

# THE MILITANT

**INSIDE**  
Erbil book fair highlights openings, struggles in Kurdistan and Iraq  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 18 MAY 6, 2019

## Former FBI boss Mueller's probe blow to political rights

BY TERRY EVANS

Former FBI boss Robert Mueller's report on his conclusions from his inquiry into the sham claims of collusion between President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and the Russian government was released April 18. It amounts to yet one more political effort to smear Trump, while Mueller is forced to admit there is no serious evidence of a link between Moscow and the president.

In the course of their efforts to criminalize political differences between the bosses' two parties, liberals have celebrated methods used over decades by the capitalist rulers to target working-class fighters. Like all "special counsels," Mueller's operation was an unrestricted probe with vast powers to haul in and interrogate anyone they chose, to dig around for dirt, press for plea bargain confessions and enforce convictions. It undermined basic legal protections laid out in the Bill of Rights.

Despite two years and a squad of  
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## Workers at Stop & Shop end strike, discuss results

31,000 grocery workers won broad solidarity



Militant/Brian Williams

Workers picket Stop & Shop in Bridgeport, Connecticut, April 20. Strike took on company moves to widen divisions between full- and part-time workers, hike health insurance costs.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The 11-day strike by some 31,000 workers at 240 Stop & Shop stores in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island ended April 22 following the announcement of a tentative agreement

between company bosses and the United Food and Commercial Workers union. Members of five UFCW locals will begin voting on the contract this week.

The unionists, who had been working without a contract since Feb. 23,  
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## Washington's sanctions on North Korea fall on toilers

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Socialist Workers Party stands "in solidarity with the decades-long struggle to reunify Korea, which Washington, in collusion with Moscow, brutally partitioned following World War II," Steve Clark said in a letter to the North Korean government on behalf of the SWP National Committee.

North Korean imports of basic necessities like fuel, spare parts and construction materials are restricted by sanctions imposed with the backing of the United Nations Security Council. The burden falls, Clark notes, "most heavily on workers and farmers." Washington has continued its punishing measures while the U.S. and North Korean governments have been negotiating over ridding the peninsula of nuclear weapons. And sanctions have remained in place since the second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam Feb. 27-28 ended without new agreements.

The letter, sent on the occasion of the Democratic People's Republic of  
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## Florida prison officials at it again, impound two issues of 'Militant'

BY SETH GALINSKY

After nearly seven months without any reported attempts by Florida state corrections authorities to block delivery of the *Militant* to subscribers behind bars, officials there just seized two issues of the paper.

Officers at Florida State Prison in Raiford took aim at the *Militant* article titled "Woodfox Shines Light on Prison Abuse, Solitary Confinement" in the April 15 issue. The story reports

### Woodfox shines light on prison abuse, solitary confinement

Albert Woodfox, one of the Angola 3, on speaking tour after nearly 44 years in solitary



From left, Ernest Navarro, who was thrown in solitary as a teenager at Illinois Island prison; Albert Woodfox; and David Rubenstein, founder of the Justice Society, speaking March 26. NEW YORK — Albert Woodfox spent nearly 44 years in solitary confinement in a prison that still in Louisiana's notorious Angola prison. He and Herman Wallace and Robert King came into the center of an...  
The four and book expose the abusive conditions that critics of prisons across the country...  
Supreme Court puts limits on cops seizing property, a gain for workers...  
Celebrate political life of veteran communist in U.S. Alabama...  
Are 'hate crimes' and racism on the rise in the US?...  
Crisis in student loan...  
Indiana teachers rally for higher pay, better work conditions...  
Working girls in 'hated' and 'hate' industry struggle continues...  
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### Outcry hits attempt to gut Florida voting rights victory

Working people and other supporters of democratic rights are standing up to attempts to undermine a historic victory for the voting rights of ex-prisoners in

ing people, while deponentism...  
The government and some of the allies in the Florida Assembly and Senate are...  
There's a huge challenge...  
Militant's March 25 issue, left, and April 15 issue, above, banned by Florida prison officials. "They think it's OK to beat and mistreat us, but not to read about it," one prisoner subscriber wrote the *Militant*.

on a book tour by Albert Woodfox, who served over 40 years in solitary as one of the "Angola 3" in Louisiana's notorious state penitentiary.

Prison authorities claimed it "depicts, describes or encourages activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption" and that it "otherwise presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system." Woodfox  
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## Washington steps up economic war against Cuban Revolution

BY SETH GALINSKY

The White House April 17 announced new sanctions in Washington's decadeslong economic war against the Cuban people and their socialist revolution.

The government imposed Title III of the reactionary 1996 anti-Cuba Helms-Burton Law, which allows

## 'US rulers wars are extension of the bosses' attacks on workers at home'

BY TERRY EVANS

Socialist Workers Party candidates are campaigning all across the country, taking their working-class program to cities, towns and country lanes. They find wide-ranging discussion among working people about what can be done to defend workers and farmers from the impact of the capitalist rulers' economic crisis and wars.

Utility worker and union member Kevin Bartolotto discussed what  
**Continued on page 3**

U.S. citizens to sue the Cuban government as well as foreign companies that operate there using property that was nationalized in the revolution. This provision had been barred from implementation, since its passage, by the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations and for the first two years under Trump.

The administration will also deny U.S. visas to anyone accused of "trafficking" in this property; tighten some restrictions on U.S. travel to Cuba; impose new obstacles to Cuba's access to hard currency and set a \$1,000 cap per quarter on remittances  
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# US economic war on Cuba

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by Cuban-Americans to their families on the island.

The announcement was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the failed April 1961 Bay of Pigs attack. This invasion by 1,500 mercenaries armed, trained and deployed by Washington was defeated in less than 72 hours by Cuban workers and peasants who mobilized to defend their revolution.

The measures are part of Washington's effort to blame the social crisis in Venezuela on Cuba. In announcing the new measures, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo repeated timeworn slanders that the Cuban government is a repressive dictatorship and the lie that "Cuban military intelligence and state security services today keep [Venezuelan President Nicolás] Maduro in power."

In 2014, under the Barack Obama administration, the U.S. rulers made a tactical shift to "loosen" aspects of the U.S. embargo. This was a recognition that decades of attempts to use biting sanctions to throttle the revolution had failed. Their new approach sought to extend the reach of the U.S. dollar in Cuba and promote growth of capitalist businesses there. They hoped these steps would encourage "consumerism" inside Cuba and undermine the revolution.

Both Trump and Obama share the same long-term goal — to re-establish the grip of capitalist exploitation and U.S. imperialist control.

The U.S. government — under Democratic and Republican presidents alike — has never forgiven the working people of Cuba for overthrowing the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista regime in 1959. Nor has it given up on trying to overturn the revolution.

The U.S. rulers especially hate Cuba's

living example that workers and farmers can take political power and open the road to deeper inroads on capitalist property relations.

## US imperialist arrogance

Fidel Castro told the U.N. General Assembly in September 1960 that when the Cuban government nationalized U.S.-owned land and corporations, advancing workers control, the U.S. government demanded, "Prompt, adequate, and effective compensation."

"That means," Castro said, "Pay this instant, in dollars and whatever we ask."

The Cuban revolutionary government did offer compensation. "We simply proposed to pay for it in 20 years," Castro said, "by bonds that would mature in 20 years, at 4.5% interest amortized annually." Washington refused.

Even before the Helms-Burton Title III lawsuits are made legal, the State Department says that nearly 6,000 claims had been certified by the Treasury Department as eligible to go to court.

The U.S. government also plans to implement the act's Title IV, which denies entrance to the U.S. to anyone Washington says is involved with confiscated properties. This is intended to send a message to U.S. competitors in Britain, France, Canada and other countries that have investments in Cuba.

