

THE MILITANT

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on 32nd anniversary
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 21 MAY 28, 2018

Workers look to ‘Militant’ for news on teacher fights

BY DAN FEIN

As we approach the final week of the Socialist Workers Party campaigns to sell 1,400 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,400 books by SWP leaders and raise \$112,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund, reports coming in

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY SPRING DRIVES

from SWP members and supporters, as well as Communist League members in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. reflect an increase in the class struggle and corresponding interest in communist literature. The eight-week subscription drive is ahead of schedule. It ends May 22.

Janet Post, one of a number of SWP members, co-workers and other workers campaigning in North Carolina to build the May 16 teachers’ rally in
Continued on page 3

Liberals attack on ‘taking the Fifth’ threat to workers’ rights

BY TERRY EVANS

If your media gazing is confined to the *New York Times*, NPR, “Saturday Night Live” and the late-night “talk” shows, you would think all right-minded people are determined to oust President Donald Trump and that they’re on the verge of succeeding.

The relentless efforts of this “Resistance” — the liberals and middle-class left seeking to force Trump from office — aren’t really aimed at him. Their real target is the millions of working people who voted for him, described as a mob of bigots and xenophobes, and by Hillary Clinton as the “deplorables.” The meritocratic-minded liberals see today’s great danger as the increasingly feisty working class, and its political rights as a liability. Finding ways to curtail these workers and their impact on politics is the order of the day.

“The possibility of reasoned deliberation...
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Teacher victory in Pueblo is victory for all workers

Colorado win spurs teachers’ fight in N. Carolina



Militant/Mike Shur

Teachers, students, supporters march 20,000-strong in Raleigh, North Carolina’s capital, May 16, part of teacher uprisings in West Virginia, Kentucky, Arizona and Colorado.

BY HELEN MEYERS

PUEBLO, Colo. — Teachers and paraprofessionals here voted up new contracts May 12-13 by a big majority. They had mounted a spirited and popular five-day strike, picketing schools, marching in protests across the city and rallying in front of the school district’s office in the first walkout in Colorado’s public schools in nearly 25 years.

“It’s a win. We had to make some compromises, but some workers hadn’t had an advance in three years,”

Tina Gurule, a counselor, told the *Militant* after the vote. “What I got most out of this is that Pueblo is a union town. Seeing all the support was very important.”

The victory in Pueblo was a boost that school workers and their supporters in North Carolina could carry with them into the May 16 mass mobilization outside the Capitol in Raleigh. Over 40 school districts closed down after more than 15,000 teachers requested personal days to rally for pay
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Korea agreement would open the door to gains for working people



Korean Central News Agency

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang May 9. Talks were preparation for Kim meeting with President Donald Trump June 12 in Singapore.

US rulers, NKorea take steps toward pact on weapons

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. and North Korean governments are on a course that could conclude with a historic agreement eliminating nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula, ending the U.S. economic war on North Korea, eliminating U.S. and North Korean war threats there, and beginning greater economic and social collaboration between the two Koreas. This would be a victory for
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For a nuclear-free Korea, US troops, weapons out!

Steps taken by the U.S. and North Korean governments to establish talks about ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons are being welcomed

EDITORIAL

by working people there, in Japan and across the Pacific. Whatever the U.S. capitalist rulers’ motivation — which is always to defend their imperialist
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Jewish question is at the heart of clashes across the Middle East

BY TERRY EVANS

Tel Aviv’s military carried out its biggest-ever airstrikes on Iranian forces in Syria May 10, where Iran’s capitalist rulers have been reinforcing their Revolutionary Guard forces, allied Shiite militias and weapons systems that threaten Israel. The strike took place as the Israeli rulers faced a series of deliberate provocations led by reactionary Islamist Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian rulers, their Hezbollah ally in Lebanon, and Hamas all call for Israel’s destruction. Their clashes with Tel Aviv reflect the fact that the right of Jews to seek protection in Israel from persistent Jew-hatred around the capitalist world is at the heart of politics in the Mideast.

From September 2015 Moscow’s airstrikes and Tehran-backed ground troops were key in reversing losses by Bashar al-Assad’s dictatorial regime in Syria’s civil war. This opened the door for the Iranian rulers to take

steps to advance their counterrevolutionary influence in the region.

Defending the interests of Israel’s capitalist rulers, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman boasted that the strikes took out “almost the entire Iranian infrastructure in Syria.” Is-
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Thousands of Las Vegas casino workers set strike vote May 22

What is working-class view on Trans Mountain pipeline?

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A major conflict has developed between competing wings of the Canadian New Democratic Party — the one in power in Alberta and the one in power in British Columbia — over continuing the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline to triple the amount of shale oil it can carry to port on the Pacific. The pipeline was originally built in 1953. The aim of Canada's oil barons is to step up sales and profits by exporting more oil to markets in Asia and the U.S., but the expansion will result in a major increase in tanker traffic in Vancouver's Burrard Inlet.

Backing the expansion are the Liberal Party-led federal government; the NDP government in Alberta; Kinder Morgan, a major U.S. pipeline company that is building the Trans Mountain expansion; the oil bosses centered in Alberta; and most bosses in British Columbia. Some indigenous groups also support the project.

The previous Liberal Party-led government in British Columbia backed the pipeline, reflecting the big-business interests who see profits from increased exports of oil.

But the current NDP government — allied with the Green Party, environmental groups and many indigenous organizations — is opposed. They hope their pro-Green position will aid their ongoing electoral ambitions. At the same time, they're committed to advancing capitalist interests, and are supporting a big natural gas project that involves a liquefaction plant, pipeline and a new port on the Pacific Coast.

The Alberta Federation of Labour supports the expansion. The British Columbia Federation of Labour takes no position. Some union officials are for it, seeing more jobs involved, while others see less benefit for themselves and are opposed.

The British Columbia government has centered its opposition on the danger of oil spills contaminating the land and water. As long as this is in the hands of the capitalist exploiters, this danger is real.

The Communist League here joins this debate, talking to workers on the job, at their doorsteps, at labor actions and other protests. It isn't oil, or pipelines, or tankers that are the cause of pollution or fouling the environment, we explain. The cause is the capitalist mode of production and the bosses' indifference to workers' safety and to nature in their relentless drive for profit.

We say so-called Green politics is just another form of class-collaboration that leads away from the fight for independent working-class political action and the conquest of power by workers and farmers — the only road to defend labor and the earth's land, waters and atmosphere.

Bourgeois debate

Both the Alberta and British Columbia provincial governments are led by the New Democratic Party, a pro-capitalist party that had its origins in the labor movement. Today it competes for support from the capitalist rulers to vie for office against the Liberals, Conservatives and other



Courtesy transmountain.com

Potential for environmental disaster with expansion of Trans Mountain pipeline and oil shipments is not caused by oil, but capitalist exploitation of land, labor and disregard for workers.

bourgeois parties in Canada.

