a former Australian colony, for holding the refugees. As refugees continued to try to make the journey, Canberra made the same deal with the government of Nauru, a small Pacific island.

In April last year, the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court ruled that the Manus confinement regime was unconstitutional. The judges ordered the PNG government to “take all steps necessary” to end the “illegal detention of the asylum-seekers.”

PNG Prime Minister Peter O’Neill said the incarceration center “damaged” PNG’s reputation. The onus was on Australia he said, to resettle the men held there. Canberra, to the contrary, has always claimed the detainees are PNG’s responsibility.

After the PNG court decision, Canberra passed laws preventing the refugees from ever setting foot in Australia. Immigration Minister Dutton said this would end “false hopes” given to asylum-seekers by refugee rights supporters.

The Australian government has also resisted an offer by the new Labour government in New Zealand to take 150 of the men.

Instead, Canberra says the detainees must wait for an existing refugee-swap deal negotiated last year with former U.S. President Barack Obama, a move

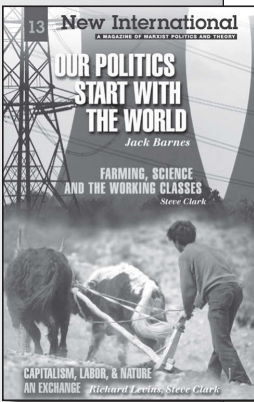
that would get them as far away as possible. Under the agreement, Washington is to take hundreds of Manus detainees in return for Canberra accepting some Central American asylum-seekers held in U.S. border detention centers.

In a January phone call with Turnbull, U.S. President Donald Trump denounced Obama’s deal, but said he would abide by it. Since then, Washington has begun slowly vetting refugees’ applications for asylum. So far, only 54 have been resettled in the U.S. “We’re not going to give up our protests until we get our freedom,” Aziz told the *Militant*.

## Our Politics Start With the World by Jack Barnes in *New International* no. 13

“We need to recognize that we are part of an international class that has no homeland — the working class.”

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## THE MILITANT

### Amnesty now! No deportations!

*The government’s decision to halt Temporary Protected Status for Haitian and Nicaraguan immigrants is an attempt to divide and weaken the working class that should be opposed. The ‘Militant’ explains why the trade unions should fight for amnesty for immigrant workers.*



Militant/Sheila Lawrence  
Washington, D.C., protest Dec. 6 against government’s recent anti-immigrant moves.

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# Report documents over 100 prisoners killed with Tasers

BY TERRY EVANS

One brutal aspect of the capitalist rulers' criminal "justice" system that has received little publicity is prison guards using Tasers against workers locked up in U.S. jails and prisons. A special report released by Reuters Dec. 6 documents the deaths of 104 inmates, nearly all since 2000 when the weapon became widely used. Over two-thirds of those killed were already immobilized — handcuffed or held down by officers — before guards armed with the "non-lethal" weapon shot them.

The report described hundreds more instances where cops used Tasers to assault people in jail that were not fatal. When cops in Franklin County, Ohio, arrested Martini Smith in 2009, they told the pregnant woman to strip naked and remove all her jewelry. They deemed her too slow obeying their command to remove a stud from her tongue. Smith had been handcuffed for the previous six hours and said she needed help. So they stunned her with a Taser. She miscarried five days later.

Smith and eight other former inmates won a lawsuit against Franklin County prison officials for allowing guards to use Tasers 180 times between January 2008 and May 2010. The case detailed how guards used Tasers in "callous and sadistic" ways "to inflict pain, fear, corporal punishment and humiliation."

On May 5 this year Tory Sanders, a mentally ill inmate, was stunned three times with a Taser at the Mississippi County jail, in Missouri, Reuters reports, when he refused to leave his cell after being detained on a misdemeanor warrant. He died shortly afterwards.

Because of the drastic decline in mental health facilities in the U.S. today, thousand of workers who are having trouble coping end up behind bars.

The website of Taser International Products says the weapons work by hitting a person with 50,000 volts. They can either be used in "probe mode," causing muscle contraction to incapacitate someone, or in "drive stun mode," which simply inflicts sharp pain.

Following publication of the Reuters report, Nils Melzer, the U.N. special rapporteur on torture, urged the U.S. government to investigate the deaths. He cited four jails in particular where Tasers are used to inflict "grave abuse" on inmates — Franklin County, Ohio; Cheatham County, Tennessee; Franklin County, Arkansas; and McCurtain County, Oklahoma.

In all four counties working people have been hard hit by the economic and social effects of today's crisis of capitalism. Each has a higher than average poverty rate. In Franklin County, Ohio, deaths from opioid overdoses were up 88 percent from last year.

Amid this carnage, prison authorities' brutal use of Tasers is one part of the capitalist rulers efforts to keep those they consider the "dangerous class" in check. And the deadly consequences are one more indication that the role of the capitalist "justice" system is to intimidate and break working people.

Taser International made a special effort to market their guns to California prison officials, because of the large numbers of workers behind bars there, some 126,000 in 34 different facilities. Los Angeles County jails hold about

17,000 people a day. This year San Bernardino County paid out \$2.8 million to settle class action lawsuits involving prisoners who the guards persistently used Tasers on at the county jail there. These included prisoners in cruel and degrading "hazing rituals" and the routine use of stun guns on inmates while they slept in their cells at night.

Most of the deaths and abuse occurred in state and county jails, where a big majority of the 2.2 million workers in U.S. prisons are incarcerated.

The brutal and degrading use of Tasers is just one of the abuses inflicted on prisoners. An estimated 80,000 prisoners were kept in dehumanizing solitary confinement in state and federal prisons in 2015. Three state governments allow the sentencing of inmates to solitary units for up to 10 years for a single violation of prison rules.

Conditions like these led thousands



Reuters/Paul Vernon

**Martini Smith was pregnant when cops arrested her in 2009. Ordered to remove all her clothes and jewelry, she had trouble getting stud out of her tongue. She had been cuffed for six hours. When she wasn't fast enough, guards shocked her with a Taser. She miscarried five days later.**

of prisoners in California — where solitary confinement has been widely used — to go on a series of hunger strikes that won widespread support from working people across the country. Faced with

the protests, state officials there were forced to pull back. The use of solitary confinement fell by over 50 percent between 2013 and 2016, the rights group Solitary Watch reports.