These governments have denounced Washington's moves.

At a meeting in Florida to commemorate the Bay of Pigs assault April 17, National Security Adviser John Bolton made it clear that new sanctions against ships and maritime companies that transport oil from Venezuela were primarily aimed at weakening Cuba.

Some 40 ships and six companies that have been shipping oil from Venezuela

## Protesters in New Zealand defend Maori land



Militant/Annalucia Vermunt

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — In a campaign that has gathered national backing, hundreds of supporters of the fight to protect Maori land rights rallied April 9 at Ihumatao. Protesters presented a petition with 20,000 signatures to Auckland Mayor Phil Goff, calling for halting a planned development by construction giant Fletcher Building. The scheme would mean destruction of areas of rare historical and cultural significance.

"In 1863 our land was confiscated, and our village has suffered the worst effects of colonization," Qiane Matata-Sipu, a founder of Save Our Unique Landscape, told the rally. "This is the birthplace of our history." She appealed for the mayor "to stop the development."

The group has campaigned for years to incorporate the threatened land into an adjacent public reserve. "Local Maori have had continuous settlement of this area for 800 years," Goff acknowledged. In response, he said, the City Council designated Rennie Block, a smaller piece of land nearby, to be part of the reserve. Protesters said they will continue the fight.

— ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

to Cuba are now sanctioned. Venezuelan oil shipments to other countries, such as India, China and Russia, have not faced the same restrictions.

The Cuban government said in an April 17 statement that Washington knows "Cuba has no troops nor does it participate in military or security operations in Venezuela, even though it is a sovereign right of two independent countries to determine how to cooperate in matters of defense, which the United States has no right to question."

The overwhelming majority of the roughly 20,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers in Venezuela today are health care workers, teachers, sports instructors and coaches "and 60 percent are women," the statement said.

The statement quoted a speech by Cuban leader Raúl Castro April 10. "In 60 years of facing aggression and threats,

we Cubans have demonstrated an iron willingness to resist and overcome the most difficult circumstances," he said. "Despite its immense power, imperialism does not have the capability to break the dignity of a united people, who are proud of their history and the freedom won at the price of so much sacrifice."

Samantha Hamlin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Troy, New York, who participated in last year's May Day Brigade in Cuba, condemned Washington's moves.

"For decades the U.S. rulers have tried to cripple the Cuban Revolution and make Cuba's workers and farmers pay for making a socialist revolution," Hamlin said. "And for 60 years the Cuban people have served as an example to working people worldwide. We demand Washington end its economic war against Cuba!"

## THE MILITANT

### Women fight for right to abortion worldwide

The 'Militant' covers struggles to win women's right to choose abortion and control their own bodies, from South Korea to Ireland as well as battles from Argentina to Texas. These are gains for women's emancipation and for the whole working class.



Kyodo via AP images  
Seoul rally April 11 hails South Korea high court ruling overturning ban on abortion.

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# 'Rulers wars, attacks at home'

Continued from front page

workers face today with Samantha Hamlin, SWP candidate for mayor of Troy, New York, and campaigner Arlene Rubinstein. They spoke about today's decline in union membership outside his garage in Prosperity, Pennsylvania, a small town in coal mining country south of Pittsburgh April 13.

"Unions can grow as they build solidarity with the struggle of other workers," Hamlin said. SWP candidates have been urging support for the recently concluded 11-day strike by over 30,000 workers at Stop & Shop in New England.

"These young kids coming back from the wars are all messed up. They give them a pill and send them out the door," Bartolotto said.

"Wars in the Mideast are an extension of the bosses' attacks on working people here," Rubinstein said. SWP candidates demand that Washington immediately withdraw its armed forces from Syria, Afghanistan and Korea.

They showed Bartolotto *Teamster Bureaucracy* by SWP leader Farrell Dobbs. Dobbs, who was a central leader of the Teamster battles in the Midwest, describes the campaign led by the union in Minneapolis to organize working-class opposition to the U.S. rulers' imperialist aims in the Second World War. Bartolotto got the book.

"World War II was caused by competition between rival gangs of capitalists for markets," Dobbs writes. "Further conflicts of this kind remain inevitable" under capitalism. He describes the conditions required for a socialist revolution and the kind of working-class party needed to lead one.

## Driver's licenses, Amnesty for all!

One question SWP campaigners run into often is what immigration today poses for the working class.

"I have mixed feelings about immigration," nurse Alexis Tate told Alyson Kennedy when the SWP candidate for Dallas mayor said her campaign spoke out against the recent immigration police raid on a factory in Allen, Texas. Kennedy and George Chalmers knocked on Tate's door in Newcastle, Texas, April 12.

"It's important for native born and immigrant workers to fight together for better conditions," Kennedy said. "Winning an amnesty for workers without papers would help achieve the unity we need." Tate wanted to find out more about the SWP and working-class battles today. She got a subscription to the *Militant* and three books.

Socialist campaigners Susan LaMont and Rachele Fruit met Alejandro Garza April 6 when they stopped to eat at his restaurant in Eatonton, Georgia. "I've lived here more than 20 years, my children were born here," he said. "I have this restaurant, and still I can't get a driver's license." After a discussion on how demonstrations were planned across the country to support driver's licenses for all, he got a subscription to the *Militant*.

Returning a week later, Fruit and LaMont gave Garza flyers for the May Day protest in Athens, Georgia, demanding driver's licenses for immigrants. He posted one on the store's front door and put a pile on the counter. He also bought the Spanish-language edition of *Are They Rich, Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

The drive to expand the reach of revolutionary books and the *Militant*, and to raise crucially needed funds for the paper is international. In addition to the SWP, members of Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. are taking part.

"I want to see what you say about my country," restaurant owner Ardita Litija told Communist League members Anne Howie and Jonathan Silberman when they visited her ice-cream parlor in South Wales April 20. Litija is from Kosovo and she got a copy of *The Truth About Yugoslavia, Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention*, co-authored by Silberman.

The book explains the bloody war in Yugoslavia in the 1990s was not a product of "age-old ethnic and religious conflicts," as it and other wars today are often portrayed. Instead, the book's authors explain the carnage perpetrated on the peoples of Yugoslavia was the result of a fight for land and resources by rival gangs of would-be capitalists there, and how the toll was increased by Washington's imperialist intervention.

Litija's daughter, Fiona, a student, subscribed to the *Militant* and got the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Barnes. "I'll definitely keep in contact," she said. Hundreds of Pathfinder



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Ambulance driver and union member Martin Cross, left, gets a copy of *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* and a *Militant* subscription from Communist League member Hugh Robertson April 20 at his home in Tredegar, South Wales. The book explains why organizing to strengthen the unions is essential and why a 'tribune of the people' uses every aspect of capitalist oppression to explain why working people need to take power into their own hands.

titles on working-class politics by revolutionary leaders are available from SWP and Communist League members at a 20% discount.

## Contribute to Militant Fighting Fund

Socialist campaigners are taking the Militant Fighting Fund to workers to raise funds to cover the expenses of the paper. This is an integral part of the SWP's seven-week drive to get out the *Militant* and revolutionary books.

Contributions in the first couple weeks of the drive from new and long-term readers — the bedrock of the paper's finances — now stand at \$23,746, a good start. But the pace in the seven-week effort to raise \$115,000 has slowed. The next two weeks offer a good opportunity to get the fund drive back on course.

You can join the effort by contributing online at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com) or contacting the party branch nearest you listed on page 8.

