

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
SWP: Oppose US threats against Iran, protest anti-Semitism
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 83/NO. 23 JUNE 10, 2019

Rulers political crisis grows as UK workers say, 'Get out of EU!'

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN
LONDON — Faced with fallout from repeated failed efforts to reach some agreement among the capitalist rulers' fractured political parties over what to do about Brexit, Prime Minister Theresa May resigned as Conservative Party leader May 24. The resignation takes effect June 7, with May continuing as caretaker prime minister until a new leader is chosen.
May and most other leading figures in both the Conservative and Labour parties were shocked at the results of the Brexit referendum vote three years ago and are searching for some way to remain in the EU. Millions of workers voted "get out," protesting successive governments' grinding assault on living standards, working conditions, job security and rights; their war moves alongside Washington; and the broader social crisis unfolding here. Their anger continues to grow in response to the carnage pressed on them by the crisis of capitalism.
May becomes the third Conserva-

Continued on page 4

Thousands rally, demand women's right to abortion!

'Keep on marching, make our voices heard'



AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli

May 21 Sacramento, Calif. Rallies to defend women's right to abortion continue nationwide.

BY JANET POST
"We hoped for 20 and 200 people showed up," Heather Bradford told David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for St. Paul City Council, as they both joined a May 25 protest in Duluth, Minnesota, in

support of women's right to choose to have an abortion. Bradford is part of the Feminist Justice League that organized the action.
Rallies in several cities and towns were called that day, and hundreds were held across the country May 21. They came after a number of state legislatures passed severe restric-

Continued on page 2

US hands off Venezuela!

US hands off Cuba!

BY SETH GALINSKY
Washington and the U.S.-backed opposition in Venezuela continue to press their campaign to oust the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, despite the failure of their April 30 coup attempt. Washington is stepping up its economic war on Venezuela — and against Cuba, who it charges keeps Maduro in power — and keeps making threats of possible military intervention.
According to Reuters, State Department officials called Swiss- and British-based jet fuel suppliers in May to pressure them to cut off sales to Venezuela. This comes on top of U.S. sanctions aimed at preventing Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA from exporting any crude oil, the country's key export.
After freezing the assets of two maritime companies that ship Venezuelan oil to Cuba, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declared, "The U.S. will take further action if Cuba continues to receive Venezuelan oil in exchange for military support," repeating U.S. slanders that the Venezuelan military is run by Cuba.

Continued on page 9

Over the top! 'Militant' goes over goals in paper, book, fund drives



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Socialist Workers Party campaigner Sergio Zambrana, right, talks with aerospace worker Kyle Miller at Miller's doorstep in Peru, New York, April 27, about party's program and activities.

BY TERRY EVANS
Welcome to those of you who subscribed to the *Militant* during the just-concluded drive to expand the readership of the paper, bought books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other working-class fighters, and helped raise \$115,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund. Congratulations to everyone who knocked on doors or took the paper to strike picket lines and

working-class protests. We went over all the goals set for the drive!
The *Militant* offers a special welcome to the 33 workers behind bars who got or renewed their subscriptions. The *Militant* will continue to fight the repeated attempts of Florida prison officials to bar readers from receiving it.
In total we sold 1,156 subscriptions,

Continued on page 3

2019 version of Roosevelt New Deal no road forward for working people

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
The "Green New Deal," the project of Democratic Socialists of America member and liberal media darling House member Alexandria Ocasio-

Cortez and other young self-anointed progressives, that's backed by at least five of the Democratic Party presidential hopefuls, claims to address serious problems facing working people. They include jobs, living standards and capitalism's damage to nature. But this "deal" offers no road forward for working people.
Ocasio-Cortez claims no one before her has "actually scoped out" the "larger solution" to problems in the

Continued on page 9

Join fight against new censorship of 'Militant' in Florida prisons!

BY SETH GALINSKY
Officials at the Florida State Prison and the New River Correctional Institution, both in Raiford, informed the *Militant* May 28 that they had impounded two more issues of the working-class newsweekly. That brings to five the number of issues impounded in Florida since mid-April, violating the constitutional rights of both the paper and its subscribers behind bars.
The prison system's Literature Review Committee overturned two of the first impoundments — of issues

Continued on page 6

Inside

Every 'Militant' issue' from 1928 is online!	2
'Nationalize PG&E and put it under workers control'	5
Australia election 'shocker' reflects working-class anger	6
US capitalist rulers ban Huawei in trade squeeze on Beijing	7
Socialist Workers Party 2019 campaign program	9

Demand right to abortion!

Continued from front page
tions on abortion. Nationwide, tens of thousands of working people and youth took to the streets in the largest turnout in defense of abortion rights in more than a decade.

The gravity of the attack on women’s access to safe and secure family planning, including abortion, was driven home May 28. Planned Parenthood reported the last clinic in Missouri that provides abortion was told by state regulators they were “refusing to renew” its license and would have to close May 31.

Over 3,500 supporters of women’s right to choose demonstrated at the state Capitol in Atlanta May 25, chanting “My body, my choice.” Earlier this month the governor of Georgia signed a “heartbeat bill” into law that would ban abortion after a cardiac electrical signal is detected, typically at six weeks, before a woman often realizes she is pregnant.

A May 25 protest in Montgomery, Alabama, was put together by high school students. “We were angry about passage of the new anti-abortion law for Alabama and decided we had to make our voices heard,” Kate Nelson, a student at Auburn High School, told the *Militant*. A new Alabama law criminalizes nearly all abortions.

“Some of us here today don’t agree with abortion for themselves, but we all agree it has to be the woman’s right to decide,” Nelson told SWP member Susan LaMont. “It’s not the government’s right to tell us what to do with our bodies.”

Some 200 protested in San Diego, chanting “They say ‘no choice.’ We say ‘pro choice’” and “Women’s rights are human rights.” Nineteen-year-old Natalina Blake, who organized the rally, told

the *Militant*, “I expected 50 people,” but 200 came. “I think there will be a need for another event.”

“We want to show we have a voice even though we’re younger,” said high school student Maddy Moran. “So we can have the same rights to be treated the same under the law and in our personal lives.”

In Dallas 100 people marched to City Hall in a “March for Our Rights,” which included representatives from family planning clinics and women’s shelter volunteers.

Sustained protests are needed

All of these protests are significant — they reflect the growing support for women’s right to choose and the desire of a new generation to fight to defend it. The actions create political space where a real discussion on the best course forward to defend and extend abortion rights is needed and can take place.

Today there is not a single medical facility providing abortions in 90 percent of U.S. counties and in a third of all U.S. cities — even though the latest Pew poll shows that 58% of men and women favor a woman’s right to choose abortion.

For decades opponents of women’s rights have relentlessly moved to chip away at this right, which is at the heart of women’s equality. These attacks were made easier by the fact that the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing



Militant/Alyson Kennedy
Supporters of access to safe and secure family planning, including abortion, rally in Dallas May 21, one of hundreds of protests this week of tens of thousands across the country.

abortion was based on medical criteria and decisions by doctors, rather than guaranteeing women “equal protection of the law,” as put forth by the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The debate over a woman’s right to control her own body, and for equal protection under the law, needs to be fought out and won through political and public debate and independent mobilizations that push back against attacks on women’s right to decide whether to have an abortion.

Defending this right “is fundamental

to a woman’s control of her own life and to winning full social, economic and political equality,” Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for mayor of Dallas, said in a campaign statement released May 20. “This is essential to strengthening the unity of the working class to fight against the unrelenting assaults of the employers and their government.”

Alyson Kennedy from Dallas, Sam Manuel from Atlanta and Deborah Liatos from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Every ‘Militant’ issue from 1928 to today is online!

BY CURT JOHNSON

Every issue of the *Militant* — from its founding in 1928 to today — is now available online, nearly 4,400 is-

ues of the paper. Workers anywhere in the world can access and study the living history of their class, published as it happened. This material can be downloaded for use in preparing talks at public forums and in socialist campaigning door to door in working-class areas, drawing on the lessons of these battles for today’s fighters.