## Gov't uses NY bombing to attack immigrants, rights

**Continued from front page**

to extended-family migration. Building on anti-working-class measures by previous Democratic and Republican administrations, this would block family members in another country from joining their relatives living here.

This proposal, along with stepped-up deportations and moves by the administration to end the Temporary Protected Status for Haitians and Nicaraguans, is aimed at reinforcing the bosses' efforts to deepen divisions among working people. The propertied rulers use their government to turn immigration on and off depending on the rise and fall of capitalist production and trade.

New York Police Department spokespeople said they will increase the deployment of heavily armed cops, expand checkpoints and haul more people over for bag searches. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he would double the number of State Police troopers at transportation hubs. Mayor Bill de Blasio used the blast to try and bolster the image of the cops, saying workers here are "blessed with the finest law enforcement." But the cops are widely

distrusted by working people, many of whom have had experience with stop-and-frisk shakedowns and police abuse.

New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill blasted Silicon Valley bosses for resisting demands that the cops have greater access to cell-phone and internet data for targeting "terror" suspects. Such measures would give the cops greater cover for their spying and frame-up operations against Muslims, mosques and others, including workers leading resistance to the bosses' assaults.

Pointing to the 23 people killed in May's terror attack in Manchester, England, *Wall Street Journal* editors criticized the 2013 closure of the NYPD's covert surveillance program targeting Muslims, urging expansion of cop spying operations.

Ullah's family issued a statement saying they were "heartbroken" by his terror attack, but also condemned the cops' abusive interrogation of family members. They say a teenage relative was pulled out of high school and questioned without a lawyer or his parents present.

Capitalist governments around the

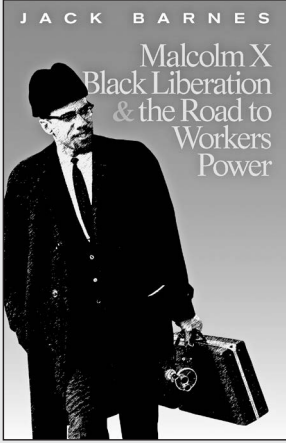
world have used terror attacks to promote the false notion that workers and bosses share common interests in fighting against such assaults, including for measures they seek to impose that restrict workers' rights — from increased spying to expanding "conspiracy" laws to imprison people who haven't committed any crime.

French rulers used the killing of 130 people in terror attacks in Paris in 2015 to declare a state of emergency and then ban a union-sponsored protest. It was extended several times over two years, then replaced last month with measures that give the cops greater powers to stop and search suspects, use wiretaps, and close down mosques and other venues that the authorities claim are a haven for "preaching hatred."

Days prior to the attempted bombing in New York, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the enforcement of the government's travel ban targeting the citizens of Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen. Except for North Korea and Venezuela, the affected countries are majority Muslim.

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# US says will move embassy

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the Israeli government that amounted to support for Israeli annexation of all of Jerusalem.

But Trump had explicitly rejected the call by Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer that he declare an “undivided” Jerusalem the capital of Israel. Instead, he said, “We are not taking a position of any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, or the resolution of contested borders.”

On the heels of the second imperialist world slaughter, the end of Hitler’s genocidal Holocaust against the Jewish people, and Washington and London’s continuing refusal to allow significant Jewish immigration, Jewish leaders declared the state of Israel on Palestinian soil 69 years ago in 1948.

Ever since the semi-feudal Arab regimes tried and failed to crush the newly declared state — and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fleeing the fighting became refugees — the Israeli government has controlled West Jerusalem. In the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Israeli forces took control of the eastern half of Jerusalem, which was majority Arab, along with the West Bank, until then under Jordanian control.

West Jerusalem is predominantly Jewish. East Jerusalem, including the historic old city, is predominantly Arab, although the Israeli government has encouraged some 200,000 Israelis to settle there.

Jerusalem is home to some of the most revered religious sites for Christians, Muslims and Jews, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Western Wall.

The regime in Tehran, and its supporters Hezbollah in Lebanon, Shia militias in Iraq and Hamas, the reactionary government that governs in the Gaza Strip, declared the opening of new assaults on Israel and the U.S. “Jerusalem, Palestine and the Palestinian people will return to being the priorities,” Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Hezbollah, told a rally in Beirut by video-feed Dec. 11.

Many Palestinians, however, remember how Hezbollah helped Syrian President Bashar al-Assad starve Palestinians in the Yarmouk refugee camp when residents had the effrontery to voice support for rebel forces seeking to bring down his dictatorship.

“Today we are witnessing a true infatada,” Nasrallah said, referring back to the mass Palestinian protests that began in 1987 against Israeli repression and

rocked the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. But nothing similar is taking place today.

Many Palestinians have been politically demoralized by decades of misleadership from Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and other middle-class organizations that claim to speak for the Palestinian people. Eyewitness reports say that at the peak of the Dec. 8 West Bank demonstrations against Trump’s announcement only a few thousand protested, much smaller than similar actions in the past. By the weekend, the actions were down to the hundreds.

Hamas has never backed off from promoting Jew-hatred, calling for total destruction of Israel. “Israel has no existence on the land of Palestine and thus, needs no capital,” stated Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Political Bureau of Hamas.

Only a handful of rockets have been fired at Israel from Gaza since Trump’s announcement, and press reports indicate that the missiles were launched not by Hamas, but by other Islamist groups. “Hamas was making real efforts to prevent” them, the *Times of Israel* said.

By backing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital Washington could no longer mediate peace talks, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said Dec. 6. But a few days later, officials of the authority, which governs the West Bank, said that they had no intention of changing their relationship with U.S. officials.

Alliances and relations among the regimes in the Middle East are shifting as Washington, Moscow and governments in the region adjust to the winding down of the imperialist-led war against Islamic State and the fact that the Assad regime remains in power. The axis of the changes is the simmering conflict between the Iranian regime — which made the most gains from its deployment of Tehran-led forces, including Hezbollah, in Syria and Iraq — and the Saudi monarchy, which is moving to “modernize” social relations and capitalist development to more effectively compete with Tehran.