## Campaign with the Socialist Workers Party candidates!

### California

Dennis Richter, Los Angeles City Council  
Laura Garza, Los Angeles School Board  
Joel Britton, Mayor of San Francisco

### Florida

Anthony Dutrow, Miami City Commission

### Kentucky

Amy Husk, Governor  
Samir Hazboun, Lieutenant Governor

### Minnesota

David Rosenfeld, St. Paul City Council

### Nebraska

Joe Swanson, Mayor of Lincoln

### New Jersey

Lea Sherman, State Assembly  
Candace Wagner, State Assembly

### New York

Seth Galinsky, New York City Public Advocate  
Samantha Hamlin, Mayor of Troy  
Lawrence Quinn, Troy City Council

### Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, Mayor of Philadelphia  
John Staggs, Philadelphia City Council  
Malcolm Jarrett, Pittsburgh City Council

### Texas

Alyson Kennedy, Mayor of Dallas

### Washington

Henry Clay Dennison, Seattle City Council

See directory on page 8 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

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**\$5**

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

April 6 - May 28 (week two)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	65	15	65	21	\$5,600	\$1,250
Atlanta	70	21	70	15	\$9,750	\$1,450
Chicago	85	31	110	46	\$11,400	\$3,424
Dallas	40	14	40	10	\$2,500	\$200
Lincoln	14	8	16	10	\$250	\$75
Los Angeles	85	38	185	148	10,800	\$860
Louisville	50	17	50	13	2,000	\$500
Miami	25	4	25	5	\$3,500	\$500
New Jersey	40	15	50	41	\$3,500	\$1,190
New York	80	20	80	41	\$14,000	\$2,830
Oakland	70	24	70	35	\$13,000	\$5,340
Philadelphia	25	5	25	3	\$3,000	\$0
Pittsburgh	15	3	15	0	\$1,200	\$0
Seattle	70	17	70	28	\$10,000	\$1,443
Twin Cities	35	11	35	11	\$4,750	\$1,960
Washington	40	10	40	14	\$5,000	\$955
Total U.S.	809	253	946	441	\$100,250	\$21,977
Prisoners	25	15	0	0	0	0
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	50	18	80	70	\$2,500	\$25
Manchester	35	15	45	25	\$1,300	\$161
Total U.K.	85	33	125	95	\$3,800	\$186
CANADA	70	8	80	19	\$8,200	\$83
NEW ZEALAND	20	3	20	6	\$3,400	\$1,350
AUSTRALIA	20	13	30	22	\$500	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>\$116,150</b>	<b>\$23,746</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	<b>\$33,350</b>

# Amnesty for immigrants is key for working-class unity

BY SETH GALINSKY

“Our country is full,” President Donald Trump told Fox News April 5. He was trying to justify new obstacles the White House is pressing on the right of asylum for those fleeing violence and other moves aimed at discouraging immigrants without papers from crossing into the U.S. There’s no room here, he claimed, “so turn around.”

But the U.S. is class divided; there is no such thing as “our” country. Every president acts to advance the in-

terests of the capitalist rulers on the backs of working people. Working people have our own class interests, and we need to fight for them.

Some of Trump’s liberal critics — including Democratic Party presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke — counter the White House by calling for an open border with Mexico.

## International solidarity

Working people from Latin America to China to Africa face the same challenge we face here — the need to break with the parties and politics of the capitalist class, and to organize an independent movement to struggle to take control of their own destinies.

In Honduras last year thousands of workers on Chiquita’s banana plantations went on strike, demanding better pay and work conditions. We need to see ourselves as part of an international class, and together with our unions fight shoulder to shoulder with our fellow workers in Honduras and elsewhere against capitalist exploitation and plunder.

Today, instead of organizing solidarity and aid to workers’ and peasants’ fights across Central America, some liberals and middle-class radicals promote “caravans” to march on the U.S. border. This undermines the fight for the rights of refugees and for amnesty.

The capitalist bosses need immigrant workers, with papers and without. They use a calculated measure of deportations to generate *fear* and to intimidate undocumented workers so they don’t complain about wages and conditions and don’t join unions.

Under capitalism workers compete against each other for jobs. The bosses

well in the U.S. — farmers being driven off the land, wages too low to take care of your family, factory closings and deaths on the job — is exacerbated in Latin America and the so-called Third World.

In Honduras, for example, thugs paid by big landowners terrorize and murder peasants demanding land to farm. Criminal gangs fight for control of the drug trade and extort workers and small proprietors.

Today, instead of organizing solidarity and aid to workers’ and peasants’ fights across Central America, some liberals and middle-class radicals promote “caravans” to march on the U.S. border. This undermines the fight for the rights of refugees and for amnesty.

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Under capitalism workers compete against each other for jobs. The bosses



Militant/Janet Post

Rally in Bridgeton, New Jersey, March 17, organized by Cosecha to demand right to driver’s licenses for immigrant workers without papers. The fight for this necessity for a normal life strengthens the battle for amnesty, which would advance unity of the whole working class.

seek to get immigrant and native-born workers to see each other as enemies, to fight among ourselves, while they push down the value of our labor power. That’s why they scapegoat immigrants, telling U.S.-born workers that immigrants are “taking” our jobs. And they tell immigrants that U.S.-born workers “don’t want to work.”

Need proof that the capitalists don’t really believe there are too many immigrants? Under the Trump administration, so-called guest worker visas for farmworkers has reached a new high — nearly a quarter of a million. But the big agribusinesses still complain they don’t have enough workers. They can’t do without immigrant workers.

## Immigrants strengthen working class

The integration of immigrants into the U.S. working class has made our class stronger. Among the best examples were the massive demonstrations in 2006 that culminated on May 1 that year, when more than a million workers went on strike. They shut down factories across the nation to protest a law that would have made it a felony just to be in the U.S. without a visa. They set an example for the entire working class.

Immigrant and U.S.-born workers work in the same factories, live in the same neighborhoods, with children that

go to the same schools, and we all face the same attacks from the bosses and their government. These common experiences are why there is less anti-immigrant sentiment among working people in the U.S. today. But under the pressure of low wages and the carnage we face from capitalism’s crisis, rightist anti-immigrant demagoguery gets a hearing.

And as Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters points out in *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* “Any sharp economic crisis will intensify the battle for the political soul of the working class on this and other questions.”

This is a life-and-death question for the labor movement and the working class.

The only way to rebuild a fighting union movement is to reach out to our fellow workers without papers and say, “Wherever you were born, whether or not you have ‘papers,’ whatever language you speak or your skin color, let’s join together to fight to change the miserable conditions that capitalism imposes on us.”

Immigrant and native-born workers will join as the gravediggers who will bury capitalism once and for all.

Join this year’s May Day protests to demand: Amnesty for the 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S. now!

# Fla. prison officials impound two issues of ‘Militant’

## Continued from front page

describes assaults by authorities there against inmates and their efforts to fight for their rights and dignity.

“It’s crazy,” wrote one of the prisoners who alerted the *Militant* to the ban. “They think it’s OK to beat and mistreat us, but it’s not OK for us to read about it.”

“The Department of Corrections always makes the inmate look like the bad guy,” he added. “But if they take a second to look in the mirror 98% of the staff that works in the Florida Department of Corrections should be in prison because they are the ones beating and killing inmates and nothing is being done about it.”

The article reported on two meetings Woodfox spoke at in New York — one at the Brooklyn Public Library and one at the Fortune Society, a government-funded group that helps former prisoners readjust to society outside prison walls. Woodfox’s decades in solitary, most of it after he was framed up for the murder of a

guard that prison authorities knew he did not commit, were a result of his efforts to defend prisoners’ rights.

