Democrat witch hunt against Trump attacks workers’ rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The Democrats’ continuing witch hunt aimed at driving President Donald Trump from office is a danger to the rights and struggles of working people. It undermines constitutional rights and protections, attempts to criminalize what are political differences, and sets precedents the bosses and their government will use to attack the rights of workers, their unions and vanguard political organizations.

It’s not Trump's foreign policy in defense of U.S. imperialism that bothers the Democrats and liberals. They are not demanding U.S. hands off Venezuela and Cuba, or Iran and Korea. Nor is it his anti-working-class policies here at home, however much theyhowl about them.

Above all, they hate Trump because his election signaled a deep sense among millions of working people that capitalism’s crisis today means their lives and their future are in jeopardy. These workers...

US hands off Venezuela! US hands off Cuba!

US rulers say ‘all options open’ against Venezuela

Despite defeat of U.S.-backed coup attempt, Washington continues to threaten Venezuela, and also Cuba. In Sydney, Australia, opponents of U.S. intervention join May 5 march.

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington is continuing its bipartisan push for the overthrow of the Venezuelan government, backing the opposition’s self-proclaimed president, Juan Guaidó, and saying all options, including a direct U.S. military intervention, are still “on the table.”

At the same time the U.S. rulers are tightening the economic screws on Cuba — even threatening a “complete embargo” — on the slanderous pretext that Cuban revolutionaries are responsible for “propping up” the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. After Guaidó initiated a failed coup outside an army base April 30, accompanied by a handful of National Guard defectors, the Maduro government stripped the immunity of a half-dozen members of opposition-controlled...
Brutality of British rule in India reflected in Amritsar massacre

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — On April 13, 1919, troops of the British Empire’s colonial Indian Army fired on thousands of unarmed protestors in Amritsar, capital of the Punjab. The “turkey shoot” lasted without pause for 10 minutes leaving hundreds dead and thousands injured. Commanding Officer Gen. Reginald Dyer then ordered his men to stay off the streets for 24 hours, preventing any aid from getting to the wounded.

A reign of terror ensued. Public floggings, mass arrests, prisoners starved and caged unprotected in the sun, planes bombing workers in the fields, electricity and water supply cut from homes, and curfews and press censorship were authorized by Punjab Li. Gov. Michael O’Dwyer under martial law granted by King George V’s Vice-regy of India, Lord Chelmsford.

This massacre was one of the most deadly in the couple hundred years British capital held sway worldwide. It is being commemorated in India and the U.K. with exhibits, films, music, poetry readings and talks — in Amritsar, Delhi, London and Manchester. Materials include books, contemporary documents, photos and recordings.

The exhibit launched in London featured a film of photos of the mobilizations, photos and eyewitness accounts.

Delhi, London and Manchester. Material was commemorated in India and the U.K. with exhibits, films, music, poetry readings and talks — in Amritsar, Delhi, London and Manchester. Materials include books, contemporary documents, photos and recordings.

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The revolts by Indian workers and peasants, described by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in First Indian War of Independence, 1857-1859, had made London fearful of any moves to fight against their colonial rule. Their fear was deepened by the 1917 Russian Revolution, which gave hope to millions throughout the colonial world, and the forming of the Communist International — a month before the Amritsar massacre — aimed at fostering the construction of revolutionary parties that could emulate the Bolsheviks by leading workers and farmers to power. A rise of union militancy in Britain, insurgency in other British colonies, including Ireland, and mutinies in the empire’s army fueled by troops demanding to go home intensified the rulers’ trepidation.

“One was no longer a question of merely dispersing the crowd,” Dyer said after leading the massacre, but of producing a “moral effect” that would ensure submission.

The Manchester exhibit came out of collaboration with the Partition Museum in Amritsar. Manchester Museum Director Esme Ward told the Militant that a diverse audience of 500 attended the opening. It included a musical performance by Aziz Ibrahim, formerly of Simply Red and Guns and Roses, who used archive recordings to bring home the length of the shoot.

“Museum organizers have a duty to speak the truth about history that is often hidden,” she said.

As the exhibits opened in different cities, they have all featured the infamous “Crawling Lane.” This was a street where an English missionary had been attacked, and any Indians entering there were forced by soldiers’ rifle butts and bayonets to crawl on their hands and knees.

