Stock market gyrations sign of capitalism’s crisis today

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Huge gyrations on stock prices accompanied by a market plunge that wiped out some $5 trillion in paper values at the beginning of February highlight the fact that overvalued stocks — fueled by speculative investment — are increasingly vulnerable to volatility.

For days stock prices swung by over 1,000 points as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummeted by more than 7 percent Feb. 5-9, its biggest one-week drop since October 2008. The decline spread to markets in Asia and Europe. Capitalist investors responded by pulling a record $30.6 billion from stocks.

These developments come during an uptick in the capitalist economy. At the same time, the underlying crisis of capitalist production and trade that has marked the past few decades — deepening with the financial crash in 2008 — continues to take its toll on the working class.

The capitalists’ falling profit rates Continued on page 9

Olympic talks are blow to US moves against NKorea

Washington: More sanctions, but willing to talk

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a setback for Washington’s decades-long campaign to isolate and punish the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the North, the South Korean government welcomed a sizable athletic and government delegation, including Kim Yo Jong, sister of the DPRK’s leader Kim Jong Un, to participate in the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Kim Yo Jong extended an invitation for South Korean President Moon Jae-in to visit Pyongyang soon for high-level talks with the North Korean government. There has not been an inter-Korean summit since 2007.

The South Korean president replied carefully, saying, “The early resumption of dialogue between the U.S. and North Korea is absolutely necessary for the development of inter-Korean relations.”

Vice President Mike Pence, who also Continued on page 4

Israel-Iran rulers clash as Syria war continues

BY TERRY EVANS

The long-standing struggle between the rulers of Israel and Iran in the Middle East has been sharpened by the Tehran rulers’ gains in the wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and the strengthening of its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon. This is what lies behind the recent clashes in Syria between Tel Aviv’s forces and those of Hezbollah and Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad.

These conflicts are another front in the many-sided war that in country, as the capitalist rulers in the U.S., Russia, Turkey and across the region seek to advance their competing national interests.

As Assad’s military was collapsing, the rulers in Tehran stepped into the vacuum in fighting against rebel forces, and — with the aid of Moscow’s air and naval support — salvaged his dictatorial rule with devastating costs for working people.

An Israeli helicopter shot down a stealth spy drone that crossed Israel’s border Feb. 10. Tel Aviv says the drone was assembled by Tehran and launched from Assad’s T4 airbase deep in Syria. The Israeli government responded by launching eight F-16s to retaliate against Tehran-related targets in Syria. One was shot down by Syrian anti-aircraft fire, the first Israeli jet lost in combat in 36 years.

Continued on page 9

Rising support for abortion rights forces referendum vote in Ireland

BY PAMELA HOLMES AND CATARINHA TIRSÉN

LONDON — In response to a growing campaign for abortion rights, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar announced Jan. 29 that a referendum will be held in Ireland this spring on repealing the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment, approved in a 1983 public vote, “acknowledges the right to life of the unborn” and effectively prevents women’s access to abortion.

“We welcome the decision,” Linda Kavanagh, spokesperson for the Abortion Rights Campaign, told The Militant in a phone interview from Dublin. “Without a repeal of the Eighth Amendment there is no way to extend the right to abortion.”

Support for a woman’s right to abortion has grown as part of a broader shift in backing for social rights in Continued on page 3

The FBI, US rulers’ political police, is the enemy of the working class!

BY TERRY EVANS

Since it was tasked with going after revolutionary-minded workers and “subversive activity” in 1939, the FBI has an unbroken record of trampling on political rights.

In their frenzy to derail the Donald Trump presidency, the liberal press and middle-class left are increasingly championing the rulers’ political police — the FBI and the top-secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act courts. Democrats in Congress, American Civil Liberties Union spokespeople and more, say that what the FBI is doing is necessary and good. They seek to reinforce former FBI chief Robert Mueller’s witch hunt against the Trump administration.

But the FBI is a deadly enemy of the working class. Its reason for existence is to spy on and disrupt the working-class, revolutionary-minded political fighters and others the proprietors choose to target.

The liberals are trying to defend the FBI against a short memo by Republican Congressman Devin Nunes that reports how agency operatives and lawyers used deceptive methods to get a warrant to go after a former adviser to the Trump campaign. They did not acknowledge the source used Continued on page 4

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What’s behind protests in Iran against dress code for women?

**BY TERRY EVANS**

Growing opposition to the Iranian capitalist rulers’ enforcement of restrictive dress codes for women has led to protests across the country, with women photographing themselves taking off their chador, or veil, in public. The press in the U.S. — from the left to right of bourgeois politics — has systematically pushed the false idea that the regime’s reactionary policies in Iran are the result of the massive popular uprising in 1979 that overthrew the dictatorial rule of the U.S.-backed shah, rather than a counter-revolutionary reversal.