Nothing in the article encourages violence or threatens prison “security.” In the article Woodfox stated an obvious fact — prison guards beat and sometimes kill prisoners because they keep getting away with it.

“Until that changes, the abuse will continue,” Woodfox says. “There needs to be oversight and accountability.”

The *Militant* is not the only paper that has covered Woodfox’s nationwide speaking tour, the story of the inability of prison authorities to break his spirit. There have been reviews of his book *Solitary* and other reports on Woodfox by the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and National Public Radio, to name just a few.

## Then another impoundment

Officials at Union Correctional Institution, also in Raiford, impounded the March 25 issue of the *Militant*,

citing an article titled “Protests Continue in Fight Against Police Killing of Stephon Clark,” which reported the decision by the Sacramento District Attorney to not bring charges against the cops who shot him eight times, all but one from behind.

In 2017 and 2018 Florida prison authorities attempted to ban the paper some 20 times, but, after protests by the *Militant* and a number of organizations concerned about the rights of workers behind bars, they backed off in all but a handful of cases. The last time an issue of the *Militant* was impounded was in September. After protest from the National Coalition Against Censorship, the Florida Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and many others, the prison’s Literature Review Committee reversed that impoundment as well.

The *Militant*’s lawyer, David Goldstein, has informed the prison system’s Literature Review Committee the paper will be filing appeals to overturn the censorship.

## — CALENDAR —

### NEW YORK

#### Albany

**Speak Out Against Police Brutality! Organize to Fight Police Killings, Frame-Ups, and Excessive Sentencing!** Speakers: Hawa Bah, mother of Mohamed Bah who was killed by police in 2012; Juanita Young, long-time fighter against police brutality whose son, Malcolm Ferguson, was shot and killed by police in 2000; Messiah James Cooper, community activist and soldier for truth; Samantha Hamlin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Troy, New York. Sat., May 4. Dinner, 3:30 p.m.; program, 5:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. *Everly Community Center*, 260 N. Pearl St. Tel.: (518) 810-1586. Sponsored by *Militant Labor Forum* and *Stolen Lives Project*.

### NEW YORK

#### New York

**Thomas Sankara’s Revolutionary Legacy.** Sun., May 5, 4:30 p.m. *The People’s Forum*, 320 West 37th St. Tel.: (917) 743-5637.

# Stop & Shop strikers discuss

Continued from front page

walked out over the bosses' demands for concessions — to cut monthly pension payments, increase workers' payments for health care benefits, and eliminate Sunday overtime pay.

The strikers' most popular chant was, "Don't stop, don't shop, at Stop & Shop!" They received widespread support from shoppers, the Teamsters and other unionists, and many others, leading to near-empty parking lots at the stores throughout the region.

"The agreement preserves health care and retirement benefits, provides wage increases, and maintains time-and-a-half pay on Sunday for current members," the union said.

The day after the strike ended, Sharadee Lawrence English, a part-time cashier at the Windsor Stop & Shop store, told the *Militant* that the union's description of the settlement sounds good, but she wants to see the details.

The majority of workers employed at Stop & Shop are part-time workers, picketers said, and the company, like other grocery and retail bosses, has been trying to drive a wedge between part- and full-time workers, and two-tier divisions between them and future hires.

"Everybody that's working there is going to get everything they had," Jeff Bollen, president of UFCW Local 1445 told Bloomberg News. But he admitted the proposed contract would include some cuts for future part-time workers who would no longer get time-and-a-half pay for their first three years when working on Sundays. "I'm not happy that I'm going to have to sit in front of a bunch of members and tell them, 'Well we promised you no cuts and no give-backs and no concessions,'" working union shop steward Richard Libby told Bloomberg News, "but the new hires

are going to get them — sorry."

"It's very important to stand up for part-time workers," Madonna Moreau, who has worked 39 years at Stop & Shop stores and its previous owner, told this worker-correspondent on the picket line in Norwalk April 20.

At the same store, 17-year-old Sean Dwyer, who has been working part time there for six months, pointed to the importance of backing what all workers there have been fighting for. "It's important to support those who need benefits and vacation pay," he said. "We all work the same job though we are part-time and not guaranteed the same for doing the same job."

The strike was effective from the start, with workers showing up for picket duty at their scheduled work shift times.

## The power of solidarity

The bosses tried to keep some stores open with management personnel but faced giant problems. "Meat and produce are rapidly disappearing from shelves and aren't being replaced because truck drivers in the Teamsters union are refusing to cross the picket line," the *Boston Globe* reported. Union drivers also refused to pick up garbage from the stores. Departments with time-dated food, like bakery, deli, produce and seafood counters, had to shut down.

Strikers said solidarity from other working people in the community helped put pressure on the company.

"Support is very strong and we really appreciate it," Angela Shanon, 53, who has been working at Stop & Shop for 23 years, told the *Militant* on the picket line at the Bridgeport store April 21. Every day volunteers would bring lunch to the strikers, she said. One woman came by the picket line to give a package of fruit and vegetables to the workers.

Stores usually packed with shoppers the week before Easter and Passover were noticeably sparse. Some people who did go into the store told strikers they were just going to the bank inside.

Some rabbis in the area encouraged their congregations not to shop at Stop & Shop, even though these stores offer a broad selection of kosher products. "Any food purchased by crossing a picket line or from scab workers is not kosher for

## Over 300 May Day brigadistas gather in Cuba



Militant/Ruth Nebbia

CAIMITO, Cuba—Cuban workers and farmers "achieved liberation not alone, but with the support of millions worldwide," Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), told international participants April 22 at the first gathering of the 14th annual May Day brigade at the Julio Antonio Mello International Camp here. González was one of five Cubans imprisoned in the U.S. for up to 16 years after being framed up in 1998 for collecting information about counterrevolutionary groups operating in South Florida.

Several dozen camp workers — including cooks, servers, cleaners, mechanics, the librarian, nurse, doctor and others — were invited to the stage and introduced, above. Several brigadistas commented they had never seen such an introduction at any event.

Over 300 participants from some 30 countries are taking part in the two-week brigade, including 66 from the U.S., the largest delegation, and sizable contingents from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ghana and the United Kingdom.

Brigadistas will take part in volunteer agricultural work over four days; hear and discuss talks by Cuban leaders about developments in Cuba and the fight against Washington's decadeslong attacks; and visit Sancti Spiritus and Trinidad. They will meet residents in Havana hit by a tornado in January, where extensive damage has been repaired by the mobilization of workers and youth.

We will join in the May Day march of hundreds of thousands of Cuban workers, and in an international solidarity conference the next day. Armed with what we learn on the brigade, we'll return home to build support for the Cuban Revolution and to demand: End Washington's criminal embargo and economic war against Cuba! U.S. get out of Guantánamo!

—MAGGIE TROWE

Passover," Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, spiritual leader of the Conservative Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel in New Haven, told the *New Haven Register*.

"Customers were great throughout and backed us the whole way," union shop steward David Alderman told a team of worker-correspondents at a store in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, April 23. He accepted two solidarity cards signed by several workers at two Walmart stores in New York's Capital Region.

"If there were more grocery stores organizing, it would be a big help when the contracts roll around," he said.

"A lot of the strike was about the future for new hires," Stop & Shop bakery worker Becky Robinson, told the *Militant* there.

Netherlands-based Ahold Delhaize, which owns Stop & Shop, reported profits last year of \$2.1 billion.

Tim Craine from Windsor, Connecticut, and Jacob Perasso and Harry D'Agostino in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, contributed to this article.

## Wilmerding, Pennsylvania

### Rally for contract for Wabtec workers

Saturday, April 27, 1 p.m.