NDP Premier John Horgan says the British Columbia government is defending "the interests of British Columbians." The federal government says it is defending the interests of all Canadians. But there is no "we" — Canada is class-divided. And the capitalist exploiters have zero interest in the needs and conditions of working people.

In retaliation for the British Columbia government's opposition to the pipeline, the Alberta government banned the import of wine from British Columbia Feb. 6. It also introduced legislation April 16 threatening to cut the flow of oil to British Columbia. The NDP government in British Columbia is asking the courts to decide if it can take control of the flow of oil into the province.

In the midst of this intra-NDP showdown, Kinder Morgan suspended all nonessential spending on construction April 8 and set a May 31 deadline to decide on the future of the expansion project.

The federal government in Ottawa insists the new pipeline will be completed. "We are actively pursuing legislative options that will assert, thus reinforce, the government of Canada's jurisdiction in this matter," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said April 15.

Thousands demonstrated at the Trans Mountain construction site in Burnaby March 10, demanding an end to the

pipeline expansion. Some 200 have been arrested for violating an injunction that prevents blocking entry to the construction site.

Some First Nations groups oppose the expansion project, which crosses tribal lands. With total disregard for their sovereignty, the government didn't consult with them on the expansion.

One way or another, Canada's capitalist rulers will assure the oil will be brought to British Columbia and shipped out for profit. Thousands of kilometers of pipelines have already been built and more is planned.

If trains are used to haul the oil instead, the danger is higher. In their drive for profits, the rail bosses have slashed crews, lengthened hours and increased the danger for workers and those who live near rail lines. This was illustrated dramatically by the oil train explosion that killed 47 people in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, in July 2013. Nevertheless, the use of trains to transport oil is being expanded in Canada in face of the lack of pipeline capacity.

Under capitalism the transport of oil and other volatile or toxic substances by pipeline, rail or truck is carried out with contempt for workers' lives and limbs and for nature. Only through organizing to fight for workers control over production can workers gain some control over safety and the pace of work on the job

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THE MILITANT

Unite all construction workers to win job safety

Over the last decade 166 workers have been killed on New York City construction sites, most on nonunion jobs with undocumented labor. This highlights the need to unite workers by fighting for amnesty for immigrant workers, a precondition to build fighting unions.



Count Me In April 26 New York commemoration of construction workers killed on the job.

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

Workers want news on fights

Continued from front page

Raleigh, the state capital, has been joining in actions and knocking on workers' doors. In Greensboro she met Nicholas Wright, a barber and plumber who is African-American.

"I support the teachers and anyone who fights for a wage increase. It always seems like those that earn the least, work the hardest," Wright said. "We can try to make a difference. And if we do — a change is going to come." He got a *Militant* subscription and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, a pamphlet by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Post also knocked on the door of Brianna Howard, 21, a mail carrier in Raleigh who had participated in some of the teachers' protests. "We also talked about the elections," Post wrote.

"It's all about the lesser evil," Howard said. "I'm not afraid to say I don't support either the Democrats or Republicans. I've voted for people who say they're 'independent,' but the problem is they turn out not to really be independent." She said she was glad to learn about the SWP and got a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Barnes. (See ad below for books on special.)

Glova Scott and Samir Hazboun were also in Greensboro knocking on doors to build the May 16 action. "We met Shannon Myers, a high school art teacher," Scott wrote. "Myers is organizing transportation from her school to the rally in Raleigh. She told us about the deteriorating conditions where she works."

"I spent \$1,000 plus out of my own pocket for art supplies this year," Myers said. "The roof leaks at the school and the air conditioning goes off and on.

Given this situation, it's not surprising many students are behind in their reading skills," she said. And the tornado that hit Greensboro in late April devastated the neighborhood near her school, making life more difficult.

Hazboun, who had just returned from the May Day brigade to Cuba, said that conditions like this are simply unheard of there. "The Cuban Revolution put a high priority on literacy and education," he said. "It took the revolution, and workers and farmers taking power for the Cuban people to make learning a reality." Myers got a *Militant* subscription.

"Communist League members Paul Landry and I brought word of the teachers' uprising in the United States to about 100 teachers, janitors, cafeteria and other school support workers May 9," John Steele reports from Montreal. "They were demonstrating outside a meeting of the school commission scheduled to approve staff cuts for next year. The workers eagerly grabbed up copies of the French-language translation of the May 14 *Militant* editorial hailing the unprecedented wave of teachers strikes and demonstrations. The struggles in the U.S. have not been broadly covered in the media here."

"If a strike movement doesn't affect the society and the economy then the bosses won't be ready to move," said school janitor Stephane Raciot. "But if you close the schools like they are doing in the U.S., believe me, they will have to give in." He signed up to get emailed to him the weekly French-language *Militant* article.

'You're talking about me!'

"You are talking about me!" responded Ashley Johnson when Helen Meyers and Jacquie Henderson knocked on her door in Maplewood, Minnesota. They talked about how workers have been pushed back by bosses' moves to put the crisis of the capitalist system on workers' backs and their experiences joining teachers' uprisings in Oklahoma and Colorado.

"I was one of the first workers kicked out the door last March when WestRock, a paper company, began to close the plant," she said. "We've been pushed back,



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

"We've been pushed back and like the teachers, I'm ready to do something about it," Ashley Johnson, right, told SWP member Helen Meyers when she knocked on her door in Maplewood, Minnesota. Meyers was telling workers about the teachers' fight and introducing them to SWP.

and like the teachers, I'm ready to do something about it!" Johnson signed up for a *Militant* subscription, and said that she looks forward to reading it and learning more about the SWP.

Henderson and Meyers visited a Teamster truck drivers' picket line in Minneapolis. "One of the persons we met was Julien Brygo, who was visiting the U.S. from France. He was excited to see the *Militant* article on the rail strike there. When we showed him *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, Brygo said, 'I just got that book in Paris on May Day!'" The title is part of a four-book series covering the mighty battles that built the Teamsters union in the Midwest in the 1930s and the indispensable role played by communists who helped found the SWP.

"A few days later we met Brygo for coffee," Henderson wrote. "We brought a number of Pathfinder books in French. He got a copy of *Clinton's Anti-Working-Class Record* by Barnes. I asked him about the May Day rally. 'It was wonderful with all the unions celebrating international workers day,' he said. 'Then it went horrible, with disruption and fires and the cops shooting tear gas. I was trying to get away and saw this street stall of your books. One of the militants there, someone like you, showed me Dobbs' book and I got it. And now I meet your party here!'"

To join efforts to support the teachers and to expand the reach of the *Militant* and revolutionary books, contact the SWP or Communist League nearest you, listed on page 8.

Working-class view on pipeline debate

Continued from page 2

and to protect the environment.

I talked on the phone with a rail worker from Calgary, Alberta, and we got into a discussion on the pipeline debate. "Trains stop, trains break down. A pipeline is so much more efficient. It is continuous," he said. When I raised that workers through their unions should have control over safety, he agreed. "Safety is part of what we workers care about," he said, asking that his name not be used because he was afraid of reprimands from his boss.

sals from his boss.