## ‘We need negotiations’

While the Saudi regime condemned Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem, Riyadh is “on board with a broader U.S. strategy for an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan” to be announced next year, Reuters reported. The Saudi and Israeli rulers have been expanding ties because

## Kurds protest attacks by Tehran-backed militias in Iraq



Rudaw

Dozens of Kurds, above, who fled their homes in Tuz Khurmatu rallied outside the U.N. compound in Erbil Dec. 5, protesting against the atrocities committed against them.

There has been brutal retaliation against Kurds there and in other areas that had previously been under the protection of the Kurdish Regional Government. The Iraqi government, backed by Tehran-backed militia forces, seized these areas, aiming to put an end to implementation of a Sept. 25 Kurdish vote for independence.

Kurds have faced attacks at the hands the Tehran-backed Hashd al-Shaabi militia in Tuz Khurmatu. “The city has been emptied of Kurds and 8,000 families (47,000 individuals) have been forced to flee their homes,” KRG official Bestun Zhalayi told BasNews Nov. 27.

“About 3,000 houses appear to have been confiscated” and “2,000 houses have been looted,” reported Rudaw correspondent Hunar Ahmad, who recently visited the city. “Some 400 houses have been set on fire and more than 50 bombed.” Housing being targeted belongs to members of the peshmerga, the army of the KRG, and those who cooperated with the peshmerga. The Shiite militias also pillaged five Kurdish radio and TV stations.

“The Sunni Arabs from the town were told they will be safe if they returned to their homes,” said Ahmad. “But to this day, they are being killed. There was a bombing the other day that killed 70 to 80, and injured 90.”

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

of their common interest in countering the growing strength of Tehran.

Jamil Hamadin, a Bedouin Arab, told the *Militant* by phone from East Jerusalem Dec. 12 that he was concerned that President Trump’s announcement would mean more evictions of Palestinians and Bedouins from lands there. Hamadin and members of his tribe have been fighting eviction orders from the Israeli government for years.

“Israel is building huge settlements and destroying any new building by Palestinians. If we lost Jerusalem that would be a blow,” Hamadin said. “We need to have negotiations. If a Palestinian country with East Jerusalem as its capital is on the table along with West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, that is

a possibility for peace.”

Jewish and Arab workers in Israel have been discussing the U.S. announcement. “President Trump is not exactly my cup of tea,” said Haim Sahar, a Jewish worker at Telephone cellphone company near Tel Aviv.

“But I think in the long term what he did will bring peace. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and now it’s clear you can’t move it. My open-minded Arab friends, we discuss this a lot,” he said. “We know we are going to pay a price for peace. If to have peace there is an embassy in a [Palestinian] East Jerusalem, I don’t care.”

Brian Williams contributed to this article.

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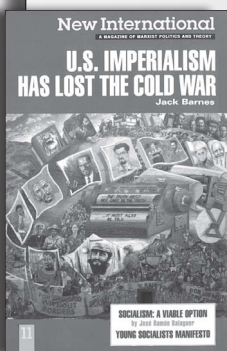
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## U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes



*U.S. imperialism has lost the Cold War, the Socialist Workers Party concluded after the collapse of regimes and parties across Eastern Europe and the USSR that claimed to be communist. Contrary to imperialism's hopes, the working class there has not been crushed.*

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# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

## City workers strike for wage raise in Oakland, California

OAKLAND, Calif. — City workers — members of Service Employees International Union Local 1021 — struck Dec. 5-11 shutting down all city-run buildings, including libraries and day care centers, as well as housing and parks and recreation departments. International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21 members also walked out. The two unions organize 3,000 city workers. Electrical workers for the city, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245, honored the picket lines.

After a session with a mediator, union officials agreed workers would go back to work while contract talks continue.

“Stop the abuse of part-time Oakland workers” was a popular sign when unionists protested outside a fundraiser for Mayor Libby Schaaf’s re-election campaign on the first day of the strike. SEIU officials say more than half of the city’s workers are part time.

Mayor Schaaf made much about past wage increases under her administration, which she claims more than kept up with the rise in the cost of living.

“No. We’re going backwards, not forwards,” Cleveland Etter, 43, a street sweeper operator with three years on the job, told the *Militant* Dec. 6. City officials claim inflation is only 2.68 percent, but they don’t take into account the skyrocketing cost of housing here.

Government negotiators initially offered a 4 percent raise for the first year. On Dec. 7 the city upped its offer to add a 1 percent pay raise the second year.

“We cannot spend money we do not have,” Schaaf claimed in a press statement.

“The city has the money,” said SEIU member and sewer worker Eddie Torres, 33. “Millions flow through the Port of Oakland.”

For years the city government has been cutting expenses for services, and cutting back on workers. Henry Battiste, an official of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, said the city — with a population over 400,000 — currently employs just 36 workers on its entire road paving and repair crew.

“Oakland city workers seem hell-bent on killing the goose that lays their golden eggs,” the Dec. 6 *East Bay Times* editorial insisted.

The city has to stop the “huge debt for employee retirement plans” and “start paying down debts” to the bondholders, the editorial says. It complains about workers “fully paid health insurance” and too “generous pensions benefits.”

The anti-worker line of local media bosses did not kill support for the strike in Oakland’s working-class communities.

“You work overtime until your body can’t do it anymore,” SEIU chapter president Felipe Cuevas, a heavy-equipment mechanic told the *San Francisco Chronicle* as he returned to work. “We’re so understaffed.”

—Eric Simpson

## Truckers in Russia set to strike as gov’t labels union ‘foreign agent’

Just two weeks before a planned national strike by long-haul truckers across Russia, the government of President Vladimir Putin, Dec. 1, declared their union, the Association of Carriers of Russia, a “foreign agent.” The move

is aimed at isolating the drivers and weakening participation in the Dec. 15-25 walkout.

The truckers have fought the government since November 2015 over the onerous Platon system, a per-ton toll imposed on owners of trucks weighing more than 12 tons. They picked the Christmas holiday for their third national strike to maximize its impact.

Over a two-year period, tens of thousands of truckers across the country have been involved in the fight through work stoppages, rallies and other actions. They have broken through a blackout by government-controlled media, and the designation as “foreign agent” led to more coverage and attention.

In a Dec. 2 statement, the drivers say the strike will go ahead as planned and the association will challenge the designation in court.

“Now that we are foreign agents, we must justify that status,” Igor Rybsky, a driver from Krasnoyarsk, jokingly told a Siberian radio station. Rybsky is a veteran of earlier strikes.

