

‘Workers need their own political party, a labor party’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, and campaign supporters recently knocked on doors in north-west Dallas, where leaking natural

SWP SPEAKS IN INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

gas pipes maintained by Atmos Energy exploded last February, killing 12-year-old Linda Rogers. They wanted to discuss what was involved and how working people can fight to defend their interests.

“This disaster was caused by the negligence of Atmos Energy,” Juanita Jimenez, a house cleaner, who has lived for 25 years across the street from the Rogers’ house, told Kennedy. “When the house exploded people were screaming and I ran outside. The day before two nearby houses were

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Chicago cop found guilty in killing Laquan McDonald

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — After less than 8 hours of deliberation, the jury in the three-week trial of Jason Van Dyke — the cop who killed 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in October 2014 — returned guilty verdicts on 17 of the 18 charges against him.

Jurors found Van Dyke guilty of second-degree murder (he had been charged with first-degree murder) and 16 counts of aggravated battery — one for each of the shots fired into the body of the Black teenager, most when he lay on the ground.

Van Dyke is the first Chicago cop to be convicted of murder in an on-duty shooting in nearly 50 years. Free on \$1.5 million bail since shortly after he was charged in November 2015, Van Dyke was immediately taken into custody.

Nationally, Van Dyke was the 94th police officer to be charged with murder or manslaughter since 2015, and

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Join ‘Militant’ in fight against prison censorship in Florida!

Free Ukraine director on hunger strike
BY EMMA JOHNSON
Oleg Sentsov, an internationally known Ukrainian filmmaker imprisoned in Siberia for his defense of Ukrainian Crimea, has been on a hunger strike for more than 100 days.

California protest demands ‘End solitary confinement!’

BY BETSEY STONE

Sept. 3 by Roger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York.

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Millions of people at a protest in San Francisco Aug. 21, 2018, demanding an end to solitary confinement. Photo by: [unreadable]

Race-Based Hostilities” that called for an end to violence among prisoners. Ashker said the prison authorities’ efforts to pit prisoners against each other was “the source of our mutual adversary’s manipulation tactics — centered on keeping us divided

and violent towards one another.” “We must stand together not ourselves, but for future generations,” the four prisoners said in a joint statement in 2017 reaffirming agreement, “so that they don’t have to go through the years of torture we have

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LA port workers fight for union, immigrant rights



Reuters/Kyle Grillot

Teamsters at Port of Los Angeles join protest at immigration detention center to support port drivers, warehouse workers, others facing deportation if Temporary Protected Status is ended.

Teamsters, Painters speak out against deportations

BY BILL ARTH

WILMINGTON, Calif. — More than 300 port truck drivers, warehouse workers and their supporters held a rally and march in this port town Oct. 3 at the end of a three-day strike against XPO Logistics and NFI Industries. The drivers and warehouse workers are fighting to win recognition of the Teamsters as their union, to improve conditions for temporary and permanent workers, and to force the companies to admit that so-called in-

Continued on page 2

Amnesty for immigrants! Unite, organize all workers!

The following statement was released Oct. 10 by Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in California.

SWP STATEMENT

“I’m not the immigration police,” the head of the Carpenters union recently told the press. The union doesn’t ask painters where they were born or what papers they have, he

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Forum: Working class is at the center of politics in the United States today

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — The U.S. Senate voted 50-48 today to approve Appellate Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment to the Supreme Court,

John Studer, editor of the *Militant* and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, said at the Militant Labor Forum here Oct. 6.

“The working class had no interest

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Syria truce holds in Idlib, threatened by capitalist rulers’ competing interests

BY TERRY EVANS

The entry of Moscow and its air power, along with Tehran’s Revolutionary Guard troops and Shiite militias it organizes into the civil war in Syria has meant opponents of the regime have been relentlessly driven into one remaining region — the Idlib province. Over 3 million people reside there, including some 90,000

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‘One job should be enough,’ say striking Marriott hotel workers
Calif. raisin workers end strike, beat back attack on health care

Fight for union, immigrants

Continued from front page
dependent truckers are actually their employees.

The union decided to combine the strike with the fight against White House orders terminating Temporary Protected Status, which allows workers from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti and the Sudan to live and work legally in the U.S. Many port drivers and warehouse workers will be disqualified from working and threatened with deportation if their TPS status is withdrawn.

“It’s very important that the demand about TPS was included,” Jose Rodriguez, a warehouse worker for Cal Cartage, which also employs many of the truckers, told the *Militant*. The port workers who have TPS “face a terrible crisis, worrying about what will happen to their families if it is ended.” Cal Cartage was recently taken over by NFI.

“I hope all the unions will join in this cause,” he said.

That morning six big Teamster-driven rigs led workers in a protest outside the Metropolitan Detention Center in downtown Los Angeles, where many immigrants are held before deportation.

“We’re a little late and we were never at the front, but when the dynamics of our people changed we had to change with it,” Ron Herrera, vice president of the Western Region for the Teamsters, told BuzzFeed News. “We realized a majority of workers we’re trying to organize are TPS holders and immigrants. A lot of them were predominantly immigrant Hispanic.”

Members of other unions and immigrant rights groups took part. The construction industry employs the largest number of workers covered by TPS and the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades backed the protest.

“People come to this country and they want to work and I’m not the immigration police,” Ken Rigmaiden, general president of the Painters union, told BuzzFeed. The union is open to anyone, regardless of where they were born and raised, he said, adding that it’s important we stand up for our members when it comes to TPS or Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids.

The port drivers are fighting to be classified as employees. The overwhelming majority of the hundreds of trucking companies that deploy 17,000 trucks at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach classify their drivers as independent contractors. As so-called contractors, federal labor law prohibits them from joining a union.

Rodriguez has been among those warehouse workers at Cal Cartage who have been fighting for years for higher wages, safer conditions and union representation. “We work unloading for big, wealthy companies — Amazon, Sears, Lowe’s and Home Depot,” he said. “After 25 years, I make \$16 an hour. It’s not a just wage.”

Many of the workers are hired



Militant/Bill Arth

Cal Cartage warehouse workers join rally in Wilmington, California, Oct. 3, part of three-day strike alongside port drivers for right to join union. Strikers joined protest against White House order ending Temporary Protected Status for immigrants threatened with deportation.

through a temp agency, he said, and they make even less.

After the protest at the detention center, workers organized a car caravan and drove 20 miles to the waterfront for the rally.

The day ended with a civil disobedience action blocking the busy intersection of the Harry Bridges entrance to the I-110 Freeway. Some 50 union supporters were arrested, in an arrangement set up beforehand with the cops.

As bosses face labor shortage, Amazon raises pay to \$15

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Amazon, the second-largest employer in the U.S. after Walmart, and the richest, valued at over \$1 trillion, announced Oct. 2 that it’s increasing its minimum wage to \$15 an hour starting in November. The move comes in face of a shortage of workers to hire for its huge warehouses and growing discontent by those currently employed there over working conditions — and discussions over unionization.

The move will affect 250,000 full-time Amazon employees and more than 100,000 temporary workers in the U.S. as well as some 37,000 full-time and seasonal workers in the U.K. The raise for U.K. workers will be to \$12.50 an hour and in London, \$13.80.

In praising the decision as something “new” and “different,” Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos, currently the richest person in the world and the owner of the *Washington Post*, didn’t mention the fact that he makes \$4 million an hour, a product of the huge profits the company makes off exploiting its workforce.