Andrés Mendoza, Communist League candidate for the East of England, said, “The Communist League calls on all U.S. and foreign troops to be brought home. That would pay real tribute to working people in India and elsewhere who have been victims of British capitalism’s atrocities — of which Amritsar is a prime example.”

THE MUSLIM

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Albany forum panel discusses fight against police brutality

BY JACOB PERASSO

ALBANY, N.Y. — “I will never stop fighting for the rights of my children,” Beverly Hoggs told an audience of 50 people at a public meeting here May 4, co-sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum and the Stolen Lives Project. Hoggs is the mother of James Johnson, who had been sentenced to 87 years for selling drugs, a nonviolent offense. “Appealing was very expensive,” she said. “They get us because we don’t have a million-dollar lawyer.”

Hoggs, whose brother was killed by Schenectady police in 1992, was joined on a panel by two fighters whose sons had been killed by cops in New York City. Hawa Bah, whose son Mohamed was fatally shot in 2012 by police who came instead of an ambulance she had called, and Juanita Young, a long-time fighter against police brutality and mother of Malcolm Young, a long-time fighter against police brutality and mother of Malcolm X.

“Police beatings and killings are very expensive,” she said. “They get us because we don’t have a million-dollar lawyer.”

Hoggs, whose nephew was shot by police in Troy, and Samantha Hamlin, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of that city, were also on the panel.

“I never knew the real things going on in America until my son was murdered,” said Bah. New York Police Detective Edwin Mateo was found guilty in 2017 after a civil trial on excessive force in the killing of Bah’s nephew. “Our system is broken,” said Bah. New York Police Department’s Civilian Complaint Review Board released a report on May 7.

“The book is one of hundreds offered to the Militant and the book Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions from the socialist campaigners.”

“Whenever you’re ready,” Scott said. “I like what you guys are saying,” another audience member said.

There were about 1,900 people at the Militant Fighting Fund’s fundraiser. The Militant will be hiring fundraisers to expand the reach of the Militant and its revolutionary books and raise $135,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. The party’s campaign at worker doorways in cities, towns and rural places is aimed at “the heat of efforts to meet working people and introduce the SWP.”

Help take ‘Militant’, books, fund drive over the top!

Continued from front page

And the party countersponsors its call for health care as a right to all the various insurance schemes peddled by Democratic and Republican politicians that hurt health care as a commodity. Their schemes — from the so-called Green New Deal to “Medicare for All” — ensure the provision of health care for working people remains an insurance plan that ration care while assuring hospital, insurance and pharmaceutical bosses continue to reap profits. “I am completing my exams later this month, when can you come back to talk more?” Yanbo asked after getting a subscription to the Militant and the book Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions from the socialist campaigners.

“All the wealth of this country was built on the backs of working people. How much can a back take before it breaks?” Ibn Green, a sewer worker in Louisville, Kentucky, asked Samir Hazboun, the SWP candidate for the People and the Trade Unions and campaign supporter Ned Measel had called at his home. Hoggs explained why a socialist revolution in the USA was necessary and possible. He described his recent participation in the International May Day Brigade to Cuba, where working people waged a revolutionary struggle to oust the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959, take their destiny into their own hands and overturn capitalist rule.

“I like what you guys are saying,” said Green. He bought The First and Second Declarations of Havana by Cuban leader Fidel Castro, adopted at million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962. “The duty of every revolutionist,” Castro explains, “is to make the revolution,” not “sit in the doorways of their houses to wait for the corpus of imperialism to pass by.” Green said he hoped to attend a Militant Labor Forum called by the Louisville SWP to oppose Washington’s recent war threats against Venezuela and Cuba.

The party and sister Communist Leagues organized similar forums and initiated or joined protests demanding U.S. hands off Venezuela and Cuba. Join SWP members in completing these drives in full and on time! Contact the branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS — ILLINOIS

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New York

Why Uber, Lyft, Taxi and Other Drivers Need a National Union for All Drivers. Speaker: Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., May 19, 5 p.m. Donation: $3. 307 W. Cortland St. (312) 455-0111.

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The Militant May 27, 2019 3
**New York City Hall moves to slash funds for public libraries**

**BY RÓGER CALERO**

NEW YORK — Mayor Bill de Blasio announced in April the city plans to slash $16 million in funding for public libraries in 2020. The cuts will mean another round of reduced hours and staffing here. This won’t only hit employees, but add to the burden on all working people, who depend more than ever on an array of programs, computer services and activities — as well as for books, music and videos — offered by the libraries.