The decision came after the Ministry of Justice seized the association’s



Militant/Eric Simpson

City workers in Oakland, on strike over wages, press fight at protest Dec. 5, outside re-election event for Mayor Libby Schaaf. For years city government has cut back on services and workers.

books and claim they found it had received some 250,000 rubles (\$4,000) from supporters in Germany.

Andrey Bazhutin, president of the truckers union, said they have received cash and other types of contributions to their fight both from Russia and elsewhere. A union delegation had made one trip to Germany to meet with unionists there.

Being designated as a foreign agent bars the union from nominating Bazhutin as their candidate for president in the 2018 Russian Federation elections. Bazhutin, who says he is running as the working-class candidate, is now gathering the required number of nominations from workers outside the ranks of the union.

—Emma Johnson

## Stalin’s 1932 ‘killing by starvation’ marked in Ukraine

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The Holodomor, the Ukrainian word for the organized killing by starvation of millions of people, mostly peasants, in Ukraine 1932-33 by the Stalinist regime in Moscow, was commemorated in Kiev and at events in Ukrainian communities worldwide Nov. 25.

The Holodomor was part of the consolidation of counterrevolutionary bureaucratic rule in the Soviet Union led by Joseph Stalin and the liquidation of the communist program and leadership of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. It led to a total reversal of the internationalist, working-class course led by V.I. Lenin. The working class was pushed out of politics, the worker-peasant alliance that was the cornerstone of the revolution was shattered and Great Russian chauvinism reborn.

Part of this counterrevolutionary transformation was the reversal of the Bolshevik’s campaign to advance the national rights of Ukrainian workers and farmers, and expand use of their language, history and culture.

Claiming the biggest danger was peasants enriching themselves, the Stalinist bureaucracy in 1929 began a sharp shift in policy, launching a forced collectivization of agriculture. Peasants who resisted were branded as capitalists and attacked. In the name of financing rapid growth of industry, Moscow devastated agriculture. The Stalinist policy produced famines across the Soviet Union, but nowhere as consciously brutal and deadly as in Ukraine.

When Moscow’s quotas for grain requisitions were impossible to meet, peasants were ordered to turn over all their

grain seed — though it meant they were left with nothing to eat or sell. There are hundreds of photos showing starved people collapsing in the street and dying.

In August 1932 the government decreed that any violation or damage to the property of a collective farm was punishable with death. To pick a potato in the field and eat it was to risk your life. Watchtowers were put up to enforce the Stalinist rulers’ dictates. Brigades with young, career-hungry party members roamed through the villages and confiscated the food. Ukraine’s borders were sealed and cities closed off to farmers, who were barred from buying long-distance rail tickets.

Estimates put the number of people who starved to death at some 3.5 million.

Continued on page 9

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

**THE MILITANT**  
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

December 25, 1992

MONTREAL — Seventeen of the biggest companies in the Quebec Men’s Clothing Manufacturers’ Association locked out 3,000 members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union December 7. The garment bosses had threatened the lockout if union members rejected their demand for major concessions in contract negotiations.

The garment bosses aim to drive out workers with higher wages and seniority by tying seniority to the machines. If the machine is eliminated, the operator’s job will also be eliminated. Those laid off would be denied recall rights. The bosses are also pushing for the right to lower hourly wage rates.

Another demand would give the employers the right to fire any union member who doesn’t work the previous agreed to voluntary overtime on the grounds that this would constitute an “illegal strike.”

**THE MILITANT**  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1959

December 25, 1967

After nearly a year of debate, Congress has passed the 1967 Social Security Act Amendments. Trumped up as a big gain for the aged, the amendments do little in that regard and actually have brutally slashed welfare payments. And through the tricky Social Security setup, what the amendments boil down to is a concealed general tax increase to go toward paying for the Vietnam War.

The amendments raise minimum social security payments only 13 percent. This brings the average benefit for retired workers to \$1,150 a year. These payments are far below levels recognized by the government as minimum subsistence.

At the same time the new social security amendments substantially increase social security taxes and take steps to remove hundreds of thousands of the neediest men, women, and children from federal welfare rolls.

**THE MILITANT**  
Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

December 26, 1942

“Consumers are being gouged not only by direct price increases, but by an amazing variety of schemes hatched by businessmen to impose hidden, direct ‘raids’ on workers’ pocketbook,” said *Labor*, the railroad union paper, on the basis of a recent survey conducted by the Department of Labor.

The favorite devices are the following: Cheapening quality without lowering the price; the addition of “special charges” which were not made before; the dropping by manufacturers of cheaper lines of products and the substitution of more costly ones; the manufacture of so-called “new” products, differing very slightly if at all from products formerly turned out; fake “upgrading.”

These schemes have been so widespread, according to the Labor Department, that they are “considerably more significant for many products than actual changes in formal price quotations.”



# Cuba’s socialist revolution uprooted anti-Chinese discrimination

## New edition of ‘Our History Is Still Being Written’ highlights Cuba’s rich history of revolutionary transformation

*Below is the preface by Mary-Alice Waters to the new edition of Our History Is Still Being Written. Waters is editor of the book, president of Pathfinder Press and a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Copyright © 2017 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

**BY MARY-ALICE WATERS**

This new edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* appears twelve years after the original was presented at the Havana International Book Fair in February 2006. The demand for a second edition is testimony to the enduring interest engendered by the rich history of revolutionary struggle — and victories — brought to life through the words of Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sio Wong.

In the years since Pathfinder Press first published their accounts, in Spanish and an English translation, the book has been the centerpiece of more than a hundred presentations and panel discussions in countries, cities, and universities around the globe — from Santiago de Cuba to Beijing and Guangzhou; from Kuala Lumpur to Caracas; from Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal to San Francisco, New York, Miami, London, Edinburgh, Auckland, and Sydney, to name just a few.

A Chinese translation was published in 2008 by the Intellectual Property Publishing House; a Cuban edition by Editora Política in 2010; and one in Farsi by the Iranian publisher Talaye Porsoo in 2014. A French translation of this new edition is set for 2018.

Three facts above all, unexpected to most readers, have generated this broad interest.