Women’s rights widely expanded as part of that revolutionary upsurge. These gains were then attacked and restricted as the clerical regime pushed workers back and consolidated its counterrevolutionary rule in the early 1980s.

In response to growing opposition to their strictures on women, Brig. Gen. Hussein Rahimi, commander of Tehran’s police, announced Dec. 27 the city’s morality police would no longer automatically imprison women who refused to wear the hijab. They would be pushed to undergo “counseling.”

Since then press reports say dozens of women have defied authorities around the country by removing their hijabs in public. The protests came as working-class mobilizations broke out across the country against the regime’s wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen and their effects on working people, men and women, with or without hijabs. They fought for workers control in the factories, joined peasant struggles for land and demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy.

The revolution opened political space to press forward the fight for women’s participation in all aspects of social and political life. Women stood for office in the shoras — factory committees — that fought to expand workers control of production. They demanded military training and to be able to participate in the war against the U.S.-backed Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980.

When Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini announced March 7, 1979, that women government workers must “be clothed according to Islamic standards,” and wear the veil at work, the following day the world’s largest International Women’s Day march that year took place in Tehran. Thousands of high school students went on strike. When rightist thugs attacked some demonstrators, larger protest actions were organized, joined by many women wearing veils. On March 12, some 15,000 people marched in Tehran demanding, “To deny women freedom is to deny freedom to the rest of society.”

In the face of these mobilizations, Khomeini denounced the thug assaults on the women’s rights protests and backed down from his pronouncement. The Iranian rulers weren’t successful in making their anti-women restrictions law until 1983, as the counterrevolution was consolidated. It was part of moves to stifle efforts by workers to organize independently of the bosses, prevent them from making encroachments on capitalist rule and pushing back gains made in 1979. They used gangs of thugs to break up workers’ organizations and protests, and imprisoned and executed political opponents. As part of this counterrevolution they organized “anti-vice” goon squads to confront women on the streets and compel them to wear the hijab.

But Iran’s capitalist rulers were never able to impose the kind of suffocating conditions on women that the Taliban inflicted in Afghanistan. Or that the Wahhabi monarchy imposed in Saudi Arabia — which they are now taking steps to loosen as they seek to modernize to better confront challenges from Tehran.

The widespread working-class discontent across the Islamic republic by political questions, especially the mounting toll of the Iranian rulers’ military efforts to expand their counterrevolutionary rule, is a key point of contention. As the rulers’ political and moral crisis unfolds the fight to expand their counterrevolutionary rule was consolidated. It is part of moves to stifle efforts by workers to organize independently of the bosses, prevent them from making encroachments on capitalist rule and pushing back gains made in 1979. They used gangs of thugs to break up workers’ organizations and protests, and imprisoned and executed political opponents. As part of this counterrevolution they organized “anti-vice” goon squads to confront women on the streets and compel them to wear the hijab.

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**BosSES at the railroad in New York state, where Jeffrey Patterson works, paid him an extra $243.93 of back pay as “an incentive to encourage workers to sign a new contract that cuts medical benefits, particularly for those with families or with long-term expensive medical conditions,” he said. Bosses use payments like this as bribes — what the Socialist Workers Party calls “blood money.” Their goal is to try to get workers to sign concession contracts and deter us from fighting against increasingly worse health coverage, low wages, grueling shift schedules and dangerous conditions.

SWP members and supporters refuse to be beholden to the bosses. They turn over the blood money to the party to advance its long-term work. And they urge co-workers to do the same, to turn the bosses’ efforts to weaken the working class into something that makes our class stronger.

Patterson sent in the bribe, along with a further $971.60 “hiring bonus” that he got because he had eluded being written up for any “safety violations” in the two years since getting hired. “Write-ups are arbitrary,” he said. “And those who report injuries are more likely to get investigated and written up.”

If your boss gives you a bribe and you decide to donate it to the party, contact the SWP nearest to you, listed on page 8. The party will put it to good use!

— TERRY EVANS

**Support bus drivers striking First company!**

Thousands of bus drivers in Southern California, Seattle, Montreal, and Manchester, England, have struck against the FirstGroup, notorious for its shady deals with multinational First Student bus company Jan. 31.

**The Militant**

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**The Militant**

February 26, 2018

**rail worker turns over bosses’ bribe to build the SWP**

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— TERRY EVANS
Literacy drive ‘changed people, advanced revolution’ in Cuba

BY TERRY EVANS

NEW YORK — When U.S.-backed mercenaries invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961, “literacy volunteers didn’t stop doing what we were organized to do — wipe out illiteracy across the country,” we kept on going,” Griselda Aguilera told some 30 people attending a Feb. 9 meeting here in Brooklyn. Fidel Castro organized Cuba’s workers, peasants and militia to defend their socialist revolution, crushing the invasion in 72 hours.

