

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
**Havana events celebrate Martí,
decades of revolutionary struggle**
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 6 FEBRUARY 12, 2018

US rulers debate deal on Dreamers, immigrants

BY SETH GALINSKY

In his State of the Union speech Jan. 30, President Donald Trump called on Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that would more than double the number of “dreamers” protected from deportation and open the door for them to gain citizenship.

If passed, the move would cover 1.8 million youth. Only 800,000 dreamers were qualified under Barack Obama. Trump wants to link this to tightening control of the flow of migrant labor to the United States, including restricting family-based visas only to parents and underage children, lowering overall limits on “legal” immigration and adding some mileage to the existing wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump’s push for both Democrats and Republicans to agree on immigration “reform” has confounded the leaders of both middle-class immigrant-rights groups as well as anti-immigrant conservatives.

Most immigrant rights groups have
Continued on page 9

Joint Olympics team is an advance for Korean people

Socialist Workers Party says ‘Korea is one!’



Joint photo, Korean media

South Korean hockey players give bouquets to North Korean players Jan. 25 at Jincheon, South Korea, sports complex. This is first joint team between North and South Korea since 1991.

BY SETH GALINSKY

For the first time in 27 years, North and South Korea are fielding a joint team at an international sports event. Athletes from the two Koreas will also march together under a “unification flag” at the Feb. 9 opening ceremony of the winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, which they haven’t done since the 2007 Asian Winter Games. This is a setback to the U.S. government’s decadeslong effort to isolate North Korea and an advance for the Korean people.

The delegation will include a joint women’s hockey team and North Korean athletes also competing in figure skating, speed skating, Alpine skiing and cross-country, as well as 230 cheerleaders, a Tae Kwon Do demonstration team and a music group.

Washington, with the collusion of Moscow, forcibly split Korea in two and occupied the South in 1945 against the will of the Korean people. During the 1950-53 Korean War, the U.S. rulers and their allies failed to conquer the entire peninsula and
Continued on page 6

President Trump pushes US bosses’ political interests at Davos confab

BY EMMA JOHNSON

“I’m here to deliver a simple message,” President Donald Trump told participants in the World Economic Forum Jan. 26. “Now is the perfect time to bring your business, your jobs, your investments to the United States.”

“America first does not mean America alone,” he said. “When the United States grows, so does the world.”

This annual gathering in Switzerland features leaders of capitalist governments, banking and industry, and academic and nongovernmental organization meritocrats galore from many of the main imperialist and capitalist powers worldwide.

Continued on page 9

Kurds fight Turkish rulers invasion of Afrin in Syria

BY TERRY EVANS

The capitalist rulers in Turkey continue their punishing bombardment and ground invasion against the Kurdish region of Afrin in northwest Syria. As the seven-year-long Syrian civil war grinds on, the ruling classes in the U.S., Russia, Iran and other capitalist regimes across the Mideast are competing to advance their economic, military and political interests in the region.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says his troops and their Free Syrian Army allies intend to “exterminate” the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) in Afrin. Then, he says, they will drive them out of Manbij near the Euphrates River and sweep across northern Syria, driving the Kurds away from the border with Turkey up to the Iraqi border.

While civilian casualties from Turkish artillery and airstrikes mount, the Erdogan government claims there haven’t been any.

The Turkish rulers got agreement
Continued on page 3

Fight for voting rights of former prisoners makes gains in Florida

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Supporters of political rights in Florida have gathered more than 766,000 signatures to put an amendment to the state constitution granting voting rights to over 1.5 million people who had been convicted of felonies on the ballot this November. Floridians for a Fair Democracy, a voting rights group, spearheaded the effort.

The measure, which has to get 60
Continued on page 7

What’s behind working-class uprising, discontent in Iran



Two weeks of working-class protests began in Mashhad, Iran, above, and spread to 90 other cities and towns, ignited by opposition to cleric-led regime’s reactionary wars abroad.

BY TERRY EVANS

The mounting toll on working people from the wars being waged throughout the Middle East by Iran’s capitalist class was the catalyst for the working-class uprising that swept 90 cities and towns across the country starting Dec. 28 for a couple weeks.

For years the country’s cleric-led capitalist regime has recruited workers to fight and die alongside Tehran-trained Shiite militias in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen. They seek to ex-

tend their military power and political influence from Iran’s eastern border with Afghanistan to the Mediterranean Sea.

The roots of these wars lie in efforts by the clerics to extend the counter-revolution they carried out in the 1980s.

“The Iranian Revolution of 1979 was a profound political and social upheaval, not a religious jihad,” the Socialist Workers Party explained in

Continued on page 4

Inside

Socialist Workers Party: For a world free of nuclear weapons 6

Canada: Diab wins freedom, challenges extradition laws 2

Protests hit Israeli gov’t moves to deport Africans 4

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Pickets in Canada target Tim Hortons coffee chain takebacks

Workers rally against lockout at Quebec aluminum smelter

Canada: Diab wins freedom, challenges extradition laws

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — After spending three years and two months in a French prison without being convicted of any crime, Hassan Diab, 64, a university professor from Ottawa, was released Jan. 12 and returned to Canada. No charges had ever been filed against him though French authorities falsely insisted he had been involved in placing a bomb near a Paris synagogue in 1980 that killed four bystanders. Diab is a Lebanon-born Canadian citizen.

The Canadian government had arrested and expelled him to France based on allegations so flimsy that Robert Maranger, the Ontario Superior Court judge who ordered his extradition, called them “weak, convoluted and confusing.” The case has shone a spotlight on Canada’s reactionary extradition laws and its use of the “war on terror” to attack democratic rights.

Throughout the 10 years since his arrest Diab maintained his innocence, saying he condemned the bombing. He was studying in Beirut at the time and the handwriting and fingerprints of the alleged bomber were not his.

When Diab was released, fellow prisoners chanted, “Hassan est libre. Hassan est libre.” (Hassan is free). “I had to shout to one prisoner from behind a door: ‘Tell them all I am leaving.’ And the whole floor erupted,” he told the press.

Diab’s ordeal began in November 2008 when he was arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police after French authorities accused him of being involved in the synagogue bombing. He was jailed for four and a half months and

then placed under house arrest, forced to wear a monitoring device. Maranger ordered his extradition in June 2011.

Diab appealed to Canada’s Supreme Court, but the judges refused to hear his case. He was extradited to France and thrown in a maximum-security prison in Paris in November 2014. He was held in pretrial detention without ever having been charged or brought to trial. For most of the time he was in jail he was in solitary confinement, allowed to leave his cell only one or two hours a day.

Eight times French judges ordered his release. These were all overturned on government appeal. Finally, in January of this year, the court dismissed all charges against him and ordered his release. Even though he is free and back in Canada, the French government and parties representing the victims have filed appeals.

At a press conference in Ottawa Jan. 17, Diab said his “number one mission is to get rid of the extradition law.” He and his supporters are also demanding a public inquiry into how he was treated.

The law is an attack on the rights of all working people. It allows extradition solely on the basis of a foreign government’s request.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was “noncommittal” when reporters asked if he would do something about the law.

The imprisonment of Diab by French authorities was part of their ongoing attacks on political rights in the name of the so-called war on terror. The extradition was the same thing



justiceforhassandiab.org

Hassan Diab was arrested in Canada in 2008 on request of French authorities, who claimed he took part in 1980 Paris bombing. Extradited to France, he spent over 3 years in jail, but was never charged or convicted. He was released Jan. 12. Above, 2014 protest against extradition.