First, many learn with surprise that Cuba was a major destination of the large-scale Chinese emigration in the nineteenth century known historically as the “coolie trade.” Readers are stunned to discover that more than 140,000 bonded laborers were shipped from South China seaports to Cuba between 1847 and 1874 — imported at the demand of wealthy plantation owners to replace dwindling African

slave labor in the cane fields of what was then the largest sugar-producing country in the world.

As a percentage of the population, this Chinese immigration was greater than anywhere else in the Americas. In those same years, it was proportionally larger than the influx into the United States of Chinese toilers, who first came to California in search of gold and then to build the most daunting segment of the history-altering trans-continental railroad.

With few exceptions, the indentured workers who survived the sea voyage to Cuba, and then eight years of contracted labor under conditions akin to slavery, never returned to China. They intermarried, became laborers, small farmers, and petty traders. They lived as other Cuban working people did. Today on the streets of Havana and other cities across the island, it is not unusual to be told that the Cuban nation was born with the intertwining of three strands — one Spanish, one African, and one Chinese.

Second, readers are surprised by the massive participation and exemplary contribution of Chinese workers in Cuba’s wars for independence from Spain between 1868 and 1898, wars inextricably interlinked with the struggle to abolish slavery and bonded labor in all forms. As Sio Wong’s account underscores, nothing like it occurred in any other part of the world where large numbers of Chinese workers settled.

Third, and most important, many readers are stunned to learn that in Cuba today, unlike anywhere else on earth, discrimination and even prejudice



against Cubans of Chinese descent have virtually ceased to exist. There is no glass ceiling, no sector of society or level of responsibility where only token Chinese Cubans can be found. There are no typically “Chinese jobs.” Wang Lusha speaks eloquently to this question in the foreword to this new edition that follows.

How is this possible? Why is the Chinese community in Cuba different from Peru, Brazil, Argentina, or North America, Sio Wong asks. “The difference,” he answers, “is the triumph of a socialist revolution.” Here “we overturned the property relations that create not only economic but also social inequality between rich and poor. That is what made it possible for the son of Chinese immigrants to become a government representative, or anything else.”

*Our History Is Still Being Written* is in fact an introduction to that socialist revolution.

How and why young Cubans like the three authors joined the revolutionary struggle to overthrow what working people there simply called “the tyranny” in the 1950s: the US-backed police dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

How and why the triumph of that immense popular struggle — one that cost 20,000 lives — opened the road to the first socialist revolution in the Americas. How in making that revolution, millions of men and women, young and old, transformed themselves as they fought to lay the foundations of a new economic and social order.

Why the Cuban Revolution remains today the only living example of what a socialist revolution is and



Left, Bohemia; above, Courtesy Armando Choy  
Left, Chinese New Democracy contingent at 1960 rally where First Declaration of Havana was adopted by millions of Cubans. Banner says, “Resident Chinese support the Cuban Revolution and its leader Fidel Castro.” Above, Armando Choy (at left) at May 1957 Havana protest against U.S.-backed tyranny. Choy became a general in Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces.

what ordinary working people, like those who made it and continue to defend it, can accomplish.

The most important single addition to the second edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written* is the foreword by Chinese translator Wang Lusha, originally published as an afterword to the 2008 Chinese edition. He explains how he first learned about the three Chinese Cuban generals, and the impact their stories had on his life. Wang gives voice to the surprise and pride of many Chinese around the world, especially young people, who through this book have come to know more of their own history of revolutionary resistance, combat, and victory.

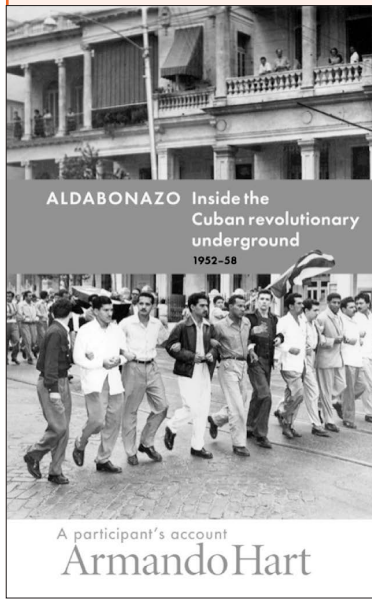
Our thanks go to Linette Chua in Manila for translating the foreword to English, and to José Ignacio Fernández Armas and Kagita Chen Xiulian in Havana for its translation to Spanish.

In this new edition of the book, some translations have been improved. Footnotes have been added to clarify references rendered obscure by the passage of more than a decade, and biographical details in the authors’ notes and glossary have been updated. New photos and illustrations have been added, as well.

Most important, the powerful revolutionary message of Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sio Wong, in their own words, remains unchanged.

December 2017

### Special offer: \$18 (through March 1) Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground 1952-58



**By Armando Hart**

In this firsthand account by a historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, we meet men and women who led the urban underground in the fight against the U.S.-backed Batista tyranny. Together with their comrades-in-arms in the Rebel Army, their actions and example worldwide changed the history of the 20th century — and the century to come. Also in Spanish.

See distributors on page 4 or visit: [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)



Left, Courtesy Moisés Sio Wong; right, Bohemia  
Right, worker at Chinese laundry Havana, January 1950. Left, Moisés Sio Wong, January 1959, as member of Rebel Army. Wang Lusha, Chinese translator of *Our History Is Still Being Written*, said that learning about Sio Wong “changed my way of thinking.” Chinese are often stereotyped as only restaurant or laundry workers, “or treacherous villains,” Wang said, but here was someone of Chinese origin in Cuba “who became a general.”

## ‘A Chinese Cuban general? How is that possible?’

**Continued from page 6**

others in math is because of the strong basic education established by the Chinese government in the aftermath of the “Cultural Revolution.” Beginning in primary school, students are not allowed to use calculators — they are taught to do math with pencil and paper.)

The second thing that remains fresh in my memory is my conversation with an African classmate from Cameroon while I was studying in the Netherlands. After learning that I came from China, he told me there were a lot of Chinese in his country, adding that I must be a good cook. I found it very strange and asked him what made him think that. He replied that all the Chinese in his country open restaurants, so he concluded that we must all be excellent cooks. Fortunately he didn’t think cooking was the *only* thing we can do. It seems that, from the most advanced countries such as the United States to the underdeveloped continent of Africa, all Chinese are seen as engaging in the culinary profession.