The meeting was organized by Haiti Liberté, a newspaper distributed throughout North America. It was one of a dozen events in New York and northern New Jersey, part of an East Coast tour sponsored by a coalition of Cuba solidarity groups.

At the age of seven, Aguilera was the youngest of the tens of thousands who responded with zeal and determination to Castro’s call to join a campaign to teach workers and farmers to read and write. This was part of the revolu-tion’s broader program to expand ed- ucation and culture for working people and deepen their ability to participate and lead in social and political life. “With ignorance,” Aguilera explained, “people lose their dignity.”

Mass mobilization to eradicate the scourge of illiteracy was carried through just two years after Cuban workers and farmers toppled the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and took power into their own hands.

The meeting began with a screening of Catherine Murphy’s movie “Maestra” (Teacher), which features inter- views with volunteers.

“As I taught, so I learned,” Aguilera said, describing the experience she and other young volunteers went through in the yearlong campaign. Many lived away from home for the first time, often in remote rural areas. They joined peas- ants working the land during the day, discussed the unfolding revolution and its effects in the area, and taught them to read and write at night.

She explained the rising self-confi-dence of the volunteers and their resolve to shoulder more responsibilities to ad- vance the revolution. This was demonstrat-ed at the mass rally in Havana Dec. 22, 1961, that celebrated the successful completion of the campaign. “Thou-sands of volunteers returned from across the country,” she said, “and chanted the question to Cuban President Fidel Cas-tro: ‘Tell us — what do we do next?’”

A couple of meeting participants snapped up Women in Cuba: The Mak-ing of a Revolution: Within the Revolu-tion by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos and Yolanda Ferrer, one of the books at the Socialist Workers Party literature ta- ble. It includes Castro’s talk at the rally.

These books just $5 each with a Militant subscription (trial offer for new readers: 12 weeks $5)

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Rising support for abortion rights forces Irish vote

Continued from front page

Ireland. In 2015 a change to the Con- stitution to legalize the right of same sex couples to marry was approved 62 to 38 percent. “It’s a historical day for Ireland,” Varadkar, then health minis- ter, said at the time, “a social revolu-tion that changes the way we look at love and marriage.” Since same sex couples were recognized as gay during the run-up to the vote.

Currently abortion is only allowed when a woman’s life is at immediate risk, but not even in cases of rape, incest or fatal fetal abnormality. Fear of pros- ecution makes doctors reluctant to use the procedure.

The fight heated up after Savita Halappanavar, a 31-year-old dentist, died on Oct. 28, 2012, after University Galway hospital authorities refused to give her a termination. She went into a hospital in extreme pain as she was hav- ing a miscarriage that was blocked. She got septicemia, several organs began to fail, but hospital authorities said there was nothing they could do, because Ire- land is “a Catholic country.”

Within weeks protests were mounted in towns across Ireland, including in Galway. Some 10,000 people marched in Dublin, protesting her death and the constitution’s onerous restrictions on ac- cess to abortion.

“Several things came together in 2012. In the summer before Halap- panavar’s death there was a quite active anti-choice campaign with posters go- ing up all over Dublin,” Kavanagh said. “People reacted to both these things and the Abortion Rights Campaign was for- mally launched in January 2013.”

Sustained campaigning across the is- land — both in the North and the south has placed abortion rights firmly on the agenda, despite opposition by the ruling parties and Roman Catho- lic Church. In Dublin, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael now say their members will have a free vote on repeal of the Eighth Amendment. In Northern Ireland, the Democratic Unionist Party and republi- can party Sinn Féin have both opposed extending to Northern Ireland a 1967 British law that legalized abortion. Sinn Féin last year did adopt a motion ac- cepting “the need for the availability of abortion where a woman’s life, health or mental health is at serious risk.”

Demonstrations in Dublin, Belfast and London in September and October 2017 mobilized growing support for changing the law. Between 30,000 and 40,000 marched in Dublin.

More than 3,500 Irish women seeking abortions are estimated to travel abroad every year, an average of 12 per day. Most go to England. The trip puts greater burdens on working women, because of the costs involved — up to £2,000 ($2,765) for travel, accommodation and the proce- dure. Others can’t take time away from travel, accommodation and the proce- dure. Others can’t take time away from work, or fatal fetal abnormality. Fear of pros- ecution makes doctors reluctant to use the procedure.