Over the last decade, Democratic and Republican administrations alike at all levels have curtailed or eliminated public and school libraries in rural and socially disadvantaged areas across the country. In Chicago only one quarter of public schools have librarians. Most city libraries in Kern County, California, are open just two or three days a week. Similar conditions exist in many public libraries in 2020. The cuts will mean another round of reduced hours and staffing here. This won’t only hit employees, but add to the burden on all working people, who depend more than ever on an array of programs, computer services and activities — as well as for books, music and videos — offered by the libraries.

The origin of the New York Public Library system dates back to the last quarter of the 19th century, as demand for better conditions — including rest, study and recreation — grew among workers.

One group of women in a Grace Church sewing class set up free libraries and reading rooms in rented locations around the city beginning in 1879, proving it was possible to gasp for air and fight for the right to free public libraries.

Eventually, as they expanded, these independent libraries merged, leading to consolidation of a single free public system in 1901.

In 1913, Vladimir Lenin, central leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution, wrote about the revolutionary implications of the New York Public Library system. He said it made “boundless libraries available, not to a guild of scholars, professors and other such specialists, but to the masses, to the cobblestone.”

The fight for universal and lifetime education for all is a central demand of the working class movement.

“Learning as a lifetime experience — I cannot think of a better reason to make a socialist revolution,” says Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. “That’s why we say, ‘Because they’re Rich Let’s do something Liz. They’re Rich Because They’re Smart! Class, Privilege, and Learning under Capitalism.”

The Militant

**Correction**

The article “Thousands Demand Licenses, Amnesty at May Day Rallies,” in the May 20 issue incorrectly said that the Madison, Wisconsin, rally was sponsored by Cosecha. It was sponsored by Voces de la Frontera.

In November last year, Washington reimposed sanctions on oil imports from Iran but granted eight government temporary waivers. In April, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the waivers would not be renewed. They expired May 2.

On May 3 Washington set new limits on Iran’s nuclear activities, imposing sanctions on Iranian export of water and surplus enriched uranium. Less than a week later it imposed sanctions on Iran’s metal exports.

And on May 5 the White House announced the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group was heading to the Arab-Persian Gulf “to send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian Regime.” Administration officials claimed it was in response to unspecified threats by Iranian forces. The deployment was part of the regular rotation of U.S. naval forces, but Washington exploited it to threaten Tehran.

**Washington continues to squeeze**

“Any attack on U.S. interests will be met with unrelenting force,” Gen. Frank McKenzie, commander of the U.S. Central Command, said May 9. He added, “Make no mistake, we are not seeking a fight with the Iranian regime.”

On May 7, Pompeo called off a planned trip to Germany and went to Iraq. He spent four hours meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, Iraqi President Barham Salih and other officials, as part of the U.S. attempt to increase the pressure on Tehran.

He also went to Brussels for a meeting May 13 with officials of some European countries and met May 14 with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi.

In early April Trump designated Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization, the first time a government military force has been placed on the list. The Revolutionary Guards are a key part of the counterrevolutionary bourgeois clerical regime’s moves to extend its influence in the region.

On May 12, Amritha Hajzadeh, head of the Revolutionary Guards air division, responded provocatively, saying an aircraft carrier with thousands of troops “was a serious threat for us in the past, but now it is a target and the threats have switched to opportunities.”

But a spokesman for Major Gen. Hossein Salami, the head of the Revolutionary Guards, played down the threat of military confrontation. “The Americans have started a psychological war,” he said, “because the combings and goings of their military is a normal matter.”

The Militant May 27, 2019
Amid construction boom, crane collapse in Seattle kills 4 people

SEATTLE — On May 1 dozens of construction workers here marched on their lunch hour to Google’s new “campus” on downtown Mercer Street, where two workers and two others were killed when a crane tower came down April 27. Ironworkers Travis Corbet and Andrew Yoder were working on disassembling the massive crane when it came apart and fell to the street, killing them, hitting six cars and killing Seattle Police Department Investigator Joshua Wong and 71-year-old Alan Justad, a retired city worker.

The workers laid a metal cross with two hardhats fastened to it at the site, along with a pair of boots for the other two victims. The cause is under investigation.

In addition to why the crane came down, area residents and others want to know why Mercer Street, a busy thoroughfare in the area connecting to Interstate 5, wasn’t closed to traffic.