During my few years living abroad, I too worked in a restaurant, and almost every compatriot I have met abroad has done the same (including those born and raised in the Netherlands and New Zealand). So is cooking the only thing we are capable of? No. There’s now another career Chinese are also considered good at — computer programming. That’s because it requires basic math skills.

The reality is that many overseas Chinese are exceedingly wealthy, yet they are still not given recognition or accepted by the society, much less by the government of the countries where they live. For a time I was sad that I had been born Chinese. I wished I’d had an American father because I became fixated on one thing — that Americans are highly regarded and sought after all over the world, while in contrast, Chinese are seen as incompetent and inferior.

But one man changed my way of thinking and made me reconsider everything. That man was General Moisés Sio Wong. The first article I read about him online introduced him as a Chinese descendant in Cuba who through his own efforts became a general and even served as adjutant to Raúl Castro. That couldn’t be true, I thought. A Chinese Cuban general? Humpf! How is that possible? Chinese in other countries are

only suitable for working in a kitchen — how can they go past the chopping block and become leaders? I used to have this view. However, my long-suppressed national pride and dignity pushed me to quietly search on my own for more information about General Sio Wong.

Fortunately, by pure coincidence I discovered this book, *Our History Is Still Being Written*. Through interviews with General Sio Wong as well as Armando Choy and Gustavo Chui, the two other Chinese Cuban generals, the book presents the modern history of Cuba from a unique perspective.

I felt overwhelmed as I read through the pages of the book. I discovered that, in addition to General Sio Wong, there are many other Chinese who made remarkable contributions in Cuba. They played important roles not only in the economic field but in the political arena. These included José Wong, José Bu, José Tolón (Lai Wa), Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and many more. Together, these Chinese Cubans added a powerful and compelling chapter to the history of Chinese overseas.

It seems then that Chinese were not born to be cooks! Nor are we inferior to other nationalities. There is nothing sad or shameful about being born Chinese! So I asked myself, what happened in Cuba that gave Chinese the status and positions they enjoy today, something they are denied in other countries?

General Sio Wong in this book ex-

plains: “[In Cuba] a socialist revolution took place. The revolution uprooted discrimination based on the color of a person’s skin. That’s because, above all, we overturned the property relations that create not only economic but also social inequality between rich and poor.”

This is what the socialist revolution has given us — the elimination of the foundations of racism and class inequality. This is also why all foreigners in China today are treated fairly and hospitably, regardless of their skin color or wealth. This is the greatness of the socialist revolution!

Through interviews with General Sio Wong, General Choy, and General Chui, the book, *Our History Is Still Being Written*, narrates their experiences during the socialist revolution in Cuba and describes the country before and after the revolution. As they speak to us in their own words of the struggles and hardships of Chinese Cubans, they also provide us with a telling insight — the Chinese never saw themselves as a race separate from the Cuban people, but rather as fighting together with Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other Cubans in the struggle for the liberation of their country. In a socialist revolution there are no racial differences, only hands that strive and fight for freedom.

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I would like to thank my parents for their continuous support and help in my life and studies abroad. I would also like to express my gratitude to television director Wang Xinmin for his guidance and encouragement, as well as to producers Zhang Mingzhi and Liu Xiangqun for their trust and for providing me with the English edition of *Our History Is Still Being Written*. I thank Mr. Liu Guohua for all the information on the history of Cuba, Cao Na and Li Wenming for their invaluable assistance during the translation process, Wang Ludi and Meng Ran for translating Spanish portions of the book, and Ms. Wang Ping for proofreading my work. I want to convey my appreciation to everyone who understood and supported me throughout the entire project. Without all of you, I would never have succeeded in translating this book. Thank you!

2008



Courtesy Gustavo Chui  
Gen. Gustavo Chui speaking to Cuban troops fighting to defend Angola, December 1987.



# Recognize Palestine, Israel

Continued from front page

Palestinian organizations to begin immediate talks to recognize both Israel and an independent Palestinian state.

Negotiations to reach such an agreement must recognize the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war.

If such talks are to succeed, there is no question that Palestinian representatives would insist on East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Nor can there be any doubt that the Israeli delegation would need to agree to West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, renouncing what that country's rulers have called "undivided Jerusalem" since the 1967 occupation. All those practicing the Islamic, Jewish or Christian faiths must be guaranteed free, secure and dignified access to their holy sites in Jerusalem, including the location Muslims call Haram al-Sharif and Jews and Christians call the Temple Mount.

It is along this road that working people of all national backgrounds, religious beliefs and political allegiances in Israel and Palestine can use and defend their space to speak, organize and begin redressing the blood-drenched legacy of imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation. These historic outrages include ruthless colonial and national oppression across the Arab and Muslim countries, as well as the genocidal crimes of the Holocaust, the murderous pogroms preceding it across Eastern and Central Europe and Russia, and the enduring reality of Jew-hatred in today's crises-ridden capitalist world.

As an elementary precondition to progress along this course, the Socialist Workers Party demands immediate repeal of the U.S. government's Jerusalem Embassy Act, which declares that "Jerusalem should remain an undivided city" and that "the United States Embassy in Israel should be established" there. That law was adopted in 1995 with overwhelming Democratic and Republican party majorities — 93-5 in the Senate; 374-37 in the House of Representatives.

When President Trump made his Dec. 6 White House announcement, he

was stating what is *bipartisan* Washington policy and law, reaffirmed as recently as June 2017 by a Senate resolution adopted *unanimously*. It is a reactionary policy that both the Democratic and Republican parties enshrined in their 2016 presidential platforms, as they've done in many election cycles beforehand.

Claims by sections of the bourgeois media that President Trump has now scuttled his pledge to broker "the ultimate deal" between Israel, the Palestinians and Arab governments miss the point. In fact, the White House is putting it to its allied regimes in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Egypt and Jordan, as well as to the bourgeois misleaders of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, that Washington is "making them an offer they can't refuse." By combining the stick of an anticipated U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem with the carrot of greater economic and military aid to Sunni-led governments against their feared rival in Shia-led Tehran — with its so-called Revolutionary Guards and military surrogates extending from Afghani-

- For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel
- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act
- For workers' solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

stan to Lebanon — the Trump White House is determined to facilitate talks the next year or two with a different outcome from failed efforts by Democratic and Republican presidents alike since the 1990s.