— the Canadian government aims to increase the ability of the ruling rich to attack the rights of all working people and sow divisions among us.

“What drove me to keep going was my family and my supporters,” Diab told the *Ottawa Citizen*. “They kept sending me books and signed postcards with messages — ‘hang in there, we will not let you down. We will bring you back.’” And they did.

Present at the Ottawa press conference were representatives of the Hassan Diab Support Committee,

Amnesty International Canada, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group and Donald Bayne, Diab’s lawyer.

Roger Clark, a spokesperson for the support committee, told the *Militant* that groups demanding Diab’s freedom were formed in Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and Kingston, Ontario. They continued the fight after he was extradited, raising money and organizing petitions and protests. “The mounting pressure” helped win Diab’s release, Clark said.

Workers give ‘blood money’ from bosses to build SWP

“I received a \$25 gift card for the holidays from the food service company where I work,” wrote Cicely James from Miami. “This outfit offers a lot of small perks in exchange for workers accepting no benefits, low wages and unsanitary conditions. So put this ‘blood money’ to use!”

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters use the term “blood money” to describe production, attendance, safety and other bonuses given out by the bosses to discourage workers from resisting low pay and unsafe working conditions. Instead of taking these bribes, party supporters turn this money over to the SWP’s Capital Fund to strengthen the party’s long-term work.

Writing from Virginia, Mike Galati sent in a check for \$437.25, an “attendance bonus” from the railroad bosses. “These type of payoffs are attempts by the bosses to pressure us not to take needed days off,” Galati wrote. “I can think of no better way than to put this blood money to use building the only working-class revolutionary organization here in the U.S.”

If your bosses attempt to bribe you and you’d like to turn the money over to help advance the working-class movement, contact the SWP in your area listed on page 8.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Canadian rail workers defeat frame-up

On Jan. 19 rail workers Tom Harding and Richard Labrie were found not guilty in the 2013 Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, rail disaster, where 47 people were killed. It’s a resounding victory for workers’ rights, rail safety and the fight against the bosses’ profit drive.



Militant/John Steele

Rail bosses should be on trial, Jean Clusiaux told press. His daughter was killed in crash.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

The Militant

Vol. 82/No. 6

Closing news date: January 31, 2018

Editor: John Studer

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Ellie García, Emma Johnson, Martín Koppel, Carole Lesnick, Jacob Perasso, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in September, one week in December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.
Telephone: (212) 244-4899
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send

\$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

Kurds fight Ankara's invasion



Thousands in Qamishli, Kurdish area of Syria, protest Jan. 30 against Turkish war on Afrin.

Continued from front page
from Moscow and Washington to unleash their assault on Afrin and have so far made limited gains with the YPG resisting the attacks.

With the backing of the U.S. imperialist rulers, the capitalist rulers of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey have repressed the Kurdish populations in their countries for decades. Their common goal is to keep them divided and deny them a homeland. But one unintended consequence of the Syrian civil war and the fight against the Islamic State is that the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces has taken control over 25 percent of the country. The Turkish rulers are determined to prevent this from inspiring the Kurds in Turkey.

Erdogan's government said all opposition to the war against the Kurds in Syria will be crushed. It has detained over 300 people who posted social media notes questioning the invasion. Eight executives of the Turkish Medical Association — a union of some 80,000 doctors and medical workers — were arrested on charges of terrorism after the association issued a statement saying, "No to war; peace now."

In fighting in Syria and Iraq, the Iranian rulers have made the greatest gains. Aided by Moscow's bombers, Iranian troops, fighting alongside Hezbollah and other Shiite militia forces, have helped the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria retake control of large parts of the country. Hezbollah in Lebanon was set up by Tehran's Revolutionary Guard in 1982.

The U.S. rulers are determined to maintain a presence in Syria to work to block further gains by Tehran. Ankara's threat to advance on Manbij poses the possibility of armed conflict between Washington's troops and its NATO ally. The U.S. Central Command said Jan. 29 that it will not pull its forces out of the that area.

Fearing the reaction of working people at home, the U.S. rulers don't want to send tens of thousands of additional troops into the area. They face limited options in deploying proxy forces there. Both the Barack Obama and Donald Trump administrations chose the Kurds as the best fighting force to work with. This has infuriated the regime in Ankara. So when Washington announced it intended to stay in Syria and continue to arm the Syrian Democratic Forces, the Turkish government launched its move into Afrin.

A "peace" conference organized by the Russian, Iranian and Turkish governments opened Jan. 29 in Sochi, Rus-

sia, while the Assad regime continued its bombing of Syria's Idlib province. No Kurds were invited. The conference broke up with no progress, as most Syrian opposition groups boycotted it. The Russian hosts had lined the streets with the flag of the Assad government.

When the Syrians left, the Turkish delegation said they would represent the Syrian opposition.

Saudi rulers seek to challenge Tehran

The Saud family monarchy that runs the bourgeois Saudi Arabian government is the biggest foe of Tehran in the area, but it has been hamstrung by its social backwardness, dependence on oil revenue and Wahabi religious fundamentalism.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is now leading a push to rid the country of aspects of the tribal-based social and political relations that are an obstacle to capitalist "modernization."

Beginning Nov. 4, Prince Mohammed organized the arrest of some 300 princes and tycoons, who became immensely wealthy by using their privileged positions to plunder the country, and interned them at the Ritz Carleton Hotel in downtown Riyadh. Most have been released after agreeing to hand over a hunk of their wealth to the government, which says it has raised some \$106 billion so far to spend on advancing infrastructure, industrial manufacturing and modernizing and diversify-

Protests worldwide say: 'Hands off Kurds in Afrin!'



Militant/Dag Tirsén

"The Communist League demands Turkish hands off Afrin! We start from the common class interests and solidarity of workers and farmers across the Middle East, and the rest of the world," said Catharina Tirsén, (with microphone), a member of the Communist League. Tirsén was addressing a Jan. 24 rally of 200 Kurds and others in Manchester, England. The action was one of dozens called around the world to protest the Turkish government's bombing and invasion of the Kurdish area of Afrin in northern Syria.

"It is among working people who are hit by the wars and carnage of capitalist rule that Kurds will find allies. U.S., U.K. and all other foreign troops out of the Middle East!" she said.

A further 2,000 people demonstrated Jan. 27 in London against Ankara's bombardment. Thousands rallied in Paris the same day.

There have been dozens of large popular mobilizations across Afrin province itself, showing the breadth of support for the Kurdish-led government there by working people. In areas controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq, there have been protests in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Since the attacks began Jan. 19, Kurds and their supporters in Beirut, Lebanon, have organized a number of actions.

In Cologne, Germany, 2,000 cops, backed up by water cannons, broke up a demonstration of 20,000 Kurds and their supporters Jan. 27. As part of the protest against Ankara's assault on Afrin, some demonstrators unfurled flags depicting Abdullah Ocalan, the imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The German Interior Ministry has banned displaying pictures of Ocalan. The PKK is a party in Turkey with Stalinist roots that has fought a guerrilla war against Ankara for most of three decades.

Demonstrations in Canada have been held in Ottawa, Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal. Actions in the U.S. took place Jan. 26 in Washington, D.C., and Nashville, Tennessee. A further protest will be held in New York, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. in Union Square, organized by the American Kurdish Association.

