

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Fight to end US embargo of Cuba
 discussed at Nepal forum
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 83/NO. 31 AUGUST 26, 2019

SWP presents working-class candidates, road forward

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH — “The 2020 presidential elections are well underway. Donald Trump is running for reelection and a couple dozen Democrats of various stripes are hammering each other to be the one to stand against him. Each one seeks to represent the interests of the ruling capitalist class,” said John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director, at a meeting here Aug. 10.

“The SWP will run its own presidential campaign against the twin parties of capitalist exploitation and oppression,” Studer said, “to join in the discussions and struggle of working people and point an independent working-class road forward.”

Also speaking at the meeting were Malcolm Jarrett, the party’s candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, and Melanie Meade, a resident of nearby Clairton who has helped lead the fight against

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Protesters in Kashmir say, ‘India get out of our country’

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

BIRMINGHAM, England — Thousands have taken to the streets of Indian-occupied Kashmir to protest the imposition of direct rule by the Indian government. The actions are the latest in a decadeslong struggle by the Kashmiri people for self-determination that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands.

“We want freedom” and “Go India, go back!” chanted hundreds of demonstrators in Srinagar Aug. 12. Kashmiris will not stop fighting until we have won freedom, one young man told Dunya News, a Pakistan-based TV news channel Aug. 9. Solidarity demonstrations have taken place in the U.K.

“We must support the Kashmiri people against Indian aggression and the BJP party,” pharmacist Arif Khan, 38, told the *Militant*, echoing the sentiments of many others attending

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Stop the raids! Amnesty for immigrants in the US!

Capitalist rulers aim to divide working class



AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis

“We march so no other kid has to go through what we did,” 18-year-old Dulce Basurto-Arce said at Aug. 11 protest in Canton, Mississippi. Some signs read, “Our parents are not criminals.”

BY SETH GALINSKY

The arrest of 680 immigrant workers at seven poultry processing plants in six Mississippi cities Aug. 7 and the threat of their deportation is aimed at instilling fear among the millions of undocumented workers in the country and dividing the working class by pitting foreign-born and U.S.-born workers against each other.

Desiree Hughes was working at the Koch plant in Morton when the raid started. Heavily armed cops surrounded the plants and helicopters flew over as if they were seeking dangerous criminals.

Immigration cops let Hughes go when she told them she was born in the U.S. But two of her friends were arrested. ICE agents “wouldn’t let me get their keys, cellphones, speak to them,” she told the press.

At one point family members and

friends gathered outside the plant, many chanting “let them go,” as buses drove by with those who were arrested.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement bragged that this was their largest immigration raid ever. In 2008, nearly 600 were arrested at Howard Industries in Laurel, Mississippi.

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Blackjewel miners win solidarity in fight for jobs and stolen wages



Louisville Courier Journal/Alton Strupp

Miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, get on bus to attend Blackjewel Coal bankruptcy hearing Aug. 5 in Charleston, West Virginia, wearing T-shirts saying “Pay the miners first, lawyers last.”

BY MAGGIE TROWE
 AND JACQUIE HENDERSON

CUMBERLAND, Ky. — Coal miners thrown out of work here by Blackjewel Coal when the company declared bankruptcy July 1 have been blocking the railroad tracks leading out of the Cloverlick #3 mine to protest the company bouncing their last checks and trying to haul out coal they mined in June. They are receiving a steady stream of material and moral support and solidarity from other workers.

These miners are among the 1,700 coal miners at Blackjewel’s 32 mines in

Kentucky, Wyoming, West Virginia and Virginia. Over 600 miners worked in the company’s open pit mines in Wyoming’s Powder Ridge Basin, the largest coal-producing region in the country.

“The miners are going to stay here until they get their money and we’re going to be with them,” Donna Sexton, 55, a nurse’s assistant, told the *Militant* at the Cumberland encampment Aug. 9. Sexton’s son Chris was one of the laid-off miners who started the protest when workers near the tracks reported Blackjewel bosses were trying to move

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‘Workers need to organize unions to fight to change our conditions’

BY JANET POST

“When I heard about the raids in Mississippi it made my skin crawl,” Stacey Farley told Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the Atlanta School Board, in Hermitage, Tennessee, Aug. 9. Farley was referring to the arrest two days earlier of 680 workers at seven poultry plants.