That's why, among other things, the Trump administration rejected Minority Leader Schumer's counsel to refer to Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided" capital, saying instead that Washington leaves open "the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem." With regard to Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, the White House called on "all parties to maintain the status quo" — that is, to maintain official Jordanian authority over those religious sites, within the constraints of Israeli police and military power on the ground.

For the second time since his inauguration in January 2017, the president also signed a waiver to the Jerusalem Embassy Act enabling him to postpone moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv for another six months, as the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations had done before him twice a year since 1995. And the Trump administration announced no steps to begin transferring embassy operations there anytime soon.

Prospects for sustained and effective struggle led by working people in Palestine or elsewhere in the Middle East against Washington's policies, and against their own local exploiting classes, are hobbled by political exhaustion in face of decades of setbacks and defeats due to anti-working-class misleadership, whether Stalinist, bourgeois



Koach La'Ovdim

Socialist Workers Party starts with "the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world." Above, July 2010 rally by day care workers in Jerusalem. Signs in Hebrew, Arabic and Russian demand equal treatment of all workers.

nationalist or Islamist.

In the United States and other imperialist countries, organizations of middle class radicals claiming to be communist or socialist have taken to

the streets in opposition to the Trump administration statement. These organizations explicitly disavow any course to advance class solidarity among Palestinian, Jewish and other working people, often raising the reactionary cry, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" This course to drive Jews out of the region disqualifies such groups from any moral or political legitimacy to speak as what Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin more than a century ago called "tribune[s] of the people ... able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears, no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects."

In opposition to Washington, to bourgeois governments and political organizations across the Middle East, and to the middle class left here in the United States, the Socialist Workers Party has a different starting point:

the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world.

We are *for* whatever helps working people organize and act together to advance our demands and struggles against the capitalist governments and ruling classes that exploit and oppress us and their petty bourgeois political servants and media apologists.

We are *for* whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power.

This is the proletarian internationalist course of action, part of our communist program, that members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are discussing with workers as we campaign door to door in their neighborhoods, with co-workers on the job and their friends and family members, and with those we join in protests against Washington's anti-working-class policies at home and abroad.



Militant

SWP members go door to door to meet workers and discuss politics, party's communist program. Above, Maggie Trowe talks with Michael Grady in Albany, New York, June 25.

## In New International no. 7

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

by Jack Barnes

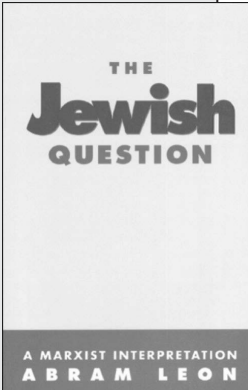
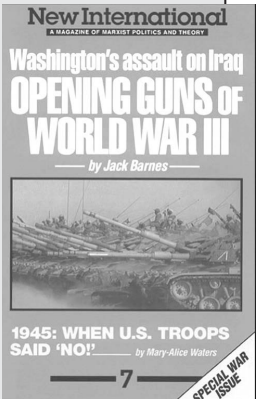
Within an imperialist framework, there is no solution to the Palestinian question. The fight for the national rights of the Palestinian people is a central question in the Middle East, as is the class struggle in Israel. The bourgeois regimes in the surrounding Arab countries, while claiming to speak on behalf of the Palestinians, have repeatedly shed Palestinian blood to preserve their own class power and state privileges. **\$14**

### The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation

by Abram Leon

Traces the historical rationalizations of anti-Semitism to the fact that, in the centuries preceding the domination of industrial capitalism, Jews emerged as a "people-class" of merchants, moneylenders and traders. Leon explains why the propertied rulers incite renewed Jew-hatred in the epoch of capitalism's decline. **\$25**

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# Greetings to workers behind bars!

**Continued from front page**

tional rights doesn't end on release. Some 6 million prisoners or former prisoners who had been convicted or were forced to plead guilty to felony charges have been denied the right to vote.

Held in jail since 2016, cattle rancher Cliven Bundy is fighting alongside family members and supporters against government efforts to convict them for protesting the restriction of his family's grazing rights and the seizure of their cattle. Support for the ranchers' fight continues to grow. Oregon cattle ranchers Dwight Hammond and his son Steven were also framed up and railroaded to prison for fighting to be able to continue to run their ranch.

Those imprisoned for their political views and activities, like Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu-Jamal and former Black Panthers Ed Poindexter, Jalil Muntaqim and Herman Bell, are fighting decades-long frame-ups.

The parole setup is all too often used to push workers back into prison after they've been released. Rap- per Meek Mill has been repeatedly dragged back into court and was sent back to prison last month.

Workers behind bars are part of a working class that has gone through years of depression conditions and attacks by bosses and their government. In addition, they've been run through the anti-working-class criminal "justice" system.

Many are looking for a way to stand up to the indignities and assaults inflicted on working people and are open to fighting for thoroughgoing change. The *Militant* offers invaluable information about working-class struggles and the revolutionary program and activities of the Socialist Workers Party.

We ask our readers to make a generous contribution to the Militant Prisoners' Fund, which makes it possible for us to offer reduced-rate or complimentary subscriptions to workers behind bars.

## 'Militant' wins victory over prison censorship

**Continued from front page**

reduced rates by Pathfinder Press.

The Oct. 30 issue was banned for an article reporting that the Literature Review Committee had reversed four and upheld three of seven previously impounded issues of the paper in Florida prisons this year. The ban on the Nov. 6 issue was more sweeping because prison authorities charged the *Militant* itself "encourages protesting and group disruption" and was "dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection" and "may lead to the use of physical violence."

The rapid reversal of the ban — in the face of the *Militant's* challenge backed by a growing number of letters from civil liberties groups, churches and others — underscores the fact that the attempt to keep the *Militant* out of the hands of subscribers behind bars was arbitrary and unconstitutional.

Amnesty International USA, PEN America, New York's Riverside Church Prison Ministry, the Alianza Martiana in Florida and the Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee were among those who sent letters demanding the ban be overturned.

### Letter from Walmart workers

Three workers at a Walmart store in Philadelphia were just about to send their letter when they learned of the victory. "We read the *Militant* ourselves, and think that it is a really good paper," they wrote. "Reading the *Militant* is a wonderful opportunity for the workers in prison to stay informed about what is going on in the world."