— TERRY EVANS

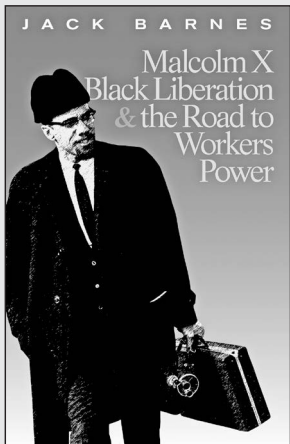
ing the country's economic base. Those who failed to pony up have been sent to the notorious Al Ha'ir prison for further convincing.

Prince Mohammed also seeks to break any resistance to his course. One of those held, Khaled bin Talal, had opposed the government's 2016 decision to curb the power of the religious police.

The regime is moving to allow more modern bourgeois social relations, eliminating some of the restrictions on women, including the right to drive and attend public events. For the first time in decades, unaccompanied women joined young men to attend a soccer match in Jeddah Jan 12. Movie theaters will re-open after a 35-year ban in March.

MILITANT SUBSCRIPTION & BOOK SPECIALS

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power
by Jack Barnes
\$15. With subscription: \$10



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

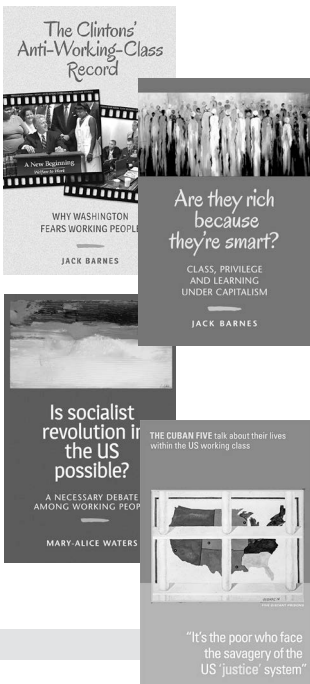
Are They Rich Because They're Smart?
Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism
by Jack Barnes

The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record
Why Washington Fears Working People
by Jack Barnes

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?
A Necessary Debate Among Working People
by Mary-Alice Waters

"It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System"
The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

\$7 EACH WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION



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

What's behind uprising in Iran

Continued from front page

its 2005 political resolution “Their Transformation and Ours,” reprinted in *New International* no. 12. “It became a deep-going, modern, popular social revolution in city and countryside, a revolution against the pro-imperialist monarchy of the shah and the brutal despotism of his hated SAVAK police agents. It opened space for workers and landless peasants, for women, for oppressed nationalities, for youth — for communists. It made possible the flowering of political space, debate, and culture that to this day are far from being taken away.

“The weight of religious figures and institutions grew stronger and more repressive as part of a political *counterrevolution*,” the party resolution said, “stifling in the name of Islam the rebellion of the most intransigent workers in the oil fields and factories, peasants on the land, Kurds and other oppressed nationalities, women fighting for equality, revolutionary-minded soldiers, students and other youth, and the boldest communists.”

The SWP had a sister party, then called the Socialist Workers Party, that participated in the Iranian revolutionary upsurge.

“The power and depth of that revolution is registered in the fact that the clerical-dominated bourgeois regime has never been able to come close to imposing suffocating political and cultural conditions of the kind the Taliban inflicted on Afghanistan or the Wahabi monarchists on Saudi Arabia,” the resolution said.

The clerical forces in Iran pushed aside weaker capitalist political figures not capable of taking on the workers and fought to ensure there were no inroads on capitalist rule. They organized gangs of thugs called Hezbollah — the party of God — to attack workers and others who opposed their rule.

As the capitalist regime sought to cor-

ral the workers at home, it simultaneously moved to advance its interests against rivals elsewhere, extending its counter-revolutionary sway against toilers in the region. The formation of the bourgeois party Hezbollah in the early 1980s in Lebanon, was a direct extension of the group of the same name in Iran that led assaults on workers’ organizations and political opponents.

Today the Iranian rulers utilize the Guards, its Quds special forces, Hezbollah and militias it funds and trains across Syria and Iraq. They have been at the forefront of propping up the hated Bashar al-Assad dictatorship, which has retaken large parts of Syria from those fighting to end his rule. Iranian-backed militias aided the Iraqi government’s expulsion of the Kurdish peshmerga from Kirkuk in October, dealing a blow to the struggle of Kurds for national rights. These armed units are now a formal part of the Iraqi Security Forces, reinforcing Tehran’s influence in that country.

Iranian rulers’ wars bred protests

The wars waged by the Iranian rulers today come decades after the consolidation of their counterrevolutionary rule. As fighting increased in Syria, and Assad’s dictatorship lost ground, the rulers in Tehran buttressed Hezbollah fighters with growing numbers of Iranian troops. At first the clerics said little about these moves in Iran’s press.

The carnage among the troops was deeply class-divided. As the number of workers coming home in body bags rose, Iran’s rulers erected monuments to those killed in working-class neighborhoods. Supreme leader Ali Khamenei and military figures visited the homes of families of those slain. The government broadcasts TV ads urging youth to “give their lives” in an effort to recruit more cannon fodder. The former mayor of Tehran was threatened with indictment last April when he spoke against military intervention in Syria and Yemen.

But opposition to the rulers’ wars and their deadly effect on the working class grew, and was widely ex-

Israel: Protests hit gov’t moves to deport Africans



ActiveStills/Oren Ziv

Opposition is growing in Israel to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s plans to force 38,000 Eritrean and Sudanese refugees to leave the country. Pilots, flight crews, rabbis, doctors, professors and Holocaust survivors have spoken out against the moves.

Claiming they are “illegal aliens” and criminals, Netanyahu pushed a law through the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, in December giving the African refugees the choice of imprisonment or deportation, likely to Rwanda or Uganda. Those who agree to go now would get \$3,500.

More than 1,000 refugees were joined by Israeli supporters to protest in front of the Rwandan Embassy in Herzliya Jan. 22, above.

“The protests let the Israeli population know more about the issue,” Noureldin Musa, a Darfur refugee who works as a cook, told the *Militant* by phone from Herzliya Jan. 26. “If I am sent to Rwanda they will send me back to Sudan to die.”

Three El Al airline pilots who say they will refuse to fly planes that are used to deport refugees have been widely covered in Israel. “I have joined many of my best friends by declaring that I will not fly refugees to their deaths,” wrote El Al pilot Ido Elad. Nearly 150 flight crew members took out a front-page ad in *Haaretz* Jan. 24 to support them.

The El Al workers have contacted pilots at Turkish Airlines, Royal Jordanian and Ethiopian Airlines asking them to do the same.

“Do the Jewish thing,” said 36 Holocaust survivors in a letter to Netanyahu, “and allow asylum seekers to live.”

— SETH GALINSKY

pressed during the recent actions.

Working people in Iran view the government’s intervention in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere very differently from the war they waged against the U.S.-backed invasion of Iran by the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein in 1980. The Iraqi rulers then sought to crush the Iranian toil-

ers and prevent them from advancing on gains made during the 1979 revolution.

Workers in Iran saw this war as their own, demanded military training and volunteered to fight in massive numbers. The country’s Arab and Kurdish population took part in the war effort. Working-class mobilizations gave a brief second wind to resistance to the clerics’ counterrevolution. An account of the political course and activity of the then-named Workers Unity Party of Iran — including its participation in the defense of the revolution against the Iraqi assaults — can be found in articles by Samad Sharif in *New International* no. 7.

The impact of capitalism’s wars, political repression and revulsion at the dog-eat-dog values advanced by the rulers has always been decisive in driving working-class action.

As workers respond to political questions, including the rulers’ wars, many become interested in how to overturn capitalist rule.