Competition has been intensifying more broadly over getting and keeping workers to fill lower-paid retail, warehouse and other blue-collar jobs. Earlier this year Walmart increased its minimum wage in the U.S. from \$9 to \$11.

“It’s no longer enough to post jobs on websites,” Chris Beckage, a vice president of staffing firm Acara Solutions

told the *Wall Street Journal*, to attract workers for warehouse jobs. “We’re going to bowling alleys, churches, community centers.” And some employers are dispensing with marijuana tests and criminal background checks to more quickly get workers on the job, he said.

Amazon’s move follows widespread strikes by workers at the company’s warehouses in Germany and Spain this summer over low pay and working conditions. A one-day strike at six facilities in Germany July 17 coincided with Amazon’s Prime Day, when the company offers big discounts. Workers in Spain went out for three days, and in Poland workers staged a “work-to-rule.”

Amazon Prime, the company’s two-day delivery option, currently costing \$119 a year, “has triggered an arms race among the largest retailers,” noted the *Wall Street Journal* Sept. 20, as sharpening competition has forced many of

Continued on page 6

THE MILITANT

Back fight for a union to unite all drivers!

Bosses pit drivers at Uber and other app-based companies against taxi drivers, aiming to drive down the wages of all. The ‘Militant’ tells the truth about the conditions they face, urges solidarity with their fight for a union, explains all workers need to be organized into unions.



Daily Record

Uber Eats workers strike in January, Scotland.

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

‘Workers need their own party’

Continued from front page

destroyed by fires from leaking lines. People reported smelling gas, but Atmos didn’t shut down anything. They knew this could happen.”

“This capitalist contempt for life and limb of workers is criminal,” Kennedy responded. “It’s an example of why working people need to break with the Democrats and Republicans and build their own labor party to unite workers and represent our class interests.”

Jimenez got a copy of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* — a book by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes.

The SWP campaigners also met Dennis Baker, a retired locksmith, who has lived in that neighborhood for 20 years. “Yeah, Atmos replaced the lines, but it took the death of a 12-year-old to make them do what they were ordered to do years ago,” he said.

Baker was interested in the article in the Oct. 15 *Militant* entitled “Presumption of Innocence Is a Crucial Right for Working Class,” on the stakes for working people posed by the debate among the rulers on the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. Baker said he was concerned about the erosion of political rights facing working people and bought a copy of the paper.

On Oct. 6 Albany Socialist Workers Party members Alex Huinil and I went door-knocking in Lawrence, Massachusetts. On Sept. 13 natural gas explosions damaged 80 homes and buildings, killing one person, injuring dozens and forcing thousands to evacuate in Andover, Lawrence, and North Andover along the Merrimack River near Boston.

The pressure of the gas the non-union Columbia Gas Company was pumping into the area that day was 12 times higher than normal, the *Boston Globe* reported.

“My son and I were told to evacuate, but we had nowhere to go, so we slept in the car,” meatpacker Cynthia Gonzalez, 44, told Huinil when we knocked on her door. “The company and the government don’t care about us.”

“This wasn’t an accident, it was a

social disaster caused by the bosses’ contempt for the safety of working people,” Huinil said. “In Cuba, where workers and farmers made a revolution, there are hurricanes, but the government and the entire people are prepared, and thousands mobilize to carry out orderly evacuations that treat working people with dignity. They provide housing for the displaced, and begin repairing damage immediately after the storm subsides.”

Gonzalez decided to subscribe to the *Militant*.

Doorstep campaigning key for SWP

The central political activity of the SWP, and for members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K., is visiting with workers on their doorsteps and living rooms in cities, towns and rural areas to discuss a road forward for the working class.

The SWP has launched an eight-week drive to sell 1,500 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 1,500 copies of five specially priced books, including *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* (See below.) And to raise \$100,000 for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund from Oct. 6 through Dec. 4.

The drive is aimed at reinforcing the party’s door-to-door campaigning and to increase the reach of the *Militant* and the party. Party members talk about what working people face today, the need to build solidarity with working-class struggles, and point to the road toward independent working-class political action.

“Working people in Puerto Rico and the Carolinas are finding ways to work together to deal with the consequences of the hurricanes that hit them, which are a social crisis caused by the capitalist system,” Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New York, told Matthew Wright, a graphic artist, at his door in a New York City housing complex Oct. 2. “We are seeing embryonic examples that show workers’ capacity to organize themselves and others.”

Wright said he follows and defends the revolution made by the Cuban workers and farmers, who prepare



Militant/Norton Sandler

Socialist Workers Party members Laura Garza and Fredy Huinil speak with Dora Correa, center, Oct. 6 about debate over “gentrification,” rising rents, thug attacks on art galleries in Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, and workers need for a labor party.

and react to hurricanes in a totally different way. “The press here hides how people in Cuba work together during hurricanes to minimize loss of life,” he said, and extend help internationally.

“When Cubans went to Angola,” Wright said, referring to the 425,000 Cubans who volunteered between 1975 and 1991 to help defend newly independent Angola against multiple invasions by South Africa’s racist apartheid regime, “the U.S. government was surprised. They said, ‘Who do these colonial people think they are, showing up in Africa?’ But no, they go around the world and help other people too!”

Wright subscribed to the *Militant* and said he looks forward to talking again and looking at the books Socialist Workers Party members are promoting.

Norton Sandler and Fredy Huinil had a discussion with Dora Correa in the Boyle Heights district of Los Angeles Oct. 6. Correa is a part-time house cleaner whose husband, a butcher in a nonunion market, “gets bad pay and no benefits,” she said.

The socialists showed Correa a recent *Militant* article, “‘Anti—Gentrification Fight’ Is Pretext for Attack on Art, Culture that Workers Need,” which addressed a debate going on in Boyle Heights. Claiming to be fighting against “gentrification” in the predominantly Latino neighborhood, small groups of middle-class leftists and anarchists have gone on a campaign to physically attack art galleries, as well as threaten and race-bait artists, gallery owners and others.

“But there are big changes in the neighborhood,” Correa responded, “with rents going up, something has to be done!”

“Rent exploitation is part of capitalism,” Huinil said. “Working people need to act independently of the capitalists and the parties that protect their interests. We need a labor party that fights for working people.”

“That’s a new idea,” Correa said. “We need something. The rich have no idea how we live. Some weeks we live on rice and beans.” At the conclusion of the discussion, she purchased an introductory subscription to the *Militant* and two books by SWP National Secretary Barnes — *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart* and *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*; and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters.

To join Socialist Workers Party and Communist League members in this effort, or to make a contribution to the Party-Building Fund, contact the party branch nearest to you. (See 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 them online. For more info:

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Chicago cop found guilty

Continued from front page

the 34th to be convicted, according to statistics compiled by Bowling Green State University law professor Philip Stinson.

McDonald's mother, Tina Hunter, was not in the courtroom for the verdict. But his great-uncle, Rev. Marvin Hunter, told the press her reaction to the verdict was "relief" and "tears of joy."

"Now we can go home and sleep, knowing Laquan is at peace," Marvin Hunter said.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the cops had connived to keep the video showing the killing hidden for more than a year. William Calloway, a prominent Chicago activist who helped force the release of the video three years ago, told the press he felt justice had been served. He said the verdict proved to the city and the country that a white police officer can be held accountable for killing a Black person.

"It means everything," Calloway said. "It means more than what words can explain."