Wilmerding Park

Sponsored by United Electrical Workers union Local 610

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 9, 1994

NORTHAM, South Africa — "Our strike is 100 percent effective, our members are determined to make the company meet our most important demands," stated Joseph Moloke, branch chairman of the National Union of Mineworkers at Gold Fields Northam Platinum mine.

The 7,500 miners here are demanding an immediate wage increase of 3 percent, which was originally due in July 1993; recognition of the NUM; checkoff facilities where the union can sign up new members; and no company reprisals against the strikers. Gold Fields has not agreed to any of the demands.

On March 25 more than 5,000 Northam miners marched to the company offices with a memorandum listing a dozen demands. They gave the company seven days to respond. The company refused and the workers went on strike a month later.



May 9, 1969

At Ft. Jackson, S.C., a group called GIs United Against the War in Vietnam has proved to be a colossal "pain in the brass." The emergence of a second GIs United, this time at Ft. Bragg, N.C., may be not just another pain but a grim portent for the military of things to come.

"Standing on the shoulders of Ft. Jackson" — that is the way soldiers at Ft. Bragg describe their antiwar group. One of the first projects of the new GIs United was the circulation of a petition addressed to the Ft. Jackson commander, Gen. Hollingsworth, expressing the support of the Ft. Bragg enlisted men for their brothers at Ft. Jackson and insisting that the request for a legal on-base meeting be granted.

Last week they adopted the Ft. Jackson "Statement of Aims" with a few additions reflecting the special antiwar commitment of Vietnam returnees.



May 6, 1944

While Roosevelt is mouthing about an export trade for the "four freedoms," tens of thousands of agricultural workers in California's sunny valleys continue their intolerable existence under the brutal terror maintained by the corporation-financed "Association Farmers."

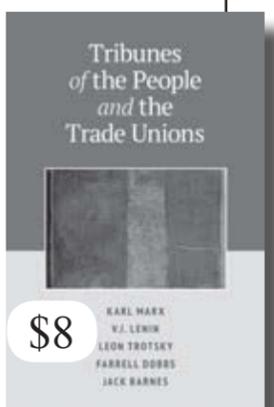
The La Follette Senate Civil Liberties Committees two weeks ago released a report on activities of the "Associated Farmers" of California which reads like a page out of the Black Book of Hitlerism, with special American trimmings.

"Its record," charges the Senate committee, "is one of conspiracy — developed on a far-flung scale, covering an entire region. That conspiracy, designed to prevent the exercise of their civil liberties by oppressed wage laborers, was executed ruthlessly with every device of repression that anti-unionism could muster."

Now available - special price

## Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions

A tribune of the people uses every manifestation of capitalist oppression to explain why it is workers and our allies who can and will — in the course of struggles by the unions and beyond — lay the foundations for a world based not on violence and competition but on solidarity among working people worldwide.



\$8

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# Erbil book fair highlights cultural, political openings, struggles in Kurdistan and Iraq

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region, Iraq — The 14th Erbil International Book Fair, held here April 3-13, reaffirmed the openings for political debate and cultural activity in Kurdistan, Iraq and beyond.

“Since 2003, we’ve had the opportunity to live more like other countries, including publishing and reading,” Wahid Wahid told this volunteer at the Pathfinder booth here. Pathfinder Books London participated in the fair for the third time.

Wahid was referring to advances by the Kurdish people in Iraq over the past 15 years, building on the establishment of the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government a decade earlier in 1992. These national gains are among the unintended consequences of Washington’s bloody invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003, which put an end to the decades-old dictatorship of Saddam Hussein in an effort to bolster U.S. imperialist economic, political and military interests in the Middle East.

The thirst to take maximum advantage of this moment in history was evident among the tens of thousands who attended the fair, browsing the books of some 300 publishers from over 20 countries. It could be seen in their search for literature in Kurdish as well as English and Arabic, and in the social and political questions addressed in book presentations and panel discussions. And in the interest in the views and political activity of workers from the U.S., Canada and the U.K. staffing the Pathfinder stand, where visitors purchased 1,238 books by leaders of communist and other revolutionary movements.

## Kurdistan-Iraq relations

The book fair this year was inaugurated by Masoud Barzani, president of the governing Kurdistan Democratic Party. Days earlier, he had condemned remarks by former Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who had labeled those seeking Kurdish independence as “extremists.” In September 2017, while still president of the KRG, Barzani had organized a referendum on independence for Iraqi Kurdistan, which won by a more than 90% margin with a very high turnout. Baghdad retaliated with military force — backed by Tehran, and with tacit support from Washington — seizing 40% of KRG territory, including the oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

Barzani demonstrably spoke in Arabic at the book fair opening, saying relations are now better with new Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, who took office in October.

The second speaker was veteran Iraqi politician Ayad Allawi, and a message from the Iraqi minister of culture was read to participants. The program concluded with a poem-and-song tribute to both Iraq and Kurdistan.

While all this was diplomacy, it registered something deeper about social and political realities here. The Kurdish people’s struggle for independence continues — in face of their centurylong



Militant photos right and center Mary Ellen Marus. **Above, Erbil book fair. Top right, Ögmundur Jónsson with U.K. talks at Pathfinder booth with Mohammed Ja’far, who is rebuilding library destroyed by Islamic State in village near Mosul. At left, Pathfinder volunteer Martin Hill from U.K. Center, Steve Penner of Canada discusses Pathfinder titles with fair visitors.**

forcible division between Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria — but the KRG today remains part of Iraq. Most important, struggles by working people in Kurdistan and Iraq are deeply intertwined. Visitors to the fair included not only Kurds, but Arabs and others who came from Baghdad, Basra and other parts of the country, as well as many who have fled violence and tyranny in Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city, and its surrounding Nineveh plains and elsewhere.

Mohammed Ja’far came to the book fair from the village of Bashiqa, near Mosul, some 50 miles from Erbil. The village is home to many ethnic Christians and Yazidis who have been the targets of massacres by al-Qaeda and Islamic State forces in that part of Iraq. Ja’far is of the Shabak ethnic minority. He told this reporter that in 2013 the public library he ran there was destroyed by Islamist forces, and he lost an eye and some of his fingertips. He is now working to revive the library and appreciated a donation we made of Pathfinder titles. Like so many others in Iraq, he lost family members in terrorist attacks.

Another visitor to the booth was Ali Abkan from Mosul. His father, a lieutenant in the Iraqi army under the Saddam Hussein regime, had been deployed as part of Baghdad’s invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990. That reactionary land-grab, and the U.S.-led military assault that followed, are described in “Washington’s Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III,” by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, published in issue no. 7 of *New Internationalist* magazine. Thirty-four copies were sold at the Pathfinder booth.

Among other things, Barnes describes the U.S. military’s massacre of tens of thousands of retreating Iraqi soldiers and fleeing civilians on the road from Kuwait to Basra in southern Iraq. A “turkey shoot” is how one U.S. officer callously but accurately described it.

“My father realized they were being

set up for a slaughter and got himself out of there,” Abkan said. His father was recently killed by Islamic State.

Abkan said his escaped friends from Mosul have dispersed all over Iraq, from Baghdad, Hillah (modern Babylon), and Najaf to Kerbala and Basra. Facing certain unemployment, he said, many signed up for Iran-backed militias. “They were told by recruiters that if they were ready to go to Yemen, Syria or wherever — and they didn’t ask any questions — then the money is higher,” Abkan said. “Many have died.”

Tehran sponsors militias — enlisted from Afghanistan in the east and across the region — that have fought in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Lebanon, extending the sway of Iran’s counterrevolutionary bourgeois-clerical regime. Iraq, including the Kurdish region, is caught in a tightening vise between Tehran and the U.S. imperialist rulers, who maintain thousands of troops in this country.