The capitalist rulers and their meritocratic promoters see themselves as more cultured than the working class. They share the view of Tehran cleric Kazem Sadighi that workers are “garbage.” But the working class has demonstrated that it is the political class. With the leadership necessary millions of working people engaged in revolutionary struggle and took power during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and the Cuban Revolution of 1959.

It’s that capacity to take political action that lay behind the uprising in Iran and will fuel working-class mobilizations to come.

— Socialist Workers Party statement —

- 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

Download text of statement at www.themilitant.com

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA Oakland

The Working Class and the Fight for Women’s Rights. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

UNITED KINGDOM Manchester

Korea Is One! Speaker: Dag Tirsén, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 10, 6 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St., M1 2EH. Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

After 44 years in prison, Herman Bell fights for release on parole

BY TERRY EVANS

Former Black Panther Herman Bell will have spent over 44 years in prison when his parole hearing comes up later this month. Bell, who just turned 70, was convicted in 1973, with Albert Washington and Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom) in the 1971 killing of two New York City police officers.

Sentenced to 25 years to life in prison, Bell was first eligible for parole 14 years ago and has been denied release seven times since.

“I’m eligible for parole release every two years. I’ve satisfied all the structural requirements,” he wrote late last year. “Yet each time I appear before the Board, I’m denied parole ‘due to the nature of the offense.’”

“Each time I go to the Board” he wrote, “the PBA [Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association] circulates a petition opposing my release,” describing the cops’ efforts to keep him behind bars until he dies.

Muntaqim’s parole hearing is set for June. Washington died in prison in 2000.

Prison guards at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, New York, assaulted Bell Sept. 5, the *Daily News* reported. “I received multiple kicks, punches to the face and eyes, repeated head slams into concrete, and two cracked ribs,” he wrote to supporters. Then he was falsely charged with assaulting the guards and thrown into solitary confinement.

He was ultimately taken out, moved to Shawangunk Correctional Facility and transferred back into the general prison population after a letter-writing campaign by supporters helped break down the attempted frame-up. One of the guards, Jeremy Saunders, has been suspended without pay while the attack on Bell is investigated.

The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. 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.

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Pickets in Canada target Tim Hortons coffee chain takebacks

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — At dozens of locations across Canada unionists and other workers picketed outlets of the Tim Hortons coffee chain Jan. 19. They were protesting the decision by some franchise owners to take back health benefits and paid breaks in Ontario when the provincial government there raised the minimum wage from \$11.60 to \$14 (US\$9.30 to \$11.25) Jan. 1. A majority of the rallies took place in Ontario, sponsored by local labor councils and other groups pushing to raise the minimum wage.

Small business owners in Ontario complained about the increase, even though the government at the same time lowered their taxes from 4.5 to 3.5 percent.

“I find it almost impossible to live with less than \$15 an hour,” Kelly Lahay, a young International Longshore and Warehouse Union member, told the *Militant* on the picket line here.

Irene Lanzinger, British Columbia Federation of Labour president, addressed the event. She had spoken before the provincial government’s Fair Wages Commission in the fall of 2017. She told them almost a quarter of British Columbia’s workers earn under \$15 an hour.

Support for raising the minimum wage is widespread among working people. Provincial governments have responded by trying to put the brakes on, establishing long drawn-out timelines for increases in the minimum wage.

— Katy LeRougetel
and Michel Dugré

Workers rally against lockout at Quebec aluminum smelter

BÉCANCOUR, Quebec — In a move that surprised both workers and United Steelworkers Local 9700 union officials, ABI aluminum smelter bosses here locked out over 1,000 workers at 3 a.m. Jan. 11. The workers had overwhelmingly voted down the bosses’ concession-contract demands only a few hours earlier. The unionists objected to ABI’s demand to transform all pensions from a defined benefit plan to one that would

leave retired workers at the mercy of unstable stock market investments.

Quebec smelters produce 90 percent of Canada’s 3.2 million tons of aluminum, 90 percent of which is exported to the United States. The ABI Bécancour smelter, the second largest in North America, is 75 percent owned by Alcoa and the rest by Rio Tinto Alcan.

“The bosses have their own kind of solidarity, but we have workers’ solidarity,” machine operator René Normandin, with 24 years’ seniority, told Communist League members from Montreal when they visited the picket line Jan. 25.

Two days earlier unionists from a number of USW locals from the region participated in a solidarity rally outside the smelter. Yves Rolland, president of USW Local 6951 at the ArcelorMittal steel foundry in Contrecoeur, presented the locked-out workers with a check for \$10,000. Another local announced it is going to donate \$1,100 a week for the duration of the lockout. Other USW local representatives said their members would be voting on similar weekly contributions.

ABI management personnel are running production on one of the smelter’s three production lines. The locked-out workers picket 24 hours a day. Many



Unionists at ABI smelter in Bécancour, Quebec, hold mass picket Jan. 12, day after ABI locked out 1,000 workers. Bosses were turned back after half an hour trying to get into plant.

told League members that they expect the lockout to last a long time. While we were there, a huge truckload of firewood was delivered to feed the burn barrel, much needed in the -16°C (3°F) weather.

“Another issue is the company’s violation of seniority rights in the contract,” James Maloney, Local 9700 health and safety representative, told us at the union hall. “They try to divide younger, recently hired workers from the older

workers by disregarding the seniority list.”

“We’ve given solidarity for years to other struggles,” Maloney said, “and now we are getting it back in return.”

The locked-out workers also have to contend with the reactionary anti-labor Social Equality Party, whose members showed up at the solidarity rally to urge workers to break with their union.

— John Steele and Patrick Tremblay

Fla. paper reports ‘Militant’ victory on prison censorship

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Newspaper Wins Censorship Battle with Florida Prisons,” headlined a Jan. 24 article by Anne Easker in the *Charlotte Sun*. Charlotte is south of Tampa Bay, not far from where subscribers to the *Militant* are incarcerated, and where they helped fight successfully against moves by prison authorities there and across the state to impound their issues of the paper.

The *Militant* learned about the censorship “when an inmate at Charlotte Correctional Institution in Punta Gorda sent a letter saying he received an impoundment notice, followed by a letter from an inmate at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution reporting the same,” the *Sun* explained. Prison authorities claimed the Dec. 18, 2017, issue with an article headlined “Join Fight to Over-

turn Ban Against ‘Militant’!” presents “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.”

Easker interviewed David Goldstein, the *Militant*’s attorney, who contacted the prison system’s Literature Review Committee to find out the deadline to file an appeal. “The head of the committee said they reviewed the impoundment the day before and overturned it, calling the impoundment a mistake,” Goldstein told her.

Over the last couple years, the *Militant* has fought — mostly successfully — attempts by prison officials in Florida, Pennsylvania, Washington, New York and Illinois to deny prison subscribers the paper.

“Just a few weeks prior, the committee overturned the impoundment of

two previous issues,” Easker wrote. “Of the nine impoundments in 2017, seven were overturned, while just two were upheld.”

Militant editor John Studer “said the paper has had a growing number of subscribers behind bars in recent years,” Easker wrote.

In an extensive interview printed as part of the article, Studer said the censorship “violates the rights of the inmates to read political literature they are interested in. More broadly it violates their ability to participate in the political issues of the day. It violates the rights of the paper involved, because we have a right to get out political views to people who are interested in reading about them, whether in New York City or in a prison in Florida.”

A number of organizations have backed the *Militant*’s fight, including Amnesty International USA, PEN America, New York’s Riverside Church Prison Ministry, the Alianza Martiana in Florida.