Over decades the *Militant* has covered the struggles of working people and key turning points in class politics: the spread of the Bolshevik program that led the Russian Revolution to the labor upsurge of the 1930s and the rise of fascism in Germany; the counter-revolution led by Joseph Stalin and the growing bureaucracy around him in

the Soviet Union; the horrors wreaked on working people worldwide in the second imperialist world slaughter; the mass social movement to overthrow Jim Crow segregation in the U.S.; the rise of anti-colonial rebellions in Algeria, Congo, China, and Vietnam, culminating in the Cuban Revolution — an example for working people everywhere; as well as

Continued on page 3

‘Militant’ publishing break
We are taking a break. The next issue will be mailed June 27.

THE MILITANT

Wabtec workers fight boss takeback demands

UE union members in Pennsylvania are locked in a contract fight against Wabtec’s two-tier demand for new hires. The ‘Militant’ supports and builds solidarity with workers fighting attacks from the bosses, seeking to strengthen working-class unity and power.

United Electrical Workers Union
UE workers and supporters picket Wabtec shareholders’ meeting May 17 in Pittsburgh.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 83/No. 23

Closing news date: May 29, 2019

Editor: John Studer

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Terry Evans, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in September.

Business Manager: Valerie Johnson

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send

\$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville NSW 2142, Australia.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

'Militant,' book, fund drive over the top!

Continued from front page
1,570 books and raised \$123,125 to keep the *Militant* rolling off the press.

Many new readers picked up subscriptions and books when Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters went door to door in working-class neighborhoods in cities, large and small, and rural areas across the country. Socialist campaigners explain why working people need to organize independently of the bosses, their parties and government, and invite those they meet to discuss the party's revolutionary program and join in its activities.

"We are nonunion, but we need to be union," Manuel Duran, a dispatcher at an asphalt company in Whiting, Indiana, told socialist campaigner Dan Fein at his door, May 24. "Pay and benefits would be better."

"Unions are needed not only to address how workers can fight together to improve pay and conditions," Fein, who was the SWP's candidate for mayor of Chicago, said. "But also to take on other crucial working-class questions, like opposition to the U.S. rulers' wars. These are an extension of their assault

on working people here at home."
Duran got a subscription to the *Militant* and three books on revolutionary politics, including *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. The book discusses the growing "openness among workers everywhere in the United States to discuss and debate the broadest social and political questions, including the stakes for the working class in organizing the unorganized and rebuilding our unions as instruments of solidarity and struggle."

Over the seven-week campaign people have subscribed to the paper at union actions, at protests demanding driver's licenses for immigrants on May Day, at demonstrations demanding "U.S. hands off Venezuela, U.S. hands off Cuba!" and at the largest protests in a decade defending a woman's right to choose abortion. Members of the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom joined in the circulation and fund drive.

David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for city council in St. Paul, Minnesota, met Susannah Johnson, a nursing home worker from Hibbing, when they both joined a protest to demand abortion rights in Duluth May 25.

"I was a big Bernie Sanders supporter in 2016," she told Rosenfeld. Johnson came to the protest with four friends.

"Sanders advocates 'fixing' the system we live under, to shore up the capitalists and their for-profit system," the SWP candidate said. "Capitalism has to be overthrown."

"The working class has the power to do that, but we have to first discover what we are capable of doing," Rosenfeld said. "We can do that in the course of fighting to defend ourselves and speaking out against every abuse and outrage created by this system. This is the lesson from the big battles that overthrew Jim Crow segregation, and from the example of the Cuban Revolution."

Johnson wanted to learn more and bought a subscription to the *Militant* and the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, also by Jack Barnes. The book describes how Malcolm X emerged as an outstanding working-class revolutionary leader. Barnes writes that "only the conquest, and exercise, of state power by the working class and expropriation of finance capital can lay the foundations for a world based not on exploitation, violence, racial discrimination, class-based pecking orders, and dog-eat-dog competition, but on solidarity among working people that encourages the creativity and recognition of the worth of every individual."

Johnson invited Rosenfeld to visit the Iron Range to talk more about the SWP.



Militant/Hilda Cuzzo
"We must not depend on Democrats or Republicans to defend abortion rights," Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for Dallas mayor told 100 people at May 25 abortion rights protest.

Over 1,500 books on the SWP's program and lessons from previous revolutionary battles were picked up by working people thirsty to find out more about a working-class road forward. Presentations on these questions will be at the center of the Active Workers Conference scheduled for June 13-15 in Oberlin, Ohio, hosted by the SWP.

What next?

"In the coming days we'll encourage new readers to learn more about the campaign of Seth Galinsky, the party's candidate for New York City public advocate, and ask them to help us organize house meetings where the campaign can get more widely known," Róger Calero, a leader of the SWP in New York, told the *Militant* May 29.

One of the central goals of the drive was to deepen the party's ongoing week-to-week campaigning with books and the *Militant* broadly in the working class. "We learned a lot this spring and got better at explaining the party's program," Calero said. "We will build on our experience."

This weekly column reporting on the exchanges SWP campaign supporters have with working people will continue. Keep sending reports on your experiences in!

To get involved, contact the nearest distributor listed on page 8.

Militant Fund tops goal

A big thank you to the hundreds of working people who contributed over \$123,000 to the Militant Fighting Fund — a tremendous response that sends the fund more than \$8,000 over its goal.

This annual fund is crucial for financing the *Militant*. The success in going over the top in this year's drive puts the paper in a strong position to meet the political opportunities in the months ahead. Join us!

— John Studer, Militant editor

All 'Militant' issues are now online

Continued from page 2
the advances and defeats of revolutions from Nicaragua and Grenada to Iran and Burkina Faso.

All of this, and the working-class struggles and political debates through today, fill the pages of the *Militant*.

For over 90 years the *Militant* has been a "news-weekly published in the interests of working people," as its masthead says, and a voice for the oppressed and exploited that has consistently pointed the working-class road forward. In addition, every issue of the *Militant*'s sister publications are now online. This includes *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language news magazine published from 1977 to 2005; *Intercontinental Press*; and the theoretical journal *New International*, along with its predecessors going back to 1934, including *Fourth International* and *International Socialist Review*.

You can use the "Search" and "Related Publications" buttons on the themilitant.com website to view all of these periodicals by date, or go directly to searchable indexes for the *Militant*, as well as *New International* and *Intercontinental Press*. The indexes for *Perspectiva Mundial* are located on the archive's yearly pages.

Over the last eight years more than 100 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party have worked to make the *Militant* and other publications of the party available online. They used document scanners, archives from the paper, and up-to-date processing software to transform every issue into readable and searchable files that would be small enough for readers anywhere in the world to download, whatever their internet connectivity.

Volunteers also maintain the *Militant*'s ongoing index. This searchable index currently goes back to 1955, but eventually will go all the way back to the first issue in 1928.

Books on special offer...

Is socialist revolution in the US possible?
A NECESSARY DEBATE AMONG WORKING PEOPLE
MARY-ALICE WATERS

THE CUBAN FIVE talk about their book within the US working class

Are they rich because they're smart?
CLASS, PRIVILEGE AND LEARNING UNDER CAPITALISM
JACK BARNES

The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record
WHY WASHINGTON FEARS WORKING PEOPLE
JACK BARNES

Malcolm X Black Liberation & the Road to Workers Power
JACK BARNES

Four books above: \$7 each, \$5 with subscription.

Book at left: \$15, \$10 with subscription.

