

## SWP: Fight for independent working-class political action

BY EMMA JOHNSON

As historic changes are taking place in the world — in Korea, the Middle East, Europe and elsewhere — members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are taking their class-

### SWP SPEAKS OUT FOR EXPLOITED, OPPRESSED

struggle program broadly to working people. They knock on workers' doors in cities, towns and rural areas to explain where these changes come from, and why workers need to chart an independent political course — from the capitalist rulers, their parties and their state — on the road to overturn their system and take political power.

Where bourgeois media and parties beholden to this oppressive system confuse and obfuscate, the SWP reaches out to discuss and contest the

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## 15,000 Uber drivers strike over pay cuts in Australia

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — Uber drivers across Australia stopped work Aug. 6 to protest the decline in their take-home pay caused by two new programs the company has imposed on them.

The action was called by Ride Share Drivers United, which reported that 15,000 drivers logged off the Uber app and refused to pick up passengers between 7 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart. This is the fifth work stoppage the group has held since February 2017.

The explosion of Uber, Lyft and other app-based ride services around the world has put a spotlight on the exploitative wages and working conditions imposed on drivers. The bosses of “traditional” taxi companies and their app-based competitors profit by pitting the drivers against each other.

In face of growing competition

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## Gov't immigration raid sparks Nebraska protests



Courtesy Micheal Peterson

Wrestling coach Bryan Corkle addresses rally in O'Neill, Nebraska, Aug. 8 protesting arrest, deportation of workers without papers during ICE raid at nearby factories and farms.

### Socialist Workers Party: 'Amnesty for immigrants!'

The following statement was released Aug. 15 by Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New York. Trowe lives in Albany, where she works for Walmart.

### SWP STATEMENT

There are 11 million immigrant workers without visas, work permits or other papers recognized by the government living in the U.S. today. They are here firstly because the colo-

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### 'I was surprised, pleased at the size of the turnout'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Some 80 people in O'Neill, a town of 3,700 in northeastern Nebraska, protested immigration raids as they were taking place Aug. 8 at nearby tomato and potato processing plants and some other locations, as well as in Minnesota and Nevada. Most of the 133 arrested were from Nebraska. “Hegal friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates,” read one prominent protest sign.

The raids had two separate targets. The over 100 workers who Immigra-

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## Join fight against censorship in Illinois, Florida prisons!

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

INSIDE

Class-struggle road for workers to take political power

Lessons from 1930s Teamster struggles — PAGE 7

VOL. 82/NO. 26 JULY 16, 2018

Build fight to win amnesty for immigrants across the US

BY SETH GALINSKY

Join July 12th protest against pension cuts!

Join Mine Workers, Teamsters in Columbus

New struggles today open door to build labor unions

Union officials, meritocratic heads of “progressive” nongovernmental organizations and the liberal media are predicting doom and gloom over a June 27 U.S. Supreme Court ruling called the Janus decision. On a 5-4 vote, the black-robed arbiters of ruling-class “justice” held that government agencies can no longer be required to pay dues or “agency fees”

EDITORIAL

to the unions of public workers.

The court's ruling aims “to destroy

Florida prison censored issue of the Militant for this article reporting on victory in overturning prior censorship attempts. Paper is fighting federal prison ban on all issues in Illinois.

curity matter.”

“Banning the Militant because it covers the views and activities of the Socialist Workers Party and its candidates is an unconstitutional attack on political rights and freedom of the press,” said Militant editor John Studer. “It can set a dangerous precedent for broader prison censorship of the Militant and other publications with points of view any warden disagrees with throughout the entire prison system.”

David Goldstein, from the noted constitutional rights law firm Rabinowitz, Goldstein, Fox, Liebman & Associates, P.C., said in a letter to a subscriber that “a serious question of whether the censoring of

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‘Militant’ challenges ongoing prison censorship in Florida

BY EMMA JOHNSON  
Prison authorities in Florida long trying to stop inmates from receiving the Militant. “Regretting” its failure to challenge the censorship in the past, the state’s Department of Corrections is now attempting to do so in the name of the state’s “prisoners’ rights.”



BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Militant urges readers to join in winning support for the newspaper’s fight to overturn a ban imposed on the paper to a subscriber at the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ medium security facility in Greenville, Illinois.

Warden Tom Werlich justified the ban in his July 12 rejection of the Militant, saying the paper “is a news-weekly journal associated with the Socialist Workers Party and encourages change by protesting and striking. Such publication can encourage inmates to protest and conduct work strikes which become a institution se-

## Primaries expose ongoing crisis wracking both capitalist parties

BY TERRY EVANS

The primary contests underway to select candidates for the two main capitalist parties contending in the November elections have been marked by the political crisis wracking both the Democrats and Republicans, a crisis that accelerated with Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential victory.

This crisis is a product of the search by growing numbers of workers for ways to stand up to the bosses’ assaults on wages and working conditions, the debilitating impact on workers of the rulers’ ongoing wars abroad, and the rulers’ grinding attacks on our social, cultural and political rights.

Describing the circumstances that led to Trump’s election in 2016, Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark wrote in the introduction to *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*, “Never before have the

presidential candidates of both major capitalist parties evoked such political distrust, disgust and aversion among working people, youth and broad layers of the lower middle class.”

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# Protests hit Quebec festival move to shut musical revue

BY BOB CARTER

MONTREAL — Artists, performers, writers, political figures in Quebec and others are speaking out against a campaign here to censor the work of artists they accuse of “cultural appropriation.”

“SLAV,” shown as part of the Montreal International Jazz Festival, is “a theatrical odyssey based on slave songs,” the show’s organizers explain, a journey “through traditional Afro-American songs, from cotton fields to construction sites, railroads, from slave songs to prison songs.”

“Leave the artists in peace,” Black actor Frédérick Pierre wrote on his Facebook page. “Let the white artists be touched and moved by Black history and the songs it generated.”

On June 26, about 100 protesters organized by the self-named SLAV Resistance Collective protested in front of the theater doors on opening night. The protesters, both Black and Caucasian, shouted, chanted and waved placards accusing internationally renowned Quebecois producer Robert Lepage and lead singer Betty Bonifassi of being “racists” and of appropriating Black history because they are “white” and the show didn’t have a majority Black cast.

On July 4, Montreal Jazz Festival officials cancelled the production after only two of the scheduled 16 shows. More than 8,000 tickets had already been sold. Officials apologized to anyone who they said might have been offended by the performance.

“Everything that led to this cancellation is a direct blow to artistic freedom,” Lepage said in a widely circulated statement. “When we are no longer allowed

to step into someone else’s shoes, when it is forbidden to identify with someone else, theatre is denied its very nature ... and is thus rendered meaningless.”

“I will always demand the right for theatre to talk about anything and anyone,” he said.

Bonifassi, who has spent two decades researching and singing these songs and others like them in shows and on recordings, also spoke out, condemning “censorship” by the Jazz Festival that “violated freedom of expression.”

In a *Montreal Gazette* interview in 2014, Bonifassi explained that her Slavic roots influenced her passion for songs that have emerged from slavery in many parts of the world. “My mother comes from Serbia, and all those people from the Balkan empire were slaves for all of the European empires for six centuries,” she said.

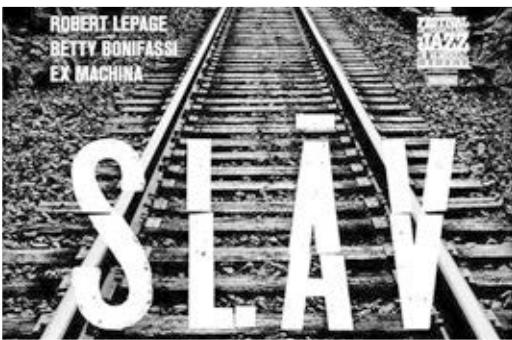
“I am for unity, not division,” said Kattia Thony, one of the two Black performers in “SLAV.” She said she would not apologize for her role and had not only a right to participate in the production but also the responsibility to do so because one scene depicted the struggle of Haitian slaves, the country of her ancestors, the first Black nation to free itself from colonial subjugation.