“It doesn’t sit well with most people that just because you happen to be incarcerated for a period of time that you have restrictions in the types of literature you can read,” Easker quotes Studer. “The more that gets known the more opposition to that kind of unconstitutional behavior grows.”

We don’t know if the *Sun* has subscribers at the Charlotte Correctional Center, but we hope they get this issue.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 12, 1993

As Washington’s occupation of southern Somalia nears the end of its second month, the U.S. military unleashed its firepower against forces loyal to ousted Somali dictator Mohamed Siad Barre that were threatening to seize control of the port city of Kismayo.

In the capital city of Mogadishu, where thousands of U.S. troops are deployed, shootings of Somalis have become virtually a daily occurrence as the U.S. military has begun actively organizing a new police force there.

With nearly 40,000 troops currently under U.S. command now in Somalia, UN and U.S. officials continue to discuss plans for replacing U.S. troops with a 20,000-strong UN force.

According to [UN] special envoy for Somalia Ismat Kittani, the new UN military force will probably be in Somalia for “not months but years.”



February 12, 1968

The massive National Liberation Front offensive against most of the occupied cities of South Vietnam opens a new stage of the Vietnamese revolution. The revolutionary forces demonstrated that they can challenge U.S. and Saigon armies for control of practically every square inch of the land.

The world’s mightiest imperialist power has been dealt a stunning blow. The blow is primarily political, although its immediate military impact is considerable. Those who are carrying it forward have written one of the most extraordinary and heroic pages in history.

The attack has already included “no less than 30 of South Vietnam’s 44 provincial capitals, as well as larger cities such as Saigon and Danang, American installations and uncountried towns,” according to the *New York Times*.



February 13, 1943

New demands for wage increases to equal rising living costs were voiced last week by a number of union bodies.

The growing pressure for wage raises is based on opposition to the administration wage policy embodied in the Little Steel formula of the War Labor Board, which bans increases of more than 15% over Jan. 1941 wage levels, although living costs have risen almost twice the 15% figure during this two-year period.

The United Mine Workers policy committee decided to request \$2 a day wage increases for their 450,000 bituminous coal workers. It is expected that the union will ask for a similar raise for its 88,000 anthracite miners.

The head of the UMW policy committee pointed out that “an increase of 42% on the wholesale prices of articles essential to family maintenance cannot be ignored.”

Discount on books for prisoners

Pathfinder offers books and pamphlets at a 50% discount off the cover price.

There is a flat rate of \$2.75 for shipping and handling. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to

Pathfinder Press
PO Box 162767
Atlanta GA 30321-2767

Link at pathfinderpress.com

Joint Korean Olympics team

Continued from front page
crush the revolution in the North, despite carpet bombing that destroyed almost every building there. More than 4 million people were killed, including 2 million civilians.

To this day Washington refuses to sign a peace treaty formally ending the war. Instead, it seeks to isolate, economically throttle and intimidate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, demanding the government give up its nuclear and missile programs. There are 28,500 U.S. troops still stationed in the South.

To facilitate the agreement on Ko-

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF KOREA

To understand why working people and youth should oppose U.S. efforts to make North Korea a pariah nation, the *Militant* recommends a three-part series on the history of Washington's assaults on the Korean people dating back to the U.S. division and occupation of Korea in 1945. The series by Steve Clark appeared in the Sept. 23, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, 2013 issues.

Read them at:
www.themilitant.com

rea's joint participation in the winter games, President Donald Trump, in response to South Korea's request, agreed to postpone provocative annual U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers until after the Olympics and Paralympic games, which end March 25.

At the same time, Washington has continued to tighten sanctions on the DPRK that hit working people the hardest.

The North Korean government has not conducted any nuclear weapons or long-range missile tests since the end of November.

While the easing of tensions is an advance for the peoples of North and South Korea, it has not sparked the same enthusiasm in the South as previous joint delegations. A poll by SBS TV showed some 80 percent of respondents in their 20s and 30s are unhappy about the joint team.

"The situation is vastly different from the hopes and encouragement that met the unified teams fielded in 1991 at the World Table Tennis Championships" and world soccer youth championship, the South Korean daily *Hankyoreh* said Jan. 22. This has much to do with the North Korean government's threats to engulf Seoul "in a sea of fire" if Washington dares to attack. Seoul is 35 miles from the



During 1950-53 Korean War, the U.S. rulers and their allies failed to conquer the North despite carpet bombing that destroyed almost every building there. Above, Pyongyang in 1953, showing devastation, with only three major buildings left standing at end of war.

Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea says having a growing nuclear arsenal and missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland is crucial as a protection against the U.S. rulers.

But the development of nuclear weapons and threats to obliterate Seoul undercut the moral high ground won through the resistance of the people of Korea against the U.S. government's occupation of the South, dead-

ly war and ongoing hostility against the North.

Harsh sanctions against North Korea

The Trump administration has stepped up U.S. economic pressure on North Korea, pushed tighter sanctions through the U.N. Security Council, and convinced the government of China to join in applying some of the sanctions.

North Korean leader Kim Jung Un said in his 2018 New Year's speech that the country faces its "harshest-ever challenges" as a result of the "difficult living conditions caused by life-threatening sanctions and containment."

He proposed a joint Olympics team, reiterating Pyongyang's long-held stance that the "North and South must work together as a people of the same heritage to find peace and stability."

President Trump claims that the talks between North and South that led to the combined team happened because Washington has been "strong and willing to commit our total 'might' against the North."

The Socialist Workers Party says working people in the U.S. and around the world should demand that Washington permanently end its military maneuvers and withdraw its troops from Korea, lift all sanctions against the North, and immediately get rid of all U.S. nuclear weapons.

Korea is one!

East Coast tour of Griselda Aguilera veteran of 1961 Cuban literacy campaign

Hear Griselda Aguilera, a participant in 1961 mass campaign that taught Cuban workers and farmers to read and write, and transformed the volunteers, so they could build the revolution.

Screenings of "Maestra," film by Catherine Murphy documenting literacy drive, will be shown during tour.

Boston: Fri., Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. 9A Hamilton Place
Albany: Mon., Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. 155 Washington Ave
New York City Sat., Feb. 10, 6 p.m. 131 W. 33rd St 2nd Floor
New York / New Jersey Feb. 8 - 12
Washington, D.C. / Baltimore: Feb. 13-17
Knoxville, Tennessee: Feb. 20-21

Sponsored by Cuba solidarity organizations and activists on the East Coast
For more info: ikenahem@mindspring.com phone (917) 887-8710

Havana events celebrate Martí, decades of revolution

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — Carrying what looked like a river of torches, thousands of youth, overwhelmingly college and high school students, marched from the steps of the University of Havana through the city's streets on the night of Jan. 27. The annual celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Cuban national hero José Martí is an expression of pride in the history of revolutionary struggle in Cuba against colonial and imperialist domination. Similar actions took place across the island.

Cheers greeted the arrival of President Raúl Castro and other Cuban leaders who joined the front line of the March of the Torches here. In a festive atmosphere, youth came in contingents from schools across Havana. The action was sponsored by the Federation of University Students (FEU) and Federation of High School Students. Also participating were young workers and military cadets, many of them members of the Union of Young Communists, as well as working people of all ages.

FEU national President Raúl Alejandro Palmero told the assembled youth that the first March of the Torches, called by the student federation, was held Jan. 27, 1953. It was the first large street action opposing the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, which had taken power in a military coup the previous year.



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Jan. 27 March of the Torches in Havana celebrated birth of Cuban national hero José Martí.