Because we have no control over job conditions and safety, he said, whenever there's a problem, the company blames it on the workers.

Workers are not driven to toss aside safety or concern for nature at the altar of maximizing profits. Their interest lies in the health and safety of both land and labor.

Michel Prairie in Montreal contributed to this article.

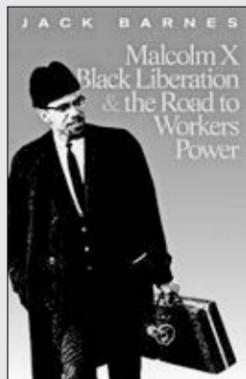
Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, fund

March 24–May 22 (week seven)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
Albany+	95	96	95	54	\$5,400	\$4,284
Atlanta	90	58	90	37	\$9,700	\$3,265
Chicago*	120	117	120	98	\$11,500	\$8,166
Dallas*	50	49	40	27	\$1,900	\$1,360
Lincoln*	25	22	20	16	\$300	\$222
Los Angeles+	125	129	125	114	\$10,500	\$9,973
Miami	35	23	35	28	\$3,200	\$2,873
New York	165	133	165	101	\$16,700	\$11,135
Oakland	85	76	85	63	\$13,000	\$9,628
Philadelphia	65	66	65	38	\$3,600	\$2,243
Seattle	95	90	95	72	\$7,900	\$6,300
Twin Cities*	85	75	85	52	\$4,500	\$1,595
Washington	70	67	70	40	\$7,500	\$6,803
Total U.S.	1,105	1,001	1,090	740	\$95,700	\$67,847
Prisoners	25	29				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	70	69	70	61	\$2,500	\$1,030
Manchester	50	47	50	41	\$950	\$494
Total U.K.	120	116	120	102	\$3,450	\$1,524
CANADA						
Montreal	60	58	60	43	\$5,700	\$6,520
Vancouver	45	37	45	34	\$3,000	\$2,666
Total Canada	105	95	105	77	\$8,700	\$9,186
NEW ZEALAND						
	45	46	45	26	\$4,000	\$2,830
AUSTRALIA						
	40	38	40	16	\$800	\$835
FRANCE						
					500	484
Other						
						527
Total	1,440	1,325	1,400	961	\$113,150	\$83,233
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To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 8

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today — from school workers in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Arizona and Colorado, to retail and factory workers looking to stand up and fight. Send in articles, photos and letters on picket lines and other labor protests to themilitant@mac.com or mail them to: 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018; or call us at (212) 244-4899.

Thousands of Las Vegas casino workers set strike vote May 22

The over 50,000 members of UNITE HERE's Culinary and Bartenders unions will vote May 22 on whether or not to authorize a strike once their contract expires June 1. The two unions include bartenders, guest room attendants, cocktail servers, food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks and kitchen workers.

"You either show up and fight for what you deserve, or you give up and take whatever the company gives you," Geoconda Argüello-Kline, secretary-treasurer of Culinary Workers Union Local 226, said in a May 9 news release. The contract covers 34 casino resorts and hotels in Las Vegas.

"Workplace safety is one of the main issues, along with wage increases and retaining health care benefits," Bethany Khan, spokesperson for Local 226, told the *Militant* in a phone interview May 14.

The union is pushing for measures to protect workers from sexual harassment. "We've heard stories of women cocktail servers facing harassment and the company not doing anything," Kahn said. "We're demanding safety buttons for workers on the floor and to make sure the radio and Wi-Fi work in the towers

where guest room attendants work."

Also of concern are the bosses' plans to replace some workers with robots. "Robotic bartenders, concierges, room service are all in the pipeline," Khan said.

The Culinary Union says it is the state's largest immigrant organization. Some 54 percent of the union's members are Latino and 55 percent are women. The union has participated in May Day and other protests to demand, "No deportations."

A 1984 citywide strike by the union lasted 67 days.

— Brian Williams



Culinary Workers Union Local 226

Workers at Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, celebrate union-organizing victory. At end of April, 84 percent of the 614 workers voted to be represented by UNITE HERE's Culinary Workers Local 226 and Bartenders Union Local 165. Contracts at 34 hotels covering 50,000 workers expire in Las Vegas June 1 and workers are preparing for possible strike action.

Lessons from Chernobyl disaster on 32nd anniversary

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The worst nuclear disaster in history took place in Soviet Ukraine 32 years ago when the Chernobyl power plant exploded April 26, 1986. The explosion blew apart the top of reactor No. 4, releasing large amounts of radiation, the core began to melt and an intense fire broke out. Winds carried clouds of radioactive dust over Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and other parts of Europe.

Some 8.4 million people were affected. Dozens of workers at the plant died within weeks. How many died since or were stricken with cancers and other illnesses is disputed, because Stalinist officials tried to cover up the facts. But they number in the tens of thousands, maybe more. Over 100,000 people were eventually relocated from the area and an official 18-mile-wide exclusion zone still surrounds the site.

The disaster highlighted the contempt for working people by the Stalinist government in Moscow. Chernobyl released 400 times more radiation than the murderous atomic bombs the U.S. rulers dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Moscow decided to build the reactor without a containment structure that would have impeded the release of radiation. At first, they refused to release the fact the explosion took place. They delayed evacuating people from the area, lying about the severity of the explosion. And they showed total indifference to the lives of the hundreds of thousands of miners, other workers and soldiers — known as liquidators — who either volunteered or were ordered to join plant workers to try to put out the fire, contain the leaking reactor, relocate residents and begin to clean up the area.

Government bureaucrats did all in their power to cover up the scope of the disaster. They capped the Geiger counters measuring radiation at 3.6, the highest level where human presence was permitted. The actual reading was 15,000! "Top secret" instructions were issued to classify all data on the explosion and radiation levels.

The number of people taken to area hospitals mushroomed. By May 12 it was more than 10,000. So the health ministry issued new standards for acceptable radiation levels — 10 times

higher than before. The majority of those hospitalized were then reclassified as healthy and sent home.

Only heroic deeds by workers, knowing full well they might have to pay with their lives, stopped things from becoming far worse.

The Chernobyl Power Station Firefighter Brigade was the first to respond. They had no protective gear and most of them died. Though they weren't told the real character of the fire, survivors said they knew it was bad. "If we'd followed regulations, we would never have gone near the reactor," firefighter Anatoli Zakharov said. "But it was a moral obligation."

The reactor sat on top of a coolant pool of 5 million gallons of water. Five days after the explosion the highly radioactive core was still melting, separated from the water by the concrete floor that was slowly being burnt through. Had the core hit the water, it would have triggered a massive radiation-contaminated explosion, making northern Ukraine uninhabitable for more than a century and devastating much of Europe.