See distributors on page 8
For full catalog visit: pathfinderpress.com

WE'VE HAD ENOUGH
In defense of the US working class
MARY-ALICE WATERS

\$5

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, fund						
April 6 - May 28 (final chart)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Received
UNITED STATES						
Albany	65	68	65	75	\$5,600	\$5,685
Atlanta	70	78	70	84	\$9,750	\$9,750
Chicago	85	103	110	123	\$11,400	\$11,518
Dallas	40	48	40	45	\$2,500	\$2,605
Lincoln	14	14	16	17	\$250	\$253
Los Angeles	85	104	185	211	\$10,800	\$11,194
Louisville	50	63	50	60	\$2,800	\$2,978
Miami	25	25	25	29	\$3,500	\$3,779
N. New Jersey	40	43	70	77	\$3,500	\$4,005
New York	80	86	120	141	\$14,000	\$14,000
Oakland	70	79	70	120	\$13,000	\$13,037
Philadelphia	25	30	25	33	\$3,000	\$3,375
Pittsburgh	15	15	15	16	\$1,200	\$1,200
Seattle	70	72	95	121	\$10,000	\$10,247
Twin Cities	35	40	35	51	\$4,750	\$4,906
Washington, DC	40	45	40	54	\$5,000	\$5,003
Other						\$1,200
Total U.S.	809	913	1031	1257	\$101,050	\$104,735
Prisoners	25	33	0	0	\$0	\$0
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	50	54	90	106	\$2,500	\$3,060
Manchester	35	36	45	54	\$1,300	\$1,380
Total U.K.	85	90	135	160	\$3,800	\$4,440
CANADA	70	73	80	94	\$8,200	\$10,045
NEW ZEALAND	20	21	20	20	\$3,400	\$3,305
AUSTRALIA	25	26	39	39	\$500	\$600
Total	1,034	1,156	1,305	1,570	\$116,950	\$123,125
SHOULD BE	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	\$115,000	\$115,000

SWP: Oppose US threats on Iran, protest anti-Semitism

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — “The Socialist Workers Party unconditionally opposes U.S. threats and economic sanctions against Iran,” Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Steve Clark told those at the Militant Labor Forum here May 25.

“We’re not predicting a war between the United States and Iran. But whenever the U.S. government makes statements threatening military actions, and at the same time tightens economic strangulation, it’s the obligation of working people and especially of communist workers to respond with public actions.”

The title of the forum was “The Middle East and the Jewish Question: Acting on the Communist Program Today. U.S. Hands Off Iran! End the Sanctions!”

Clark encouraged the more than 40 participants to join protests demanding “U.S. Hands Off Venezuela! U.S. Hands Off Cuba!” as well as “U.S. Hands Off Iran!”

The bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran uses groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, and militias it organizes in Iraq and Syria to carry out its counterrevolutionary policies in the region, Clark said. “This reactionary course hands

Washington its pretexts for intervention on a silver platter.”

But the U.S. rulers’ military and economic moves are based on defending the profits and class interests of American imperialism, Clark said. These moves are deadly dangers to the interests of working people in Iran, elsewhere in the region, the United States, and around the world.

Communists have an obligation to present the facts about the US rulers’ policies and extend a hand of class solidarity to working people in the Middle East.

“We are not a communist party during peace time and a ‘peace’ party during times of war,” he said. “When faced with stepped-up war threats by the U.S. rulers, we do more of what we are already doing.

“This includes going more deeply among our class, campaigning door to door among working people of all nationalities, from big cities to small towns and rural areas. It means continuing to join strikes, organizing drives, and social and political protests in the interests of the working class.”

Unprecedented meeting

Clark described how he and other leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and its sister Communist Leagues in Britain and Canada were invited to speak on our movement’s program and activities at a public meeting of 100 organized by the Kurdistan Communist Party

Right, Militant/Mike Shur
Right, Steve Clark, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member, told New York Militant Labor Forum May 25 anti-Semitism is not a form of racism or xenophobia. As crisis deepens, capitalist rulers will promote Jew-hatred to divert workers from real source of economic and social catastrophe: capitalism. Below, anti-Semitic cartoon of Donald Trump and Netanyahu in *New York Times*. The editors later “apologized.”



in April in Ainkawa, just outside Erbil in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This meeting, which included leaders of the Iraqi Communist Party and others, was “unprecedented in the history of our movement,” Clark said.

At the heart of this exchange of views was how to organize to lead workers to break from the capitalist rulers’ state and political parties and fight for their own class interests, the question of independent working-class political action, Clark said.

Several participants commented later that they appreciated the Socialist Workers Party’s unconditional support for independence for Kurdistan, noting that not a single Communist Party around the world outside of Kurdistan and Iraq, supports their fight for self-determination. (For a fuller report on the meeting see the *Militant*’s May 6 issue.)

Recognition of Israel and Palestine

Clark encouraged New York forum participants to “read and reread”

the party’s December 2017 statement “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel.”

The statement calls for negotiations to reach an agreement recognizing “the right of Jews everywhere to take refuge in Israel in face of the global rise of Jew-hatred and anti-Semitic violence, as well as the unconditional right of the dispossessed Palestinian people to a contiguous, sovereign homeland on territory — including East Jerusalem — conquered and occupied by the Israeli government during the 1967 war.”

Clark underlined the reasons why such an agreement must include the right of Jews the world over to return to Israel. “Between 1933 and today,” he said, “the population of the world has increased 350%, but the Jewish population is still lower than it was in 1933. Some two-thirds of the Jewish population was exterminated at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. Those who survived had no place to go, as the rulers in Washington and other imperialist countries refused them entry.”

“On the one hand, anti-Semitism among working people today is less than ever,” Clark said. “But on the other hand, amid a deepening world capitalist crisis, there is a rise in Jew-hatred and violent anti-Semitic acts.”

He pointed to a recent anti-Semitic cartoon published in the *New York Times* that portrayed a blind President Donald Trump wearing a yarmulke being led by a guide dog wearing a Star of David and having Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s face. The *Times* later “apologized.”

Much of the anti-Semitism today comes from the middle-class left, Clark said, who back groups like Hamas that

Continued on page 5

For recognition of a Palestinian state and of Israel

- For repeal of U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Act

- For workers’ solidarity in Israel, Palestine, the world over

Socialist Workers Party statement

Download ready-to-print flyer at www.themilitant.com



UK rulers crisis grows, workers say, ‘Get out of EU’

Continued from front page

tive Party prime minister, after Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron, to be broken by party infighting over the European Union — in fact, over what international role forward for Britain’s propertied rulers in face of the accelerated decline of the U.K. against its imperialist rivals. May’s resignation will do nothing to resolve their deepening political predicament, sharpened by the tearing apart of the European Union itself.

Conflicts between the capitalist rulers in Germany, France and Italy have accelerated over economic policy and trade; military and foreign policy; and immigration. The fiction of a European “Union” or “superstate” is exposed as Berlin boosts trade and investment with Moscow and collaborates with Russian bosses to develop the Nord Stream 2 oil and gas pipeline; as Paris jockeys to challenge Germany’s economic dominance; and Rome signs onto Beijing’s Belt and Road initiative and pushes for a budget and debt mountain that EU officials deem “illegal.”

Tumult in EU parliament election

Signs of political crisis across Europe were reflected in the May 23-26 elections to the European parliament.

The new Brexit Party led in the U.K. with 32% of the vote. Both the Conservative Party with a measly 9% and

Labour with just 14% were punished for the crisis facing workers today and the refusal of these parties to honor the referendum. Middle-class layers fighting to remain in the EU boosted votes for the Liberal Democrats and Scottish National Party. But millions of workers stayed home, reflecting their contempt for the EU parliament talk shop. Turnout was just 37% in the U.K. and 50% across the EU.

Traditional ruling-class parties across Europe were also hit hard. Self-declared “EU savior,” French President Emmanuel Macron, wracked by months by yellow vest protests against his government’s defense of capitalist exploitation and disdain for the conditions faced by workers, farmers and small businesspeople, saw his party pushed into second place by Marine Le Pen’s eurosceptic National Rally.

Parties that had dominated capitalist politics in France for decades, the Republicans and Socialists, polled a paltry 14% combined. In Germany, there was a sharp drop in the vote for Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union, and an even sharper drop for her “grand coalition” partner, the Social Democrats.

Climate change catastrophism among middle-class layers fed a rise in the vote of pro-EU Greens. Others who made gains were anti-EU parties from Italy and Eastern Europe.

Nigel Farage, former head of the

crumbled UKIP and now leader of the Brexit Party, promised a shake-up in U.K. politics. Speaking at an eve-of-election rally in London, he said that the capitalist rulers’ “two party system that may well have worked in decades gone by ... is no longer fit for purpose.”