With that 1953 mobilization, wrote Armando Hart in his firsthand account *Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground, 1952-58*, "the university-based movement of civil and political protest took on a new character." ... The nearly 5,000 students and workers "came equipped with the means to defend themselves and strike back" if attacked by Batista's cops or military. "San Lázaro Street was lit up by their burning torches, symbol of the liberty that was theirs to conquer."

The contingent of 500 young Cubans led by Fidel Castro in the 1953 March of the Torches, wrote Hart — a founding leader of Cuba's revolutionary movement — "demonstrated a level of organization and a capacity for action that distinguished it among the student and popular masses."

Six months later, on July 26, 1953, many of these same militants joined Castro in an armed assault on army barracks in the eastern cities of Santiago de Cuba and Bayamo. The attack opened

an insurrectionary struggle that, under the leadership of the July 26 Movement and Rebel Army, overthrew the Batista dictatorship on Jan. 1, 1959, and brought a workers and farmers government to power. The victory established the first free territory of the Americas. This year's march paid special tribute to Fidel Castro's revolutionary leadership over decades until his death in 2016.

Martí statue inaugurated

On the morning after the student march, a ceremony was held at daybreak in a park in Old Havana to inaugurate a striking equestrian statue of José Martí, central leader of Cuba's 19th century independence struggle against Spain. It's a bronze replica of a statue created by American artist Anna Hyatt Huntington that has stood in New York's Central Park since 1965. It dramatically depicts the independence fighter on horseback at the moment he was killed in battle in Dos Ríos, Cuba, in 1895.

The event was attended by President Raúl Castro, other Cuban leaders from all sectors of society, and some 300 guests from the United States, including more than 100 Cuban-Americans. Among the visitors were not only supporters of the Cuban Revolution but numerous figures from the art world who had worked to bring the project to completion, Democratic and Republican political figures, and some of those who made significant donations to the \$2.5 million fund raised to reproduce the statue and ship it from the United States.

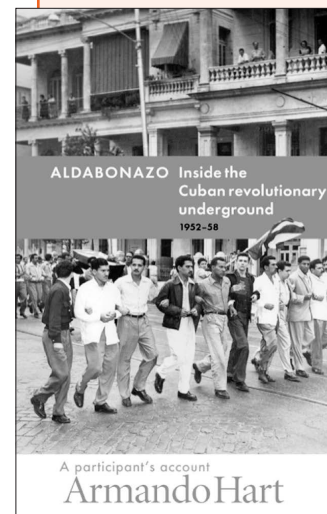
The keynote speaker was Eusebio Leal, historian of the City of Havana, for whom the installation of the statue was the culmination of two decades of effort. Also speaking was Joseph Mizzi, chair of the board of trustees of the Bronx Museum of the Arts, which led the fundraising effort. A message from New York Mayor Bill de Blasio was read by José Velázquez from the mayor's office. Later that day a concert in Old Havana paid tribute to Holly Block, former executive director of the Bronx Museum, who was centrally involved in the project until her death last year.

A Jan. 28 Reuters article, headlined "Trump Casts Pall on Inauguration of U.S. Statue of Martí in Cuba," labeled the ceremony a "sober affair." While some guests from the U.S. did see it as another "anti-Trump" event, for Cubans across the island the weekend actions were a reaffirmation of their 150-year history of revolutionary struggle.

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

A firsthand account, by a historic leader of the July 26 Movement, of the January 1953 March of the Torches and many other events that brought down the bloody U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba and opened the road for workers and farmers to make the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

See distributors on page 8 or visit:
www.pathfinderpress.com



A participant's account
Armando Hart

RECOMMENDED READING ...

The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
by James P. Cannon
In *The Struggle for Socialism in the American Century* \$25

1945: When U.S. Troops Said 'No!'
by Mary-Alice Waters
In *New International* no. 7 \$14

Also in Spanish, French, Farsi, Swedish

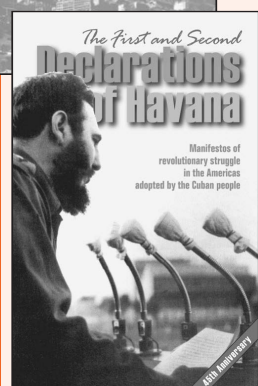
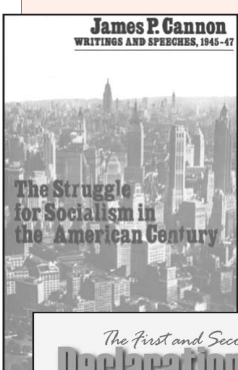
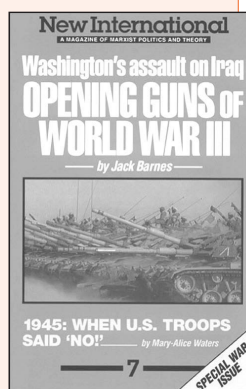
First and Second Declarations of Havana

Adopted by million-strong assemblies of Cuban people in 1960 and 1962. \$10

Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Arabic, Farsi

See distributors listed on page 8 or visit:

WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM



Sankara: Goal of revolution is transfer of power to the toilers

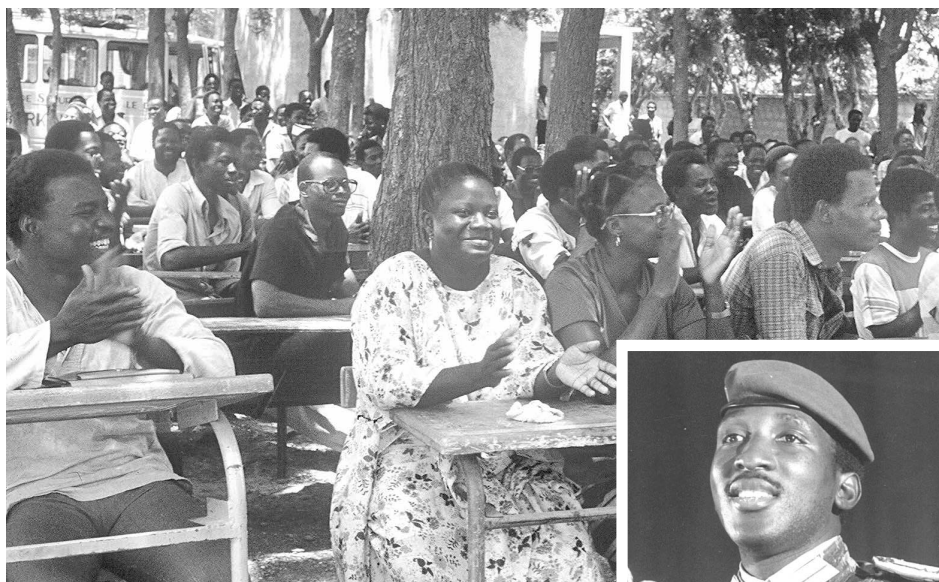
Below is an excerpt from *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. Sankara led the revolution in Burkina Faso (called Upper Volta until 1984) from 1983 until his assassination in 1987. Workers and peasants in this West African country established a popular revolutionary government that began to fight the hunger, illiteracy and economic backwardness imposed by imperialist domination, and the oppression of women inherited from millennia of class society. The excerpt is from the "Political Orientation Speech," presented by Sankara over radio and television on Oct. 2, 1983, two months after the triumph of the revolution. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

The revolutions that occur around the world are not at all alike. Each revolution presents original features that distinguish it from the others. Our revolution, the August revolution, is no exception. It takes into account the special features of our country, its level of development, and its subjugation by the world imperialist capitalist system.