At least 700 women traveled from Northern Ireland to England in 2016 to get access to abortion. In June 2017 the U.K. government announced a decision to fine abortion clinics for women from Northern Ireland who travel else- where in the U.K. to have the procedure. In October that was extended to cover travel costs in “ hardship cases.”

The Abortion Rights Campaign is planning to mobilize to win the refer- endum. “We will have stalls out every weekend in Dublin and around the coun- try,” Kavanagh said. “The response to our stalls is overwhelmingly positive. Most people appreciate having more information.” A protest is being orga- nized March 8, assembling at 5:30 pm at the Garden of Remembrance and marching to the Dáil in Dublin.

The literacy campaign “would have been an impossible task for a people who live under oppression,” Castro said. “Only a revolutionary people could marshal the effort and energy necessary to carry out such a huge campaign.”

In response to a question about the drive’s political impact on those who learned to read and write, Aguilera said it made more possible for them “to take over and run the factories aban- doned by the bosses. Today Cubans are a more cultured, more political people.”

Because of her age she was assigned to teach workers in Havana. In the cities, “workers who were illiterate would give up an hour a day after work and stay in the workplace to study with the volun- teers,” she said.

Following a lively discussion, four meeting participants signed up for more information about the April 22-May 6 May Day Brigade to Cuba. Brigade members will spend two weeks work- ing alongside farmers in the fields, meet with leaders of mass organizations, par- ticipants in the revolutionary struggle and volunteers in internationalist mis- sions; and join hundreds of thousands at the annual May Day rally in Havana.

The brigade is an opportunity to learn how workers and farmers were able to overturn capitalist rule, estab- lish their own government and set a living example for workers and farm- ers to emulate worldwide.

Nancy Boyasko contributed to this ar- ticle.
Workers in Finland pay for deal to make bosses stronger

BY EMMA JOHNSON

Thousands demonstrated in Helsinki Feb. 2 protesting laws that cut government aid to unemployed workers if they don’t take jobs “actively” enough. This is the latest step in an ongoing “Finland First” campaign to strengthen the capitalists’ ability to compete against bosses abroad. The campaign is based on propaganda arguing Finland’s workers and bosses have common interests. In a brazen display of class collaboration, unions in the main national union federations bought into the campaign and signed onto the Competitiveness Pact in 2016. It spells out in no uncertain terms that it’s the workers who carry the burden in sharpening the competitive edge of Finland’s capitalists.

The deal froze wages; lengthened annual working hours; increased workers’ contribution to pension, social security and unemployment funds; and lowered holiday bonuses. Union federations representing some 85 percent of Finnish workers signed the agreement.

“Today we are making history in Finland. Only a few countries are able to make a decision this tough by a joint agreement,” Prime Minister Juha Siipila wrote when the unions signed the pact. Now the government is moving to cut unemployment pay, as well as health care and local services. They say “we” need to sacrifice more to let the bosses take on their rivals. The Feb. 2 demonstration was called by the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions, SAK, which represents 1 million workers.

Union head Jarkko Eleanto told the rally they had reluctantly supported the Competitiveness Pact, but part of the deal was government promises not to touch unemployment pay. Union officials waited to call the demonstration until after the anti-working-class legislation had gone into effect.

Olympic talks blow to US moves against NKorea

Continued from front page

The secret FISA courts were set up so the FBI didn’t have to go to a regular court to get a warrant, to keep its requests to target and spy on people veiled in “intelligence community” and its work seeking to buttress Mueller’s “investigation” into whether Trump colluded with Moscow to influence the election. Like grand jury, FISA allows FBI to serve search warrants and to “travel” to meet secret sources. Mueller’s counseling starts with a target and digs around for “evidence” to get them. Neither the FBI nor Mueller’s wiretapping process is subject to judicial review.

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Washington also agreed with South Korea to keep South Korea and the United States into “a sea of fire” — have given Washington a handle to turn history on its head and claim that North Korea is the threat to the world, not U.S. imperialism.

The Socialist Workers Party joins the Korean people to call for a nonnuclear Korean Peninsula and Pacific, and demands the U.S. rulers unilaterally destroy their entire nuclear arsenal today!

FBI is enemy of the working class

Continued from front page

When Assistant Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who gave the green light that meant during the 1981 trial of the SWP’s lawsuit that challenged decades of FBI attacks on the party, said he and others were trying to stop those like the SWP “who were trying to influence public opinion to keep the deal to make bosses stronger

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Chinese Cubans and Cuba’s socialist revolution: Lessons on how to fight and win

Book presented at Havana int’l book fair where China was 2018 country of honor

BY RÓGER CALERO AND ELLIE GARCÍA

HAVANA — “From the contributions of our ancestors in the 1800s down to this time, Chinese Cubans have been an integral part of each and every stage of Cuban history,” said Gen. Gustavo Chui. “We continue to contribute today.”