Alford Slee, a worker at a nearby

Walmart, told the *Militant*, "I think justice has been served for what happened to McDonald and that's good for all working people. Hopefully McDonald's family members are OK and safe. We should keep them in our prayers."

Harry Bradley, another Walmart worker, echoed the sentiment of many. "In my opinion he should have been convicted of first-degree murder," he said. "But it's a victory for us because he didn't get off with just a slap on the wrist."

The outrage that followed the release of the video sparked protests across the city.

And the video played a key role in the trial and verdict. Van Dyke took the stand to try and argue that what happened justified him in fearing for his life and opening fire. But each thing he raised, including the claim that McDonald was trying to get up from the ground, was contradicted clearly in the video, which was shown to the jury multiple times.

The jurors stayed around after the verdict. "It seemed like he was finally giving the play after they had been re-



AP Photo/Matt Marton

Protesters celebrate after conviction Oct. 5 of Chicago cop Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder in 2014 killing of Laquan McDonald. Jurors said they just didn't believe Van Dyke.

hearing with him for weeks," one juror, a Caucasian woman, told the press. "We just didn't buy it."

City authorities had prepared for big protests if Van Dyke had been acquitted. The cops cancelled days off and prepared to put officers on 12-hour shifts. The Chicago Public Schools

told students they were free to walk out and protest, but not for too long.

Van Dyke's partner, Joseph Walsh, who testified for the prosecution under a grant of immunity, faces charges of obstruction of justice and conspiracy in a separate case, alongside two other officers.

Join 'Militant' in fight against prison censorship in Florida!

Continued from front page

Militant encourages violence or is "dangerously inflammatory" — will wear down the *Militant* and give prison bosses free rein over what prisoners can read.

"We will continue to fight and to win against the censorship, and to press authorities there to follow their own rules," *Militant* editor John Studer said Oct. 9. "The fact that the Review Committee overturns the vast majority of the impoundments means they should tell prison wardens to stop the impoundments in the first place.

"We are fighting for the constitutional right of prisoners to read material of their choosing, not just those that prison and government officials prefer," he said. "They have a right

to form their own opinions, to know what is going on in the world."

"We are asking supporters of democratic and political rights, unions, church groups as well as civil liberties organizations to send letters calling on the Literature Review Committee to overturn the latest impoundment," Studer said.

As a result of previous fights by the *Militant* and by inmates there and other supporters of prisoners' rights, the New York State Department of Corrections explicitly states in their guidelines that the *Militant* is one of the publications that "shall generally be approved," Studer noted. "The Florida Literature Review Committee can instruct wardens to stop singling out the *Militant* for censorship."

This fight for freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Florida prisons takes on added importance because of attacks by prison officials in other parts of the country.

Democratic Party governor of Pennsylvania Tom Wolfe and prison officials there announced severe restrictions on books, periodicals and letters last month. The nearly 47,000 prisoners in the state are no longer allowed to receive *any* letters, cards or photos directly from friends and relatives. State officials claimed that literature and mail was coming in bathed in drugs, and guards got sick when they touched them.

Mail to workers behind bars now has to be sent to Smart Communications in St. Petersburg, Florida. Smart will scan the mail, and any photos and clippings, and send digital files back to Pennsylvania officials, who are supposed to print them out and give them to inmates.

Mail from lawyers is to be opened and photocopied by guards in front of the prisoners. In a gross violation of attorney-client privilege, prison officials will keep the originals.

Pennsylvania prisoners can no longer order books and periodicals directly from book and newspaper publishers like the *Militant*, nor can

they receive donated books from Pennsylvania volunteer programs like Books Through Bars, and Book 'Em. Instead, they have to ask prison authorities to order publications. If approved, prisoners have two days to pay in full.

New York state and Maryland officials also tried earlier this year to require prisoners to buy books only from a handful of approved vendors, who had an extremely limited selection, mostly self-help, comic books, and religious texts. The programs were rescinded after civil liberties and prisoner rights groups protested.

To help build this fight, the New York Militant Labor Forum is hosting a panel discussion Oct. 13. Speakers include James Tager, deputy director of Free Expression Policy and Research at PEN America; Justin Mazzola, researcher at Amnesty International USA; and Willie Cotton from the Socialist Workers Party.

Supporters of the rights of work-

Fight prison censorship

Get out the word. Distribute copies of *Militant* articles on this fight.

Get statements of support for the *Militant's* appeal from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to: themilitant@mac.com

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

ers behind bars can organize similar programs in their areas and look to involve labor activists, union officials, church groups and other. This can help get out the word and more letters of support.

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Library Services Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Attn: Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, via email to Allen. Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com, or via fax at (850) 922-2121. Please send a copy and a contribution to continue this battle to the *Militant*.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

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New Openings for the Working Class as Imperialist 'World Order' Unravels. Speaker: Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California. Fri., Oct. 19. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$10 (\$5 program only). 8400 Enterprise Way. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

GEORGIA

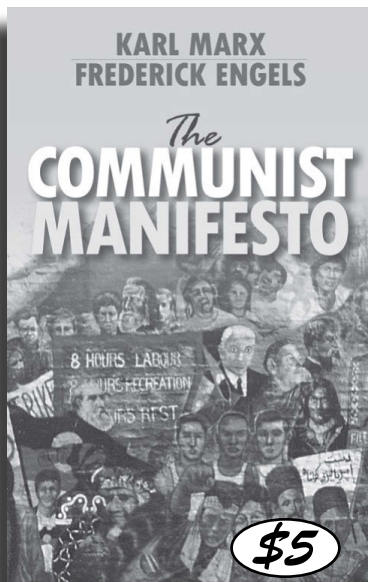
Atlanta

Thomas Sankara Set Example for Africa and World Lessons of the Burkina Faso Revolution, 1983-87. Speaker: Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Tel.: (678) 528-7828.

NEW YORK

New York

Join Fight Against Prison Censorship. Defend the Rights of Workers Behind Bars. Speakers: James Tager, PEN America; Justin Mazzola, researcher, Amnesty International USA; Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 307 W. 36th St. 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 964-4793.



"Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers."

—Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Written in 1848, the Communist Manifesto explains why communism is the line of march of the working class toward power, "springing from an existing class struggle, a historical movement going on under our very eyes."

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today. Send in articles, photos and letters on picket lines and other labor protests to themilitant@mac.com, post them directly on our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

‘One job should be enough,’ say striking Marriott hotel workers

BOSTON — “Don’t check in, check out!” chanted striking hotel workers in front of the Westin Copley Square downtown Marriott hotel here Oct. 6. They beat drums and blew horns as they marched. Some 1,500 members of UNITE HERE Local 26 have been on strike since Oct. 3 at this and six other area Marriott-operated hotels, demanding higher wages. Their central slogan is “One job should be enough,” capturing the fact that the hotel workers’ wages are too low to survive without getting another job or two.

Thousands more hotel workers — housekeepers, dishwashers, servers and bartenders, cooks and bellmen — went on strike at Marriott in the Bay Area, *Militant* worker-correspondent Andrea Morell reported. They began picketing at seven downtown San Francisco hotels, and one each in Oakland and San Jose, California. In addition to wages, workers say health care and job speedup are key issues.

Nacho, a worker at the Oakland hotel who only used his first name, told the *Militant* that health coverage is the most important issue to him. “Marriott wants to take away our Kaiser medical plan,” he said. “Now we pay \$25 a month to cover our family. Marriott wants to make us pay \$300 a month.”