Our revolution is a revolution that is unfolding in a backward country,



Above, Militant/Marla Puziss; Inset, Militant/Ernest Harsch
August 1985 meeting of neighborhood Committees for Defense of the Revolution in school courtyard in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. CDRs formed after triumph of revolution drew population into political activity. Inset, Thomas Sankara speaks at Harlem rally, Oct. 3, 1984.

where the weight of tradition and ideology emanating from a feudal-type social organization weighs very heavily on the popular masses. It is a revolution in a country that, because of imperialism's domination and exploitation of our people, has evolved from a colony into a neocolony.

It is a revolution occurring in a country still characterized by the lack of an organized working class conscious of its historic mission, and which therefore possesses no tradition of revolutionary struggle. It is a revolution occurring in a small country on the continent, at a time when, on the international level, the revolutionary movement is coming apart day by day, without any visible hope of seeing a homogenous bloc arise capable of giving a stimulus and practical support to nascent revolutionary movements. This set of historical, geographic, and sociological circumstances gives a certain, specific stamp to our revolution.

The August revolution exhibits a dual character: It is a democratic and a popular revolution.

Its primary tasks are to eliminate imperialist domination and exploitation; and to purge the countryside of all the social, economic, and cultural obstacles that keep it in a backward state. Its democratic character flows from this.

It draws its popular character from the full participation of the Voltaic masses in the revolution, and their consistent mobilization around democratic and

revolutionary slogans that concretely express their own interests in opposition to those of the reactionary classes allied with imperialism. The popular character of the August revolution also lies in the fact that, in place of the old state machinery, new machinery is being built, capable of guaranteeing the democratic exercise of power by the people and for the people.

Our present revolution as characterized above, while being an anti-imperialist revolution, is still unfolding within the framework of the limits of the bourgeois economic and social order. By analyzing the social classes of Voltaic society, we have put forward the idea that the Voltaic bourgeoisie does not constitute a single, homogenous, reactionary, and antirevolutionary mass. Indeed, what characterizes the bourgeoisie in underdeveloped countries under capitalist relations is its congenital inability to revolutionize society as the bourgeoisie of the European countries did in the 1780s, that is, at the time when it still constituted a rising class.

Such are the characteristics and limitations of the present revolution launched in Upper Volta on August 4, 1983. Having a clear view and precise definition of its content guards us against the dangers of deviation and excesses that could be detrimental to the victorious march of the revolution. All those who have taken up the cause of the August revolution should fix firmly in their minds the

guiding principles laid out here. By doing so they can assume their role as conscious revolutionaries. And, as genuine, bold, and tireless propagandists, they can disseminate these principles among the masses.

It is no longer enough to call oneself a revolutionary. We also need to be absolutely clear on the profound meaning of the revolution we fervently defend. This is the best way to defend it from the attacks and distortions that the counterrevolutionaries will not fail to use against it. ...

The goal of this revolution consists in having the people assume power. That is the reason why the first act of the revolution, following the August 4 proclamation, was the appeal addressed to the people to create Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. The National Council of the Revolution is convinced that for this revolution to be a genuinely popular revolution, it must proceed to destroy the neocolonial state machinery and organize new machinery capable of guaranteeing popular sovereignty. The question of knowing how this popular power will be exercised, how this power should be organized, is an essential question for the future of our revolution.

Until today, the history of our country has essentially been dominated by the exploiting and conservative classes, which have exercised their antidemocratic and antipopular dictatorship through their stranglehold on politics, the economy, ideology, culture, the administration, and the judicial system.

The primary goal of the revolution is to transfer power from the hands of the Voltaic bourgeoisie allied with imperialism to the hands of the alliance of popular classes that constitute the people. This means that from now on the people, who hold power, will have to counterpose their democratic and popular power to the antidemocratic, antipopular dictatorship of the reactionary alliance of social classes that favor imperialism.

This democratic and popular power will be the foundation, the solid basis, of revolutionary power in Upper Volta. Its chief task will be the total conversion of the entire state machinery with its laws, administration, courts, police, and army, which have been fashioned to serve and defend the selfish interests of the reactionary social classes and layers.

February BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions. Speeches from the Burkina Faso revolution, 1983-87
by Thomas Sankara
Speeches on fight led by popular revolutionary government against imperialist domination and exploitation, and its lessons for workers and farmers worldwide.
\$10. **Special price: \$7.50**

By Any Means Necessary
by Malcolm X
\$16. **Special price: \$12**

Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution
by Joseph Hansen
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Lenin's Final Fight
Speeches and Writings, 1922-23
by V.I. Lenin
Battle led by central leader of Russian Revolution to keep revolution on its internationalist proletarian course against rising privileged caste led by Joseph Stalin.
\$20. **Special price: \$15**

Where Is Britain Going?
by Leon Trotsky
\$27. **Special price: \$20.25**

L'émancipation des femmes et la lutte de libération de l'Afrique
(Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle)
by Thomas Sankara
\$8. **Special price: \$6**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM OFFER GOOD UNTIL FEBRUARY 28

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: P.O. Box 380641. Zip: 33238. Tel: (305) 420-5928. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@bellsouth.net

ILLINOIS: Chicago: P.O. Box 802012. Zip: 60680. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 1821 University Ave. W Suite S-106A. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 340-5586. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@windstream.net

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 964-4793. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** P.O. Box 8304. Zip: 12208. Tel: (518) 903-0781. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: cllemontreal@fastmail.com **BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver:** Email: clleVancouver@fastmail.fm

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston. Postal code: E8 2PB. Tel: (020) 3583-3553. Email: clldondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

Oppose curbs on prisoners, right to vote!

The fight to overturn restrictions that prevent over 6 million people who had been convicted of a felony from voting is of central importance to the working class. A quarter of those are in Florida, where volunteers gathered almost 800,000 signatures to put removing the state’s ban on former prisoners’ right to vote on the ballot this year.

Restrictions on voting rights of felons hit workers, who are the big majority of the prison population, the hardest. And they fall disproportionately on workers who are Black.

Workers behind bars are no different from fellow workers outside prison walls. We are all part of the working class and confront the same political and moral crisis of capitalism. Prisoners are an integral part of our class’s battle to overturn capitalist rule and take political power into our own hands.

The U.S. rulers imprison more working people than any other country in the world. They face restrictions on what they can read, and conditions geared to assault their dignity. Thousands are thrown in solitary confinement. And then the rul-

ers bar their right to vote when they get out.

Establishing the right of workers to vote has a long history that includes fighting to end property qualifications after the revolutionary ouster of the British colonists; extending the franchise to Blacks after the second American Revolution overthrew slavery; and winning women’s suffrage in 1920 after more than 70 years of protests.

It took a massive proletarian Black-led civil rights movement to destroy Jim Crow segregation and win passage of the Voting Rights Act. This struggle led to winning the vote for 18 year olds.

Many among the propertied rulers saw in the workers who voted for Donald Trump the harbinger of class battles to come. These workers, disgusted by the effects of today’s capitalist crisis, are looking for something new. One of the rulers’ responses has been to look for new ways to diminish workers’ votes.

Fights like the one in Florida today to push back restrictions on the franchise are an important part of advancing the unity and fighting capacity of the working class.

Trump pushes US bosses’ interests at Davos

Continued from front page

The backdrop is the drawn-out downturn in profits, production and trade that has marked the international capitalist system since the 1970s, deepened by the 2007-08 financial crisis. Within that continuing long-term decline, there is a conjunctural upturn today, and the rival capitalist ruling classes and their governments assembled in Davos are in fierce competition to grab as much as they can of any profits to come.