The event was one of hundreds of book launchings, poetry readings, panels, films, art exhibits, children’s plays and concerts during the annual literary festival here. Over 11 days the fair drew some 450,000 workers, youth and others. In coming weeks it will travel to every province before closing May 13 in Santiago de Cuba. This year the fair was dedicated to Eusebio Leal, the longtime Historian of the City of Havana.

Fair highlights Chinese culture

China was the book fair’s 2018 country of honor. A delegation of more than 130 took part in dozens of events at the fair, in Havana’s Chinatown and across the city highlighting Chinese culture — from book presentations to music, dance, acrobatics and Chinese opera. The Artistic Ensemble from China’s Shandong province performed twice at the Alicia Alonso National Theater. The large China pavilion included books by Chinese authors translated to Spanish, an exhibit on the invention of paper and printing in ancient China, documentaries and a stand where throngs of Cubans got their names written in Chinese calligraphy.

The fair’s daily program included books on the history of the Chinese in Cuba and panels organized by Chinese Cuban associations based in Chinatown. One was a 90th anniversary tribute to Kwong Wah Po, the longest-running Chinese-language newspaper in Cuba; another was a daily, it is now a monthly with a page in Chinese and several in Spanish.

The presentation of Our History Is Still Being Written was a standing-room-only audience who came to hear the story told by the three generals. Among the more than 100 present were combatants who had fought alongside Choy, Chui, and Sío Wong in Cuba’s 1956-58 revolutionary war and are now members of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. Also attending were Caridad Diego, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Cuba-China Friendship Society, and a delegation representing the Chinese associations long established here.

The speakers were Gen. Chui, Gen. Harry Villegas, Pathfinder president and editor of the book. Also on the platform were Gen. Choy and Insaida Aguerechu, editor of the Cuban edition published by Editora Política.

“Above all, this is a book about the Cuban Revolution,” said chairperson Martin Koppel, who was responsible for Pathfinder’s Spanish-language edition, in opening the event. Noting that it was first published 12 years ago, he called attention to the added photos and footnotes, updated glossary, and new foreword by Wang Lusha, translator of the 2008 Chinese edition.

Choy, Chui, and Sío Wong recount how as youth in the mid-1950s they joined the July 26 Movement and Rebel Army, which, led by Fidel Castro, spearheaded the revolutionary struggle that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959. Their victory opened the door to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

The generals describe their experiences in Cuba’s international mission in Angola from 1975 to 1991, which helped defeat invasions by South Africa’s white-supremacist regime. They explain how the Cuban people and revolutionary leadership met the challenges of the economic crisis of the 1990s, when Cuba abruptly lost most foreign trade after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

When he first appeared, Chui was part of the national leadership of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution; today he is president of the Cuba-China Friendship Association. Choy, now retired, organized the administration of the port of Havana. Sío Wong, who died in 2010, was president of the National Institute of State Reserves and of the Cuba-China Friendship Association.

Example for workers worldwide

Mary-Alice Waters, a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., focused on the worldwide impact of the book, as communist workers have organized to make it available in some two dozen countries. She highlighted the wide circulation of the Farsi-language translation of Our History Is Still Being Written in Iran and Afghanistan.

How can we explain this broad interest? Waters asked. “Above all, the explanation is that our struggle is the Cuban Revolution itself.”

This is especially true, she said, given the political awakening among working people everywhere today “whose lives have been shattered by economic and social despair, by the cumulative consequences, of capitalism’s deepening world crisis. And this includes the United States.” They are searching for answers, for alternatives to this capitalist world order.

“That is the source of the interest in this book,” Waters said, “and why it is needed by those on the front lines of the class struggle, wherever they may be.”

As recounted in the book, “Cuba’s socialist revolution stands as the practical lesson for our class of how to fight and, most important of all, of the only course that can win against the immense power and brutality of our class enemy.”

Cuba’s unique history

Chui highlighted the historical significance of Chinese immigration to Cuba. More than 140,000 were brought as indentured laborers in the late 1800s, when Cuba’s colonial rulers sought to augment the dwindling supply of African slaves and boost output on Cuba’s vast sugar plantations. The Chinese were a weighty component in forging the Cuban Revolution.

During Cuba’s 30-year war for independence from Spain, the liberation army, which also fought to abolish slavery and bonded labor, included all-Chinese battalions. It had military leaders such as José Toledano and José Bú, who due to their outstanding record were among only four foreign-born Cubans who earned the right to be eligible to run for president of Cuba in the 1901 elections, Chui said. Originally a delegate for Our History Is Still Being Written, the Pathfinder stood who saw Our History Is Still Being Written expressed pride in their Chinese roots. They were interested in drawing a stand of the hands of the conditions Chinese and blacks faced in capitalist Cuba, and how, through a socialist revolution, the Continued on page 7
By Mary Alice Waters

Thank you, Martin, for the introduction.