The pool had to be drained. Three plant workers — Alexei Ananenko, Valeri Bezpалov and Boris Baranov — volunteered to go down and try to open the drain. Using a flashlight in a myriad of pipes and valves, they waded in radioactive water up to their knees until they found the right ones and got them open. When the core burnt through, the pool was empty.

"To those who saved the world," reads the inscription on the plaque of a monument to the liquidators in Chernobyl.

Stalinist officials still kept Chernobyl's three other reactors running. Unit 2 was shut down in 1991 after a fire. Unit 1 closed in 1996 after the widespread appearance of thyroid cancers among children. Unit 3 ran until 2000, when public pressure finally forced Ukrainian officials to close it.

There are thousands of workers still there, preventing new leaks and preparing to decommission the plant, brought in by train daily from Slavutych, a town built for them outside the exclusion zone.

Militant reporters John Studer and Frank Forrestal visited Chernobyl and Slavutych in 2014, meeting with plant workers and some workers who've moved back near the plant. Their report, "Chernobyl: Tale of Two Opposite Class

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Coming soon! The Militant's new website

By the end of May the *Militant's* upgraded website will be in place, offering easier access to the paper's coverage of working-class politics — from today back to 1928. Readers will also be able to purchase subscriptions online.

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



May 31, 1993

The Clinton administration is pushing ahead on its plans to organize a military intervention in Haiti. The 500-member police force that Washington hopes to assemble under the banner of the United Nations is not intended to end repression and restore democratic rights in Haiti. Its real aim will be to ensure stability in that Caribbean country under a government favorable to the interests of U.S. big business. Working people should oppose these moves.

The hypocrisy of Washington's claims of concern for the Haitian people is demonstrated by its callous treatment of refugees fleeing the reign of terror of Haiti's military dictators. The U.S. military has been carrying out piracy on the open sea for a year now — intercepting refugees in their boats, forcibly returning them to the island where many face reprisals or death.



May 31, 1968

May 24 — Before [French President Charles] de Gaulle spoke today, the general deliberately deferred his appearance as long as possible despite the enormous pressure on him to do something about what is already being described in the press as a "social revolution."

De Gaulle's strategy was to "play it cool" in the expectation that the enormous strike wave would lose its momentum as people grew fearful of what might come next. Thus choosing the psychological moment, he could appear on the television screens once more as the "savior of France" and thus retrieve the situation.

The general left several items out of his calculations. Instead of subsiding, the strike wave deepened and spread. Some 10,000,000 workers out of a labor force of just under 15,000,000 are now on strike, more than 2,000 factories being occupied.



May 29, 1943

AKRON, OHIO — Outraged by the recent decision of the War Labor Board, 40,000 rubber workers in the Goodrich, Firestone and Goodyear companies continued their protest strike into the third day.

After almost a year's delay the WLB handed down a decision on May 21, granting only a three cent an hour wage increase to the rubber workers, and flatly rejected their demands for night shift bonuses. A similar angry reaction to the WLB ruling occurred at the Firestone plant, where almost all the workers quit work shortly after the news of the decision was out.

The walkouts were spontaneous. As the news of the WLB decision spread like wildfire through various plant buildings of both Firestone and Goodrich, department meetings were held. Rank and file workers denounced the unjust ruling and threw down their tools.

Pueblo victory spurs fights

Continued from front page

raises and increased school funding. From a fight in West Virginia in February, through strikes and mass actions, the teacher uprising has rolled through Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Colorado and North Carolina. Union and nonunion workers have marked the fights with creativity, distrust of legislators of all stripes, and new forms of rank-and-file organizing. They have been inspired by and learned from each other and fought for unity across union and professional lines. They have welcomed and involved other workers in what has had elements of a broad social movement.

“We came out of this stronger,” Suzanne Ethredge, president of the Pueblo Education Association, told the *Militant* May 15. “School administrators were arrogant. They didn’t expect the strike.”

She said that of 1,017 teachers there, 775 are union members and 600 voted to walk out. A majority of the 150-member paraprofessionals union went out too. The five-day strike had a deep impact on them all. Several teachers on probation initially went to work, but decided to walk out to join the picket line.

“Words can never fully express the bond that you develop with the people who walk the strike line with you,” Tessa Armijo, a teacher at Goodnight Elementary School, told the May 13 *Pueblo Chieftain*. “We went through so many powerful emotions together and were very cognizant of the fact that our own success relied heavily on the people we stood shoulder to shoulder with.”

Increasing numbers of teachers wore buttons reading, “Pueblo is a union town.”

Pueblo school workers had been working without an agreement since August. Under state law, the May 12 bargaining session between the union and the school board had to take place in public. So more than 30 students and union members filled the gallery, some shouting out questions and “advice” to the board. Outside the building hundreds more rallied and cheered.

Teachers will get a 2 percent Cost of Living Adjustment retroactive to January, rising to 2.5 percent in September. Paraprofessionals will get a one-time \$500 payment in June and a 3.25 percent COLA in September. Workers will get paid for three days of the strike and get two personal days.

On May 9, the third day of the strike, more than 1,000 people — parents,

teachers, students and members of area unions — filled up the entire River Walk park. They looked like a sea of pink, the color of the strike.

Ethredge said teachers started wearing pink T-shirts 20 years ago. “Administrators didn’t like them, so we continued wearing them,” she said.

There is a long history of labor battles in Pueblo. The massive EVRAZ steel mill here was built over 100 years ago and run by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. Strikes and battles took place for decades in the company’s surrounding coal mines and in the mill. The number of workers at EVRAZ today is a pale reflection of the past, but many steelworkers joined the teachers’ protests.

A lot of strikers said they were struck by how many workers thanked them for standing up.

“I saw this coming,” Josephine Munoz, a certified nursing assistant, told the *Militant* outside the Pueblo Central High School May 15. One of her children is a student there. “They had to strike to get what they deserved. The administrators did all they could to turn the parents against the teachers. It didn’t work.”

Thousands march in North Carolina

Thousands of teachers and their supporters started filling downtown Raleigh early May 16, marching up



Militant/Mike Shur

In largest teacher protest in North Carolina history people from big cities and small towns marched May 16 for pay raises, increased school funding, more staff, dignity and respect.

Fayetteville Street to North Carolina’s Capitol. Over 20,000 people from big cities and small towns across the state marched in the morning, demanding pay raises, increased school funding, more staff and smaller classes.

It was already the largest teachers’ protest in state history. At least 42 school districts, including the state’s six largest, canceled classes for the day, affecting close to 1 million students. Over the last couple of weeks, teachers and their supporters built the action

and held meetings to make lunches for students who will miss school.

“We are not alone in this,” Pat Travis, a retired teacher, told 30 people at a meeting organized by the Wake County Association of Educators May 12. “We should discuss with our co-workers that we are part of a bigger movement, aligned with teachers in West Virginia, Arizona and other places who are fighting and winning. This should give us the courage to stand up, build a leadership and win.”

North Carolina is a right-to-work state and has one of the lowest rates of unionization in the country. Trying to scare school workers or weaken support for them with union-baiting hasn’t worked.