The construction boom here, where Google, Amazon and other tech behemoths are expanding at a fever pitch, means that the city has more cranes running every day than any other city in the U.S. Property values are soaring and workers are being pushed out of area housing.

The South Lake Union area where the Google office is being built is the site of a lot of the construction. Paul Allen, a founder of Microsoft, bought up much of the area years ago and proposed the city turn it into a park, but the proposal was shot down. Amazon then moved in to buy up a bunch of land, proposed the city turn it into a park, but few may know how the hospital treats celebrities and powerful people, but few may know how the hospital treats the workers who care for those patients every day,” Adolfo Morales, a clinical partner at Cedars, told the Militant. “We want a voice in delivering quality care, but the hospital is threatening us for speaking out about understaffing or other patient care concerns.”

Hospital bosses are demanding the right to fire workers who speak publicly about understaffing or bloated executive compensation.

Over the years I have seen two sides of Cedars-Sinai,” Willie Gladly, a housekeeper at Cedars for over 10 years, told the Militant after speaking at the rally. “I got active in the union early last year. I wanted to know more about the union and the contract. I think more workers are getting involved.”

“Workers are getting more injuries from lifting patients,” Leticia Venzon, a clinical partner, and certified nursing assistant for 30 years, said. “We don’t have the time to take care of everyone because there aren’t enough workers.”

Dennis Richter, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles City Council District 12, joined the action. “I support your fight,” he told picketers. “Workers here, like workers around the world, are facing the crumbling of the capitalist system. Acting independently to fight for our rights is the road forward.”

— DEBORAH LIATOS

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

May 30, 1994

A major confrontation is looming in the two-year war between management and the United Auto Workers and the bosses at Caterpillar, Inc. The entire labor movement has a stake in its outcome. On May 16 workers at the giant earth moving equipment company’s Mossville, Illinois, plant walked off the job after the company suspended 30 workers for hanging banners with union slogans. Another 20 workers were indefinitely suspended for attending a labor rally in Peoria, Illinois. Fifteen thousand unionists from across the country marched to Mossville to show solidarity with the fighting Cater workers.

Two years ago UAW members waged a five-month strike. When management threatened to cut between management and workers poured onto the picket lines. They only returned to work under orders from top union officials.

May 30, 1969

A victory for the anti-Vietnam War movement and for constitutional rights was achieved May 20 when Army authorities at Ft. Jackson, S.C., announced they were dropping their planned prosecution of the last three of eight antigov’t GIs. The case is probably without parallel in U.S. military history.

The eight victorious servicemen, whom the Army originally intended to imprisoned for 10 years and for constitutional rights was achieved May 20 when Army authorities at Ft. Jackson, S.C., announced they were dropping their planned prosecution of the last three of eight antigov’t GIs. The case is probably without parallel in U.S. military history.

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May 27, 1944

As soon as the resumption of the war movement against the centralized, dictatorial policies of the War Labor Board, erupts into open resistance against the provocative acts of management, the whole machinery of the federal government is mobilized as a striking weapon in the service of Big Business. That is the real significance of the farcical “seizure” of the Montgomery Ward plant at Chicago and the Ward subsidiary, the Hummer Manufacturing Company, at Springfield, Illinois. The Roosevelt administration acted only after the employers, their patience exhausted by the interminable run-around of the WLB, struck the plants.

The workers were forced to strike in order to defend the existence of their unions against the open shop drive instituted by J. P. Morgan and Company which controls Montgomery Ward.

Farmers organize aid for flood-stricken Nebraskans

DELAVAN, Wis. — While federal and state officials continue to drag their feet delivering help to those hit hard by March’s flooding in Nebraska and Iowa, farmers and others in rural communities in the Midwest are organizing solidarity and aid.

Stacey Koener, who works at the Whiskey Ranch Bar and Grill here, read an online post about fundraising efforts being organized for flood-stricken Nebraska farmers and decided to get something going in the area.

The owners of the bar agreed. “For two weeks starting April 6, farmers, workers and small businesses in the farming area dropped off donations of farm and cleaning supplies to the bar, more than enough to fill a 53-foot trailer,” Koener told the Militant.

Three other local businesses — Wood Products, Gifford Tree Service and Royal Basket Trucks — donated use of a semitruck and large bins to hold what had been donated. Whiskey Ranch “organized a guest Untonner night April 13, where area farmers poured the drinks, raising more than $1,800 for fuel for the trip to Winslow, Nebraska, and back,” Koener said.