And a warm welcome to all of you here with us today, including Garcia, president of the Cuba-China Friendship Association, the large delegation representing the leadership of the Casino Chung Wah and other associations of the Chinese community in Havana, and members of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, including those who fought alongside Choy, Chui, and Sin Wong at the Rebel Army and other missions and responsibilities over the years.

It has to be the case that many friends we have known and worked with for well over a decade, including Pombo and Iraida, and so many new faces as well.

Of course, I want to address a special thank-you to Generals Choy and Chui and others, the combatants, who not only joined the struggle against Batista but also in the struggle against each other. One very much — in the office of Gen. Harry Villegas. Sin Wong, the executive secretary of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. That turned out to be the first of many interviews that, for some years later, had been transformed in to what became this book.

To all of you I want to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you, to come to know you, over these years. We had hadn’t fun, haven’t we?

We travelled the length and breadth of Cuba, from the tiny villages to the largest cities, we travelled to the heart of the literary course of the Cuban people that brought us to life. There were meetings in which hundreds participated — some 250 in Santiago de Cuba alone. These took place in Matanzas, Camagüey, Pinar del Río, Fomento, Santa Clara, Guanabacoa, and many others.

In the notes we’re making meetings at nearly a dozen different places in the country, more than a hundred for the whole trip. We took part in a Book Fair in 2006. The Casa de las Amigas of Tradiciones Cuba (House of Friends of Cuban Art) brought together a Multiple meetings in different municipalities with the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. Others on university campuses. And many others over the years. And then finally in 2008, where more than 1,000 Chinese youth were studying at the time.

This book is a great deal from all of you in the course of this activity. I want to focus my remarks today, however, on the impact the contents of this book — which is truly an introduction to the Cuban Revolution — has had, especially in Cuba. Not only in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other countries where English is the dominant language such as Australia, Canada, and Britain, but also around the world.

Impact on the world

In addition to the editions in English and Spanish published in the U.S. in 2005 by Pathfinder, a Chinese edition was published in Taiwan by Edición Política in 2010 and a Farsi edition in Iran in 2006 by the publisher of the Quds News Network. A French-language edition by Pathfinder will come off the press this later.

Altogether more than 15,000 copies of the book have been sold in Chinese-language books sold in China. We know the first run of some thousands of the Chinese edition was the first run of the book was printed, but we never learned the total of copies that have been sold.

Well over 100 presentations have taken place in cities and on university campuses around the world, in which more than 5,000 people participated. We have stopped keeping track after 100 events!

These events included book fairs, academic conferences, and other special activities that have taken place in some two dozen countries — including Venezuela, Panama, the People’s Republic of Korea, South Korea, China, Switzerland, Guangdong, and Hong Kong. Singa- pore. In recent years we’ve also brought the book to South Africa, Ecuador, and Russia. Cuban solidarity events and book fairs in Egypt, Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nambga, Equatorial Guinea, the Philippines, and several countries in Latin America. Haiti.

In 2010 the book was left out some countries.

One of the largest meetings of all was certainly some 300 — took place in Vancouver, Canada, where more than a quarter of the population in the city proper is Chinese. Another of the largest was in Toronto, where Chinese population is the second largest in North America. We joined our Cuban friends in Toronto to get a very successful tour in Frank-Fribourgois of Montreal. The story that I mentioned, of course, is the chapter that didn’t read each other during the book. An accident of history, each of us came from a different area of Cuba, and we never met during the war. We never met until the war ended, and we never met during the war. We never met until the war ended.

A 'vision of how to help others understand Cuba’s revolution'

By Harry Villegas

I want to thank the combatants of Pathfinder who invited me to be with you this afternoon, with the assistance here, with Chui and Choy. And there’s, of course, something that both members of the leadership of the Association of Revolutionaries Combatants cannot forget that — at that moment our organization was headed by Jané Almeida. Books like this represent precisely Almeida’s vision of the future. I put very great emphasis on pushing some of the history of the members of the association to the leadership of the Cuban Revolution. Combatants cannot forget that — at that moment our organization was headed by Jané Almeida. Books like this represent precisely Almeida’s vision of the future. I put very great emphasis on pushing some of the history of the members of the association to the leadership of the Cuban Revolution.

We went up to the Sierra Maestra mountains. We began to become revolutionaries when we joined the struggle ideologically. That was it. We worked that our life was always being written. From the contributions of our ancestors in the 1800s down to this time, Chinese Cubans have been an integral part of each and every stage of Cuban history. We continue to contribute.