“Let’s call this what it is, Teacher Union thugs want to control the education process!” said state Rep. Mark Brody from Union County in a Facebook post May 11. “I don’t want Union County schools ... to turn into Chicago. Let the Union thugs get their way now and we are half way there.”

More than 1,000 teachers in the county responded by requesting a personal day for the May 16 rally, forcing the district to close.

The teachers, school workers and union movement come out stronger.

Anna Rosen contributed to this article from North Carolina.



Militant/Raul Gonzalez

Striking school workers, parents and students march around River Walk park in Pueblo, Colorado, May 9, turning it into a sea of pink, the traditional color of Pueblo teacher battles.

Active Workers Conference set for Ohio June 14-17

BY SETH GALINSKY

Several hundred workers, youth and other participants from the United States and around the world will join this year’s Active Workers Conference June 14-17, which is sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party.

The four-day meeting in Oberlin, Ohio, takes place in the midst of a rise in labor battles across the country, marked by the fight by teachers and other school workers in West Virginia, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kentucky and North Carolina.

There will be talks by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, classes, socials and plenty of time for informal discussion with fellow revolutionary-minded conference goers, who have been working with co-workers and others to build solidarity and join workers’ protests, visiting workers on their doorsteps to discuss these fights and introduce the party, and who participated in the May Day brigade to revolutionary Cuba.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will give the

main political report, which will take up the significance of the shift in labor battles that is opening the road to rebuilding the labor movement in the United States, along with other key questions for workers’ struggles today.

Mary-Alice Waters, another leader of the party, will give a talk on the fight against women’s oppression and the class-struggle road to women’s emancipation.

SWP National Committee member Dave Prince will give a talk on why the working class is the bearer of culture and morality in the world today.

There will be classes on the Grenada Revolution and its overthrow by the Stalinist clique led by Bernard Coard, on Thomas Sankara and the 1983-87 revolution in Burkina Faso, on the rise and fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution and the mass protests taking place there today, on the importance of the fight for independence and revolutionary change in Puerto Rico, and more.

On June 17, the organized supporters of the party will meet to discuss their

work in designing and promoting Pathfinder literature, making placements at colleges, bookstores and libraries, and raising funds for the party.

If you are interested in being part of building a revolutionary working-class party in the United States or wherever you live in the world and would like to attend the conference, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

Chernobyl lessons

Continued from page 4

Responses,” is available on the *Militant’s* website.

In stark contrast to the Stalinist government’s callous indifference to the lives of working people is the response from Cuba’s revolutionary government. Between 1990 and 2011, Cuba provided medical care free of charge to more than 25,000 Chernobyl victims, overwhelmingly children from Ukraine. They were flown to Cuba, and treated at Tará, a special medical facility built by Cuban workers’ voluntary labor.

“This kind of social support comes from the people,” Julio Medina, director of Cuba’s Chernobyl program, told the *Militant*. “Those values are the product of the revolution and its policies, our way of life.”

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

UNITED KINGDOM Manchester

The Teachers Strikes in the U.S. — An Example for All Working People. Speaker: Caroline Bellamy, Communist League. Sat., May 26, 7 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Room 301, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. M1 2EH. Tel.: (0161) 478-2496.

Liberals attack ‘taking the 5th’

Continued from front page
eration ... has been obliterated by the white-hot racial and cultural hatreds that Trump was able to exploit to get elected,” Andrew Sullivan writes in a March 12 *New York Times* review of Cass Sunstein’s new book *Impeachment: A Citizen’s Guide*. Sunstein is renowned in meritocratic circles for his view that government has to use its power to “nudge” less-intelligent workers “to do the right thing.”

Speaking in New Zealand May 8 Clinton claimed working people voted against her because of their “in-grained sexism.”

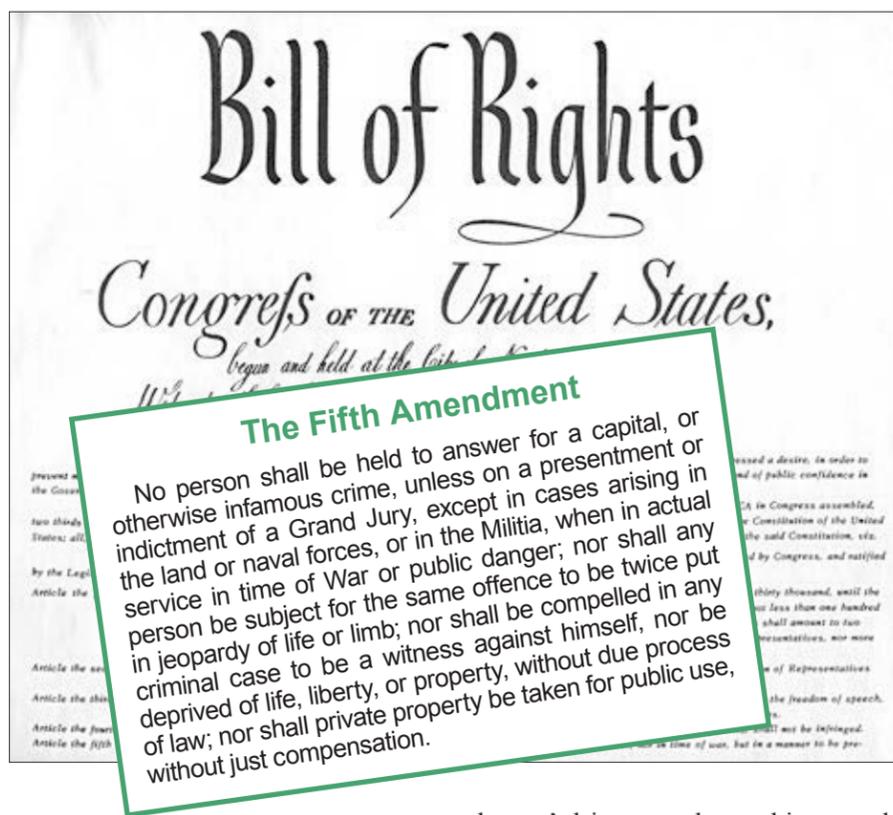
The liberals’ heroes of today — Robert Mueller, the special counsel appointed to “investigate” whether Trump colluded with Moscow to rig his 2016 election, and James Comey, who tried to stop Trump’s election and whose leaks were used to justify the appointment of Mueller — are both former directors of the FBI, the U.S. rulers’ political police. The FBI has been used to attack and disrupt the labor movement, the fight to overthrow Jim Crow segregation, the mass movement against the rulers’ war in Vietnam, the Socialist Workers Party and other groups involved in the struggles of working

people. They are bitter opponents, not heroes, of the working class

Now the liberals are pushing for a rewrite of the Bill of Rights — protections working people will need with rising union and social struggles in the years ahead — in their campaign against the workers who elected Trump.