A few weeks later, as the controversy over cancellation of “SLAV” made international headlines, Lepage was forced to cancel “Kanata,” his next show, scheduled for Paris in December. Financial backers in the U.S. pulled out. “Kanata” depicts the European settlers who colonized Canada and the destructive effects on Native people, including scenes about the oppression of Native



Festival International de Jazz de Montréal Facebook

**Above, promotional image by Montreal Jazz Festival for production of “SLAV,” a musical program festival organizers canceled after protests claimed production was “cultural appropriation.” Director Robert Lepage, actors, singers, artists and workers in Quebec and beyond have opposed the censorship.**



people today. A number of Native artists criticized Lepage for not including Native performers from Canada, but they supported the production of “Kanata.”

### Support for free artistic expression

Maka Kotto, a Parti Quebecois member of the Quebec National Assembly who is Black, described the Jazz Festival’s censorship of “SLAV” as “a totalitarian mechanism that needs to be clearly denounced in order to preserve our freedom of artistic creation.”

Writing in the *Toronto Star*, theater director Nancy Miller condemned “the misguided notion of citing cultural appropriation to impose artistic tyranny and censorship on other ethnic groups.” She noted Lepage’s production of Shakespeare’s “Coriolanus,” currently showing at Canada’s Stratford Festival, starring a Black actor in the role of a Roman general, was getting rave reviews.

“It’s really wrong. It’s an attack on freedom of expression! Don’t they realize that Blacks would not have gotten where we are if we had to do it alone,” Walmart worker Lancuse Dèmosthène told the *Militant*. “Does this mean I can’t take up other causes? The rights of gays and lesbians is something I hold dear.”

Four other theaters in cities around Quebec insist they have no plans to cancel performances of “SLAV” in 2019.

“It’s a matter of artistic freedom for a theater to show what it wants to show,” said Marie-Pierre Simoneau, director of

La Maison des arts Desjardins in Drummondville. “We still have the intention of presenting the show,” said David Laferrière, general artistic director of the Gilles-Vigneault Theatre in St. Jerome. “I just want to show art.”

“We can’t start preventing and blocking the freedom of expression,” said CAQ (Coalition for the Future of Quebec) leader François Legault following the cancellation of “Kanata.” He added, “Artists like Robert Lepage have the right to express themselves.” CAQ, a conservative political party, is leading in the polls weeks before the Oct 1. provincial election.

“Working people have a big stake in the fight to defend the right to unfettered artistic expression,” said Beverly Bernardo,” Communist League candidate in the Montreal Viau constituency. “It is the working class that is the guardian and bearers of culture today.

“Workers need the widest possible access to culture and the arts. Censorship — in the name of stopping so-called cultural appropriation or any other excuse — is dangerous for working people,” Bernardo said. “And it gives our class enemies more opportunity to reduce the political space we need to organize and fight to defend ourselves against attacks by the bosses and their governments. The Communist League stands against all forms of censorship.”

Annette Kouri contributed to this article.

# THE MILITANT

## Workers’ protests in Iran challenge rulers’ wars

*A new round of protests and strikes are unfolding across Iran, fueled by the impact on the working class of the capitalist rulers’ wars.*

*Banner at right demands unpaid wages, bread, job security, social benefits. “We have no future, we have no honor,” it says.*



Iran Labour News Agency  
Track workers in Iran Aug. 7 protest effects of rulers’ counterrevolutionary wars.

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# SWP speaks for the exploited

**Continued from front page**

political issues and labor battles confronting working people today. The party speaks out against every attack, abuse and indignity aimed at the working class and the oppressed, and acts to advance the fighting unity of the working class.

“Neither party does anything. They have us going back and forth between them,” Enochio Taylor told Helen Meyers, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Minnesota, outside her home in St. Paul Aug. 12. Taylor works two jobs, as housekeeper in a hospital and as a personal care attendant. She said she didn’t think there was really a choice between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in the last election.

“I would have voted for Bernie Sanders,” Taylor said. “But he didn’t make it.”

Meyers said that workers have to break with the Democrats, the Republicans and all so-called independent pro-capitalist parties. “We need to unite and fight in our own interests,” she said. “The SWP believes working people are capable of taking

power and running society.”

“Most people don’t know that Clinton signed the legislation that put all those additional people in jail — and they make money off them,” Taylor said, referring to the bipartisan legislation President Bill Clinton signed into law in 1996 that expanded mandatory federal prison sentences. She was looking at *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, that Meyers showed her. It is one of five books party members offer on special. (See ad below.)

Taylor said she remembered Clinton also dismantled Aid to Families With Dependent Children the same year, ending “welfare as we know it,” one of the deepest attacks on Social Security in decades.

She decided to subscribe to the *Militant* and asked to be kept informed about what the SWP campaign was doing.

## Amnesty for all immigrants

In April, immigration cops raided the Southeastern Provision meat-processing plant and arrested 97 workers in Morristown, Tennessee. SWP members Janice Lynn and Sam Manuel visited there Aug. 10-11 to talk to workers about the impact of the raid and explain why the party calls for amnesty for all workers without papers in the U.S.

“Growing up I used to believe what they tell you, that immigrants get free benefits that we don’t get,” Judy Holt, a 54-year-old former factory worker, told them outside her home in a trailer park. “They say they get free housing. No, they don’t. Welfare, food stamps. No, they don’t. I know, because my daughter married a Mexican immigrant. He has worked hard for everything he has.” She opposed the raid and deportations, and said many others there did too.

She also got a subscription and a copy of *The*



Militant/Rebecca Finch  
Helen Meyers, left, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Minnesota, met Enochio Taylor in St. Paul Aug. 12. They discussed need for independent working-class political action.



Militant/Janice Lynn

Sam Manuel met Judy Holt on her doorstep in Morristown, Tennessee, Aug. 11, as SWP members went through the area to discuss the April immigration cops’ raid and arrests at a nearby meat-processing plant. Like many others, Holt opposed raid and subsequent deportations.

## Clinton’s Anti-Working-Class Record.

Some workers thought the raid was good. Lee, who declined to give his last name, said he didn’t vote for either Trump or Clinton, but supports the deportations. “I think all immigrants should go,” he said. “They just come here for the benefits.”

“We support amnesty for all undocumented workers,” Lynn said. “Our party thinks all workers, no matter their country of origin, should be organized.”

Winning an amnesty is essential to unite the working class against boss attempts to divide us and drive down working conditions and wages for all, the two SWP members explained. And as workers live and work side by side and face attacks by the bosses side by side, they’ve become more and more open to this fight.

Lee decided not to get the paper, but thanked Lynn and Manuel for their discussion.

The two SWP campaigners met Keith West, 45, who works in a nearby coin mint organized by the United Steelworkers. He got into a discussion about the unions. “My union isn’t worth anything, but what can you do?” he asked.

Manuel said that the protests in West Virginia and elsewhere by teachers earlier this year, and the broad support they won from other workers, show that it’s possible to build a fighting labor movement that can change things.

The SWP points to how the class-

collaborationist course of the union officials, identifying the interests of the workers with the fortunes of the bosses and their government, has severely weakened the labor movement for more than half a century.