When we began the interviews for this book, we really had no idea the impact it would have. One interview, that’s it. But after the first interview, they asked questions after the interview, and the next year came, and there were more. People wanted to know. You mean ‘Good Lord’! We’re never going to be done.

When we began work on the book, we thinking it was was going to be a half dozen interviews. But when we came to realize it was really going to be a book, we started to work. We need a deeper knowledge of our revolution in countries where it has been published in various languages.

The story that we told didn’t read each other during the book. An accident of history, each of us came from a different area of Cuba, and we never met during the war. We never met until the war ended, and we never met during the war. We never met until the war ended.

A ‘vision of how to help others understand Cuba’s revolution’ by Harry Villegas

By Gustavo Chui

Our story is still being written: The story of three Chinese Cuban generals in the Cuban Revolution

The book whose second edition we are presenting today is more than a history of three Chinese Cubans in the Cuban Revolution. It’s a tribute to the contribution of Chinese immigrants who, since their arrival in Cuba in the 19th century, tragically and systematically attempted to integrate into our society, to become part of its people, to identify with and fight for the same ideals as all Cubans — ever since the war of independence from Spain, the U.S. — dominated republic, the revolutionary war in the Sierra Maestra, and later on after the triumph of the revolution. That’s why our story is still being written. It’s a story of how our ancestors in the 1800s down to this time, Chinese Cubans have been an integral part of each and every stage of Cuban history. We continue to contribute.

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In 1956, we left our homes in San Pedro de Mayabón to a mountains. We began to study and participate in the revolution. At that time, our parents moved to Havana. And that’s where he be-
Lessons for workers

Continued from page 6

where their lives have been shattered by the economic and social devastation, by the cumulative consequences, of capitalism's deepening international crisis. And this includes the United States. Working people are searching for answers and alternatives to a world order they don't yet fully understand. A world of perpetual wars and deepening exploitation. Of racism and other forms of discrimination and oppression used by the capitalist owners to divide and weaken us. Of the pervasive and unstoppable destruction of land and labor — the source of all wealth — by the domination of the market and blind workings of the law of value.

That is the source of the interest in a book like Our History Is Still Being Written and why it is needed by those on the front lines of the class struggle, wherever they may be.

The example of the Cuban Revolution is not only a moral one, as important as that is. It is our only living example of the revolutionary morality of the working class on the road to its emancipation — of the political centrality of those working-class values and outlook. Cuba's socialist revolution stands as the practical lesson for our class of how to fight and, importantly, of the only course that can win against the immense power and brutality of our class enemy.

Foreword by Chinese translator

I want to end with a few words about the excellent foreword that appears in Spanish and English for the first time in this new edition of the book. It was written in 2008 as an afterword to the Chinese edition of the book by its translator, Wang Lusha. And it captures in a powerful way what we are talking about today.

First a word about the translation and how it came to be. We've never had the pleasure to meet the translator. He works in the Chinese TV and film industry, where he wrote the script for a 28-part TV series on the Chinese in Cuba.

When the first edition of the book came off the press at the beginning of 2006, a Chinese TV crew had been working in Cuba preparing the multipe TV series. Sío Wong asked the director if he could help get the book translated and published in China. “Yes,” gladly, the director said, and two years later the book appeared.

In his foreword Wang Lusha explains that he first encountered the name Mosés Sío Wong while surfing the internet. He was studying abroad at the time, first in the Netherlands, and then in New Zealand. In both countries he had encountered firsthand the anti-Chinese discrimination and prejudice he had never known before, of which he gives numerous examples. It made him doubt his own capacities, he writes — his own worth as a human being.

But “one man changed my way of thinking.” And “that man was General Mosés Sío Wong.”

When Wang Lusha read on the internet that in Cuba someone of Chinese descent was a general of the armed forces, an aide to Raúl Castro, a deputy to the National Assembly, he thought it must be what today is called “fake news.” His experiences abroad had taught him it simply wasn't possible that someone who was Chinese could be so respected and hold such high responsibilities outside China!

Then “by pure coincidence,” he says, a friend in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he was studying, gave him a copy of Our History Is Still Being Written. Of course it wasn't “by pure coincidence.” Communists in New Zealand, supporters of Pathfinder, had a book center there and were selling the newly published book as broadly as possible at workplaces, universities, and political events. The author of the foreword writes:

I felt overwhelmed as I read through the pages of the book. I discovered that, in addition to General Sío Wong, there are many other Chinese who made remarkable contributions in Cuba.... These include José Dong, José Toño, Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and many more. ... 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?

And Wang Lusha answers his own question by citing the response given by Sío Wong in the pages of this book.