“The strike’s going well,” Juan Robles told the *Militant* in Boston. Robles has worked at the Copley Square hotel since he finished high school 26 years ago. “Customers are complaining about noise and poor service on the hotel website. And we’re getting support. Members of the Teamsters, SEIU 1199 and other unions have picketed with us.”

“I am striking because I have to work three jobs to try and cover all my family’s expenses,” said Brooke Melanson, a bartender at the Westin Boston Waterfront, quoted by the union in a press statement on the strike. Last year Bos-

ton ranked 13th in the cost of living index of U.S. cities.

Pickets — the majority of whom are fierce partisans of the Boston Red Sox baseball team, which was playing in the American League Eastern Division playoffs against the New York Yankees — were angry that some Yankees players had crossed the picket line at the Ritz Carlton the day before. “We call them ‘Yankee scabs,’” Robles said.

Marriott bosses face the likelihood of additional strikes as contracts are running out in Detroit, Seattle, San Diego and Hawaii as well, the union said.

— Maggie Trowe

Chicago hotel strikers win year-round health coverage

CHICAGO — Since 6,000 members of UNITE HERE Local 1 went on strike here in early September, workers at 24 of the 26 hotels have settled, winning year-round health care insurance, the biggest issue in their walkout. Union members remain on strike at two hotels — the Cambria Magnificent Mile and the Kinzie Hotel — as contracts are negotiated separately with each hotel.

“The company cuts the low seniority workers’ hours in the winter slow period and then, to make matters worse, they eliminate our health insurance,” Tine Morales, who has six months on the job as a housekeeper at the Kinzie Hotel, told the *Militant*. “That affects me and my kids. We need year-round health insurance.”

“Union members who won and are back at work have come over and join our picket line during their breaks and after work,” she said.

Jose Sanchez is a houseman with nearly 11 years at the hotel. For him one of the biggest issues is that the bosses there want to convert their vacation and sick days into a single “paid time off” category. “For those of us with years on the job, we’d lose a week’s vacation. We had four weeks vacation plus five



Militant/Eric Simpson

Members of UNITE HERE Local 2 on strike against Marriott-operated Westin St. Francis hotel in San Francisco Oct. 4. Workers demand higher wages, health care, end to speedup.

sick days, and they want to limit us to 20 PTO days,” he said. “Already, every time you want to schedule a vacation you have to fight with them.”

— Dan Fein

Calif. raisin workers end strike, beat back attack on health care

KINGSBURG, Calif. — The strike of 500 raisin processing workers here came to an end Sept. 25 when members of Teamsters Local 431 beat back an attack by bosses on their health care and ratified a new three-year contract.

The unionists walked off the job Sept. 10 and kept up 24/7 picketing at Sun-Maid’s processing plant and world headquarters during the entire strike. They had voted three times to turn down takeback proposals from Sun-Maid Growers of California, especially the bosses’ demand that workers begin paying for their health insurance.

“We won an improvement on the insurance, that was the big question we were fighting for,” Martina Fernandez, a packinghouse worker with 13 years at the company, told the *Militant* outside the plant Sept. 27. The company still got a weekly deduction for the first time, but it was cut down. With

an hourly wage increase of \$1.60 over three years and the new insurance payment, the net raise over three years is 56 cents an hour, the union calculated.

Sun-Maid bosses say they sell some 12 to 15 percent of all raisins worldwide.

Starting pay goes up 50 cents immediately to \$13.53 an hour under the new agreement, and rises to \$14.63 over the next two years. California’s minimum wage is currently \$11 per hour and will hit \$13 in January 2020.

The mood of workers exiting the plant Sept. 27 was positive, even though no one we spoke to was happy about having to pay any health care deduction.

“I enjoyed being on the picket,” Fernandez said. “We got to know each other. We walked, we talked, we ate a lot — we even danced!”

“We went back at 6 a.m. yesterday,” Lydia Delgado, a line worker with 28 years experience, told us. “Our union president was there to make sure we were treated fairly. We gathered and chanted ‘Si se puede!’ before we went in. The owners aren’t happy because they lost a lot of production. They lost a lot of money because we went on strike.”

“They tried to run my line with managers, supervisors, agency workers, even the nurse, but they couldn’t,” she said. “Now that we are back, it’s up and running.”

— Eric Simpson and Raul Gonzalez

Teachers at Miami college rally for higher pay, full-time work

MIAMI — Eighty trade unionists and supporters held a march and rally at Miami Dade College North Campus Oct. 4 to support faculty adjunct workers organized by the Service Employees International Union at the college. The protest drew workers from Miami International Airport, several McDonald’s restaurants, Walmart and building maintenance workers.

“Many of us have worked at MDC for years on the vague promise of a full-time position,” Maritza Campos, one of the faculty adjuncts, told the *Militant*. “We never get raises, receive no benefits, but carry a full load of classes. My hourly pay is the same this year as when I first started here in 2006.”

The union reported that 80 percent of the faculty at Miami Dade College were employed on a contingency basis in 2016, kept off the track to get tenure.

— Steve Warshell

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 25, 1993

Armed rightist thugs with full backing of the country’s military, have stepped up their violent attacks aimed at preventing Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide from returning to power.

Washington claims that its contribution of 600 soldiers, as part of a UN force of 1,300 being sent to Haiti, will simply be there to help “retrain” the Haitian army and police. Yet, it was these very same repressive forces that U.S. marines succeeded in installing, training, and equipping with armor in the first place when they occupied the country for 19 years earlier this century.

For 29 years, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, Washington backed and financed the repressive Duvalier dictatorship. Only a massive rebellion of Haiti’s workers and peasants forced an end to the reign of terror in February 1986.



October 25, 1968

LOS ANGELES — The Socialist Workers Party campaign headquarters here was bombed by right wing terrorists on Oct. 16. Police say the explosive was dynamite or a similar substance.

The bomb went off in the stairway leading to the second story offices shared by the SWP and the Young Socialist Alliance. The terrorists left a red, white and blue sticker with the inscription, “United Cuban power.” The bombing is the latest in a series of bomb attacks in L.A. by anti-Castro Cubans.

At a press conference the following morning, Joel Britton, SWP organizer in Los Angeles, said that the responsibility for the bombing lies with the U.S. government. “The war of aggression which the U.S. is carrying on against Vietnam and its anti-Cuba campaign give the inspiration to individuals and rightist groups to carry on their ‘anti-communist’ crusade,” he said.



October 23, 1943

Tired of the runaround they have been getting from the War Labor Board and the company, the swing and night shifts of the Federal Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Kearny, New Jersey, members of Local 16, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, CIO, struck October 14.

The contract expired last June 23. The new contract has not yet been approved by the WLB. The main demand, a 9% wage increase, has been rejected.

As soon as the men struck, the union bureaucracy, the company, and the government apparatus joined to break the strike and punish the strikers. The Selective Service Board reported that all Federal Shipbuilding employees registered with them had been put in I-A. Those who did not strike, the draft board announced, would be put back into deferred classifications.

Japanese rulers fight exposure of slavery of ‘comfort women’

BY PATTI HIYAMA

SAN FRANCISCO — Nearly 500 people on Sept. 22 commemorated the first anniversary of the installation of a “comfort women” memorial here that has sparked a sharp controversy. The mayor of Osaka, Japan, recently terminated its six-decade sister-city relationship with San Francisco in retaliation for the memorial, reported the Oct. 3 *San Francisco Examiner*.