The teachers strikes were a first glimmer of bigger struggles to come, Manuel said, where workers will transform the unions, drawing in millions. They’ll mobilize to fight the bosses, and unite with others to overthrow their government and take power.

West decided to try a subscription, saying he was interested in finding out more about how to fight for a road forward for the working class. He said he disliked both the Democrats and Republicans.

To find out more about the Socialist Workers Party or its sister Communist Leagues in other countries, check out the directory on page 8.

## Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to: Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767 Atlanta GA 30321-2767 Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info: [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)

## Parties like the SWP are ‘tribunes of the people’

Below are excerpts from *What Is to Be Done?* by V.I. Lenin. It was published in March 1902 and discusses what kind of party is needed to lead the workers and farmers to overthrow the capitalist rulers and take political power, and why party members need to be “tribunes of the people.”

Lenin was the central leader of what became the Bolshevik Party, which led Russia’s workers and peasants to overthrow the czarist dictatorship, end their participation in the first imperialist world war, and take power into their own hands. This victory inspired toilers worldwide and spurred the building of working-class parties modeled on the Bolsheviks. The Socialist Workers Party is building on this continuity.

With the “SWP Speaks Out for Exploited, Oppressed” column in this issue, the SWP will describe its experiences working along these lines.

The Social-Democrat’s ideal should not be the trade union secretary, but the *tribune of the people*, who is able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression, no matter where it appears, no matter what stratum or class of the people it affects; who is able to generalise all these manifestations and produce a single picture of police violence and capitalist exploitation; who is able to take advantage of every event, however small, in order to set forth *before all* his socialist convictions and his democratic demands, in order to clarify for *all* and everyone the world-historic significance of the struggle for the emancipation of the proletariat. ...

The Social Democracy leads the struggle of the working class, not only for better terms for the sale of labour power, but for the abolition of the social system that compels the propertyless to sell themselves to the rich. Social-Democracy represents the working class, not in its relation to a given group of employers alone, but in relation to all classes of modern society and to the state as an organized political force. ...

We must take up actively the political education of the working class and the development of its political consciousness.

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# Argentine supporters of right to abortion say ‘we will win’

BY LEA SHERMAN

After more than 16 hours of debate, with tens of thousands of protesters gathered outside on both sides of the issue, Argentina’s Senate Aug. 9 in a 38-31 vote defeated a bill that would have legalized abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

“We don’t see this as a defeat. The majority of people were in favor of passing the law,” Silvia Juliá, executive director of Catholics for Choice, part of the National Campaign for the Right to Safe, Legal and Free Abortion, told the *Militant* Aug. 13. “All the mobilizations we carried out showed the large support we had. The youth are overwhelmingly for a change.”

Hundreds of thousands had marched in favor of a woman’s right to choose abortion on International Women’s Day March 8. This was the largest pro-choice action in Argentine history. Many wore green scarves (pañuelos), a symbol of the fight.

Founded in 2005, the National Campaign is a coalition of more than 300 organizations, including women’s rights groups, unions and student groups.

In 2015 after the murder of Chiara Paez, a pregnant 14-year-old girl, Ni-UnaMenos (Not One Woman Less) was formed and organized a demonstration of nearly 200,000 outside Congress protesting violence against women and demanding abortion rights. Thousands more protested across the country.

Under Argentine law, abortion is legal only in cases of rape or risk to a woman’s health or life. Unlike the wealthy or middle-class women, who can afford costly doctors in big cities or outside the country, working-class women and those living in rural areas are forced to turn to “clandestine” abortions. Botched abortions are the leading cause of maternal deaths in Argentina.

Some 97 percent of women in Latin America face similar conditions. Only in Cuba, where workers and peasants made a revolution, and in Uruguay and Mexico City can women freely choose to have an abortion.

The massive mobilizations in Argentina, like the one on March 8, have had a significant impact on the whole region and worldwide. On the day of the vote, demonstrations in support of abortion rights were held in dozens of countries, including Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Germany and Japan, as well as in Ireland.

Earlier this year more than 66 percent voted by referendum in Ireland to repeal

part of their constitution that severely restricted women’s right to abortion.

## Countrywide debate

There’s been an ongoing debate throughout Argentina, a largely Catholic country. In mid-April when hearings began on the bill, both women’s rights advocates, including family members of those who had died from botched abortions, and anti-abortion spokespeople testified in live, national TV broadcasts debating the bill.

Pope Francis, who is from Argentina, intervened in the debate, calling abortion the “white glove” equivalent to the Nazi’s eugenics program June 16, two days after the Argentine Lower House voted in favor. He neglected to mention that the fascist regime outlawed both abortion and contraception.

Catholic and evangelical officials campaigned against the bill. Many Catholics, like Silvia Juliá, joined the campaign against the ban on



Delfina Linares/Argentine Senate

Supporters, left, and opponents, right, of women’s right to choose abortion demonstrate outside Argentine Congress Aug. 8 during Senate debate on whether to legalize procedure in first 14 weeks of pregnancy. Bill was voted down 38-31. “We don’t see this as a defeat,” said Silvia Juliá of Catholics for Choice. “Twenty-five years ago no one dared to speak out. We will win.”

women’s rights.

“We knew there would be a reaction from sections of the Catholic and evangelical churches that were putting on a lot of pressure,” Juliá told the *Militant*.

“We have seen many changes especially in the provinces. Twenty-five years ago few people dared to speak out. Now there is a public debate. We are optimistic we are going to win.”

# Primaries expose ongoing crisis in capitalist parties

## Continued from front page

As this crisis continues to unfold, the Socialist Workers Party has launched its 2018 campaign, speaking out against the attacks and indignities capitalism is heaping on the backs of the exploited and oppressed in the U.S. and around the world, and offering a road forward for workers and farmers to fight for political power.

Republicans — both those who back Trump and the “Never-Trumpers” who are deeply hostile to the president — hold the House by a majority of 23 seats. The party in the White House has lost seats in the House of Representatives in every first mid-term election except once since the Kennedy administration. This reflects how workers’ hopes for some change, as expressed in the 2016 presidential vote, has been dashed time after time. Democrats hope this trend will continue in 2018.

Trump intends to defy that trend, buoyed by the capitalist economic boom underway and steps his administration has taken to end some of the rulers’ ongoing conflicts and wars abroad.

The fact is, Trump isn’t really a Republican. For years he was a New York City Democrat, and his 2016 campaign blasted all the “normal” Republicans of every stripe. At the same time he called for “draining the swamp” of politicians of all parties in Washington.

All five candidates Trump endorsed in the Aug. 7 Republican primaries won their contests. They campaigned as boosters of the president, claiming to be cut from the same mold. He also backed Republican Troy Balderston, who defeated Democrat Danny O’Connor in a special election for a House seat in Ohio. Democrats wrongly anticipated that this would be their first win in a “blue wave” of victories.

Since Trump took office, Democrats have lost eight out of 10 special House elections. Divisions within the Democratic Party have deepened as well since Hillary Clinton stole the 2016 nomination from Bernie Sanders

and then lost the election.

Although Democratic Socialists of America’s Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won the nomination for a New York House district bid in November, and joined Sanders on the stump in the recent primaries, their wing of the party made little headway in those contests. They aim to take over the Democrats and push its reform program to the left of bourgeois politics.

Some Republicans, including John Kasich who Trump defeated in getting the 2016 presidential nomination, are considering whether to stand against him in 2020. Others, including many Never-Trumpers, view him today as unbeatable. Leah Vukmir, who is contesting the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate in Wisconsin, described Trump as “offensive to everyone” in 2016. She now positions herself as one of his most vociferous backers.