“Terry Chop Nelson, a third-generation farmer and truck driver, set out April 24, accompanied by Koener. Above, from left, volunteers Travis Eger, Nelson and Kelly Eger load up the supplies.

— JOHN HAWKINS

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pathfinderpress.com

May 27, 2019
by Byron Williams

On the eve of Uber's much-hyped initial public offering (IPO) on May 10, Uber and Lyft drivers in at least 10 U.S. cities, plus several cities in Australia, the United Kingdom and Brazil, shut off their apps and joined protests.

Though modest in size the strikes show that workers at the two giant e-hailing companies are looking for ways to fight for higher pay and respect. They were the need for one union for all drivers, from app-based, Yellow Cab and other car services.

A central part of the business "strategy" of the app-based companies is to convince drivers they are independent "owners-operator," contract, not employees who need a union. That way all the costs from car maintenance or rental, to on-the-road injuries, insurance and healthcare are on the driver, not the companies.

Some drivers "own" their car. Some rent from fleet owners. The bosses benefit by pitting drivers against each other in a "race to the bottom," like Yellow Taxi against app-based.

An important achievement drivers are discussing is how to overcome these divisions. They can't rely on government regulations.

Among the drivers' demands are better benefits, an end to being "a big crowd of mystery workers," and an end to arbitrary deactivations — the Uber equivalent of being suspended or fired. There are some 7 million Uber drivers around the world. There are more than 100,000 drivers in New York City and a similar number in Los Angeles, as well as thousands of app-based drivers in those cities.

"Much of the capitalist media said behind the Uber bosses' need to squeeze more out of the drivers if they're going to maintain their stock price," U.S. Militant editorial writer Nick Kuhn said. "So-called 'gig economy' was a strawman. But the 'bosses' are in a better position to fight back. Strike all of them. Want Uber. Won't Uber. Won't Uber." Kuhn said.

Uber and Lyft drivers in Los Angeles shut off their apps for the early evening picketing. "We're fighting for living wages," driver Karla Buttram said. "We need unionization now. It's not that hard. We're not asking for a lot. We just want a little bit of respect and dignity. If we fight together they can't fire all of us," said Grey Hudson. "We need benefits. Unity is key!"

In Los Angeles, hundreds of Uber and Lyft drivers shut off their apps for 24 hours and picketed the airport the day before the vote to get "driving wages," living wages, Karla Buttram said. She described how the companies arbitrarily deactivate drivers who give a one-star rating, the company says, "Will you deliver safely?" driver Walter Ellis said. "I say, if you don't like it, then change it!"

In New York more than 200 drivers join protests at Uber and Lyft headquarters in New York City. ("Some of the companies are saying they are independent contractors, not employees," said Future of Work speaker). "We have no medical insurance. Uber gives us nothing," Raja Sufian told driver told the Militant at the afternoon protest. He has to take a month off for medical treatment.

"We're independent contractors"

"We must stop calling us independent contractors," he added. "I don't like the word 'independent' because they are not our free workers, we are on contract. We are Uber and Lyft drivers in New York City. Let's get together for the drivers, not the corporation." Raja Sufian and his comrades organized the Cab Drivers United, which is affiliated with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Deactivating drivers

Several hundred Uber and Lyft drivers shut off their apps for 24 hours and picketed the downtown headquarters in San Francisco May 8. "We're fighting for living wages," Karla Buttram said. "We need unionization now. It's not that hard. We're not asking for a lot. We just want a little bit of respect and dignity. If we fight together they can't fire all of us," said Grey Hudson. "We need benefits. Unity is key!"

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A "Driver Speaks Out" at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in Wash-ington, DC, May 8, drivers may be picketed by employees from Teamsters Local 117 and the International Union of Property Service Employees, which is affiliated with the union. "The companies are exploiting us," says Sally Akoum, driver from Seattle. "We need a union."

Drivers also joined the one-day strike in São Paulo, Brazil. "It's a fight for the workers, not the companies," driver Ahmed Hussein told the Militant.

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Lyft hails new deal, but with strings attached

The Los Angeles Times reported overdraft fees for failed payments. The New York Post reported $25 if a driver does not take a ride within 14 minutes. "If you don’t work, you don’t get paid," driver John Kennedy told the Militant.