“Comfort women” is the euphemism employed by the Japanese government to describe the more than 200,000 women kidnapped and forced into brothels to service Japanese soldiers during World War II. Women who tried to resist or escape were badly beaten, even shot. The United Nations estimates that 90 percent of these women died during their captivity.

The Japanese monarchy seized Korea in 1905 and Japanese warlords imposed their political rule over land and labor. They invaded Manchuria in 1931 and occupied most of Pacific Asia. In every area Japanese imperialist forces occupied, they set up “comfort stations” where women were forced to service as many as 70 Japanese soldiers a day.

This was part of the Japanese rulers’ moves to challenge Washington in the Pacific, and to suppress and colonize the peoples they conquered. Millions were transported against their will to the Japanese mainland to serve as forced labor. Korean farmland was seized and turned over to Japanese landlords who moved there.

Koreans were ordered to speak Japanese, not Korean, and in 1939 to take Japanese names. This oppression was hated by the vast majority and rebellions and protests were drowned in blood.

Long after the U.S. rulers defeated Tokyo in the war, this sexual slavery organized by the Japanese government was covered up. Many of these women were barred by their native rulers and abandoned by the Japanese government. In fact, Japan’s surrender did not end the military brothels. Washington’s occupation forces allowed comfort stations to operate until 1946, servicing tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers.

Women speak out

Not until a courageous Korean woman, Kim Hak-soon, spoke out in 1991 to tell the truth and demand an apology and reparations from the Japanese government did hundreds of women in Korea, China, the Philippines and elsewhere begin to talk publicly about their experiences and fight for justice.

Finally in 2015, the rulers in Japan and South Korea struck a deal. Tokyo offered a vaguely worded “statement of regret” and a one-time contribution of 1 billion yen — then \$8.3 million — to Seoul to set up a foundation to compensate some of the women who still survived.

In return, Seoul was to consider the comfort women issue to be “resolved finally and irreversibly,” in hopes it would fade away. The Korean government was also to remove the bronze statue of a comfort woman that had been installed in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul.

But those protesting the Japanese government’s treatment of the comfort women refused to keep quiet. Korean activists have put up more statues — in more than 50 parks and public spaces, and even on buses. Memorials to the comfort women have been erected in other Pacific nations, often under protest from the Japanese government.

The San Francisco statues were the eighth memorial erected in the United States, and more are planned.

Tokyo continues to deny that the Japanese military organized the comfort stations, insisting the women freely chose to be prostitutes. It also claims that Japan should not be singled out, since sexual violence against women has been part of wars throughout history. They go so far as to assert that holding the Japanese government accountable for this crime only serves to fuel anti-Japanese racism.

Seeking to rebuild imperialist army

Why is the Japanese government on a drive to prevent comfort women memorials? Simply put, their denial of the coercion of the comfort women is part of a larger campaign to strengthen support at home for Japanese capitalism against its competitors in Asia and elsewhere, and support for rebuilding the capitalist rulers’ military.

In 1947 Article 9, written by the occupying U.S. military commanders, was inserted in the Japanese Constitution. It states that “land, sea and air forces ... will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”

The collective memory of the devastation suffered by Japanese workers and farmers at the hands of Japan’s military dictatorship during the second imperialist world war, and from Washington’s nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, fuels the widespread opposition to rebuilding the military. A generation of workers and farmers was decimated.



Militant/Betsey Stone

Above, San Francisco statue of “comfort women” who Japanese rulers kidnapped and forced into prostitution during second imperialist world war. Inset, 500 people attend Sept. 22 commemoration of statue’s unveiling. Osaka, Japan, mayor ended its sister-city relationship with San Francisco in retaliation for memorial.

Millions were killed or wounded after being drafted to fight in Japanese imperialism’s invasion of Asia.

Japanese workers at home were also the target of U.S. imperialism. Washington aimed at civilians when it fire-bombed and bombed from the air or warships 66 Japanese cities, including killing over 80,000 in Tokyo alone. They destroyed over 2.3 million houses — 20 percent of all housing in Japan. Even U.S. Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers called the firebombing “one of the most ruthless and barbaric killings of non-combatants in all history.”

As the deepening world economic crisis has unfolded, competition among the capitalist bosses and their governments has sharpened. The Japanese ruling class needs to turn its already massive Self-Defense Forces into an offensive power in order to assert its position, including in the Pacific. This is especially

important to the Japanese bosses as Beijing expands its economic and military presence throughout the region.

However, they aren’t meeting with much success. The movement to tell the truth about the history of the oppression of the comfort women has been growing, even in Japan. In Tokyo, the Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace has compelling exhibits showcasing their testimony.

And in opposition to the stance of their mayor, a delegation of two grassroots groups from Osaka traveled to San Francisco in a show of solidarity supporting the memorial.

“We hope to continue to learn from you and grow together to cultivate solidarity and relationships,” Kazuko Yamahara of the Forum for Improvement of Osaka told the rally here, “so that we will continue to ensure that history stays alive through the next generation.”

Amazon raises pay to \$15 an hour

Continued from page 2

them to take similar steps. In the past year, Target, Walmart and many vendors on Google Express have started offering similar two-day delivery.

Amazon employs over 560,000 workers worldwide, operating over 140 fulfillment centers — about 75 of them in the U.S. Some of these distribution centers are gargantuan, exceeding a million square feet. And inside its Rube Goldberg-like conveyer systems, speedup and unsafe conditions for the workers increases amid intense boss pressure to “make rate.” Workers also have to contend with the more than 100,000 robots buzzing around Amazon’s distribution centers.

At an Amazon fulfillment center in Pennsylvania, for example, one worker was fired five weeks after getting injured on the job, reported the *Guardian*. “I was on a ladder and someone came flying into the area I was in, hit the ladder causing me to fall, and I landed on my back and left leg,” Christina Miano-Wilburn told the paper. “They refused to give me paperwork for workmen’s comp.” She had worked at Amazon for two years.

Lindsai Johnson quit her job at a California warehouse last May after having to be taken away in an ambulance

over dehydration and dizziness. “Not all people report injuries because they are scared to get taken off their job,” she told the *Guardian*. “I have many times come home with bruises from work at Amazon and experienced my first hernia there.”

Despite the current expansion in the U.S. capitalist economy, wage raises have been hard to come by. In August wages rose 2.9 percent from a year earlier, but after adjusting for inflation, the increase was just 0.2 percent, the Labor Department reported.

Many bosses instead have opted for offering bonuses or some benefits, something much easier than wages for them to cut when the inevitable capitalist downturn arrives. “The average worker received 32 percent of total compensation in benefits,” reported the *New York Times* Sept 26, “including bonuses, paid leave and company contributions to insurance and retirement plans in the second quarter of 2018. That was up from 27 percent in 2000.”

But not Jeff Bezos. After announcing the wage hike at Amazon, he said all worker bonuses and stock options were being eliminated to free up money to cover the increase. When workers heard of the cuts, many said they expected they would actually get less over all.

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THE MILITANT
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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 1: 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

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Workers at center of US politics

Continued from front page
in either backing or opposing Kavanaugh’s nomination,” he said. “We didn’t have a horse in the race. They are nine black-robed robbers for the ruling class.”

“But that doesn’t mean that who is on the court doesn’t have an impact,” Studer said. “For the working class it’s better to have a Supreme Court that doesn’t try to transform itself into a partisan legislative arm of government instead of one that makes decisions based on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and other amendments.