The most fervent wish of Democratic liberals is to drive Trump from office, if not into prison. They launched a witch hunt against him and hope to seize control of the House to block his administration from advancing its program, while seeking to impeach him.

The trade union misleaders offer working people no road forward politically, attempting yet again to corral us into backing the Democrats. “We’re setting our sights on November,” Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO union federation, said Aug. 9, urging trade unionists not to stray from the dead-end strategy of focusing their attention and energy on putting more Democrats into office.

The August primary results don’t offer them much hope either.

## Crisis of capitalism

Many of the institutions and multilateral alliances that were put in place after the U.S. rulers emerged triumphant out of the second imperialist world slaughter are coming apart today, from NATO to the

European Union. Trump is pushing for a series of new one-on-one deals from Korea to Moscow to the Middle East. He has wielded Washington’s military and economic dominance to sanction and bully the rulers there, then offered to sit down and talk, with “no preconditions.”

The White House aims for greater stability and less warfare to gain room for U.S. imperialism. But the administration’s course is unintentionally creating better conditions for working people to organize and press forward our struggles. Tamping down wars and war threats from Afghanistan to Korea to the Middle East is good for the working class.

Such questions are of great interest to workers as we discuss and debate how our class can fight effectively and organize together as part of an international class.

“The Socialist Workers Party is going out to speak with workers all across the country, to pose a working-class alternative to the oppression and exploitation visited on us by the capitalist bosses and their government,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, told the *Militant*. “We tell the truth about how the capitalist system works, seeking to pit workers against each other as they profit from our labor.”

“Workers need our own party, one that speaks in defense of all those who are trampled on by the dog-eat-dog workings of capitalism. We need to look to each other,” Calero said, “to fight to unify the working class and fight to take power into our own hands.”

## Abortion Is a Woman’s Right!

by Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement. — \$6

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# Australia Uber drivers strike

Continued from front page  
from Taxify, Didi, Ola and other companies, Uber introduced two policies here, upfront pricing and UberPool.

Unlike a traditional taxi meter, Uber with upfront pricing calculates the fare and gives it to the passenger before the start of the trip. It does not take into account unexpected traffic delays, or if passengers ask to stop or take detours during the trip.

When drivers complain to Uber that they've been shortchanged, they're told that any detour or delay is inconsequential and "we appreciate your understanding in this concern."

"If it's so upfront, how come the driver knows the price at the end of the trip only?" Max B., spokesman for Ride Share Drivers United, told the *Epoch Times*. He asked that his last name not be used, for fear of being expunged from Uber. Max said that the shift to upfront fares saw drivers' pay rates drop 10 to 30 percent, while drivers were losing up to 40 percent on UberPool trips.

With UberPool, launched in Melbourne and Sydney, passengers traveling in the same direction can share a ride for a discounted rate. If drivers try to opt out they risk being "deactivated."

The new measures are "two extra layers of exploitation," Max told Australian Associated Press.

"They say you are a contractor," Max added, noting Uber's claim that the drivers are not their employees, "but they don't even treat you as a contractor."

"You can't make a living driving for Uber," Sailou Kaba told the *Militant*. Kaba, originally from West Africa, works in a meatpacking plant here. He started driving for Uber as a second job last year, but hasn't signed up for the last three months. "It's just not worth it," he said. "Uber takes too much in commission. You only get a fraction of what the fare is."

"It's good that all the drivers are getting together," Kaba said. Ride Share Drivers United encourages drivers with other ride-sharing companies, like Ola and Didi, to work together with them. Some drivers are signed up with more than one company.

Ride Share Drivers United was

Drivers in Australia say Uber's new programs push down wages. Upfront pricing, where Uber tells customers fare in advance based on estimate, shortchanges drivers. Right, drivers' organization posts on internet example of how this works.

formed in June 2016 to "unite fellow drivers." They want Uber to "treat drivers in a fair, lawful and dignified manner."

The drivers are demanding that Uber end upfront pricing and "revert back to a transparent system where drivers are paid by the actual time and distance traveled," the group says. Drivers should be allowed to opt out of UberPool and base rates should be increased by at least 15 percent. Uber should bear the brunt of increased pay to drivers by reducing the commission it gets for each ride, Max said.

If the company does not meet its demands Drivers United is planning further stop-work actions.



Courtesy Ride Share Drivers United

## TSA 'Quiet Skies' spy program targets passengers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a blatant attack on democratic rights and an individual's right to privacy, the Transportation Security Administration has been running a secret spy program targeting thousands of passengers on U.S. domestic flights.

The existence of this "Quiet Skies" surveillance program, which has been in operation since 2010, was revealed in a July 28 *Boston Globe* exposé.

Teams of federal air marshals are deployed to collect extensive information and file reports on those they target — who haven't been accused of any crime. And when they are assigned to fly with you, what are the "suspicious actions" the snoops are told to look for? Do you sweat heavily, have a "cold, penetrating stare," fidget, use a computer, use the bathroom too much, sleep on the plane, change clothes or chat with other passengers.

"This program raises a whole host of civil liberties and profiling concerns," Faiza Patel, co-director of the New York University School of Law's Brennan

Center for Justice, told the media. The American Civil Liberties Union demanded July 30 that the TSA provide more information on the program.

Quiet Skies, according to a TSA internal bulletin, is "based on analysis of terrorist travel trends, tradecraft and associations," and is implemented against those who are "possibly affiliated with Watch listed suspects." So you're targeted if you fit some computer-generated "trend." Or for your "associations." Who decides who and why? Targets aren't notified when they're placed on the list.

The secret "Watch" list is the TSA's no-fly list, and it seems you get targeted if you know someone who's on it. But it's secret, so you don't know. Most likely they don't either. The list has grown from some 16 people in September 2001, around the time the TSA was formed, to 64,000 in 2014. If you're on the list you can be prevented from flying or get special attention and interrogation at the airport. And there's no way for you to get off it.

All U.S. citizens who enter the coun-

try are automatically screened for inclusion in Quiet Skies — their travel patterns and affiliations are checked and their names run against TSA databases, according to agency documents the *Globe* got.

Even some air marshals assigned to tail targets and file reports of what their spying discovered have questions about this program. "In late May, an air marshal complained to colleagues about having just surveilled a working Southwest Airlines flight attendant as part of a Quiet Skies mission," reported the *Globe*. "Cannot make this up," the air marshal wrote in a message."

In a related development, a federal court ruled July 11 that TSA agents are above the law. When they work at airport checkpoints, no matter whatever they do, they can't be sued over allegations of abuse. The judge ruled that TSA screeners, despite their badges and titles as "officers," do not qualify as "law enforcement officers." Instead, the court ruled, they are government employees endowed with sovereign immunity against being sued.

The case arises over a suit filed nearly 12 years ago by Nadine Pellegrino when she complained over harassment and abuse from TSA officials at the airport checkpoint in Philadelphia. After three pieces of her luggage passed through a metal detector, a male TSA officer said she had to step aside for additional screening. But his "rude" demeanor and handling of her bags led her to ask for a private search, her complaint says.

Three female TSA officers then conducted an intrusive pat-down search in a tiny room. "Besides being frisked and swabbed for possible explosives," Pellegrino told the *Washington Post*, one of the TSA agents "looked at her cellphone data, delved into library and credit cards, examined private papers" and spilled some of her toiletries in her luggage, "breaking a zipper, breaking eyeglasses and damaging her jewelry."

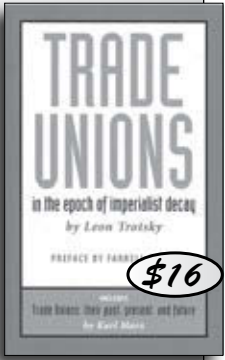
As the conflict accelerated, the police were called and threw her in jail for 18 hours on 10 charges for allegedly assaulting two TSA agents. It took her two years and a wad of money to get acquitted. The court ruling says that while she might be right, there's nothing she can do about it. The TSA simply never has to answer for harassment or abuse.

### Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

BY LEON TROTSKY

INCLUDES:  
"Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future" by Karl Marx

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## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 30, 1993

REDWOOD FALLS, Minnesota — Gene Swoboda, who farms the same rich land his great-grandfather homesteaded here in southwestern Minnesota in the 1880s, expresses concern as he watches wheat roll under the blades of his 12-year-old Case combine.

The \$6.2 billion flood relief bill recently passed in Washington, he says, "is a drop in the bucket for the farmer."

It favors the largest, wealthiest farmers. "Those with bigger acreage get bigger money," Swoboda says.

Some \$2.2 billion in the package is set aside to compensate farmers for crop loss, a figure Swoboda and many other working farmers say will not cover the cost of inputs — seed, fertilizer, herbicide, and fuel — let alone make up for lost income. Farmers fear that a likely early frost will devastate harvests of crops planted late because of rains and flooding.



August 30, 1968

As the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, I [Fred Halstead] unequivocally condemn the brutal occupation of Czechoslovakia and the suppression of its reforms by the Kremlin and its stooges.

The invasion by Moscow is a criminal indefensible deed. The action violates the independence of a small nation and tramples on its right to self-determination.

Moscow's military interference can no more be justified by false claims of defending the interests of socialism than Washington's intervention in Vietnam is justified by its pretext of protecting "freedom."

Indeed the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia directly injures the Vietnamese revolution since it is being exploited by the U.S. imperialists and their allies to sanction the continuation of their war against the Vietnamese people.



August 28, 1943

Drastic sanctions against striking unions and individual strikers were decreed by President Roosevelt in an executive order issued on August 16. Penalties to be imposed against unions when the government seizes struck plants include suspension or denial of union security provisions. Individual strikers may be drafted into the armed forces or blacklisted in industry.

Roosevelt wrote to William H. Davis, War Labor Board chairman, emphasizing that the Smith-Connally Act provides for the criminal prosecution of strikers in industries taken over by the government. Thirty Pennsylvania coal miners are now being prosecuted under this Act.

The WLB has threatened striking newspaper drivers in New York City with "severe penalties" and has asked the bosses for the names of employees failing to return to work.



# Venezuela: Workers, farmers face effects of capitalist crisis

New government concessions to bosses, landlords

BY RÓGER CALERO

In the midst of a deepening economic crisis that is devastating workers and farmers, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced measures July 25 to give more concessions to capitalist owners. He seeks their help staunching the collapse in production, winning foreign investment, renegotiating the foreign debt and tamping down out-of-control inflation.

The new measures include a one-year tax exemption on imports of merchandise, machinery, raw materials, seeds and fertilizer; relaxing currency rules to give business owners more access to dollars; and encouraging the use of dollars inside the country.

In addition, Maduro said he was putting new bills in circulation that knock five zeroes off the bolivar notes. The new currency, he said, would be pegged to the petro — a stillborn “cryptocurrency” launched earlier this year — supposedly backed by flagging oil sales.

The half-a-decade-long economic crisis has been exacerbated by Washington’s hostility and interference. The U.S. government has tightened economic sanctions against Venezuelan government officials and institutions and taken other steps to isolate and pressure the government.

A U.S. federal court judge ruled Aug. 9 in favor of Canadian gold mining company Crystallex, saying it can collect \$1.4 billion it claims to have lost when late President Hugo Chávez nationalized the gold-mining firm in 2009. This could result in the company taking control and selling U.S.-based oil refineries owned by Citgo, which is part of Venezuela’s state-owned oil company PDVSA.

To give Crystallex and the Venezuelan government time to see if they can reach a settlement, the judge’s ruling won’t take effect for a couple weeks. The court decision opens the door to other capitalist creditors following suit to collect on bonds that Venezuela has defaulted on in the last year.

Prices are soaring, more than double every month, according to some reports. Combined with shortages of food and other basic necessities and collapsing infrastructure, this is making life unbearable for working people. Workers often spend their entire wages on food immediately after getting paid to stock up before the price jumps.

The current minimum wage, which was increased in June to 5 million bolivar a month — equal to either \$1.29 or \$25 depending on which exchange rate is used — barely buys two pounds of meat, a chicken or a carton of 30 eggs.

Electricity blackouts and water cut-offs are frequent, buses often don’t run and medicines are scarce. Many factories have stopped operating due to lack of raw materials. These conditions have led to protests across the country.

“I am better off selling empanadas than working as a nurse,” said Ana Rosario Contreras, president of Caracas College of Nurses, during a July 6 protest demanding higher wages. “An empanada costs 500,000 bolivars and I get paid 600,000 every two weeks.”

The deteriorating conditions have fueled an exodus of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans, largely middle-class and professional layers, in recent years. But thousands of workers — desperate to earn enough to feed their families — have increased those numbers, heading to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and other nearby countries.

## Deepening crisis

Venezuela is a capitalist country, where the government attempts to administer capitalist economic relations “for the benefit of all Venezuelans” with “a bent towards the poor.” That was the stated goal of the “Bolivarian Revolution” and what was sometimes called “21st Century Socialism” promoted by late President Hugo Chávez and the Unified Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). President Maduro has continued on this course.

While the government instituted price and currency controls and distributed part of the oil revenues in the form of welfare handouts that cut into the profits and restricted the prerogatives of some bosses and came into conflicts with Washington, it was still a bourgeois government.

The leaders of the Bolivarian Revolution never mobilized working people to take control of production and the land and replace the bourgeois government with a workers and farmers government on the road to expropriating the capitalist class. They rejected the revolutionary example set by workers and farmers in Cuba. That is the only road that offers working people the chance to confront the problems they face.

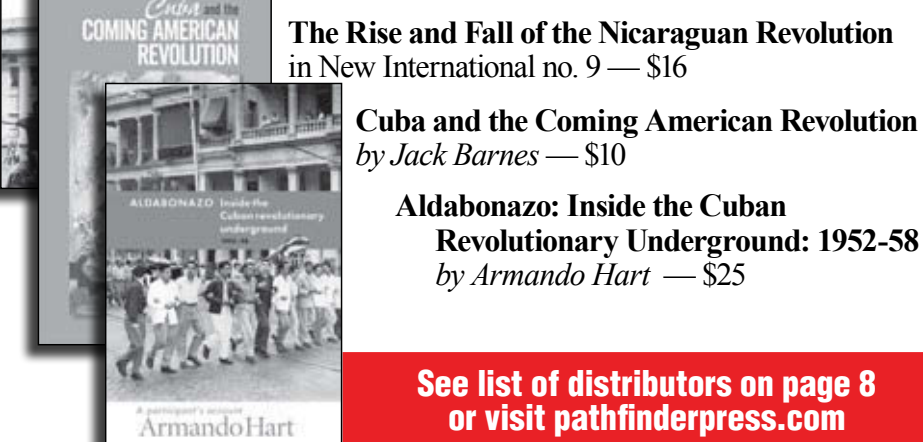
## Peasants fight for land, rights

Despite the challenges and obstacles, many workers and peasants have not been pushed out of politics and are looking for ways to defend their class interests.

In July hundreds of small farmers and their supporters marched 270 miles in 20 days from Portuguesa state to Caracas. They demanded government action against big landowners who forced them off lands they won when Chávez was president. They also faced the complicity of government officials, National Guard, police, judges and prosecutors.