For the first time in 18 years, a sitting U.S. president was in the house. And the leaders of Berlin and Paris were there as well.

The size of the various capitalist rulers’ home market, productivity level, strength of their currency and military, and — last but not least — how much they have been able to push back working people on wages, living and working conditions, social protections and weakening their unions is what decides their place in the pecking order in the world imperialist system. Putting all these factors together, the U.S. ruling class has no rival to the top spot, by a long shot.

Trump’s talk stressed this, saying, “The American economy is by far the largest in the world.” He touted his administration and its moves, like recent tax cuts for business and cuts in bureaucratic regulations on industry and banking, as well as advances in promoting an “America first” foreign policy. These steps have won him support from the propertied rulers at home.

“There has never been a better time to hire, to build, to invest, and to grow in the United States,” he said. He claimed economic growth, a spiraling stock market rally, jobs creation and lower unemployment — including for Blacks and Hispanics — as achievements of his administration’s first year in office.

Given how liberals worldwide, vocal at the Davos forum, revile Trump for “America first” isolationism, ironically he was the only world government representative who concretely discussed international politics.

He pushed the U.S. rulers’ efforts to “reform the international trading system” and stop “predatory behaviors” that are “distorting global markets,” speaking about trade fights with Beijing. He took credit for the talks between the governments of North and South Korea, and urged the leaders of other capitalist governments to join the U.S. rulers to push back Tehran.

Trump’s tax cuts for the bosses were popular with many of the Davos crowd. “They are now licking their lips,” Joseph Stiglitz, a columnist for the liberal British *Guardian* and self-professed members of the “resistance” to Trump, told the *New York Times* Jan. 24. “Davos Man has been able to overlook Trump’s ‘America First’ rhetoric, his anti-climate-change action, his protectionism, nativism, racism, bigotry, narcissism, misogyny, for the lucre that seems to be the true motivating force behind Davos Man.”

The Davos conferences were started decades ago by professor Klaus Schwab, who chaired Trump’s talk, based on assembling liberal-minded “globalists” seek-

ing to impose their meritocratic views on the world.

This meritocracy is marked by its fervently held belief in its elevated intelligence, destined to wield its cosmopolitan outlook and “nudge” a stupider world for its own good. It sets itself apart, reveling in how educated, cultured and correct it is, especially in relation to the working classes, completely convinced of its “deservedness.” Its members make money setting up things like Davos to dispense advice to the high and mighty.

‘Europe’ takes the mike

French President Emmanuel Macron, the new poster boy for “globalism” and “ever increasing” integration in Europe, was a featured speaker. His “globalism” and “Europeanism” has nothing to do with an internationalist course, it’s his version of “France first.”

“France is back at the core of Europe,” he declared, “because we will never have any French success without a European success.” Macron is challenging German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the leadership of the European Union. His hope is that French capital can use the EU more to its benefit, the way the German rulers have done for so long at the expense of weaker rivals, especially in Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy. Working people in these countries have paid dearly for Berlin’s benefit in life, limb and living conditions.

Unfortunately for Macron, the French capitalist class is too weak to push Berlin aside. The German rulers’ economy is twice as big as France’s, its industrial sector larger, its growth rate higher and its unemployment nearly one-third.

Macron’s government has made some progress in making it easier for capitalists to fire workers, resulting in workers losing jobs, including in auto and retail. But the capitalist rulers in France are still far behind the U.S. bosses in their ability to fire workers.

Merkel says she wants to work more with Macron, but will do so only in ways that don’t threaten the profits of Germany’s capitalist rulers.

Merkel didn’t get much traction at Davos. She has been unable to put together a government since the September elections, where both her Christian Democratic Union Party and its governing partner, the Social Democrats, took heavy losses. The new Alternative for Germany, which opposes more federalism in Europe and the government’s immigration policies, saw its vote grow, coming in third.

Merkel talked about the need for “multilateral solutions” and “reforms” of the EU, such as a bank union and a more “assertive defense and foreign policy.” But these are a utopia in a “union” that is fraying at the seams — with Brexit, deep divisions over how to handle immigration, and an open revolt against dictates by the German rulers from governments in newer member states in the east, primarily Poland and Hungary.

Even amid today’s economic uptick, the political crisis of the world’s capitalist rulers’ continues.

Immigration debate

Continued from front page

focused on the dreamers, instead of demanding amnesty for all immigrants. These liberals and middle-class radicals believe that students and college graduates are more deserving of staying in the U.S. than workers. Trump shares this view.

These groups did little when Trump removed Temporary Protected Status from Haitians, Nicaraguans and Salvadorans, who they see overwhelmingly as less-worthy unskilled workers.

Anti-immigrant conservatives are angry because they assumed Trump shared their reactionary all-out pro-deportations agenda. Breitbart News called the president “Amnesty Don.”

The fact is the overwhelming majority of workers who voted for Trump — just like other workers — don’t care about the wall and have no interest in mass deportations of immigrants. What they voted for was to drain the swamp in Washington.

When BBC sent reporters to rural Long Beach in Washington state in January to interview U.S.-born workers there, they expected to find widespread support for recent arrests and deportations of workers without papers who had been living there for years. Trump won a majority of the county in the 2016 election, the first time for a Republican candidate since 1952.

BBC’s reporters were surprised with the results. “These are our friends, these are our neighbors, these are people that we value,” school superintendent Jenny Risner said.

Since taking office the Trump administration has made only minor shifts in U.S. immigration policy. Even those are in continuity with previous administrations — acting to exercise control over the border and the flow of immigrant labor depending on the needs of the capitalist bosses.

After the 2007 financial collapse that shook the United States and the world, the decline in the number of workers without papers crossing the border accelerated because there were fewer jobs. As a result, under the Obama administration the number of deportations declined to the lowest in more than 40 years. At the same time, the number of workers here without papers declined.

“Overall deportations were lower last year than in any year under Obama,” Ioan Grillo wrote in the *New York Times* Jan. 29. And Mexicans in the U.S. are still sending money home, he said. “In fact, last year is estimated to be a record-breaker for remittances.”

Since Trump’s election, immigration authorities deported 81,000 in 2017, Grillo said. “This number represents more deportations from the interior of the country than in 2016 and 2015, but fewer than every other year of Mr. Obama’s presidency.”

Capitalists need immigrant labor

As the economy has picked up in recent months, bosses have to look harder to find a supply of cheap labor. The number of workers without papers crossing from Mexico has also increased, after a sharp drop in the first months of the Trump administration.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement tries to garner support for deportations by claiming that it focuses on “criminal aliens.” That’s their excuse for attempts since 2006 to deport Ravi Ragbir, executive director of the New Sanctuary Movement in New York City. Ragbir was a permanent resident when he agreed to a plea bargain then on charges of wire fraud. On Jan. 11 he was detained while reporting to ICE for a regular check-in, required while he challenges the deportation order. After protests and a legal challenge, federal Judge Katherine Forrest said his detention was “unnecessarily cruel” and ordered his release Jan. 29. He still faces the possibility of deportation.

Workers’ changing attitudes and the need of the boss class for immigrant labor underscores the growing opportunities to advance the fight for amnesty for all immigrants, a key part of uniting the working class and strengthening the unions.

Join April 23-May 6
May Day Brigade to Cuba
 For info contact:
nnoc20012002@yahoo.com
www.NNOC.info