‘EU — Out Now!’

“When Farage — or May or [Labour Party leader Jeremy] Corbyn — speak of ‘us,’ what they mean is British capitalism,” Andrés Mendoza, Communist League candidate for the East of England EU constituency, told people at a League table outside the event. “The CL starts from the interests of the working class.

“The Communist League calls for leaving the EU den of thieves immediately — there’s nothing to negotiate,” Mendoza said, countering Farage’s new proposal that his party join talks with Brussels aimed at a Brexit deal. Mendoza pointed to the CL signs on the table that read, “EU — Out Now!” “UK/US hands off Venezuela, Cuba and Iran,” and “Unions must organise all workers, native- and foreign-born; amnesty for undocumented workers.”

“It’s good that you’re here even if we don’t agree on everything,” office worker Brian Baxter told the CL candidate, as did others. Fifteen people got a copy of the *Militant* and chipped in £8 (\$10) for Mendoza’s campaign.

Further reading. . .



The *Jewish Question* traces the historical rationalizations of anti-Semitism to the fact that, in the centuries preceding the domination of industrial capitalism, Jews

emerged as a “people-class” of merchants, moneylenders and traders. Leon explains why the propertied rulers incite renewed Jew-hatred in the epoch of capitalism’s decline. \$25

pathfinderpress.com

‘Nationalize PG&E, put it under workers control’

BY JEFF POWERS

OAKLAND, California — The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the state regulatory agency that deals with forest fires, reported May 15 that last fall’s Camp Fire that killed at least 85 people and destroyed nearly 19,000 homes and other buildings was caused by “electrical transmission lines owned and operated” by utility monopoly Pacific Gas & Electric.

PG&E bosses failed to replace a 99-year-old tower after it was determined to be unsafe, didn’t adequately maintain their power lines and the underbrush beneath them, and didn’t shut off electricity when weather conditions

warranted on the day of the fire — even though their own protocols required them to do so.

PG&E management filed for bankruptcy earlier this year, saying they faced \$30 billion in wildfire liabilities, including \$10.5 billion from the Camp Fire. Their track record throwing safety and protection of their customers aside in search of profits has been consistent.

“PG&E should be nationalized and run under workers control. All of their transactions must be made transparent,” Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of San Francisco, said. “That is the only way to enforce safety on the job and prevent PG&E from causing more disasters.”

“Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state legislature’s proposal to replace and break up PG&E won’t solve anything,” Britton said. “The problem is the profit-driven system of capitalist exploitation that puts making money over the safety of PG&E’s own workers and the lives and property of the people who live in



Militant/Eric Simpson

Bianca Alvarado, right, talks with Jeff Powers in Chico, California, in February after wildfire destroyed nearby Paradise, killing scores. Fire was caused by PG&E bosses’ disdain for safety.

the communities the company serves.”

“PG&E should be held accountable,” Bianca Alvarado, a *Militant* subscriber who lives in Chico told me on the phone. “Declaring bankruptcy will only mean our rates will go up.”

“Many people moved here after the fire that destroyed Paradise. It is almost impossible to find a home to buy or an apartment to rent,” she said. “There are few jobs and the price of everything like

housing has gone up.”

“We need to fight for a federally funded crash program to put people to work at union-scale wages building homes, schools, hospitals and replacing the worn-out power systems and other infrastructure in California and in the United States,” Britton said. “Such a program could put to work all of those from Paradise and neighboring towns who lost everything.”

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Union City, South Hayward teachers strike for higher pay

UNION CITY, Calif. — Teachers, counselors and students picketed outside Logan High School May 20, in the first strike ever at New Haven Unified District schools here and in South Hayward.

“It’s the cost of living we’re up against,” social studies teacher Carlos Sutton told the *Militant*. “We need a pay increase. Now they are offering almost nothing!”

After months of negotiations, district administrators have offered a one-time 3% bonus for the current school year, and a 1% salary raise for the coming year. They say they’ll add a 0.5% raise in the coming year for every additional \$1 million the district receives from the state.

A number of teachers on the line carried homemade signs saying: “Zero Percent = Zero Respect.”

The union is also opposing increases in class size and seeking to reduce the number of salary steps needed for teachers to win higher pay.

“A lot of teachers have two jobs to make ends meet,” said special education teacher Brenda Moreno.

— Betsey Stone

SWP: Oppose US threats on Iran, protest Jew-hatred

Continued from page 4

call for destroying the state of Israel. It’s worth going back to the interview that Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro gave to *The Atlantic* journalist Jeffrey Goldberg in 2010, Clark said. Castro told Goldberg that “there is nothing that compares to the Holocaust.” Castro said he supported Israel’s right to exist.

Castro said that no one “has been

slandered more than the Jews... They are blamed and slandered for everything.”

Jew-hatred “is not just another form of racism or of xenophobia,” Clark said. When the crisis of their system deepens, the ruling class will use Jew-hatred to divert attention from the true source of economic and social catastrophes and war, the capitalist system.

During the discussion period, one forum participant said she has a problem with Clark’s position on the state of Israel. “The Israeli government plays a role in the world carrying out the policies of U.S. imperialism,” she said. And she pointed to reactionary laws in Israel, such as obstacles to divorce.

The view of almost the entire middle-class left is that there is no class struggle in

Israel, that the working class there has blood on its hands from the policies of the capitalist government, Clark explained. “But there is a class struggle in Israel,” he said, “and you won’t find out about it by reading the bourgeois press. The best place to read about that is in the pages of the *Militant*.”

The logic of the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions groups, and the chant “from the river to the sea,” is for the destruction of Israel. There is no boycott movement aimed at Washington, Paris, Berlin or the Netherlands, Clark said. By refusing to recognize Israel, today’s bourgeois Palestinian misleaders undercut prospects for Jewish and Arab workers fighting together against their common class enemies.

The place of the Jewish question and the fight against Jew-hatred is crucial for the revolutionary workers movement everywhere in the world, Clark said.

In celebration of the Centennial of Freedom Fighter Lolita Lebrón
Independence for Puerto Rico
4th Annual Day of Solidarity
Sat. June 22 - 6 p.m.

at the Peoples’ Forum
320 West 37th St. New York City
Sponsor: Call to Action on Puerto Rico
For more information email:
prcalltoaction@gmail.com

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 13, 1994

Some 1,800 members of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, and Ohio, struck Leslie Fay Inc. — one of the nation’s largest manufacturers of women’s clothing on June 1. This is the first strike against the company in its 50-year history.

One hundred fifty of the 200 ILGWU Local 145 members maintained a spirited picket line at the SASSCO warehouse, a division of Leslie Fay, in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Ouber Lizano, a SASSCO striker, said, “We did not choose to strike — the company forced us to.” Leslie Fay was trying to get a separate, one year contract in Secaucus, he said. The company is offering a 21 cent raise. “We can’t make separate deals with the company and sell out the workers in Georgia or Pennsylvania,” Lizano stated.



June 13, 1969

The Argentinian military dictatorship headed by General Juan Onganía is in deep trouble. A series of student demonstrations were met with extreme police violence. This in turn engendered widespread sympathy for the students. The workers sought to demonstrate their solidarity through action. So powerful was this upsurge that the unions, in defiance of threats that they would be crushed by military force and strikers would be liable to the death penalty. staged a one-day general strike May 30 that shut down the entire country.

On May 29, Argentina was placed under martial law and special military tribunals were set up, empowered to hand down death sentences to those who refused to obey the dictates of the military regime. The workers and their allies appear to have remained firm against the government assault.



June 10, 1944

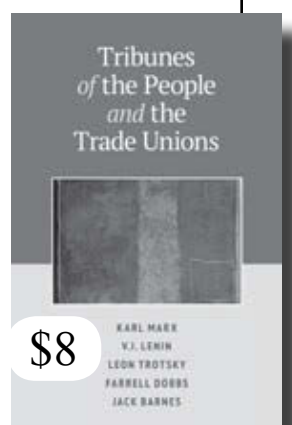
American labor was dramatically aroused last week by the militant sit-in demonstration of the Brewster Aeronautical Corporation workers, who refused for two days to vacate the company’s plants at Long Island City, N.Y., and Johnsville, Pa., when the Navy Department abruptly terminated its contract and forced the mass lay-off on three days’ notice of the bulk of 13,500 Brewster employees.