Working people in Mosul and the wider Nineveh province face the combined consequences of the 1991 and 2003 U.S.-led invasions; some 15 years of terrorist activity, culminating in the 2014-17 Islamic State tyranny; and the area’s recapture by joint Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S. air raids that devastated the old center of the city. Iraqi authorities have provided little reconstruction aid. In March, thousands protested over “corruption, destruction and greed” after a ferry capsized on the Tigris River, killing 100 passengers. The Iraqi parliament responded by firing the governor of Nineveh.

## Fighting discrimination, persecution

*The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon was popular at the Pathfinder booth, with 41 copies sold. Many wanted to understand where Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic scapegoating come from, as well as to learn more about how to combat the persecution of other reli-

gious and national minorities.

Other high sellers were titles addressing the roots of the crisis of world capitalism, how it’s effecting working people in the U.S. and worldwide, and pointing to an independent political course for workers, farmers and other working people. Topping the list was *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under*

*Capitalism* by Jack Barnes (158 copies sold), followed by *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters (76 copies). These issues were also a topic of discussion and debate at events outside the book fair, including a public meeting for communists from North America and the United Kingdom organized by the Kurdistan Communist Party (see accompanying article) and an exchange with leaders of the Kurdistan United Workers Union.

Also popular — among both women and men of all ages — were books by Evelyn Reed and others about the roots of women’s oppression and the road to emancipation, such as *Problems of*

Continued on page 7

## Recommended reading

**In New International No. 7 — \$14**  
**Washington’s Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III**

by Jack Barnes

Washington’s devastation of Iraq in 1991 Gulf War sounded opening guns of national and class battles and wars in Mideast and beyond for decades to come. Barnes is National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.



Above, what U.S. military brass called the “turkey shoot” when they systematically slaughtered tens of thousands of retreating Iraqi soldiers and others on road to Basra, February 1991.

www.pathfinderpress.com

# Kurdistan event discusses way forward for working people

BY STEVE PENNER

AINKAWA, Kurdistan Region, Iraq — More than 100 people attended a meeting here April 6 sponsored by the Kurdistan Communist Party to hear talks and discuss politics with leaders of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. and the Communist Leagues in the United Kingdom and Canada. The topic was “Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Capitalist Crisis, the Working Class, and the Transformation of Learning,” referring to the title of a recent book by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP.

Those attending included Kawa Mahmoud, secretary of the Central Committee of the Kurdistan CP; Hiwa Omar, a member of the KCP Political Bureau, who chaired the meeting; Nazem Qoda, a leader of the Iraqi CP; Rebeem Hakeem, a leader of the Kaldio Ashour branch of the Youth Union of Kurdistan; as well as leaders and cadres of the KCP, ICP, Kurdistan Toilers Party and others.

A man who spoke from the floor during the discussion expressed the views of many when he welcomed the speakers, saying: “It’s really significant to have a communist party joining us here from the world’s most important capitalist country.”

Steve Clark, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and editorial director of Pathfinder Press, pointed out that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the world communist movement and that the SWP is celebrating the party’s centennial as part of that historic occasion.

The other panelists were Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, the SWP’s 2016 candidates for president and vice president, and Ögmundur Jónsson, a leader of the Communist League in the U.K.

Participants asked questions and made comments on a variety of issues, from current U.S. politics, the SWP’s positions on the Middle East and on the Kurdish struggle for national self-determination, to the kind of work the SWP carries out in the U.S. labor movement.

## Crisis of capitalist order

In his opening remarks, Clark thanked the KCP leadership for organizing this opportunity to exchange political experiences and views.

“What’s happening today is the greatest crisis of the capitalist world order in our lifetimes,” Clark said. “All the treaties, alliances, and so-called peacekeeping structures imposed on working people by the victors of two world imperialist slaughters in the 20th century” — including on working people in the Middle East, with no regard for the national aspirations of Kurds, Arabs, Turkmen, Jews and others — “are being pulled apart at their seams by sharpening con-



Photos by Zana Khaled. **Below, panel at meeting in Ainkawa, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, sponsored by Kurdistan Communist Party. From left, chair Hiwa Omar, Kurdistan Communist Party Political Bureau; Ögmundur Jónsson, Communist League in the United Kingdom; Steve Clark, Socialist Workers Party in the United States; translator Jihad Kamal (Rosty); Osborne Hart and Alyson Kennedy, 2016 Socialist Workers Party candidates for vice president and president of U.S. Left, some of the more than 100 participants.**

licts between and among rival capitalist ruling classes and their states.”

Today’s never-ending wars, mass displacement of peoples, and social calamities are especially devastating for working people in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere in this part of the world, Clark said. “These are not plagues of nature. There’s nothing ‘natural’ about them. They are the economic, social, and political products of capitalism.”

Clark quoted from *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* to explain that in the coming battles forced upon working people by the capitalist class “workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work, and each other. Only then will we discover our own worth and learn what we’re capable of becoming.”

Clark also cited Barnes’ 1991 talk “The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington’s Assault on Iraq.” Barnes said that coming out of the U.S. rulers’ murderous Gulf War that year, the Kurdish people had come “to the center stage in world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as courageous and determined fighters for national rights.”

In response to a question, Clark affirmed that the SWP unconditionally supports the right of the Kurdish people — divided against their will by imperialism between Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria — to their own nation-state. “Your struggle is one working people around the world should support,” he said.

## Working-class political independence

Kennedy and Hart described the impact of the capitalist crisis on workers and farmers in the United States. When party members talk with working people on their doorsteps or at labor and political actions, the two SWP leaders said, they discuss why we need our own political party, independent of the Democrats and Republicans, the two main parties of U.S. imperialism.

Another participant asked what the SWP thinks about Democratic Party presidential contender Bernie Sanders, who calls himself a “socialist.” The questioner noted that the SWP presidential ticket had gotten “only

12,000 votes” in 2016. In contrast, he said, the Democratic Socialists of America, one of whose most prominent members is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, was growing rapidly since the election of Donald Trump.

“Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez believe it’s possible to make capitalism work better,” Kennedy responded. They’re trying to convince working people to support the Democratic Party. “The subordination of the U.S. working class to the capitalists’ parties and their state is among the biggest obstacles facing the working class,” she stressed.

Clark added that the Democratic Party’s record as an imperialist war party speaks for itself. “It is the party that led the U.S. into World War II, the Korean War, the invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs and the Vietnam War. Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly backed the 1991 and 2003 U.S. wars on Iraq.”

Another man asked, “Isn’t it time to end the war between the supporters of Trotsky and the supporters of Stalin and unite in order to fight more effectively?”

“The issue is fight effectively for what?” Clark responded. Communists in the U.S. can’t “get together” with other groups to fight to strengthen the bosses’ political parties and their state, which are waging wars around the world and attacking working people’s living and job conditions at home. “We have conflicting class interests.”

“It’s necessary for all those who support the interests of working people to fight for an independent working-class party,” Clark insisted.

## Fear of and contempt for workers

Jónsson addressed the fear of and contempt for working people promoted by meritocratic middle-class and professional layers who serve the capitalist rulers in the U.S. and U.K. He gave the example of Brexit.

“In the U.K., the capitalist rulers and their apologists couldn’t believe it in June 2016 when millions of workers refused to vote the way they were told by ruling-class institutions,” Jónsson said. Nearly three years later, “the government still hasn’t implemented the referendum results, which was to leave

the European Union. Some politicians in both the Conservative and Labour parties even say people have to vote again. *Vote again until you vote the way we tell you to!*”

The Communist League calls for “U.K. out of the EU now!” he said. That would help create the best conditions for workers to defend our class interests and

Continued on page 9

# Erbil book fair

Continued from page 6

*Women’s Liberation* (30 copies), *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* (26 copies), and *Woman’s Evolution* (14 copies).