## Reading for revolutionaries

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**The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution**  
in New International no. 9 — \$16

**Cuba and the Coming American Revolution**  
by Jack Barnes — \$10

**Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground: 1952-58**  
by Armando Hart — \$25

See list of distributors on page 8  
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Peasants from Barinas, Venezuela, march on Caracas Aug. 8. They demand central government stop judges, capitalist landowners and police from evicting small farmers from land they won when Hugo Chávez was president, as well as release of their leaders who have been jailed, and end to impunity for landowners’ hired thugs who have killed over 350 peasants.

The peasants demanded the government take measures to ensure they can get the materials they need, from seeds to fertilizer to water pumps, to be able to grow food for the people of Venezuela.

This march was “the product of necessity,” said Arbonio Ortega, one of its leaders. “Why did we receive no support from the [PSUV] government of Portuguesa?”

The marchers demanded and won a meeting with President Maduro in Caracas Aug. 2. But hours after the meeting, three peasant leaders from Barinas state who had participated in the march were killed by masked goons. Since 2001 over 350 peasants have been killed by paramilitary thugs employed by capitalist landowners, Orlando Zambrano, a leader of the Ezequiel Zamora Peasant Front, told Radio Mundo Real May 15.

Protesting the preferential treatment given to big capitalist farmers, small farmers from the Maizal Commune, in Lara state, in June took over the premises of Agropatria, a state-run company that supplies farmers with seeds, fertilizers and loans. Their action was provoked by the arrest of small farmers for allegedly trying to buy seeds and fertilizers on the black market.

## Washington seeks fall of Maduro

Meanwhile, Washington, Ottawa and governments in Europe and their allies in Latin America are pressing efforts to isolate the Maduro government and to make working people pay the price of the crisis.

“It’s time for Maduro to go,” U.S.

Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley arrogantly said during an Aug. 8 visit to Colombia. She called on Latin American governments to step up the pressure. Washington’s goal is to replace the Maduro government with one more to U.S. imperialism’s liking, without having to intervene militarily or provoking a social explosion.

“We demand an end to Washington’s sanctions against Venezuela and its violations of Venezuelan sovereignty,” said Edwin Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Washington governor. “Hand’s off Venezuela!”

## Support grows for fight to jail cop who killed Antwon Rose

BY MALCOLM JARRETT

PITTSBURGH — Michael Rosfeld, the East Pittsburgh cop charged with criminal homicide for shooting and killing Antwon Rose Jr. June 19, waived his right to appear at a preliminary hearing. Protesters demanding justice in the killing had announced plans to demonstrate there. His formal arraignment is scheduled for Aug. 22, and a trial will be set at a later date.

Eyewitness video showed Rosfeld shooting the unarmed Black 17-year-old three times in the back as the youth fled a car the cops had pulled over. A popular slogan at many of the demonstrations is “Three shots in the back, how do you justify that?”

Rosfeld is on unpaid leave from the East Pittsburgh Police Department and under electronically monitored house arrest.

Some of the demonstrations blocked city streets and major highways. At one of those actions, two Caucasian long-haul truck drivers whose way was blocked got out of their trucks and asked demonstrators what was going on.

After being shown the video, one of the truckers told WTAE TV News, “This killing has to stop. Not just here, but throughout the nation.” He told the TV reporter he supported the protests.

Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh Police Department announced new, more restrictive guidelines July 26 that encourage cops to declare such gatherings illegal. Police Chief Scott Schubert claims that it would make it easier for cops to strike a “balance” in allowing some protests while shutting down others to maintain “public safety.”

Protesters who had planned to rally outside the now-canceled preliminary



July 27 Pittsburgh march against new rules city adopted after street actions against cop killing of Antwon Rose that restrict right to protest there.

hearing instead used the July 27 action to oppose the new guidelines.

The new restrictions list “red zones” — including tunnels, bridges, and dozens of roads and intersections — where demonstrators are not allowed to march into the street if they block traffic at any time. Others are designated as “yellow zones” where protesters are allowed to block the area for up to 15 minutes before being subject to arrest.

The cops cooked up this attack on the right to protest after consulting with the American Civil Liberties Union and the Pittsburgh Citizen’s Police Review Board.

When asked about the constitutionality of the new guidelines, Vic Walczak, legal director for the ACLU of Pennsylvania, said that there was one problem. They don’t say they apply only to events without permits. “This would pass constitutional muster if they just put [that] caveat in,” he said.

“I think Mayor [Bill] Peduto and his



Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker talk to press July 25.

The EU grew out of the European Coal and Steel Community, set up in 1951 by the rulers of France, West Germany and four other European nations. To bolster their weaker position, they pushed to expand the arrangement to include as many of the different capitalist classes in Europe as possible. The EU emerged from this expansion, swelling from six nations at its founding to 28 today, and imposing tariffs on all goods coming in beginning in 1957.

The establishment of a common currency — the euro — in 1999 among the

police deserve a lot of credit for allowing the protesters to have their say.”

Some protesters argue the street blockages are good, because the disruption forces Caucasian drivers to confront their own complicity with racism. At one such action, a demonstrator carried a sign that said, “White People Kill Your Bias and Stop Killing Black People.”

But as the two truckers show, there is less racism than ever among the working class. Most oppose the killing of Rose, and many are open to joining the fight to convict Rosfeld.

These confrontational tactics made it easier for the cops to restrict the right to protest.

“First of all, they make laws they don’t even follow, yet they expect us to follow a set of guidelines that aren’t law,” Nicky Jo Dawson told the July 27 protest. “These guidelines are coming down from the same people who want to oppress us.”

On Aug. 2, the family of Antwon Rose filed a wrongful death federal lawsuit against Rosfeld, the borough of East Pittsburgh and its mayor and police chief. The lawsuit says the borough council didn’t train or vet its officers properly, and that Rosfeld used excessive force in killing the youth. Rosfeld was fired previously from the University of Pittsburgh police force for fabricating evidence in a case there.

Supporters of the fight for justice for Rose are planning a protest outside Rosfeld’s Aug. 22 arraignment.

majority of nations making up the bloc accelerated Berlin’s ability, and with it that of the other stronger northern European ruling classes, to plunder working people in the weaker southern European nations. The results have led to crises for bosses in Greece, Italy and elsewhere, and far more so for the working classes in those countries.

President Trump agreed with Juncker that Washington will hold off a threatened 25 percent tariff on German autos. Currently car bosses in the EU nations pay a 2.5 percent tariff on vehicles they sell in the U.S. In sharp contrast, capitalists in European nations use the EU to force U.S. auto bosses to pay a 10 percent tariff to sell cars in any of its 28 member nations.

## U.S. power behind its trade policy

Trade talks are “just polite cover for the real use of muscle to advance the interests of conflicting national ruling classes. U.S. military might stands behind its pressure on the capitalists in Europe,” explains Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, in “Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War,” in *New International* no. 10.

“Every time we hear about one of these so-called trade deals on TV, or read about them in the papers, what we’re watching unfold is the growing use of political and military clout to achieve economic ends,” Barnes wrote. “It’s the use of power to drain surplus value from wherever it’s produced by workers and toiling farmers into the pockets of the capitalists in the United States.”

Much of what is reported in the liberal media about the clashes between Washington and Berlin aims to hide this reality. It seeks to reinforce the notion that Trump’s actions are endangering Washington’s interests by threatening to tear up the decadeslong “world order” through which the U.S. rulers have collaborated with their “traditional allies” that make up the EU.

This is echoed by EU officials, who long for Washington’s continued military umbrella to defend them

as they fight for markets and profits at the U.S. bosses’ expense.

But Trump and the U.S. capitalist rulers see this relation as increasingly disadvantageous, and the president demands the European rulers step up their contributions to NATO.