This action of CIO United Automobile Workers Local 365, whose members, in accordance with the militant traditions of the local, would not take their dismissal lying down, focused a glaring spotlight on the lengths Wall Street and the government are prepared to go in order to smash militant unionism and gave a sharp warning to the American workers of the fate in store for them under the “post-war-plan” of Big Business.

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.



pathfinderpress.com

Australia election ‘shocker’ reflects working-class anger

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY — The conservative Liberal-National coalition government of Prime Minister Scott Morrison, widely predicted by liberal pundits to lose the election, defied the polls and won May 18. Most had expected a comfortable win for the opposition Labor Party led by Bill Shorten, a former top union official.

A column by Greg Sheridan in the May 20 *Australian* noted the similarities with Donald Trump’s victory in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the Brexit referendum in the U.K. that year, and the yellow vest protests in France more recently. “The academics and the public broadcasters are sure they have changed society forever,” the conservative commentator opined, “only to find the peasants are revolting.”

Working people here face stagnant wages, spiraling costs of living and growing household debt. Economic slowdowns in China — the Australian bosses’ main trading partner — and elsewhere are threatening to end almost three decades of capitalist expansion. One key dilemma for Australia’s rulers is that even as they accelerate subsidized investment in renewable energy, coal still supplies 60% of the country’s electricity generation and is their top export. For working people here, electricity rates are the highest in the world, two to three times those in the U.S.

Crisis of Labor Party

Labor and the Greens gained votes in metropolitan inner-city areas, where growing numbers of young, better-paid professionals cluster. But the Labor vote fell in working-class suburbs, where families struggle to pay mortgages, and in the coal-mining regions of central Queensland and the

Hunter Valley region north of Sydney.

A 2010 internal Labor Party report noted that the party faced the same fix as its European counterparts, with its support “devoured by Green or left-leaning parties on the one hand” and “right-wing populist parties” on the other. Compounding this, the union officialdom backing Labor heads a movement that now only represents 10% of workers in private industry, a consequence both of massive growth of temp and contract jobs and of the decades-long class-collaborationist course of the union officialdom.

Shorten elevated Labor’s “climate change” focus into a “defining issue” in the elections. He set a goal of 45% cuts in carbon emissions by 2030, almost double the current government’s target. Labor proposed to fund this through higher taxes on layers of the working and middle classes, which were far from popular with working people.

A major controversy during the elections was a proposed giant coal mining development in central Queensland. Environmentalists, including some from Labor, waged a campaign to stop the mine being built by Indian conglomerate Adani.

Bob Brown, founder of the pro-capitalist Greens, led a “stop-Adani” convoy up the east coast of the country. In Clermont, the town closest to the proposed mine site, the convoy was met April 28 by a counterprotest of unemployed miners and other workers from the area. The project promises thousands of construction and mining jobs.

There are real environmental issues posed from despoliation of the



Brisbane Times/Lucy Stone

Miners and other workers concerned about jobs protest in Clermont April 28 against Greens’ convoy opposing coal mining jobs. Sign reads, “Go home, turn off your power and walk.”

countryside by open pit mining, as the profit-driven Adani bosses propose. Farmers are concerned over ground-water pollution.

Working people in the region, hard hit by drought, floods and unemployment, largely support the mine and the jobs it would bring. Labor was trounced at the polls there.

After the embarrassing electoral defeat, Anthony Albanese replaced Shorten as the Labor opposition leader, saying he would drop the anti-business rhetoric. “Unions and employers have a common interest,” he claimed.

Independent working-class road

In the lead up to the elections, members of the Communist League knocked on doors in working-class areas to pose the need to break with all the pro-capitalist parties.

Voting in Australia is compulsory. “I just voted so I don’t have to pay the fine,” Branco Jazic, a construction

worker, told CL members. “It doesn’t make a difference who I vote for.” Many made comments like this, reflecting the distrust and aversion that growing numbers of working people have for all the capitalist political parties in Canberra.

In regional Australia and Queensland many workers voted for minor parties as a protest. These votes mainly went to parties on the right — like Pauline Hanson’s One Nation and the United Australia Party — both of which backed building the Adani mine. Greens leader Brown blamed working people for the election outcome, saying their “greed won” out over “morality.”

“What working people need today is organize the unorganized, to rebuild our unions and transform them into fighting instruments,” Communist League campaign spokesperson Manuele Lalsalo told the *Militant* May 21. “We need to build a labor movement and our own party independent from the bosses, their state and their political parties.”

Join fight against new Florida prison ‘Militant’ bans

Continued from front page

no. 12 and 17 — but upheld the ban on issue no. 15, as usual with no explanation. The *Militant* will appeal the ban on issues no. 18 and 19 and calls for reversal of the censorship of no. 15. In Florida, if any warden impounds an issue of a newspaper, every other prison is instructed to follow suit.

Attempting to justify censoring issue no. 15, prison officials pointed to a feature article on the New York leg of the national tour of Albert Woodfox, a former Black Panther Party member who spent nearly 44 years in solitary confinement in the notorious Angola, Louisiana, penitentiary. The warden at Florida State Prison claimed the article encourages activities which “may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption” or otherwise “presents a threat to the security, good order, or discipline” of the prison.

Issue no. 18 was censored for reporting on the *Militant*’s appeal of the ban on issue no. 15. Prison officials claimed that a photo showing the front page of the censored issue was “inadmissible.” In addition they charged that the “article about FDOC and mistreatment of inmates ... presents a threat to security.”

Issue no. 19 was impounded by New River officials because it carried an interview by the *Militant* with Woodfox.

Woodfox has been promoting his book *Solitary: My Story of Transforma-*

tion and Hope. Reviews of his book and reports on his tour have been printed in media from coast to coast including the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

“I’ve never preached violence,” Woodfox told the *Militant* in the interview. “The violence always came from the prison administration and guards trying to stop us from organizing and exposing what was going on.” Woodfox is well known for having organized to unite prisoners against rape and violence at Angola prison.

Fighting each ban — even if successful — places a burden in time and resources on the *Militant* and delays timely delivery to the paper’s subscribers.

“Will Florida prison authorities try to ban every issue that covers Woodfox’s book tour, or any reports on our fight to overturn their censorship? The *Militant* will not stop telling the truth,” *Militant* editor John Studer said May 28.

“There is nothing in our coverage that threatens violence or disruption. Like the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and dozens of other papers have done, we simply tell the story of what Woodfox says and what Louisiana prison authorities did to him and countless others.”

“These officials really don’t like the *Militant*’s politics, but

it’s unconstitutional to censor the press because you disagree,” Studer said. “And we defend the right of our subscribers behind bars to read material of their choosing, to think for themselves, to be part of the world.”

“We call on our readers to help win support for the fight to overturn Florida prison censorship,” Studer said. “Join with Amnesty International USA, the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, and others in this important political rights fight. Contact union officials, co-workers, student groups, church organizations, political and civil rights groups to send letters to the Literature Review Committee calling for lifting the ban on the *Militant*. Every statement and letter makes a difference.”

Join the fight against prison censorship!

Get out the word: Download, print and distribute *Militant* articles on this fight.

Get support statements from co-workers, unions, churches and defenders of political rights. Email to: Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com. Send copy to themilitant@mac.com

Send checks to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, for “Prisoners Rights Fight.” **Or contribute online at themilitant.com**

The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class: In Defense of Land and Labor in New International no.14

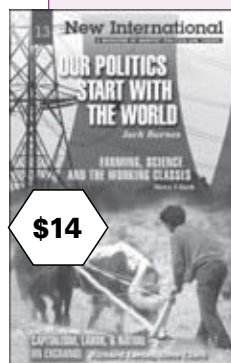


\$14

“Capitalism’s oppressive social relations also further expand the propertied classes’ unfettered pollution of ‘the commons’ enfolding the earth: its atmosphere. This is part of the price toilers continue to pay for the world disorder of imperialism.”