Tehran-based Talaye Porsoo, which publishes translations of Pathfinder books in Farsi, the majority language in Iran, participated in the book fair for the first time this year. Many of those who appreciated seeing these revolutionary books in Farsi were Kurds who migrated to Iran from 1975 onwards, as the Saddam Hussein regime launched murderous attacks on the Kurdish population in Iraq. Others had gone to Iran to study. Some had participated in the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the shah or have been active in protests against government policies there in the last few years.

Wahid, Ja’far, Abkan and others appreciated the internationalist working-class political course presented in a December 2017 statement by the Socialist Workers Party distributed at the Pathfinder stand — “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

“In opposition to Washington, to bourgeois governments and political organizations across the Middle East, and to the middle class left here in the United States,” the statement says, “the Socialist Workers Party has a different starting point: the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world.”

# Origins of women's oppression, private property and the state

This week's Books of the Month is *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* by Frederick Engels, first published in 1884. Engels was the lifelong political collaborator of Karl Marx in founding the modern international communist movement. The excerpt is from the introduction by Evelyn Reed, author of *Woman's Evolution and other works developing Engels' pioneer work on the birth of the oppression of women*. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

Although the book was not published until after Marx's death, it was, as Engels said, a joint project born from the constant interchange of views over decades between the two men on the origins of civilization and its institutions. Maxim Kovalevsky, the Russian ethnologist, had brought a copy of [Lewis] Morgan's book from the United States to England for Marx to read. Marx immediately began making notes on it to spell out his own conclusions. Utilizing these fragmentary materials, Engels carried out the assignment that his collaborator had initiated, as he had done for the unfinished second and third volumes of *Capital*.

Both men were struck by the fact that Morgan had in his own way taken a materialist approach to the study of

primitive society. Through his careful research, pursued over forty years, Morgan unwittingly spotlighted the fact that the key institutions of civilized society — the family, private property, and the state — were nonexistent in prehistoric life. These topics became the title of Engels's book.

Morgan's data confirmed the Marxist principle that social institutions are not unchanging or eternal but come into existence at certain periods of history as a result of specific socioeconomic conditions. Engels gave unstinting praise to Morgan's thesis that the maternal gens or clan preceded the father-family in history, proving that even the family institution is no exception to that rule. This discovery, he said, held the same importance for anthropology as Darwin's theory of evolution had for biology and Marx's theory of surplus value for political economy. ...

Morgan and his school wrote during the time of Darwin when the theory of evolution was first enunciated and its fresh breezes were sweeping the western world. Just as Darwin had sought to uncover the processes of organic evolution, the pioneer anthropologists searched for the origin and evolution of social life. They paid considerable attention to the activities of human beings in procuring the necessities of life, and by studying the advances made in the productive forces, sought to chart the successive stages of social development. By these means Morgan delineated the three main epochs of human history: savagery, barbarism, and civilization. (Morgan derived these terms from earlier scholars and did not give them any pejorative sense. He had the highest regard for the achievements of precivilized peoples.)

In savagery, the economy was founded upon food-gathering and hunting, although simple garden-culture made its appearance toward the end of this period. Barbarism began with the introduction of agriculture and stock-raising, which provided a surplus of food for larger populations, greater productivity, and a higher culture. Civilization was ushered in with the development of metallurgy, trade, and other major advances.



Militant/Ögmundur Jónsson  
The only statue of a woman in Neo-Assyrian galleries — covering 911-612 B.C. — of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad, which features massive statues and carvings of kings and their male servants during this period in the "cradle of civilization." Rise of class-divided society degraded the status of women, images of whom were frequent a millennia earlier. This graphically confirms what Frederick Engels wrote in *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*.

Although some uncertainty remains on the exact time scale of these three epochs, they can be approximately measured as follows: Savagery began with the emergence of the first humans (or hominids) from our ancestral branch of the anthropoids about a million years ago. Barbarism came in about eight thousand years ago, and gave way to the first urban populations from Egypt through Mesopotamia and India to China. The Greek and Roman city-states of some three thousand years ago represent the beginning of Western civilization. The period of savagery, therefore, was by far the longest epoch, lasting for more than 99 percent of human existence on earth, while the two later periods of barbarism and civilization together cover less than one percent.

But the pioneer anthropologists did more than disclose this uneven tempo of progress. They discovered that primitive society was different from civilized society in every major respect. Engels shows in his book how and why they were opposite socioeconomic systems. Civilized society is founded on the private ownership of property; it is class divided, with a wealthy possessing class exploiting the

working mass. A state apparatus enforces this rule of the rich. It is characterized by inequalities of all kinds, economic, social, and sexual. Male supremacy and female inferiority are integral features of this patriarchal class system.

Savage society, on the other hand, was based upon the collective ownership of the means of production, cooperative social relations, and complete equality in all spheres of life, including sexual equality. Due to the absence of private property, such key institutions of the private-property system as the state and the patriarchal family were nonexistent. Tribal society was a self-governing community in which the elected chiefs claimed no superiority to any other members. ...

One of its most striking features was the influential and esteemed position of women. Whether savage society is called a clan commune, a tribal commune, or a matriarchal commune, it stands in the sharpest contrast to civilized patriarchal class society which supplanted it. ...

This came about through the rise of private property and the unleashing of new social forces that gained ascendancy in the later stages of barbarism. With the advent of civilization and class society, the twin changes were consummated: the private-property system was victorious and women plummeted from their former high status to become the oppressed sex of patriarchal society.

The exceptional value of Engels's exposition is that he links together these two epoch-making developments. He clarifies the causes and consequences of the social upheaval that gave the wealthy class its exploitative power over the working people and in the same process brought about the "historic defeat" of the female sex.

Morgan, [Edward] Tylor, and the other pioneers had opened up immense possibilities for uncovering both the character of ancient society and the hidden history of women. ... With the added dimension of the contribution made by Engels, certain conclusions become obvious. Among them is the fact that it will require a new social change, no less fundamental, to bring about the liberation of the working people and the women.

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## Join May Day protests for amnesty!

*This statement was released April 24 by Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City Public Advocate. He plans to participate in the May Day protest for driver's licenses for all in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.*

The Socialist Workers Party encourages everyone who wants to fight against the miserable conditions that capitalism is imposing on us to join this year's May Day protests to demand amnesty and driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.

We are in the midst of a so-called economic recovery. It's mostly been a recovery for the rich. Homelessness is at crisis levels. Working farmers are losing their farms and livelihood. Many young people can't earn enough to start a family, get a car or their own place to live. Millions of people don't have enough money in the bank to get by if an unexpected crisis strikes.

And what happens when the next downturn hits?

Nonetheless, the official unemployment rate is down. For some, wages have ticked up. Many capitalist bosses from agribusiness to construction complain they can't find enough workers.

If we organize to fight and win solidarity, working people can take advantage of this to wring concessions from the boss class. And to advance the unity of the working-class in preparation for the bigger class battles to come. We saw the potential in the widespread solidarity that workers won on strike at Stop & Shop.

The capitalist class takes advantage of competition for jobs to pay as little as they can for our labor power and to boost their profits on our backs. They foster myriad divisions — between employed and unemployed, men and women, Black and Caucasian, and between U.S. born and foreign born.

Overcoming these divisions in struggle is the biggest challenge working people face if we are to defend ourselves from attacks by the bosses and their government and chart an independent working-class course toward taking political power into our own hands.