"If we fight together they can’t fire all of us," said Grey Hudson. "We need benefits. Unity is key!"

by Byany Williams

Uber's IPO was more than a $4 billion offering. It is a class-action lawsuit against app-based companies. Thousands of drivers are filing suit against Uber and Lyft, claiming they are being misclassified as independent contractors. "Driving is a job. They should be classified as employees so we can unionize and get better working conditions," said driver Ahmed Hussein told the Militant.

Uber announced the $4 billion initial public offering (IPO) of its stock on May 10, setting the stage for what will likely be the largest IPO in U.S. history.

"It is a win for the gig workers," said Nnamdi Uwazie, co-founder of Cab Drivers United, who told protesters, "We need to stand together," Nnamdi Uwazie of Cab Drivers United told protesters. "We need to stand together.

"I’m making less than minimum wage working from 7 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the morning, with no overtime pay," driver Erick Mughetto told the Militant. "Drivers said the movement is just getting going, and more workers will see they can fight together.

"I’m recommending a union for all these drivers. They think we are slaves. We are not slaves," said driver Michael Adesanya.

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The Militant May 27, 2019

This week’s Books of the Month excerpt is from The Long View of History, a pamphlet by George Novack. The author of a number of titles on U.S. working-class history and Marxist philosophy, Novack was a member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party from the month it was formed in 1939. He also led several defense campaigns for victimized party members and others. This pamphlet explains how revolutionaries are fundamental to social and cultural progress and why the working class struggling to end capitalist exploitation is the only road forward. Copyright © 1960 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY GEORGE NOVACK

In its evolution to our own century, civilized society can be divided into three main epochs: slavery, feudalism, and capitalism. In the last century, class struggle is marked off by the special way in which the ruling propertied class at the head of the social setup manages to extract the surplus value on which it lives from the laboring mass who directly create it. This entire period covers little more than the past five to six thousand years.

Civilization was ushered in and raised upon direct slavery. The very source of supreme power, prestige, and privileges. And it eventually reshaped the whole structure of civilized life.

But if slavery had sufficient reasons for becoming the beginning and basis of ancient civilization, in turn and in time it generated the conditions and forces which would undermine and overthrow it. Once slavery became the predominant form of production either in industry, as in Greece, or in agriculture, as in Rome, it no longer furthered the development of agricultural techniques, craftsmanship, trade, or navigation. The slave empires of antiquity stagnated and disintegrated. And in the last centuries they were replaced by two main types of feudal organization: Asiatic and Western European.

As the result of a long list of technological and other social advances, merging with a sequence of exceptional historical circumstances, feudalism in Europe became the nucleus for the next great stage of class society, capitalism. How and why did capitalism originate?

Once money had arisen from the extension of trade several thousand years ago, its use as capital became possible. Merchants could add to their wealth by buying goods cheap and selling them dear; moneylenders and mortgage holders could gain interest on sums advanced on the security of land or other collateral. These practices were common in both slave and feudal societies.

But if money could be used in pre-capitalist times to return more than the original investment, other conditions had to be fulfilled before capitalism could become established as a separate and definite world economic system. The central condition was a special kind of transaction regularly repeated on a growing scale. Large numbers of propertyless workers had to hire themselves to the possessors of money and the other means of production in order to earn a livelihood.

The industrial age was launched around the beginning of the nineteenth century with the application of steam power to the first mechanized processes, concentrating large numbers of wage workers into factories. The capitalist captains of this large-scale industry became masters of the field of production, later other rich men, and continents as their riches, their legions of wage laborers, social and political power, swelled to major proportions.

This vigorous, expanding, progressive, confident, and imperialist stage of industrial capitalism dominated the nineteenth century. It passed over into the twentieth century, which has carried all the basic tendencies of capitalism, and especially its most reactionary features, to extremes in economic, political, and cultural and international relations. While the processes of production have become more centralized, more rationalized, more socialized, the means of production and wealth of the world have become concentrated in giant financial and industrial combines.

Far as the capitalist sectors of society are involved, this process has been brought to the point where the capitalist monopolies of a single country, the U.S., dictate to all the rest. …

The Long View of History provides an integrative and synthetic analysis of the workings of the capitalist system which explained how its inner contradictions would bring about the end of capitalism. This is fundamental to understanding the inescapable underlying causes of these developments, which appear so inexplicable and abhorrent to the upholders of the capitalist system.

Capitalism has produced many things, good and bad, in the course of its evolution. But the most vital and valuable of all is social forces for the industrial working class. The capitalist class has brought into existence a vast army of wage laborers, centralized and disciplined, and set it into motion for its own purposes, to make and operate the machines, factories, and all the other production and transportation facilities functioning in its interest...