“And we have enormous interest in some of the questions that arose in the furious opposition against President Donald Trump’s nominee,” he said. “Especially in the political rights we have won in blood over centuries of revolutions and class battles, like the Bill of Rights protection of the presumption of innocence.”

Since the 2016 presidential election, liberals, members of all stripes in the splintering Democratic Party, some Republicans and the so-called left have been on a “resistance” crusade. They aim to try and bring down Trump’s presidency, to get him impeached or otherwise ousted. More fundamentally, it’s aimed at the workers who voted for him, or didn’t vote at all — disgusted with both parties — ensuring the defeat of Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton.

“From the pink pussyhats protest at the Women’s March in January 2017 to the most recent #MeToo ‘We Believe Her’ actions, they paint a picture of a rise of an increasingly backward, racist, sexist and reactionary working class,” Studer said. “But none of it is true.”

The Socialist Workers Party has found the opposite when its members and supporters take their program and literature door to door in working-class neighborhoods, in cities, towns large and small, and rural areas. Working people are interested in discussing the crisis and the line of march forward the Socialist Workers Party presents.

End of the ‘American Century’

Studer started by putting the Supreme Court fight in context — what the working class faces today. The election of Trump was a reflection of the crisis of capitalism — an economic political, social, moral and cultural crisis. It takes place as the “American Century” has come to an end, with the coming apart of the old liberal imperialist world order and the institutions the U.S. rulers used to advance their interests, from NATO to the United Nations. And those that its weaker competitors tried to use, like the European Union.

U.S. imperialism came out the victor in the second imperialist world war. But while Washington is still the world’s strongest imperialist power, it is weaker than ever, Studer said. The future, most people think, is with China, in Asia. But not yet. The U.S. capitalist rulers are still top dog.

The decisive question is which class will rule. The working class needs to break politically with the capitalists’ state and political parties, he said. We need to build our own party, a labor party, and fight to lead workers and farmers to power.

There is an expansion in the economy

today. According to official statistics, unemployment is at 3.7 percent, the lowest since 1969, although the labor force participation rate remains at historically low levels.

“Do you remember all their talk about robotization, that there are no more blue collar jobs, that the working class is disappearing, that the ‘deplorables’ of the small towns and the countryside should move to the big cities and get jobs in the gig economy?” Studer asked. “Now all of a sudden there’s a shortage of truck drivers, rail, warehouse workers, retail — at least at the wages the bosses are willing to pay.”

Trying to keep enough workers, Jeff Bezos raised the minimum wage at Amazon to \$15 an hour. This has drawn sharp interest from workers and puts pressure on other bosses to give in to the demands of those fighting to raise the minimum wage.

Economic growth good for workers

“That’s good for the working class. It’s easier to get or change jobs,” Studer pointed out. “It gives us more confidence to be able to stand up and fight.”

“You can see this in some of the labor actions taking place,” he said. “The teachers who went on strike earlier this year in West Virginia, Arizona, and other states. Hotel workers in Chicago, San Francisco, and other cities. The Los Angeles port truckers who went on strike to fight to be recognized as workers with the right to join unions, and where Teamster and other union officials led a protest against the government’s moves to end Temporary Protected Status for workers from El Salvador and elsewhere, a recognition of the importance of fighting for amnesty for immigrant workers to build unions today.” (See article on front page.)

Some of the economic growth is from the up and down cycles of capitalism and some of it is boosted by the tax cuts and moves on trade relations by the Trump administration. Because of the provisions of the new trade agreement between the capitalist rulers in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, some European auto bosses say they will move more manufacturing to North America.

The economic uptick doesn’t mean the carnage workers face has gone away. On the contrary, Studer pointed to the continuing surge in opioid addiction, including by workers on the job. The high rate of suicide among soldiers and veterans used as cannon fodder in imperialism’s wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries and then abandoned by the government when they return home.

Anti-Trump hysteria not going away

A few weeks ago the *Militant* had a headline “Liberals’ Frenzy Against Trump Falts in Face of Workers’ Dis-taste.”

“But that’s not true,” Studer said.

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

Socialist Workers Party statement

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Chinese gov’t arrests Marxist Society for union organizing



Reuters/Sue-Lin Wong

Students at Peking University’s Marxist Society read and studied the writings of Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin and Mao Zedong, something that Chinese President Xi Jinping claimed during a May visit to the campus is “the foundation of China’s Communist Party.” But when the students decided to put what they read into action, China’s capitalist-minded rulers had them arrested.

Their “crime?” They had joined with workers in Huizhou, a city in Guangdong Province in southeastern China, who are protesting abysmal working conditions and fighting to organize independent unions. The province, a manufacturing center of 4.8 million people, is a hotbed of labor activity.

In July dozens of current and former students from several universities joined with workers at Huizhou’s Jasic Technology factory, which manufactures welding equipment, to support their fight to form an independent union. The young activists wore T-shirts with the slogan “Unity is strength” and marched alongside workers, holding banners that said “Forming unions is not a crime.”

Later that month police arrested 30 of the workers. Then on Aug. 24 cops wearing riot gear stormed an apartment in Huizhou and detained 50 of the student and youth activists. According to the *New York Times*, as the cops burst through the door, the youth sang “L’Internationale.”

“I could not let myself be a mere internet commentator,” Peking University graduate Yue Xin, told the *Times* before her arrest. “I had to stand up.”

“What we are doing is entirely legal and reasonable,” said Chen Kexin, a senior at Renmin University in Beijing. “We stand with workers.”

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

“There will be ups and downs. But the hysteria and furor is not going away. It’s a permanent part of bourgeois politics in the U.S. today.”

Democratic Congresswoman Maxine Waters in California has never backed off from her call to harass members of the Trump administration “and tell them they’re not welcome anymore, anywhere.”

This hysteria is what led to the attempt by Bernie Sanders supporter James Hodgkinson to kill as many Republican congressmen as he could at a practice baseball game in June 2017. He shot and nearly killed Congressman Steven Scalise.

Virtually the entire middle-class left is an integral part of the hysteria as they plunge headlong into promoting the Democratic Party. The International Socialist Organization, Studer said, wrote that “the next Congress won’t take office until four long months from now — and the Trump administration needs to be confronted now. If the Republicans get away with confirming Kavanaugh, January 2019 will be far too late to start resisting.” Their “criticism” of the Democrats, is that they are not whipped up enough against Trump.

Workers shouldn’t get caught up in debates over how the Senate organizes its hearings or the procedures it uses, like who gets to

speak first. It’s the rulers’ Senate. Workers run into the important issues at stake in the rulers’ criminal “justice” system.

The debate over Kavanaugh affects the working class indirectly, Studer said. We focus on crucial questions like the presumption of innocence.

Studer recalled the case of the nine Black youth in Scottsboro, Alabama, who in the 1930s were framed up and sentenced to death on false allegations of rape by two Caucasian women; of 14-year-old Emmett Till, tortured and murdered in 1955 after he was falsely accused of whistling at a white woman; Socialist Workers Party member and unionist Mark Curtis, framed up on charges of rape in 1988 for his participation in the fight to defend co-workers at a meatpacking plant in Des Moines, Iowa, from the threat of deportation.

Kavanaugh never faced stakes like this. If his nomination had been rejected he was not facing jail time, or lynching, just a return to his well-remunerated Appeals Court gig.