Socialist Workers Party statement

New International no.13



\$14

Our Politics Start With the World

“The earth still has lots of coal, and it will undoubtedly remain a power source for years to come. But it’s not the solution to meeting humanity’s long-term energy needs.”

— Jack Barnes

pathfinderpress.com

US capitalist rulers ban Huawei in trade squeeze on Beijing

BY ROY LANDERSEN

On May 15 Washington escalated its attack on Chinese telecom giant Huawei, taking steps to cut the company off from suppliers and ban it from doing business in the U.S.

President Donald Trump that day signed an executive order enabling the government to bar telecommunications gear and service from “foreign adversaries.” It argued that the company — the biggest supplier of such equipment worldwide — is really a creature of the Chinese government and could be used for surveillance and other mayhem.

The rapidly growing company is the second largest worldwide in smartphone sales, ahead of Apple and just behind a slipping Samsung.

This was the latest move by Washington to press the Chinese rulers to agree to a new trade deal more responsive to the U.S. capitalist rulers’ interests. Trump called Huawei “very dangerous,” but then turned around and said, “It’s possible that Huawei would be included in a trade deal.”

Washington’s move against the company had immediate effects. Carriers in Japan, Taiwan, Germany and the U.K. stopped taking orders for Huawei smartphones May 22 and shelved plans to offer the Chinese company’s hotly anticipated “5G” phones.

Server producers Quanta and Wistron, based in Taiwan, are moving production out of China, to avoid loss of



Zuma Press, Inc./Alamy Photo Stock

Container ship loaded with goods from China berths at Port of Los Angeles in 2011. U.S. rulers are using Huawei ban and tariffs on greater volume of imports from China as leverage against Beijing in trade talks. Competing rulers seek deal that best defends their capitalist interests.

business with U.S.-based Google and Facebook. Google announced this week it would stop selling its Android operating system to Huawei.

The U.S. rulers are trying to protect their declining world dominance against the rising economic and military power of Beijing. For now Washington is the most powerful, and it’s fighting for a deal that registers this current relationship of forces.

Earlier in May trade talks between the world’s largest and second largest capitalist economies broke down after

months of seeming progress. On May 5, the Trump administration raised punitive tariff rates from 10% to 25% on \$200 billion worth of imports from China, threatening to do the same on a further \$300 billion. Beijing retaliated a few days later with similar duties on \$60 billion of imports from the U.S.

Washington complains that as well as Huawei’s threat to national security, the company and its Chinese government enabler have cheated, stolen trade secrets and “back engineered” their U.S. competitors’ products to get ahead.

These charges were in a May 25 *Wall Street Journal* article, “Huawei’s Yearslong Rise is Littered with Accusations of Theft and Dubious Ethics.”

No doubt at least some of the charges are real, but this is just the normal workings of dog-eat-dog capitalist morality. U.S. bosses have used these same methods against their rivals — and much worse, including bloody wars — to become the top imperialist exploiter.

As China’s capitalist economy has expanded, workers have fought and won higher wages. This has led to a shift of export manufacturing from China to countries where workers’ pay is lower, especially in Southeast Asia, a trend accelerated by the trade tensions and new tariffs between Washington and Beijing. Manufacturing for the U.S. market from Vietnam in particular has increased.

Recently Beijing, the largest foreign holder of U.S. Treasury debt, tested selling some of its \$1.2 trillion of U.S. government bonds accumulated from years of trade surpluses. However, a larger selloff to pressure Washington would be financially destabilizing, not only for the U.S. economy but also for China.

The White House insists they still hope to reach an acceptable — meaning pro-U.S. bosses — agreement with Beijing. The Chinese rulers say they will only sign an agreement that safeguards their “national dignity.”

China’s rulers take the long view. An opinion piece in *China Daily* May 24 noted that “China already knows what it’s like to suffer under the yoke of a colonial master. No matter what the U.S. or anyone else tries, it won’t do so again.”

Like all advancing capitalist powers, Beijing’s rise today is based on large-scale exploitation of labor. No one knows this better than Han Dongfang, a railroad worker and leader of the workers’ encampment in the Tiananmen uprising 30 years ago, later imprisoned for his role there. Today he edits the Hong Kong-based *China Labour Bulletin*. “It is ironic that people are waving the communist flag,” he told the *Financial Times*, “but in fact the party is the biggest believer in capitalism, in the market and in jungle rule in the world.”

A meeting is planned between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the G-20 summit in Japan June 28-29.

Washington’s moves against Iran hit workers hardest

BY TERRY EVANS

Washington continues to levy sanctions, issue threats against Iran, and move military forces into the Mideast as it advances the predatory interests of the U.S. imperialist rulers in the region. Washington aims to force the Iranian government into talks to end its nuclear weapons program and pull back the armed presence of Tehran’s forces and its proxies in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere that has expanded the political and military reach of the Iranian capitalist class.

If the Iranian rulers “do something, it will be met with great force,” said President Donald Trump May 20, increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran that are dangerous for working people in the U.S. and across the Mideast.

The government announced it was sending a further 1,500 troops, a fighter aircraft squadron and a missile defense system to the region May 24. This comes on top of the vast firepower U.S. imperialism already deploys across the Mideast — 50,000 troops with their warplanes, warships, missile and bombs — to enforce its will.

While making threats, Trump also says Washington doesn’t seek a war. Trump told Pentagon officials May 15 that “he does not want the intensifying American pressure campaign against the Iranians to explode into open conflict,” reported the *New York Times*.

“I think we’ll make a deal,” he said while on a state visit to Japan May 27. “We’re not looking for regime change. I just want to make that clear.”

Iran’s reactionary capitalist rulers have expanded their economic and military influence through intervention into conflicts in the region, pressing workers and farmers into their armed forces, and

organizing militias in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere. Deepening outrage among working people in Iran over the bloody consequences of Tehran’s military incursions lay behind protests and strikes that spread to 90 cities and towns across the country early last year, before they were put down by the regime.

Unrest among working people in Iran continues. They face double-digit unemployment, double-digit inflation and — like workers in the U.S. — growing inequality between the capitalist rulers, backed by their upper-middle-class retinues, and workers and farmers. Some 57 million Iranians live in poverty and the economy continues to shrink.

Trade unionists who mounted an International Workers Day action outside the Iranian parliament were arrested, Al-Monitor reported.

For nearly four decades Iran’s capitalist rulers sought to consolidate the counterrevolution they carried out at home — to push back the workers, farmers, women and oppressed nationalities who made the 1979 Iranian Revolution — by extending their reactionary reach abroad.

Sanctions hit working people hardest

Washington’s steps to tighten sanctions on Iran have intensified the worsening conditions bearing down on workers and farmers there. Since the U.S. government’s sanctions were reinstated last year, the rial has lost 60% of its value against the dollar. The cost of basic food items has risen by as much as 57% and housing and medical service costs are up 20%.

The capitalist rulers in Tehran recently brought armed units from Hashd al-Shaabi in Iraq, Hezbollah in Lebanon

and Afghan militia fighters deployed in Syria to parade in southern Iran. One Iranian clerical leader said this was a “warning” to the people that the regime will use whatever means necessary to stay in power.

Military conflicts across the region, where Tehran and Washington support opposing sides, continue. After suspending air raids on Saudi Arabia last year, Tehran-backed Houthi forces in Yemen have stepped up missile and drone strikes on Saudi cities and airports since the U.S. began moving military personnel and equipment to the Middle East this month.

The rulers of Saudi Arabia have carried out deadly airstrikes on Houthi forces, seeking to restore the rule of deposed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. As a result of the carnage inflicted on working people during Yemen’s civil war nearly half the population live in famine. Washington provides warplanes, bombs, arms and intelligence to the Saudi monarchy.