The struggle between these conflicting social classes is today the dominant and driving force of world and American history, just as the conflict of the proletariat of the last century against the capitalist elements was the motivating force of history in the immediately preceding centuries.

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pend the readership of the Militant and revolutionary
books and help fund the paper!

The Militant is a unique voice speaking in the
interests of working people. Recent issues raised a call
to action to mobilize opposition to Washington’s war
threats against Cuba, built May Day demonstrations
demanding driver’s licenses for im-
migrant workers to advance the unity of all work-
ing people, urged solidarity with the May 8 strike by
Uzbekistan’s silk workers who lost their lives and defended the right
of workers behind bars to read papers and books of their
choice. The paper points working people to actions
they can be part of today to fight the attacks of the bosses and to step up their own defense and care.

It explains that workers can act together in our own
common class interests and, through common struggle,
transform ourselves. It champions the interests of
everyone and all those oppressed and oppressed by the dictatorship
of capital. And it urges support for Socialist Workers Party
candidates campaigning across the country.

Drawing on decades of experience in the course of
revolutionary struggles, the hundreds of books being
offered at discount explain the root of the problems confronting workers and the role of the capi-
talist class. They describe what can be done to build
the movement necessary to replace their rule with the
power of working people.

The Militant is needed now more than ever.

Democrat witch hunt attacks workers’ rights
Continued from front page

We have to stop using the criminal-justice process
as a political weapon,” Barr said May 1, pointing to
liberals’ efforts to criminalize political differences between
Democrats and Republicans. But the capital-
ists’ attack on the rule of law is an attack on political police
have been used fordecades to target and attack workers,
class militants and revolutionists like the SWP, with the
The liberal’s push to do so today gives the rulers
greater room to step up these attacks. The
15-year-successful political and legal fight by
the Socialists to get on the ballot. It
describes20,000 days worth of wiretaps over two de-
cades and hundreds of burglaries of party offices
and homes of SWP members. When
the liberals turn similar methods loose against
Trump’s campaign and his presidency, it gives
wider sway to political police spying and
disruption and increases the danger to the working
class. Every attack on constitutional rights will end up
dragging all working people with it. The attacks
of the AFL-CIO union federation.

For issue no. 15, prison officials pointed to the arti-
cle on the ongoing tour by Albert Woodfox promoting
his book. Solitary. He served over 40 years in solitary
reducing the rule of China. We’re threatening the White
House with the reality that we continue to work in China.

The ban on issue no. 17 is completely unclear. Pris-
took over the ballot there if they don’t make their tax returns
public. This violates basic constitutional protections of
the right to privacy. Similar laws are being pushed by
liberals in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Rhode Is-
land and elsewhere.

When some of Trump’s other tax returns were re-
leased, showing he had lost money, he joked that
this only showed how great he was. It exposed most of the taxes.
Millionaire bourgeois politicians like Trump — and like Obama, the Clintons and Bernie San-
ners have an army of accountants and lawyers to help
them with this paperwork.

But Socialist Workers Party candidates and many other
workers oppose efforts by government bureau-
crats to pry into their families’ financial affairs. They are
nobody’s business.

Democrats, and some Republicans, are also push-
ing to greatly increase the number of signatures par-
ties have to collect to get on the ballot, as well as mov-
ing the deadline for filing to run earlier and earlier, in a move to weaken the power of the presidential primary. The effec-
tively means the bills is to make it harder for independent and working-class parties, like the
Socialist Workers Party, to get on the ballot.

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi led an effort to get the formula that the Department of Correc-
tions is using to seek a new round of “investigation” into
the president and others in his administration. He threat-
en to use Congress “inherent contempt” power which
was used in nearly the whole of the lives of administration
officials who refuse to agree to be grilled or to turn over personal material. The “contempt” rule
allows Congress to sue issues, including impris-
on people in the Capitol.

The rulers’ political police

Meanwhile, the Justice Department, headed by At-
torney General William Barr, is opening a probe into
the FBI’s increasing role as a partisan spy operation
against Trump’s 2016 campaign and his administra-
tion. This makes Democrats nervous.

“We will fight against every impoundment. We de-
mand the release of six years of the president’s tax
returns,” called for the full distribution of the
Militant Fund. The “contempt” rule
administration officials who refuse to agree to be grilled
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