The German rulers believe they can effectively compete with rivals by imposing tariffs through the EU bloc, including against their U.S. “ally,” yet remain militarily dependent on them.

Washington has nearly 35,000 troops and massive air and other weaponry deployed in Germany. From 1995 Berlin began deploying its own forces in NATO operations. But in recent years its military has been allowed to become increasingly inoperative. At the end of last year none of its submarines or its largest transport planes were available due to breakdowns. As of February this year the German military had 21,000 officer posts vacant.

Trump suggested in July that the U.S. could remove a substantial number of its German-based troops and redeploy them in Poland. U.S. bases in Germany provide staging hubs for U.S. military operations in Africa and the Mideast, and the move would put them closer to Moscow.

Liberals in Europe — and their counterparts in the U.S. — often pose German Chancellor Angela Merkel as an alternative to provide leadership to hold together the old “world order.” But, the fact is, as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger commented recently, “Among other European statesmen Angela Merkel is very local.”

Workers face a world today where a series of historic shifts are unfolding in the “order” the U.S. rulers imposed after the second imperialist world war — in Korea, the Mideast, Asia and in Europe. Trump is working within these developments to put together alliances and arrangements that favor the U.S. rulers. Many of those involve steps that can tamp down wars and conflicts that have existed for decades. These are good for working people. They open political space for us to act and learn how to fight for our class interests.

Workers have no stake in the trade and other disputes between the capitalist powers. We lose nothing if “alliances” like NATO and the EU are torn apart. NATO was used by Washington to aid its bloody wars, from Korea to Iraq and Afghanistan, wars where young workers were chewed up as cannon fodder.

In *New International* no. 10  
**Imperialism’s March  
Toward Fascism and War**  
by Jack Barnes



“The ‘trade talks’ that go on between Washington, Tokyo, Paris, Ottawa, and others — rough as these talks sometimes get — are just polite cover for the real use of muscle to advance the interests of conflicting national ruling classes. U.S. military might stands behind its pressure on the capitalists in Europe and elsewhere.”

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# ‘A revolution is occurring among the women of our country!’

Below is an excerpt from “The Revolution Within the Revolution,” a December 1966 speech by Fidel Castro presented to the Fifth National Plenary of the Federation of Cuban Women. It’s printed in *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for August. The book is edited by Elizabeth Stone and contains speeches and documents by Castro, Vilma Espín and others. It recounts women’s changing role in Cuba through the workers and farmers revolution in January 1959 and beyond. The book discusses the nature of women’s oppression, the gains made in fighting against this in Cuba, and challenges that still remain. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY FIDEL CASTRO

[T]his phenomenon of women’s participation in the revolution was a revolution within a revolution. [Applause] And if we were asked what the most revolutionary thing is that the revolution is doing, we would answer that it is precisely this — the revolution that is occurring among the women of our country! [Applause]

If we were asked what things in the revolution have been most instructive for us, we would answer that one of



Left, Granma; right, Gilberto Ante/Bohemia

Participation in Cuba’s revolution transformed women. No longer restricted to the home, they became political actors and leaders. Left, militia women prepare to defend revolution against U.S. military threats during 1962 missile crisis. Right, revolution opened up traditionally male jobs for women.

the most interesting lessons for revolutionaries is that being offered by our women. [Applause]

You all know perfectly well that we are not saying this to please the compañeras who are here tonight, but that we say it because it is what we firmly believe and feel.

But why is this one of the most interesting lessons? You yourselves may ask why. In reality, the most honest answer that we could give — and I assure you that the person who offers this answer is precisely one who has always believed himself free from prejudice — the answer is, I believe, that in reality all of us were prejudiced in regard to women. [Applause]...

This is one of the great lessons we spoke about before: one of the great lessons and perhaps one of the greatest victories over prejudices that have existed, not for decades or centuries but for thousands of years. We refer to the belief that all a woman could do was wash dishes, wash and iron clothes, cook, keep house, and bear children — [Applause and exclamations] age-old prejudices that placed women in an inferior position in society. In effect, she did not have a productive place in society.

Such prejudices are thousands of years old and have survived through various social systems. If we consider capitalism, women — that is, lower-class women — were doubly exploited

or doubly humiliated. A poor woman, part of the working class or of a working-class family, was exploited simply because she was poor, because she was a member of the working class.

But in addition, although she was a woman of the working class, even her own class looked down on and underestimated her. Not only was she underestimated, exploited, and looked down upon by the exploiting classes, but even within her own class she was the object of numerous prejudices.

So all these events have been a great lesson to all of us, to every revolutionary. Naturally, a considerable amount of prejudice still persists. If women were to believe that they have totally fulfilled their role as revolutionaries in society, they would be making a mistake. It seems to us that women must still fight and exert great efforts to attain the place that they should really hold in society.

If women in our country were doubly exploited, doubly humiliated in the past, then this simply means that women in a social revolution should be doubly revolutionary. [Applause]

And perhaps this is the explanation, or at least the social basis, for the resolute, enthusiastic, firm, and loyal support given by Cuban women to this revolution.

This revolution has really been two revolutions for women; it has meant a

double liberation: as part of the exploited sector of the country, and second, as women, who were discriminated against not only as workers but also as women, in that society of exploitation.

The attitude of Cuban women toward the revolution corresponds to this reality; it corresponds to what the revolution has meant to them.

And the support of the popular masses for the revolution is directly proportional to what the revolution has meant to them in terms of their liberation.

There are two sectors in this country, two sectors of society which, aside from economic reasons, have had other motives for sympathizing and feeling enthusiasm for the revolution. These two sectors are the black population of Cuba and the female population.

I suppose you recall that in Cuba’s old bourgeois constitution, there was an article which declared illegal any discrimination for reasons of race or sex. The constitution declared such discrimination illegal. But a constitution in a capitalist society, or such an article in a capitalist society, solves nothing, because discrimination for reasons of race and for reasons of sex existed in practice. And the basis for all of this was the existence of a class society which practiced exploitation.

In a class society, which is to say, a society of exploiters and exploited, there was no way of eliminating discrimination for reasons of race or sex. Now the problem of such discrimination has disappeared from our country, because the basis for these two types of discrimination which is, quite simply the exploitation of man by man, has disappeared. [Applause]

Much news reaches us from the United States, for example, about the civil rights struggle of Blacks. Nevertheless, racial discrimination in the United States will not disappear until capitalist society has disappeared.

That is, discrimination will never be wiped out within the framework of capitalist society. Discrimination with respect to race and sex can only be wiped out through a socialist revolution, which eradicates the exploitation of man by man. [Applause]

August

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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The Militant August 27, 2018



# Socialist Workers Party: ‘Amnesty now!’

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nial exploitation and wars by Washington and other imperialist powers made productive and safe lives difficult at home. They are also drawn here because the capitalist class absolutely needs immigrant labor to produce and compete for markets against its rivals around the world and to drive down the wages of U.S.-born workers.

No matter who happens to be sitting in the White House — whether it’s a Bush, a Clinton, an Obama or a Trump — the capitalist class has no intention of deporting all or even most immigrant workers. The boss class *wants* them here, but forced to live in fear of deportation so that they don’t organize, join unions and demand better wages and working conditions. The bosses also benefit because they use the second-class status imposed on workers without papers to drive down wages and conditions for *all* workers.

Less than 7 percent of workers at private companies are in unions. The bosses have succeeded in driving down our wages and undermining pensions, health care and job safety. This anti-worker offensive continues despite the explosion in hiring today.

Key to their success is the entrenched union bureaucracy, which imposes class-collaborationist policies on workers, both on the shop floor and in support of the capitalist rulers’ state and its policies at home and abroad.