The *New York Times* published an anonymously leaked list of questions April 30 that it says Mueller wants to grill Trump about. Mueller’s probe is an open-ended partisan witch hunt aimed at finding “evidence” that can be used to impeach the president. Rudolph Giuliani, one of the president’s lawyers, and others who correctly see nothing but a setup in Mueller’s quest for a talk, said Trump may invoke the Fifth Amendment and exercise his right not to reply.

The editors of the *Washington Post* got all huffy May 7, saying Trump should have “nothing to fear from appearing before a duly convened grand jury.” But workers know from bitter experience that a “duly convened grand jury” is a tool cops and prosecutors use to try to hang a frame-up on those they target. They compel witnesses to attend, on pain of detention, and interrogate you with no right to an attorney.



Prominent civil liberties lawyer Alan Dershowitz went further April 30, saying, “Invoking the Fifth Amendment ... will make him [Trump] seem guilty.”

These were questions fought out during the FBI and congressional witch hunt in the 1950s. At that time some liberals protested attacks on the Fifth Amendment, refuting the false notion that invoking it was an admission of guilt. When witnesses refused to name names demanded by members of Congress, they were held in contempt and jailed.

Dershowitz’s assertion is a mockery of the protections in the Bill of Rights. The Fifth Amendment says, “No person shall ... be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” After the first American Revolution against the British Crown, the country’s new rulers drew up a constitution that failed to establish protections against state attacks on basic rights. Rural farmers waged an armed protest, known as Shays’ Rebellion, in 1786. This uprising helped lead to the Bill of Rights.

Today millions of workers are inspired by the rising struggle being waged by teachers across the U.S. The

bosses’ drive to make working people pay for the capitalist crisis will provoke more protests against the rulers’ wars and oppression and to sharper class battles in the years ahead. The propertied owners will make greater use of their cops and courts to frame up workers involved in these struggles and to quash political rights. Undermining the Fifth Amendment deals a blow to working people.

The hatred of Trump and the workers who elected him is rife in the media. Attacks on the new “Roseanne” TV show and the lionizing of Michelle Wolf’s belittling anti-woman rant at Ivanka Trump and White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders disguised as “humor” at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner are just two examples. There are a growing number of TV shows, like CBS’ “Madame Secretary,” that involve the impeachment of a fictional president.

Despite their campaign, liberals are farther away than ever from impeaching Trump. He has garnered ruling-class support by cutting corporate taxes. He has opened the door to big changes in Korea, raising the possibility of peace and a deal there.

With Mueller unable to find any evidence of collusion between Moscow and Trump’s 2016 campaign, his probe has focused on other individuals with some connection to the president. One is former campaign official Paul Manafort, who Mueller has charged with tax and bank fraud. Manafort challenged Mueller’s sprawling probe in court as overly broad. Federal Judge T.S. Ellis said the charges bore no relation to what Mueller was authorized to investigate, adding the ex-FBI chief didn’t have “unfettered power.” He has yet to rule on whether Mueller’s charges will stand.

These issues are of real concern to the working class.

Long history of rulers’ attacks on Fifth Amendment rights

The attack on Fifth Amendment rights is aimed at hard-won constitutional protections workers and the union movement need. The labor upsurge that swept the United States after the Second World War was an enormous problem for the U.S. rulers. Their response was a witch hunt aimed at labor and the radical movement.

Some 378 teachers in New York alone were thrown out of their jobs when school officials used the fact that they had invoked their Fifth Amendment rights upon being dragged before government witch-hunting committees and the Board of Education and asked to name names. Among those dismissed was Samuel Wallach, who had been president of the Teachers Union.

Top union officials joined the assault on workers’ rights. In 1957 the AFL-CIO Executive Committee made the criminal decision that any union official who invoked his constitutional right under the Fifth Amendment should automatically lose his post.

Bosses continue to try to attack this right. Illinois high school teacher John Dryden was docked a day’s pay and issued a warning in 2013 after he told his students about their Fifth Amendment rights when they had to answer a mandatory personal survey about drug, tobacco and alcohol use.

— T.E.

Gov’t backs off moves to bar books to prisoners

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After an outburst of criticism from supporters of political rights, the bosses at the Federal Bureau of Prisons announced May 3 they were halting their new policy severely restricting workers behind federal prison bars from being able to get and read books. Under the policy, which had been in effect for months, ordering through the mail from publishers, bookstores and book clubs was banned and free book shipments from friends and relatives were quashed.

Inmates could only order books through one prison-approved vendor — the name of which prison authorities have not revealed — and the price would be marked up by 30 percent.

According to memos by prison wardens obtained by the media, inmates had to go through a seven-step ordering process with the approved vendor, and submit their requests for a book with title, author and the 13-digit ISBN number for each volume!

Government officials refused to say

in how many of the 122 federal lockdowns these restrictions were being implemented. The rollout of the policy included Virginia and California, with plans to do the same in Florida this month.

In justifying this policy, the Federal Bureau honchos put out a statement claiming it was necessary because “inmate purchased books provide an avenue for introduction of contraband.”

I guess inmates all over the country were ordering from Barnes and Noble and somehow getting the company to scoop out the insides of their books and fill them with drugs, hacksaws or AK47s.

These memos have now been rescinded and new policies are under review, the bureau said in an email to the media, “to ensure we strike the right balance between maintaining the safety and security of our institutions and inmate access to correspondence and reading materials.”

A similar move in New York state last

December sharply restricted prisoners’ ability to purchase books to six vendors, who sold only a couple dozen titles, limited mostly to religious themes, games and coloring books. But an outcry from supporters of prisoners’ rights pressured Gov. Andrew Cuomo to halt the program the following month.

“Moves by federal authorities to impose restrictions on access to books, newspapers and other literature that prisoners want to read is a flagrant violation of constitutional rights,” said *Militant* editor John Studer. “The *Militant* has faced censorship by prison officials because of its politics and coverage of struggles by working people. So far our protests, with support from other defenders of free speech and the press, have beaten back most of these.

“Workers behind bars deserve the right to read what they want and think for themselves without any barriers put in their way by prison authorities,” Studer said. “And the *Militant* has the right to get to its subscribers.”

Discount books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount for prisoners plus a flat rate of \$2.75 for shipping.

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Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767
Atlanta GA 30321-2767

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Korea pact would open door

Continued from front page
all working people.

A summit meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump is now set for June 12 in Singapore. Plans for a summit were first announced in early March. Since then Kim has traveled twice to Beijing to discuss the talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in April 27, and then met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo May 9.

By joining in harsh U.S. and U.N. sanctions, China's rulers have forced the closing of factories and layoffs of thousands of workers in North Korea over the last year. Some 90 percent of North Korea's trade is with China.

Kim flew to Dalian, China, for meetings with Xi May 7-8. Xi informed Trump afterwards that Kim favored steps leading to denuclearization.

In early May the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea informed the U.N. that the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party had decided it would no longer conduct intercontinental ballistic missile launches.