The difference between the experiences of the Chinese in Cuba and those in other countries of the diaspora, says Sío Wong, is that here 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.

That's what made it possible for the son of Chinese immigrants to become a government representative, or anything else.

Uniqueness of Cuba

Around the world those who have come to know the truth through the words of Choy, Chui, and Sío Wong are stunned by that reality. Cuba is the only country in the world where large numbers of Chinese settled yet today there is no discrimination against them. There is no "glass ceiling" and no ghetto here. No occupation or level of responsibility from which Cubans of Chinese ancestry are excluded, or to which they are relegated.

As all of you are well aware, the president of the National Assembly of People's Power, Esteban Lazo, is a Cuban of Chinese and African descent.

Like Wang Lusha, on learning the truth, many begin asking, "Why is this so?" As Choy, Chui, and Sío Wong explain, the reason Cuba is different is that here an immense popular struggle took place that transformed millions of men and women, like many of you in this room today, young and old, as you fought and continue fighting to lay the foundations of a new economic, social, and moral order.

And that is why your example, and books that carry that truth, are so necessary in all the world today.

"In your pages we learn the words that conclude this book, “Yes, a better world is possible. But only with a socialist revolution.”
Iran’s counterrevolutionary cleric-led regime has expanded its influence in Syria, establishing a route Tehran can use to ferry matériel to its forces there and to its Hezbollah ally in Lebanon.

Tehran has also signed deals with the Assad government for mining rights, including oil and gas, and is setting up air and sea bases in Syria. The Iranian rulers confront working-class unrest as a consequence of both the economic crisis in Iran and Syria, and elsewhere. But they have no intention of halting their intervention, having made substantial gains in the fighting.

The Israeli rulers say they will not accept a permanent presence of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard forces and Hezbollah and other Shiite militia groups organized and armed near Israel’s border. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Russian President Vladimir Putin in January that Tel Aviv is also building a wall along its northern frontier, fighting back and preventing Iran’s rulers from aiding Hezbollah in produc-
ing advanced weaponry in Syria or elsewhere. But they have no intention of halting their intervention, having made substantial gains in the fighting.

But life is still hard for many. Prices tumbled 50 percent since 2012. Workers are also saddled with record-

While the capitalist families and their meritocratic flacks watch the market gyrations with trepidation, workers continue to face crisis condi-
tions. The uptick in capitalist production and hiring is good for workers and their self-confidence. More workers are taking on the more dangerous jobs, looking for higher pay and better conditions. But life is still hard for many.

The Militant/Frank Gorton

Stock gyrations sign of capitalism’s crisis today

Continued from front page

have led to a contraction in invest-
ment in capacity-expanding plant equipment and employment. Instead, the proper owners of capital have sought higher returns by speculating in near and distant markets — which translates into speedup at the expense of safety — rose 75 percent between 2013 and 2013, while hourly pay only went up 9 percent. The fed-

er-al minimum wage today would be more than $18 an hour — not the mea-
rage minimum wage of $7.25. If it had “kept up” with productivity growth.

Median income lower than 73

In fact, the adjustment-inflated median income for men who worked full time in 2016 was lower than it was in 1973. In response to President Donald Trump’s tax cuts for the bosses and the even bigger profits they’re now reaping, some companies have offered one-time cash bonuses to their employees, like Walmart, Hostess Brands, Starbucks and Tyson Foods Inc. But Starbucks is giving stock, not cash, and Hostess is giving Twinkies and other snacks.

“A growing preference for one-time awards instead of raises that keep build-
ing over time has been quietly trans-
forming the employment landscape for two decades,” the New York Times reported on Feb. 10.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture forecasts that farm incomes will fall another 7 percent this year, meaning farm families will make less than half of what they made in 2013. Farmers have been hit especially hard by the capitalist crisis. Falling prices on their crops and stifling worldwide competition have meant wheat and corn prices tumbled 50 percent since 2012. The United States Department of Agriculture forecasts that farm incomes will fall another 7 percent this year, meaning farm families will make less than half of what they made in 2013. Farmers have been hit especially hard by the capitalist crisis. Falling prices on their crops and stifling worldwide competition have meant wheat and corn prices tumbled 50 percent since 2012.

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Amidst a U.S. economic revival, wages have risen only fractionally, at best. The 1970s and 1980s saw real wages grow by 25 percent, but today that growth is only 10 percent. But instead of raising wages for workers, the capitalist families have reaped even bigger profits they’re now reaping, some companies have offered one-time cash bonuses to their employees, like Walmart, Hostess Brands, Starbucks and Tyson Foods Inc. But Starbucks is giving stock, not cash, and Hostess is giving Twinkies and other snacks.

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