It’s not possible to fight the bosses and win if we’re divided. The labor movement needs to explain, “We don’t care what papers you have or don’t. We demand amnesty for all immigrant workers in the country. And we invite you to join the union.”

This is a life-and-death question for the working class. When the inevitable economic downturn comes, the bosses ramp up their efforts to stoke anti-immigrant sentiment along with prejudices among immigrants against Blacks and other U.S.-born workers. The fight for amnesty is a fight for the soul of the working class.

The liberal press claims workers are more reactionary, racist and anti-immigrant today. This is how they explain the 2016 election of Donald Trump.

But many workers without papers have lived here for decades. We work side by side in factories and other workplaces. We live in the same working-class neighborhoods. Our kids go to the same schools.

In fact, anti-immigrant sentiments are *lower* among workers today than ever. That was shown by the response by working people in the rural town of O’Neill, Nebraska, who organized rapid protests against immigration cops who were in the midst of raiding several factories and ranches in the area and extended solidarity to their families.

The Socialist Workers Party says, “Join the fight for amnesty!”

## Nebraska immigration raid sparks protests

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tion and Customs Enforcement says were working without proper papers. The other target was 17 people ICE claims brought the workers in, got them fake IDs, and stole part of their wages each week. They face felony conspiracy charges.

“I was teaching swimming when I heard the news,” Kendra Vanderbeek, an English teacher, said by phone Aug. 8. She headed right over to O’Neill High School to talk with Bryan Corkle, a science teacher and wrestling coach. He told her, “We’ve got to get something together.”

“So we called people and put it on Facebook,” Vanderbeek said. “And with just an hour and a half notice, the number of people who came out was encouraging.” There were also protests over the next several days in Grand Island, Nebraska, where workers were taken after their arrest, and in Norfolk and other nearby towns.

This is the first time, Vanderbeek, 25, said, she had ever joined a protest, much less helped organize one.

Vanderbeek’s father is an electrician and her mother is a waitress. “We’re blue collar, working class,” she said. “And even in my own family not everyone agrees with me. Quite a few people say, ‘How can I help the kids, but I don’t feel bad for the parents because they made the decision to break the law.’”

“I try to take the humanitarian side of it,” Vanderbeek said. “I say, ‘You’re a parent, just imagine what you would feel like in that exact situation.’”

More than 85 percent of the vote in Holt County, where O’Neill is located, went for Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election. More than 90 percent of residents are Caucasian. The town was founded by Irish immigrants in 1882.

“I was surprised at the support we have from community members,” Vanderbeek said.

“These people have been working and living here for years and they’ve become part of the community and part of the family,” she said. “That’s why views are changing.”

### Factory raids unpopular

Factory and other workplace raids had been a central tool that the U.S. government used for de-

cadecades to instill fear in immigrant workers to keep them from joining unions and demanding better wages and conditions.

But the raids have become more and more unpopular, especially after millions of immigrant workers took to the streets in 2006 to protest a bill before Congress to make it a felony to be in the United States without a visa. The bill was defeated, and the workers without papers won growing support and respect from U.S.-born workers.

Native-born workers increasingly hid their fellow workers and protested the raids. Deciding the political cost was too high, the U.S. rulers ended the raids by mid-2008 and shifted to other methods, such as E-Verify and immigration “audits” to manage the flow of cheap labor the bosses desperately need.

But the administration of Donald Trump has begun to carry out workplace raids, including in Tennessee, Ohio and Iowa over the past several months. Many have been met with protests.

ICE used as many as 400 federal, state and local cops in the Aug. 8 tri-state raids, led by the agency’s Homeland Security Investigations police and backed by local authorities.

### Area workers debate raid

Gerardo Pena, a forklift operator at Elkhorn River farms, was there when ICE surrounded the plant. “I should have run inside and said, ‘Run guys, because ICE is here,’ but I didn’t have any chance,” he told KETV News.

Kevin Stevenson, a butcher, had a different view. The raid “was probably long overdue,” he told the TV station. “I feel bad for them in a way, but hey, they’re here illegally.”

Don Tejral, who used to work at a meatpacking plant in Grand Island, told the *Omaha World Herald*, “Most of these people are hardworking. They just want to better their lives.” He said there should be a way for them to be able to work legally.

Local churches have helped the families of workers detained in the raid. Donations of food, toys and money have poured in from around the region.

At an Aug. 10 press conference organized by wrestling coach Corkle, Carmen, one of the workers who was detained in the raids and then released pending a court hearing, thanked all those who came out to support them. “It made us feel that we are not alone,” she said.

“We didn’t come here to take bread out of anyone’s mouth,” she said. “We just came to work with dignity for our families.”

## End prison censorship

**Continued from front page**

nowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky and Lieberman, filed an appeal of the ban Aug. 7.

“The *Militant* has been delivered to all its subscribers in federal prisons since at least the 1950s,” Goldstein noted, except once, and that was overturned on appeal. “The ban must be reversed and the rejected issues delivered to the inmate subscriber.”

Organizations and individuals concerned about freedom of speech and the rights of workers behind bars have been writing to Federal Bureau of Prisons Regional Director Sara M. Revell asking for the ban to be reversed.

“This misguided action strikes at the heart of fundamental rights of Americans,” wrote Bruce Levine, professor of history at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Aug. 12, “rights that in truth should be enjoyed by all human beings. To suppress this one periodical constitutes a danger to anyone who cares about freedom of thought, inquiry and expression.”

Fred Whitehead, an author and historian from Kansas City, Kansas, wrote to express, “my severe condemnation for the recent banning of the *Militant*.” He added, “Prisoners are still citizens and should receive the benefit of freedom of the press.”

Among those who have spoken out against prison censorship of the *Militant* are the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild, Amnesty International, PEN America, other newspapers and prisoner rights, church and other groups.

### More issues censored in Florida prison

While the Illinois anti-censorship fight unfolds, the *Militant* is also dealing with prison officials’ impounding the paper from subscribers in Florida.

“Florida prison officials must think that sooner or later we’ll get tired of fighting censorship, but we won’t,” Studer said after receiving notices Aug. 7 from a subscriber at the Florida State Penitentiary in Raiford.

Ironically, the July 9 and July 16 issues were banned, according to the warden there, because they reported on the *Militant*’s ongoing fight against censorship in Florida state prisons!

This, the impoundment notice claims, “presents a threat to the security, good order or discipline of the correctional system or the safety of any person.”

The July 30 issue cites as the reason for rejection “Page 2-3” with no indication which articles or content requires impoundment. The articles on these two pages include “Ukraine Miners’ Strikes, Protests Win Back Wages” and “Books by SWP Leaders Perk Interest at Librarians’ Meet,” as well as coverage of a salt miners strike in Ontario, Canada, and a July 12 rally in Columbus, Ohio, by thousands of miners, Teamsters and other unionists protesting pension cuts.

But authorities there never informed the *Militant* about the impoundment, as they are required to do by state prison regulations. The paper found out from one of its subscribers who had his papers taken.

“Florida regulations require that a Correctional Institution must provide written notice to both the inmate *and the publisher*,” Goldstein wrote in a letter to Warden Barry Redish Aug. 7. The *Militant* has appealed to the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee over every such impoundment in the state, with the vast majority overturned.

### Fight prison censorship

**Get out the word.** Distribute copies of *Militant* articles on the ban at Greenville federal prison.

**Send letters** to end censorship at Greenville, Illinois, prison to Federal Bureau of Prisons Regional Director Sara M. Revell, Gateway Tower II, 8th floor, 400 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101-2492. Copies to: themilitant@mac.com

**Send a check** to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

### The ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

Makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.