Dean Peterson, head of the Literature Review Committee, responded to several of the letters, claiming the committee's "actions are directed by the rules set forth in the pertinent sections of the Florida Administrative Code (FAC), from which we cannot deviate."

In addition, he wrote, the code "makes no provisions in this process for participation by outside parties, but your support of 'The Militant' has been noted."

The United States has both the highest absolute number of prisoners in the world and the highest per capita incarceration rate. According to the latest figures, there are some 7 million people — 1 in 35 adults — in federal or state prison, local jails or on parole or probation.

The overwhelming majority never had a chance to face a jury of their peers: 97 percent of federal and 94 percent of state convictions in criminal cases are from so-called plea bargains. From top to bottom, the capitalist criminal "justice" system is stacked against working people.

### Workers viewed as 'deplorables'

Who are the people who are incarcerated? They are the same people who Hillary Clinton during her presidential run put into the "basket of deplorables" and "irredeemables." They're workers in rural areas and small cities — and working-class ghettos in the class-divided big cities, disproportionately African-American — most ravaged by the crisis of capitalist

profit rates, production and trade today.

They are U.S.- and foreign-born alike, Caucasian, Black, Latino, Asian, Native American. Those who have lived in towns where factory closings have left millions without jobs. Neighborhoods ravaged by opioid addiction.

The *Militant* currently has 119 subscribers behind bars in 64 state or federal prisons across the country. The victory in Florida can help win larger numbers of prisoners to subscribe to the paper. Show it to fellow inmates, family members and friends. Tell them how to subscribe. Use the paper to organize political discussion. Write to us about what you think.

"In the United States, imprisonment is a way of dehumanizing a human being. It's a way of isolating you from society, including from your family," said Ramón Labañino, one of five Cuban revolutionaries who were framed up and imprisoned in the United States in 1998, in an interview published in the book *"It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System."*

"An individual ends up isolated from everything, not knowing how to confront this monster," Labañino said.

The *Militant*, publicizing the program of the Socialist Workers Party, backing its candidates for public office, and reporting on the struggles of working people around the world helps to break down the barriers between the life of prisoners and life beyond those walls.

Conditions in prison are often atrocious and Florida prisons are no exception. The *Miami Herald* has run a series of articles detailing the abusive conditions in Florida prisons. In a July 19 article it reported how "in prison after prison over seven months ... toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pillows, sheets, shirts and soap were often withheld from inmates."

On Nov. 29 the paper reported on the case of Randall Jordan-Aparo, who died in prison in 2010 after prison guards sprayed him with pepper gas after he demanded to be taken to a hospital because of a severe medical condition.

Prisoners — and the *Militant* — have the right to publicize abusive conditions and work to change them.

The Socialist Workers Party uses the *Militant* and books published by Pathfinder Press to help working people better understand how capitalism works, why workers need to unite and take action independent of the capitalist parties on the road to taking political power out of the hands of the propertied rulers. The party collaborates with workers in today's struggles and seeks to convince them to join the SWP.

Workers behind bars are no different than those outside the prisons. They need a revolutionary party for the working-class battles ahead.

"We plan to use this victory to defend freedom of press and freedom of speech and to help others do the same," *Militant* editor John Studer said Dec. 8. "We will also use it to deepen the work of the Socialist Workers Party in the working class, including that section of the class inside prison walls."

## 'Killing by starvation'

**Continued from page 5**

lion in Ukraine and an equal number of Ukrainians in other parts of Russia and in work camps and penal colonies.

The brutality of the forced collectivization was doubly severe in Ukraine because Moscow was determined to crush any nationalist aspirations among the Ukrainian people.

### Holodomor part of counterrevolution

The consolidation of the Stalinist bureaucracy required the liquidation of the leadership of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and crushing any opposition inside the Communist Party.

The revolution mobilized peasants to expropriate the estates of the big landlords and distribute the nationalized land to be worked by the toilers; organized workers to expropriate capitalist property in industry and banking; and fought to draw workers into taking increasing control of production.

The revolution also sounded the bell of "nation time." It gave an impulse to revolutionary uprisings throughout the czarist empire, which Lenin described as a "prison house of nations."

Lenin explained that the fight against the monarchy, the landlords and the capitalist exploiters could only be successful if it was led by a revolutionary party that mobilized workers and farmers to champion the right of oppressed nations to self-determination.

The question was sharply posed in Ukraine, the largest and most weighty of the czar's imprisoned nations. In opposition to the czar's moves at Russification, the Bolsheviks adopted a policy known as Ukrainization.

At Lenin's urging, the party leadership adopted a resolution instructing members in Ukraine that they "must put into practice the right of the working people to study in the Ukrainian language and to speak their native language in all Soviet institutions; they must in every way counteract attempts at Russification that push the Ukrainian language into the background and must convert that language into an instrument for the communist education of the working people."

The Ukrainian struggle for national rights exploded in the 1920s, leading to the establishment of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and a flowering of Ukrainian art, film and culture.

Lenin died in January 1924, but the course he set in motion in Ukraine continued almost through the end of the decade. As Stalin's counterrevolution consolidated control over the Soviet government apparatus and the Communist Party, this all came to an end.

Ukraine was one of the strongholds of opposition to Stalin's course, including among Communist Party members. As Ukrainian workers and farmers were made to pay in blood during the Holodomor, all those associated with Ukrainization who didn't kneel down were targeted.

"Nowhere did restrictions, purges, repressions and in general all forms of bureaucratic hooliganism assume such murderous sweep as they did in the Ukraine in the struggle against the powerful, deeply-rooted longings of the Ukrainian masses for greater freedom and independence," Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky wrote in April 1939. Trotsky, who had collaborated with Lenin in the Bolshevik government and Communist International, was expelled from the party in 1927 and driven into exile two years later.

Today in Ukraine, the capitalist government officials and leaders of the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory try to use events commemorating the Stalinist Holodomor to smear Lenin and the whole record of Ukrainization in the 1920s. And they use it to promote anti-communist politics and restrict political rights by the regime of President Petro Poroshenko, seeking to undercut gains made by workers there through the Maidan revolt that overthrew the Moscow-backed regime of Viktor Yanukovich in 2014.

At the commemoration in Kiev Nov. 25, Poroshenko called for a thought-control law to make it a crime to deny the Holodomor was genocide.

### 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced-rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.