It's in the interests of working people to fight for amnesty for all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. The capitalists depend on this pool of superexploited workers to better compete against their rivals around the world. They try to pit us against each other, to bring down the wages and working conditions of all.

Undocumented workers face additional challenges. In states where they can't get driver's licenses they can't even drive to work — or to the store or for a night out — without risking fines, arrest or deportation.

Other workers denied driver's licenses — like ex-prisoners or others who owe usurious court fines and fees — suffer similar difficulties.

Organizing to stop the deportations of our undocumented brothers and sisters is key to building a fighting union movement.

Driver's licenses for all! Amnesty for undocumented immigrants now! Join the May Day protests!

## US sanctions on North Korea fall on toilers

**Continued from front page**

Korea's April 15 national holiday, calls for redoubling efforts "to force an end to all US-government-instigated economic and financial sanctions against" North Korea.

Kim told the North's Supreme People's Assembly April 12 that he was willing to meet with President Trump for more talks, but both sides need to "give up their unilateral terms and seek a constructive solution that meets each other's interests."

Less than a week later, North Korea announced that it had tested a "tactical" missile. But CNBC noted U.S. officials "played down the test" because it was a "short-range system rather than the ballistic missiles" that Washington would see as a threat. Pyongyang has launched no ballistic missile tests since November 2017.

Russian President Vladimir Putin invited Kim to meet him in Vladivostok, Russia, April 25. Moscow is seeking to establish its position as a player amid the moves by the U.S. rulers, Pyongyang and Beijing.

Pyongyang is seeking sanctions relief. After Moscow signed onto the U.N. sanctions last year, thou-

sands of North Korean overseas workers there, a vital source of income, were forced to leave. Moscow says trade with the DPRK fell to \$34 million last year.

Clark noted that "the US government's announcement last month that it was permanently ending the annual joint Key Resolve and Foal Eagle war 'games' deploying tens of thousands of US and Republic of Korea troops" was cause for celebration "not only by the Korean people but by workers and farmers worldwide, and especially in the United States. These provocative exercises were an affront to Korean national sovereignty and a constant threat of war."

### Washington: 75 years in Korea

After World War II Washington divided the Korean Peninsula in half against the will of the Korean people, who had been resisting the occupation of their country by Japanese imperialism.

Washington imposed a bloody dictatorship in the South, which crushed popular uprisings across the country. In the North, Korean workers and farmers began a deep social transformation, including land reform and nationalization of basic industries.

From 1950 to 1953, Washington waged a brutal war, including the massive use of carpet-bombing and napalm, pushing almost to Korea's border with China. Korean combatants, with the help of Chinese volunteers, pushed U.S.-led forces back and fought them to a stalemate, dealing U.S. imperialism its first ever military defeat.

More than 60 years later, the U.S. government has still not agreed to sign a peace treaty formally ending the war. Washington maintains more than 23,000 U.S. troops in the South to this day.

Ending the U.S. sanctions and other provocative measures are required, Clark wrote, "to open the road to talks between the US and Korean governments to bring about a complete halt to the deployment of nuclear weapons of any origin on the Korean Peninsula or its surrounding air and waters. This includes ending Washington's nuclear 'umbrella' over South Korea and Japan and its deployment of nuclear-armed warships and submarines in the region."

As part of the "fight to end all US imperialist interference in the sovereign affairs of the Korean people," the Socialist Workers Party pledges to join with others worldwide in calling for an end to all economic and financial sanctions against North Korea and for U.S. forces and weapons systems to get out of Korea, Clark wrote. "For a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula! Korea is one!"

## Mueller's probe is blow

**Continued from front page**

politically motivated FBI snoops, Mueller couldn't find any credible evidence of collusion. But he spends hundreds of pages packing the report with lurid stories and innuendos against Trump — who, like all capitalist politicians from both parties, is no model of morality. He says the investigation now shifts to Congress, and works hard to give hints to keep multiple probes going. Mueller says while he can't charge the president with anything, he "does not exonerate him" — as if it were Trump's job to prove his innocence.

Some of the 19 odd Democratic presidential candidates, like Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris, and other party leaders are calling for Trump's impeachment, while others like Nancy Pelosi are urging caution. All agree on gearing up for months of new fishing expeditions.

The real target of all the liberals are the millions of "deplorable" working people who voted for Trump or couldn't bring themselves to vote for either of the two capitalist candidates in 2016. They're convinced that workers who don't vote the "right" way should have their voting rights restricted.

The Socialist Workers Party says workers don't have a stake in this battle between Trump and the Democrats. The SWP ran its own candidate — Alyson Kennedy — campaigning for an independent working-class course against the carnage being imposed on workers and farmers by today's crisis of capitalism.

At the same time, the party strives to expose and combat every move by the so-called liberal resistance that seeks to restrict the rights of the oppressed and exploited, from its glorification of the FBI to its attacks on workers' rights.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler issued a subpoena April 22 demanding that Congress see an unredacted version of Mueller's report. This includes sections withheld to protect the privacy rights of those forced to testify before Mueller's grand juries, where you have no right to counsel.

Grand juries are fishing expeditions used by the wealthy rulers as an inquisition to frame up those who step out of line. Over many years the FBI has targeted the SWP and other fighters for labor unions, for Black rights and independence for Puerto Rico, and opponents of Washington's wars.

### Witch hunt law used on political foes

The first grand jury indictment Mueller secured was charging former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The 1938 law was adopted on the eve of the Second World War, along with other anti-labor laws, to provide legal cover for the rulers' attacks on working-class militants, including the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party.

The FBI began investigating SWP members in the late 1930s under the Foreign Agents law before charging 18 leaders of the party and of the Teamsters union with "conspiracy to overthrow the government" under another witch hunt law. The SWP and the Teamsters were targeted because they organized opposition in the working class to the U.S. rulers' entry into the war.

Gregory Craig was the first prominent Democrat to be charged in relation to "foreign lobbying" as a result of Mueller's probe April 18. A five-year statute of limitations ran out on Craig's alleged 2012 "crime" under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. But that didn't stop prosecutors. Instead, they indicted him for making false statements about work he did for the Ukrainian government under another law. This law allows prosecutors who don't have any evidence of a crime to set up those they're pursuing by hauling them in, pressing them about an offense they can't charge them for, and then charging them if they make a statement prosecutors claim is "false."

A similar operation was used to railroad businesswoman Martha Stewart to prison in 2004.

Working people have every reason to oppose the use of these kinds of laws and frame-ups, regardless of the fact that they are being applied today against capitalist politicians in the Republican and Democratic parties. Such rulings, along with the FBI, the special counsel and grand juries are tools of a capitalist ruling class that is increasingly afraid of coming working-class struggles against the miserable conditions inflicted on our class.

## Kurdistan meeting

**Continued from page 7**

those of our allies, and to build a revolutionary workers movement.

"Isn't your position on Brexit the same as the Tories?" one man asked. Jónsson replied that a substantial majority of both Conservative and Labour party leaders oppose British capitalism leaving the EU. What's more, the CL has nothing in common with the nationalist, anti-immigrant politics of bourgeois politicians who campaign against the EU.

The European Union is an international bosses' organization, Jónsson said. "The Communist League calls for solidarity with the 'yellow vest' protests by working people in France," he added. "We champion workers and farmers in Greece squeezed for decades by the bourgeoisie through the EU and related 'European' banking and financial institutions."

Before and after the meeting, participants came over to look at a table of Pathfinder titles. They bought 15 books and took copies of the *Militant* newspaper. Several visited the Pathfinder stand at the Erbil International Book Fair to continue the discussion and get more books by leaders of the SWP and of the Russian and Cuban socialist revolutions, as well as other titles.