Fight for women’s emancipation

The fight for women’s emancipation was discussed extensively at the Socialist Workers Party-sponsored Active Workers Conference in June, Studer said. SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters gave a talk, “Private Property and Women’s Oppression: The Working-Class Road to Emancipation.”

“There can be no socialist revolution,” she said, “without fighting to end all forms of women’s degradation.”

The oppression of women grew out of

Continued on page 9

‘Our revolution is a break with all previous regimes’

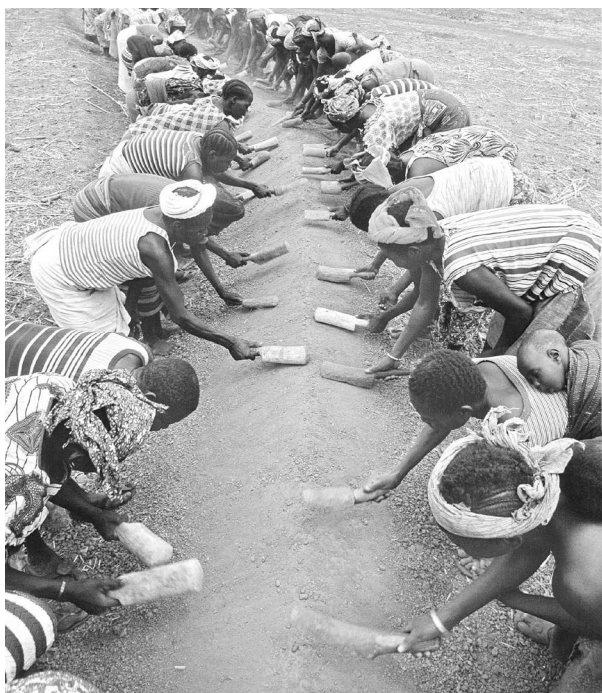
The French-language edition of *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. Sankara was the central leader of the 1983-87 popular democratic revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso, called Upper Volta under French colonial rule. He was assassinated in a coup on Oct. 15, 1987, but his example and revolutionary course live on. The excerpts below are from his Oct. 2, 1983, "Political Orientation Speech," which was broadcast nationwide. It became the revolution's main programmatic document. Copyright © 2002 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

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

It is a revolution occurring in a country still characterized by the lack of an organized working class conscious of its historic mission, and which therefore possesses no tradition



UN Photos: left, John Isaac; above, Milton Grant
Above, Thomas Sankara at Oct. 4, 1984, press conference at U.N. in New York. Left, after revolution women prepare ground to control erosion and catch rainwater near town of Kaona, April 1, 1986.

of revolutionary struggle. ...

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

It draws its popular character from the full participation of the Voltaic masses in the revolution, and their consistent mobilization around democratic and revolutionary slogans that concretely express their own interests in opposition to those of the reactionary classes allied with imperialism. The popular character of the August [1983] revolution also lies in the fact that, in place of the old state machinery, new machinery is being built, capable of guaranteeing the democratic exercise of power by the people and for the people. ...

All the previous political regimes, one after the other, until now have strived to introduce measures to better run neocolonial society. The changes introduced by these regimes amounted to installing new teams within the continuity of neocolonial power. None of these regimes wished nor was able to question the socioeconomic foundations of Voltaic society. That is why they all failed.

The August revolution does not aim to establish one more regime in Upper Volta. It represents a break with all previously known regimes. Its ultimate goal is to build a new Voltaic society, within which the Voltaic citizen, driven by revolutionary con-

sciousness, will be the architect of his own happiness, a happiness equal to the efforts he will have made.

To do this, the revolution—whether the conservative and backward forces like it or not—will be a deep and total upheaval that will spare no domain, no sector of economic, social, and cultural activity. ...

The weight of age-old traditions in our society has relegated women to the rank of beasts of burden. Women suffer doubly from all the scourges of neocolonial society. First, they experience the same suffering as men. Second, they are subjected to additional suffering by men.

Our revolution is in the interests of all the oppressed and all those who are exploited in today's society. It is therefore in the interests of women, since the basis of their domination by men lies in the system through which society's political and economic life is organized. By changing the social order that oppresses women, the revolution creates the conditions for their genuine emancipation.

The women and men of our society are all victims of imperialist oppression and domination. That is why they wage the same battle. The revolution and women's liberation go together. We do not talk of women's emancipation as an act of charity or out of a surge of human compassion. It is a basic necessity for the revolution to triumph. Women hold up the other half of the sky.

Forging a new mentality among Voltaic women that allows them to take responsibility for the country's destiny

alongside men is one of the essential tasks of the revolution. The same is true of the transformation to be made in men's attitudes toward women.

Until now, women have been excluded from the realm of decision making. The revolution, by entrusting women with responsibilities, is creating the conditions for unleashing women's fighting initiative. As part of its revolutionary policy, the CNR [National Council of the Revolution] will work to mobilize, organize, and unite all the dynamic forces of the nation, and women will not be left behind. They will be involved in all the battles we will have to wage against the various shackles of neocolonial society in order to build a new society. They will be involved at all levels in conceiving projects, making decisions, and implementing them—in organizing the life of the nation as a whole. The final goal of this great undertaking is to build a free and prosperous society in which women will be equal to men in all spheres.

However, we must have a correct understanding of the question of women's emancipation. It is not a mechanical equality between men and women, acquiring habits recognized as male—drinking, smoking, and wearing pants. That's not the emancipation of women. Nor will acquiring diplomas make women equal to men or more emancipated. A diploma is not a free pass to emancipation.

The genuine emancipation of women is one that entrusts responsibilities to women, that involves them in productive activity and in the different fights the people face. The genuine emancipation of women is one that compels men to give their respect and consideration. Emancipation, like freedom, is not granted, it is conquered. It is for women themselves to put forward their demands and mobilize to win them. ...

One of the CNR's essential concerns is to unite the different nationalities that exist in Upper Volta in the common struggle against our revolution's enemies. There are indeed in our country a multitude of ethnic groups that differ from each other in language and customs. The Voltaic nation consists of the totality of these nationalities. Imperialism, through its policy of divide and rule, strove to exacerbate the contradictions among them, to set one against the other.

October

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Amnesty now! Organize all workers!

Continued from front page
said, we just sign them up.

Drivers and warehouse workers fighting for Teamsters union recognition at the Port of Los Angeles combined their three-day strike this week with a protest against the threatened deportation of immigrants — some of them truckers and union supporters — whose Temporary Protected Status is under attack by the White House. I joined them in Wilmington, along with other Socialist Workers Party supporters.

In the United States today, where there are more than 11 million immigrant workers without “proper” documents. My party, the SWP, campaigns for the unions to fight for amnesty for all of them. That way they can join the battle to build the unions without fear of raids, arrest and deportation. This is a life and death question to unite the labor movement.

The fate of U.S.- and foreign-born workers is intertwined. We work together. Our children go to school together. We need to stand up to the bosses together.

“We don’t care where you were born, what language you speak, the color of your skin or your sex. Let’s join together in the union to fight for the interests of all working people.” That’s the stance every union and every worker should take.

Just 6.5 percent of workers for private companies have a union today. That makes it easier for the bosses

to impose speedup, cut corners on safety, push wages down, implement inhumane work schedules and take out their profit drive on our backs.

How is the capitalist class, a tiny minority, able to impose its will on the vast majority, the tens of millions of working people who produce all the wealth?