The *New York Times* reported that President Trump requested the Pentagon provide him options for reducing the number of U.S. troops in South Korea, a report that has not been confirmed.

When Pompeo flew to Pyongyang and met with Kim, the *Pyongyang Times* reported he was "warmly greeted." Later that day the North Korean government pardoned three U.S. citizens it had been holding prisoner on charges of engaging in hostile activity. The three left North Korea with Pompeo.

Trump personally greeted their plane when it arrived at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. Thanking Kim, Trump said, "I really think we have a very good chance of doing something very meaningful."

Then on May 12 — two days after President Trump announced the date and place of the summit — Pyongyang invited journalists from the U.S., South Korea, China, Russia and Britain to come watch as they permanently dismantle the North's nuclear testing site May 23–25.

Collaboration between two Koreas

An agreement between Washington and Pyongyang would benefit working people in North Korea, who have borne the brunt of the punishing U.S.-U.N. sanctions.

According to press reports, when North Korean leader Kim met with South Korean President Moon in late

April, Moon said he would like to visit Baekdu Mountain. Kim replied that he would be embarrassed to have Moon travel through North Korea because "our transportation, honestly would be uncomfortable." He was referring to the North's antiquated and deteriorated railway system.

Moon gave Kim a blueprint for modernizing and building rail lines from Seoul to Pyongyang and ultimately to the Chinese border, where it could connect with Russia's Trans-Siberian Railroad. The estimated \$35 billion price tag would be paid for by capitalist investors in South Korea and China.

This would give Beijing an overland connection to South Korea, already an important trading partner. It would help the working class in North Korea break out of their isolation, opening the door to greater economic development, as well as give a boost to the Korean people's longstanding desire for reunification.

Long history of resistance in Korea

The government of North Korea has stated before that it would end its nuclear weapons program if the U.S. government would sign a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War and pledge not to attack in the future. More than 4 million people died in that war, including at least 2 million civilians, hundreds of thousands of Chinese and tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers.

The war was a result of Washington's division of Korea into North and South, carried out with the collusion of Moscow, at the end of World War II. It was imposed against the will of the Korean people, who had resisted Japanese imperialism's decadeslong occupation of the peninsula. Instead of gaining independence they found themselves facing a U.S.-installed dictatorship in the South.

U.S.-led invasion forces bombed and napalmed the North to the ground and made it almost to the border with China before they were pushed back. With the aid of Chinese volunteers, the Korean fighters fought the U.S.-led forces to a stalemate at the 38th parallel, dealing U.S. imperialism its first ever defeat. While the U.S. government agreed to an armistice in 1953, it has refused to sign a peace treaty and still has 28,500 troops in the South today.

Supporters of the North's nuclear program argued that the DPRK needed nuclear weapons as a deterrent to another U.S. attack. But having nuclear weapons and threatening to send a

May Day brigade: 'I saw power of Cuba's revolution'



Militant/Joe Swanson

LINCOLN, Neb. — "I never felt freer as a worker than the two weeks learning about the Cuban Revolution on the May Day Brigade there," Carl Tyler told a dozen people meeting at the Meadowlark Coffee Shop here May 8. Tyler, bottom right, a 78-year-old veteran fighter in defense of Black rights and former trade union organizer, lives and works in Omaha.

Tyler was one of 290 participants from 31 countries on the 13th annual May Day International Brigade to Cuba. The largest contingent with 74 people came from the United States. Brigade participants met with leaders of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) and other mass organizations, and joined in voluntary work on farms near their camp outside Havana. A highlight of the trip was a meeting with veterans of the Rebel Army who were at the forefront of the revolutionary war that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

"The Cuban Revolution is an internationalist revolution, over 400,000 Cuban volunteers helped defeat the racist South African military in the 1980s," Tyler said. "That led to the freeing of Nelson Mandela and victory in overthrowing apartheid."

Participants included factory and food service workers, a railroad conductor, a retired teacher, a retired meatpacking worker and students. Discussion continued for over an hour. Several said they wanted to go on the next brigade.

— JOE SWANSON

"rain of fire" against South Korea and others if attacked, undercuts the moral authority the Korean people had won in the course of the war.

After months of accusing the president of being a warmonger, a racist and a loose cannon, some "never-Trumps" of both the Democratic and Republican parties are discombobulated over the upcoming negotiations.

In a column in the April 25 *New York Times*, Nicholas Eberstadt, from the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, calls the idea of a permanent peace in Korea "delusional" and warns that Kim Jong Un is going to bamboozle Trump.

While much of the discussion of

the talks in the media focuses on denuclearization, the talks include the massive array of North Korea's conventional missiles aimed at the South, along with Washington's formidable weaponry aimed at the North.

Denuclearization has special meaning for working people in Japan, who vividly recall the horror of the U.S. rulers' nuclear attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

The U.S. ruling class backs Trump's North Korea talks. His goal is to be known as a "peace" president. Even the *New York Times* grudgingly recognized this fact May 9, in an article headlined, "President Trump a Nobel Laureate? It's a Possibility."

Help fund 'Militant' fact-finding trip to Puerto Rico!

The *Militant* is sending editor John Studer and correspondent Martín Koppel on a fact-finding trip to the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico May 25-28. A few weeks later Studer will speak for the Socialist Workers Party at the June 18 annual meeting of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, explaining why the fight for revolutionary change and independence for Puerto Rico is in the interest of working people there, in the U.S. and around the world.

Eight months after hurricanes Irma and Maria slammed the island — already ravaged by the capitalist economic crisis — about 100,000 are still without electricity. Tens of thousands of homes have only a blue tarp as a roof.

None of this matters to the U.S. rulers. The U.S.-appointed Financial Oversight and Management Board, known as the junta in Puerto Rico, says it will impose its own cutback budget on the island. Their goal? To squeeze working people to pay for the \$74 billion debt to wealthy bondholders, part of U.S. imperialism's ongoing plunder of the island.

Thousands in Puerto Rican cities and towns, large and small, have joined protests demanding action to restore electricity, opposing the closing of hundreds of public schools and other anti-worker actions by the junta and the colonial government.

Studer and Koppel will meet with students at the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, meet with union leaders, and visit some of the areas in the center of the island that are still without electricity and talk with working people there who have been part of the recent protests.

Help make this trip possible! If you have not yet made a contribution to the Militant Fighting Fund now is the time. If you have already contributed, please consider increasing your pledge. Send contributions, payable to the Militant, to 306 W. 37th St, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

— SETH GALINSKY

Available now at www.themilitant.com

Three-part Militant series on Korea

THE MILITANT Supplement
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 77 2018

US out of Korea! An unknown history

History of Washington's intervention in Korea

BY STEVE CLARK
The following article was originally published in three parts in the Militant in 2013 on September 23, September 30, and October 7.