Under terms of a U.N.-brokered truce in the Yemeni port of Hodeida reached last year, humanitarian aid has been able to reach some of those impoverished by the war and Houthi attacks on Saudi targets had largely subsided.

In recent weeks Houthi combatants have launched a series of drone bombings on Saudi targets, including the country’s main oil pipeline. They have also attacked the Najran airport near the Saudi border with Yemen three times.

In response, Saudi bombers have carried out a wave of attacks on Sana, Yemen’s capital, which is occupied by the Houthis. One pulverized a crowded residential area May 16, killing and wounding a few dozen, including 19 children.

Capitalism’s World Disorder

“For communists, it will be a great pleasure to be part of the changes that hundreds of millions of Chinese workers on the march will bring to the world working-class movement.”

— Jack Barnes

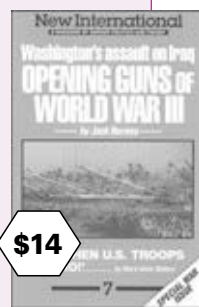


New International no. 7 Washington’s Assault on Iraq Opening Guns of World War III

“The U.S. capitalist class sought to use its military might to deal blows to its imperialist rivals... The capitalist regimes and imperialist order in the Gulf and Mideast are more unstable today.”

— Jack Barnes

pathfinderpress.com



‘Cuba’s revolution taught us we could do the same thing here’

The French edition of Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for June. The excerpt is from the first chapter, “1961: Year of Education.” As the author notes, “The victory of Cuban working people at Playa Girón punctured the myth of U.S. imperialism’s invincibility.” Copyright © 2001 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

On the morning of April 18, 1961, readers of daily newspapers across the United States woke up to front-page headlines proclaiming, “Rebels Near Havana, Invade Four Provinces.” ...

Most Americans took the story as good coin, expecting to soon hear that the “pro-Communist dictator” Fidel Castro had been ousted.

Around the country, however, in dozens of cities and on a number of college campuses, there were pockets of individuals who knew from the beginning that every word of the AP story was a lie. We had been carrying out an intensive educational campaign for weeks to counter the Kennedy administration’s mendacious disinformation efforts. We were getting ready for the inva-



Archivo de Bohemia

Cuban militia celebrates April 1961 victory over U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary forces at Bay of Pigs, first defeat for U.S. imperialism in the Americas. This helped inspire youth in U.S.

sion we knew was coming, preparing to act here in the Yankee heartland side by side with the Cuban people the moment it was launched. Between April 17 and April 19, as the battle was being fought in Cuba, we confidently took to the streets, organized speak-outs, posted marked-up newspaper clippings a couple times a day, and went on the radio asserting that, all press reports to the contrary, the U.S. government-organized and -financed invasion was being defeated, not winning.

As we had been doing for months, we pointed to the immense popularity of the revolution among the Cuban people in response to the measures the new government was organizing them to take. The Mafia-run gambling dens and brothels, a national shame, had been shut down. Land had been distributed to more than 100,000 tenant farmers, share-croppers, and squatters. House and apartment rents, as well as electricity and telephone rates, had been slashed. Racial discrimination was outlawed and equal access not only made law but also enforced. The best public beaches, which had been previously off limits to blacks, had been opened to all. A nationwide campaign to eliminate illiteracy had been launched — part of a broader extension of public education to the countryside, among the poor, and for women. Popular militias had formed in factories, other workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and towns across the island, as Cubans demanded arms and military training to defend their new

conquests. The huge money-gouging U.S. monopolies had been nationalized, as well as the major landed, commercial, and industrial property holdings of the wealthy Cuban families who had been the social and political base of the Batista dictatorship.

Through more than two years of popular mobilization, the workers and farmers of Cuba had begun transforming not only their country but themselves. It was precisely for this reason, we explained, that Cubans could, and would, fight to the death to defend their revolution — and do so successfully. ...

One of our biggest lessons was what happens in an imperialist country when war begins.

In a matter of hours on April 17, the broad undecided center had shrunk to a voiceless kernel. Months of concentrated political action preparing for the inevitable battle fell into place in a few decisive days. Committed builders of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee at Carleton in early 1961 had been fewer than half a dozen. But now came the payoff for the weeks of education, propaganda work, writing, talking, pushing for and organizing open political debate, and taking up the challenges of every opponent on every issue. As the workers and peasants of Cuba inflicted a crushing defeat on U.S. imperialism, support for the political positions we had been defending exploded overnight. But only because we were there, we were known, and we were prepared to respond. ...

Our understanding of these class questions was accelerated immeasurably by the fact we were sharing our day-by-day experiences, as well as talking about them into the wee hours of the morning with communist workers in the Twin Cities. They were people like V.R. Dunne, who had been a member of the Communist International from its founding in 1919, a leader of the Teamsters strikes and organizing drives in the Upper Midwest during the 1930s, and one of the first victims railroaded to prison by the federal government under the infamous Smith “Gag” Act for opposition to U.S. imperialism leading up to and during World War II.

These workers pointed us to the history of the class struggle in the United States, to the lessons we needed to learn from the workers and farmers in this country whose fighting legacy we inherited. They drew on this rich history to help us understand what we had to be prepared for as we went up against the most violent and brutal ruling class in the world.

Above all, they taught those of us who, like themselves, were so strongly and passionately attracted to the example being set by the fighting workers and peasants of Cuba that the challenge — for us — was not in Cuba. Our fight was in the United States. Cuba’s workers and farmers had proven they could take care of themselves. Washington, to paraphrase Cuban Division General Enrique Carreras, would never be able to get that bone out of its throat.

Those workers like Dunne and others helped us see that the contest would end only with the defeat of the revolution in Cuba or a victorious socialist revolution in the United States.

“There is one thing we can most certainly tell Mr. Kennedy,” Fidel Castro told a cheering crowd in Cuba on March 13 of that year. “A victorious revolution will be seen in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.”

That had become our conviction too. But above all it was becoming the guide to a lifetime of action, a course of conduct born of the historic needs, interests, and capacities of the working class. As beyond belief as this revolutionary goal appeared to the average American, it had become clear to us it was the only *realistic* perspective, and we set out to speed the day.

June BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

Cuba et la révolution américaine à venir
(Cuba and the Coming American Revolution)
by Jack Barnes
How struggles of workers and youth in the imperialist heartland will follow example of the Cuban Revolution.
\$10. **Special price: \$7.50**

John Coltrane and the Jazz Revolution of the 1960s
by Frank Kofsky
\$30. **Special price: \$22.50**

Fighting Racism in World War II
From the pages of the Militant
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Democracy and Revolution
by George Novack
\$22. **Special price: \$16.50**

The Stalin School of Falsification
by Leon Trotsky
Theoretical forgeries and historical frame-ups made by the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy in the Soviet Union in 1920s under Joseph Stalin.
\$25. **Special price: \$18.75**

Feminism and the Marxist Movement
by Mary-Alice Waters
\$6. **Special price: \$4.50**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL JUNE 30

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: P.O. Box 380641 Zip: 33238. Tel: (305) 420-5928. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 21434. Zip: 40221. Tel: (502) 208-9171. Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 1821 University Ave. W Suite S-106A. Zip: 55104. Tel: (651) 340-5586. Email: twincities.swp@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincolin@windstream.net

NEW JERSEY: P.O. Box 308. Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 257-5753. swpnnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** P.O. Box 8304. Zip: 12208. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net

TEXAS: Dallas: P.O. Box 210524 Zip: 75211. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge St., Granville, NSW 2142. Tel: (02) 8677 0108. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 13857, Auckland 1643. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauack@xtra.co.nz

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place. Post code: M12 6HS. Tel: (0161) 258-2569. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

—SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY—

2019 election campaign program

The Socialist Workers Party’s fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:

UNIONS Support workers’ struggles to organize and strengthen unions, to use union power to defend ourselves and all working people. One union for Yellow Cab workers, drivers at Uber, Lyft and other app-based companies, and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages.

JOBS Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing workers need.

OPPOSE WASHINGTON’S WARS US hands off Venezuela, Cuba, and Iran. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East.