They work continually to divide us, pitting unemployed against employed, Black against Latino against Caucasian, native-born against foreign-born, men against women. Their goal is to convince us to see each other as the problem, not the exploitation, oppression and wars inherent in capitalism. The only way to counteract this is to unite in struggle to fight for workers’ rights.

More than 150 years ago, Karl Marx, the founder of the modern workers movement, wrote that the unions “must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interest of its *complete emancipation*.” They must act as the “champions and representatives of the whole working class.”

This is the road forward to organizing and building a fighting union movement. It is the road to building our own working-class party independent from the capitalist rulers’ state and their political parties, a labor party based on the unions that can challenge the bosses, fighting every day in the interests of the working class, and map out a course to take political power.

Syria truce holds in Idlib, but is threatened

Continued from front page

rebels forced to flee from other parts of the country.

When the reinforced Bashar al-Assad dictatorship announced its coalition forces would assault Idlib to crush its opponents, the Turkish regime, which supports the National Front for Liberation there, convinced Moscow to meet and discuss some kind of truce to prevent a bloody slaughter. They reached agreement last month to join in enforcing a “demilitarization” zone to separate Assad’s forces from those in Idlib, if a series of conditions and deadlines were met by Ankara, groups the Turkish rulers support, and some it doesn’t, including the former al-Qaeda Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). October 15 is the deadline.

But the Turkish and Russian capitalist regimes have separate and clashing interests in Syria, working to expand their political, economic and military influence. And the same is true for Tehran.

The tentative pact put on hold Assad’s threatened assault. The groups aligned with Ankara have removed their tanks, artillery and other heavy weapons some 12 miles back from the front lines, creating the zone that the Turkish forces will patrol. But HTS has so far said nothing about what they will do and it is unclear whether they remain fully armed and in place.

With the government reasserting its sway over large parts of the country — except for the 25 percent of the country where the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces and its U.S. ally is based, and a small sliver on the Iraqi border where the Islamic State still has a foothold — there is nowhere else in Syria for those in Idlib to go.

The National Front for Liberation has demanded Ankara’s assurance that Moscow’s forces will not be permitted into the demilitarized zone, which was part of the original agreement between the Turkish and Russian rulers. The Turkish government said it would accede to the group’s demand, but so far Moscow hasn’t commented.

Additional Turkish troops and armament have deployed to the province to begin patrolling the zone. But they and their allies came under fire from the HTS Oct. 6. The Islamist forces also clashed with the Turkish-backed groups near the planned zone, taking control of two towns there.

Assad announced Oct. 7 that the regime considers this truce “temporary” and fully intends to retake the entire country.

Uprising against Assad regime

Working people across Syria rose up against the dictatorial regime in 2011. A civil war evolved as Assad’s

repression crushed the courageous protests. Government forces were pushed out of widespread areas of the country. But with the vacuum of working-class leadership, reactionary Islamist groups and forces loyal to Turkey’s capitalist government came to the fore in many areas liberated from Assad’s rule.

Moscow and Tehran intervened in 2015 to drive back those rebelling against Assad’s rule and rescue his widely hated, anti-working-class regime. The Vladimir Putin regime in Russia did this to consolidate its military bases in Syria, wield greater influence in the region and strengthen its position against Washington. The capitalist regime in Iran intervened, seeking to expand its arc of counterrevolutionary political and military influence across Iraq and Syria to the Mediterranean. Tehran aims to more easily funnel weapons to its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon and to strengthen its position against rival rulers in Israel and Saudi Arabia.

This year the rulers in Tehran have faced popular protests against their wars abroad and the effects they have at home. Alongside their military intervention across the region, and attacks on the protests, the Iranian rulers have also ramped up assaults on Kurds in Iran. Some 30 million Kurds across Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey are denied a homeland by the rulers there and have fought for sovereignty and their national rights for decades.

Last month Kurdish shopkeepers in Iran led a strike to protest the execution of Kurdish prisoners and Tehran’s airstrikes on Iranian Kurds based in Iraq. In response, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard has deployed thousands of troops, special forces, tanks and heavy weaponry in a number of Kurdish cities in Iran. The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence has picked up and interrogated dozens of Kurds in recent weeks.

In the course of the Syrian civil war hundreds of thousands have been killed, mostly by the regime, and 12 million of the country’s 23 million people were driven from their homes, half of those seeking refuge in other countries. With entire cities in ruin and infrastructure devastated, few have returned.

Washington, along with the capitalist rulers in the EU, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, seek to limit Tehran’s advances. As part of this effort, the U.S. government has abrogated its nuclear agreement with Tehran and reapplied an expanding regime of sanctions. The U.S. rulers have also enforced sanctions on Syria for years, extending and tightening them after the 2011 uprising began. Like those Washington imposes on Iran, these sanctions fall hardest on the country’s toiling majority, making daily life an even harder struggle for survival.

Their morals and ours

Thank you for the story, “Bosses Refuse Help from Locked-Out Unionists in Mass. Gas Explosions,” in the Oct. 8 issue. This is an example of why capitalists have no moral right to rule society.

In 2012, when Hurricane Sandy left thousands without power around the New York City area — some for many, many months — I was an electrician apprentice in upstate New York. There were thousands of unemployed electricians around the Northeast. The workers with the skills to do the work were available.

But under capitalism, there was only the mad scramble by electrical contractor employers to make big money off the devastation. Doing what was needed to be done to help those people rebuild their lives was not the first thought.

Ray Parsons, IBEW Local 236

Albany, New York

Great information

Please continue my subscription for six months. I love the *Militant* newspaper because it gives me great information and news. Thank you so much for making this great information available.

A prisoner

Florida

Housing and homelessness

An encampment of nearly 300 people, mainly Native Americans, has grown along a busy highway in Minneapolis. The mayor and police chief announced they will not close the camp and claim they are finding housing and health care. But so far only five people have been placed in housing. Two people have died — one from asthma and one who overdosed.

None of the capitalist candidates have visited the workers and the social agencies are doing nothing. The Socialist Workers Party advocates a massive jobs program, nationalization of housing and health care available to all.

Helen Meyers

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Workers at center stage

Continued from page 7

the emergence of class society and how the emerging ruling class organized the inheritance of property.

“The dawn of private property and the origins of women’s oppression were the same,” Waters said. It has remained a central aspect as class exploitation has evolved, through slavery, feudalism into capitalism.

The fight to overthrow capitalism, however, opens the door to end women’s oppression. For the first time in human history, human productivity and organization has the potential to meet the needs of all. This means the possibility to eliminate the sway of private property and class rule.

Over the last 50 years women’s growing integration into the workforce, alongside men, and social struggles, have transformed social relations. Just in the last few weeks there have been hundreds of thousands in the streets for women’s right to abortion in Argentina, Ireland and elsewhere.

All women are oppressed as women, Waters said, but how to effectively fight this oppression is a class question.

The #MeToo “movement,” and demands that you have to just believe anyone who charges a man with rape, are not the way forward. “Shaming men” and the like are the opposite of what’s needed and possible to win co-workers and others, female and male, to understand how the rulers use women’s oppression to divide and weaken working people.

Solidarity and working-class unity can be forged in the fight against the bosses’ assaults and by championing the rights of women, Blacks and others. Along this road, Studer said, we can take our destiny into our own hands.

Correction

In the article “‘Anti-Gentrification Fight’ is Pretext for Attack on Art, Culture that Workers Need” in the Oct. 15 issue, Ellie Garcia was misidentified as a rail worker. She is an aerospace worker. The author, Laura Garza, is a rail worker.