Part I: How Korean workers and farmers began resistance to U.S. domination, forced partition of nation
This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Korean peo-

well, the vast majority of homes, hospitals, schools, factories and other structures were leveled. Only three major buildings were left standing in Pyongyang, and 18 of the 22 largest cities in the North were 50 to 100 percent destroyed.

After Chinese troops joined the DPRK's fight against Washington's war of conquest on the peninsula in October 1950, Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered destruction of every "installation, factory, city and village" in the North up to the Yalu River. Gen. Curtis LeMay, head of the U.S. Strategic Air Command at the time, later wrote, "We eventually burned

Jewish question is at the heart of clashes in the Middle East

Continued from front page
raeli military sources said their warplanes struck Tehran's munitions warehouses, intelligence sites and observation posts. The assault came after a failed rocket attack launched by Tehran from Syria on targets in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Israeli military also struck several Syrian aerial defense systems after Assad's army tried to shoot down Tel Aviv's missiles.

Moscow stood aside as Tel Aviv targeted Tehran's bases. Immediately prior to their airstrikes, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flew to Moscow for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Moscow wants to protect its growing military and political influence in the Middle East, making its two military bases in Syria permanent. Tel Aviv made sure its airstrikes did no damage to Russian forces. Putin agreed to shelve its threat to supply S-300 anti-aircraft units to Assad. These could have assisted the Syrian regime in protecting Tehran's forces from Israeli airstrikes.

Through its role defending the Assad regime, as well as advances Tehran made in Iraq through use of Shiite militias it controls there, Iran's capitalist rulers are seeking to consolidate connections through those two countries to Hezbollah in Lebanon. They are also backing the Houthis in their war with the government in Yemen and its Saudi and U.S. allies.

Iran's capitalist rulers have been looking to expand their reach for decades, to extend across the region the counterrevolution they carried through against working people at home.

Beginning in the early 1980s they turned back deep gains made by workers, farmers, women and oppressed nationalities following the massive popular uprising in 1979 that overthrew the hated tyranny of the U.S.-backed shah of Iran.

Iran's ruling clerics failed to extend their influence over the Iraqi government in the May 12 parliamentary elections there. The slate backed by Muqtada al-Sadr, one of the few Shiite leaders to distance himself from Tehran, came in first. It had the backing of Iraq's Communist Party. Sadr has also opposed Washington's presence in Iraq.

Shiite militia leader Hadi al-Amiri's bloc, which is backed by the Iranian rulers, came in second. Current Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's ticket, which had been favored to win, was third. Turnout was below 50 percent. Sadr supporters took to the streets in Baghdad chanting, "Iran out!"

For its own imperialist interests, Washington is pushing back against Tehran. The White House announced May 8 that it's pulling out of the pact it had signed — along with the governments of the U.K., France, Germany, Russia and China — to restrict Iran's nuclear program. White House National Security Adviser John Bolton reiterated May 13 that Washington's capitalist rivals in Europe would face sanctions if they trade with Iran. Washington's sanctions, which will fall hardest on working people, are due to be reimposed beginning Aug. 6.

Hamas, which governs Gaza, led Palestinian protesters into provocative attacks on the Israeli border. Tel Aviv's response was predictably lethal, shooting

dead at least 55 demonstrators and wounding hundreds more May 14. The Palestinian turnout was boosted because Hamas closed schools and workplaces that day.

Hamas organizers misled protesters, claiming over loudspeakers that Israeli soldiers were fleeing their positions when in fact they were reinforcing them. This led the protesters to rush the border where they found themselves facing Israeli soldiers with guns. Hamas members in the crowd targeted the soldiers with slingshots, rocks, and kites loaded with Molotov cocktails.

For years Hamas has staged actions aimed at drawing the Israeli rulers' fire with deadly consequences for Palestinian toilers. Hamas' strategy is to create Palestinian "martyrs" to gain sympathy in sections of bourgeois public opinion. They got the desired response from the liberal editors of papers like the *New York Times* and *Daily News*.

Hamas co-founder Mahmoud al-Zahar has said that the group's goal is "removing the Jews" from the Middle East and urged followers to "kill them wherever you may find them."

US rulers seek Israel, Palestinian peace pact

Washington opened its new embassy in east Jerusalem May 14. Days before, the State Department said the U.S. government does not consider the boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem a settled matter, leaving open prospects for further negotiations with Palestinian leaders, including on having the capital of a Palestinian state located there.

A Dec. 11 statement by the Socialist Workers Party — "For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel" — explains such negotiations "must recognize the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including east Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war."

The starting point for the SWP, the statement explains, is "the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religion or beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world."

EDITORIAL

For a nuclear-free Korea, US troops out!

Continued from front page
interests — the removal of nuclear weapons and fingers off the triggers of the thousands of conventional weapons pointed across each side of the Korean border would improve conditions for working people to fight for their interests.

An agreement would improve prospects to push forward the fight to end the division between North and South Korea. A message sent April 13 to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by Steve Clark for the Socialist Workers Party states that the party stands "in solidarity with the seventy-three-year-long struggle to reunify Korea, which Washington partitioned after World War II as it drowned popular uprisings of Korean working people in blood."

The U.S. rulers have stationed their forces there ever since, and waged a devastating war on the Korean people from 1950-53. They should halt the provocative joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises, and withdraw all U.S. troops, missiles, warships and other weapons from the peninsula.

The talks open prospects for an end to sanctions that the U.S. rulers and their allies have used to squeeze North Korea's working people. These punitive measures should be ended immediately and unconditionally, lessening the relative isolation of working people in North Korea from fellow workers worldwide. The DPRK's decision to put the push for economic development to the fore today — a decision that requires an agreement with Washington, an end to sanctions and collaboration with the South — could open

the door to advancing the interests of workers in the region.

Ridding Korea of nuclear weapons can reinforce deep opposition among working people inside Japan to the capitalist rulers there obtaining their own nuclear arsenal or stationing U.S. nuclear weapons on Japanese soil. It would slow down moves by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to remove parts of the country's constitution that limit the use of the rulers' military power as they seek to assert their interests against rivals.

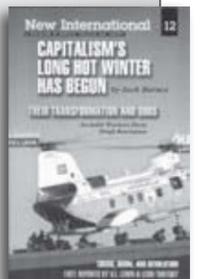
The same wealthy U.S. rulers who are responsible for the social and economic crisis bearing down on workers and farmers maintain a huge nuclear arsenal to enforce their class interests. The SWP demands the U.S. rulers unilaterally destroy their nuclear arms.

As the talks between the two governments come closer, working people should stand in solidarity with fellow toilers in Korea. That requires demanding "an end to Washington nuclear 'umbrella' and deployment of nuclear armed warships and submarines in the surrounding skies and seas," the SWP message says. For a Korean Peninsula, Japan and Pacific Ocean free of nuclear weapons! Korea is one!

Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun

"The Iranian Revolution of 1979 was a profound political and social upheaval, not a religious jihad. It was a deep-going, modern, popular social revolution." — Jack Barnes in *New International* no. 12 \$16.

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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

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