CUBA — AN EXAMPLE End the embargo against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL Fight for universal, government-guaranteed health care and retirement income for all.

ABORTION Defend women’s right to unrestricted access to family planning services, including the right to safe, secure abortions.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE For the recognition of Israel and of a contiguous Palestinian state. For the right of Jews to return to Israel as a refuge in the face of capitalist crisis, Jew-hatred, and murderous violence.

LAND AND LABOR Capitalism’s profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all workplaces to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to prevent pollution of the earth, air, and waters. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

“JUSTICE” SYSTEM Fight against police brutality and the entire capitalist injustice system with its frame-ups, “plea bargains,” onerous bail, and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS Defend democratic rights, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop government spying and harassment. Defend the right to vote and free speech.

PRISONER RIGHTS End solitary confinement. End censorship in prison. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

FARMERS — WORKERS ALLIES ON THE LAND To put a halt to farm foreclosures, bankruptcies and skyrocketing rural debt, we demand nationalization of the land. This puts the soil at the service of the farmers who till it, as opposed to control by the banks and landlords. We demand the government guarantee farmers their costs of production, including their living expenses.

Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. A movement of millions can be built to fight for these demands along a course to replace the exploitative capitalist system with a workers and farmers government.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

US hands off Venezuela! US hands off Cuba!

Continued from front page

Washington seeks to justify its violation of Venezuelan sovereignty by the lie that the 22,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers there are mainly soldiers.

“These are lies,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, said May 25. “The overwhelming majority of Cubans in Venezuela are doctors and other medical personnel, as well as teachers, sports trainers and others who volunteer in small rural villages and working-class city barrios. Venezuela offers Cuba oil at reduced rates.

“We oppose U.S. imperialism’s violation of Venezuelan sovereignty and its decadeslong economic war against the Cuban Revolution,” Hart said. “We demand Washington end the sanctions now! U.S. hands off Venezuela! U.S. hands off Cuba!”

U.S. sanctions aimed at working people

The *Wall Street Journal* reported May 21 that Washington is preparing moves aimed at crippling the Venezuelan government’s CLAP program. CLAP provides subsidized food to millions of working people.

It’s working people who are paying the price for the imperialist squeeze, which comes on top of the serious economic and social crisis they face in Venezuela. Medical supplies and gasoline are scarce, in a country with the world’s largest oil reserves. Inflation rates are astronomical, expected to hit more than 1 million percent this year. Millions of people have fled the country. In many parts of the country there are frequent electrical blackouts that last almost all day.

While the Maduro government has arrested some opposition leaders for their role in the failed coup attempt, they haven’t gone after U.S.-backed self-proclaimed “interim president” Juan Guaidó, who calls for Washington to invade.

Guaidó spoke with drivers in long lines waiting for gasoline in Lara in northwestern Venezuela May 24 and 25. He also boarded buses crammed with passengers, giving short speeches. He claimed the gas shortage would end if he takes power.

In January the Trump administration handed over

to Guaidó PDVSA-owned Citgo gasoline company and its bank accounts in the U.S. The ad-hoc board appointed by Guaidó to manage Citgo made a \$71 million interest payment on its debt in May, hoping to keep the company from going into default.

Workers and peasants in Venezuela are looking for ways to defend their own interests in the face of the U.S. sanctions and threats of military intervention, as well as the effects of the policies and corruption of the Maduro government, which have undermined the unity and fighting capacity of working people.

Hundreds of peasants, small farmers and cooperative members marched in the town of Libertador in the western state of Táchira May 14, vowing to fight any U.S. military intervention. At the same time they demanded land for landless peasants and government aid, including financing, seed, fertilizers, and the use of tractors and machinery, as well as an end to attacks by the capitalist landowners’ thugs.

Cubans answer Washington’s slanders

The Cuban press, printed on less pages because of the U.S. rulers’ economic war, has been running letters, interviews and facts about Cuba’s internationalist missions to answer Washington’s slanders and lies.

Granma reported May 23 that in the capital of Caracas alone, Cuban doctors have carried out more than 12 million medical exams and tests since the Barrio Adentro program began in 2003.

“We are in our combat trench to offer free medical assistance to the Venezuelan people and to work massively. That is our stance of loyalty to the principles of solidarity, internationalism and revolutionary values,” Mailén Elena Rodríguez, 27, one of the health care workers, told *Juventud Rebelde*.

Marisnely Echemendía Concepción, a Cuban doctor in Venezuela, wrote a letter to CubaDebate saying, “We are only interested in improving the health of the population, regardless of their political affiliation, race or religious beliefs.” She added, “We will continue carrying out our duty wherever it is needed, because a doctor is a slave only to their humanist vocation.”

New, Green ‘New Deal’

Continued from front page

U.S. and that is what her Green New Deal does.

It’s a “10-year national mobilization” scheme aimed at shoring up capitalist rule through a series of reforms, modeled on the 1930s New Deal of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the “war deal” in the second world imperialist slaughter that grew out of it and shored up U.S. capitalism.

The bill isn’t a set of measures to vote on, but a non-binding statement of intentions. It would increase the powers of the capitalist government’s federal bureaucracy to regulate the lives of working people, imposing sacrifices on us that the liberals deem necessary in the name of saving the planet. It calls for mobilizing the federal government “on a scale not seen since World War II and the New Deal” to eliminate all use of fossil fuels in manufacturing and farming — and strives to eliminate all cars, air travel and cows — and to build or refit every single building in the country.

Nuclear power would be eliminated under this scheme, blocking off possibilities for billions living in the semicolonial world from gaining access to electricity and culture — all in the name of safeguarding better conditions for those in the developed countries.

Bourgeois panic-mongering

“It’s a big legislation because it’s a huge [expletive] problem! We’re all going to die,” said Sean McElwee, co-founder of the think tank Data for Progress.

But such ecological panic-mongering is only meant to convince us working people should sacrifice.

This is why Ocasio-Cortez and other democratic socialists hark back to Roosevelt and how a classless “America” came together in the 1940s.

“When FDR called on America to build 185,000 planes to fight World War 2,” her FAQ document issued as a companion to the bill says, “by the end of the war, we produced 300,000 planes.”

But there is no “we” or “America.” There are two classes, the bosses and bankers who live by exploitation and oppression, and their upper-middle-class hangers-on, and the vast majority of working people, most of whom live paycheck to paycheck.

The goal of Roosevelt and the capitalist rulers in World War II was to make the world safe for their plunder and profit at the expense of the working class. There is nothing there for us to emulate today.

At the heart of the effort of Ocasio-Cortez and her cohorts is the same goal as Roosevelt had in both his New Deal and imperialist war drive — to rescue U.S. capitalist rule.

In her FAQs document, Ocasio-Cortez explains how she intends to pay for her scheme: “The same way we paid for the New Deal, the 2008 bank bailout and extended quantitative easing programs. The same way we paid for World War II and our current wars.”

The U.S. rulers did this by expanding the size and reach of their government and digging deeper into the pockets of the working classes. Now the socialist Democrats are seeking to do the same with a hysteria campaign about catastrophes facing the planet.

But the root of today’s crisis facing working people, including damage to the environment, is precisely “the capitalist mode of production, the world imperialist order and the enormous wealth and power the rulers wring from nature and the exploited producers,” as the Socialist Workers Party resolution “The Stewardship of Nature Also Falls to the Working Class, In Defense of Land and Labor” explains. It is published in *New International* no. 14.

“As a result of the unceasing competition among capitalists to maximize profits,” the resolution states, “the product of labor’s exertion ends up *worsening* the perils to workers’ life and limb; *polluting* the soil, waters, and skies; and *endangering* civilization’s very survival.”

The working class must reject “all forms of fake science, exaggerations, catastrophism, and crankism,” said Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, in *Capitalism’s World Disorder*. “Workers must not fall into accepting the common view — that is the bourgeois view — that the environment ... somehow hovers above classes and outside the class struggle.”

“If we translate everything commonly thought of as an environmental issue into how to advance the protection of the working class,” said Barnes, “and how the working class can extend that protection to all, then we can hardly ever go wrong.”