Farley described how she and several neighbors in Hermitage had formed a chain to block Immigration and Customs Enforcement cops from seizing an immigrant neighbor and

Continued on page 3

End censorship of the ‘Militant,’ Walmart workers tell Florida prisons

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“We the undersigned Walmart workers in Illinois demand the end to the censorship of the *Militant* newsweekly by Florida prison officials,” said a petition signed by 22 workers at three stores and sent to the prison system’s Literature Review Committee in early August. “Prisoners have the right to read what they want.”

Florida prison officials have im-

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Hong Kong protests demand Beijing grant political rights

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Protests involving hundreds of thousands of working people demanding greater political rights have continued for a 10th week in Hong Kong. Many at the actions are demanding the government of the semi-autonomous territory and its Beijing overseers grant direct elections for Hong Kong's top officials.

The tens of thousands who demonstrated over the weekend of Aug 3-4 faced attacks from cops using tear gas and rubber bullets. Masked thugs helped cops arrest demonstrators.

A citywide strike and mass protests for political rights Aug. 5 blocked much of the road and rail network. The strike caused hundreds of flights to be cancelled at Hong Kong's international airport, one of the world's busiest. A subsequent sit-in at the airport swelled to thousands Aug. 12-13, forcing the cancellation of all flights those days.

Those joining the strike included bus drivers, construction workers, teachers, lawyers and pilots. People rallied in numerous working-class or shopping districts. Many civil servants defied orders not to protest and shops were shut.

The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, which called the strike, said 350,000 workers took part. The pro-Beijing Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions opposed the action.

Wilson Ng, a teacher from Hong Kong, told the *Militant* Aug. 12 that demands of those taking to the streets include the "formal withdrawal" of the shelved extradition bill, an amnesty for all protesters arrested on "riot" charges and "an independent investigation into

police violence" and on how the crisis arose. While calls for Chief Executive Carrie Lam's resignation persist, Ng said, "people realize that even if she steps down the person who succeeds her won't be much different." Lastly, he said, is the demand for "direct elections of the chief executive."

Currently Hong Kong's chief executive is "elected" by a Beijing-appointed committee of 1,200 people, including many backers of the Chinese government along with company bosses from the island. Hong Kong, a former British colony, has been under a "one country, two systems" arrangement since it reverted to China in 1997. London waited over 150 years until the end of its colonial rule to begin implementing some direct elections.

Hong Kong actions impact in China

The Chinese government fears the impact that the fight for democratic rights in Hong Kong will have on working people across mainland China. Beijing's aviation authority ordered Cathay Pacific Airways to remove all workers involved in protests from their flights from Hong Kong to China Aug. 9. The airline's bosses said they would comply.

As economic growth has slowed in China, labor actions have increased.

The China Labour Bulletin reports that so far this year there have been 25 protest actions among auto workers, mostly over layoffs and unpaid wages. Some 220,000 jobs have been lost as vehicle sales dropped 14% in the first half of the year. Most were layoffs but others resigned, unable to survive on



Reuters/Issei Kato

Demonstrators at Hong Kong airport shut down all flights Aug. 12-13. Hundreds of thousands of working people have been protesting over 10 weeks. Demands include direct elections.

a bare wage without overtime payments and bonuses.

In response to the Aug. 5 general strike, Lam claimed that the city was "on the verge of a very dangerous situation." A spokesperson from Beijing's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office threatened that protesters should not "play with fire" and "mistake our restraint for weakness."

Working people in Hong Kong know this is not an idle threat. On June 4, nearly 200,000 attended a memorial to mark the 30th anniversary of the brutal crushing by Beijing's military of mass protests in Tiananmen Square. Hong Kong is the only part of Chinese territory where that history is not censored.

Protests have been rising since February against Lam's proposed extradition law, which would give Beijing legal cover to go after political opponents in the semi-autonomous region. Millions marched June 9 and 16, forcing Lam, with Beijing's agreement, to suspend the bill. Some company bosses and business groups have made calls for the extradition law to be completely withdrawn and for an inquiry into the cops' treatment of demonstrators.

Some small groups of protesters have targeted the legislative assembly building, police stations and symbols of Beijing's overbearing presence, provoking a violent response from riot police. Ng

told the *Militant* that the media focuses on these smaller confrontations as "the government is trying to cover up" the size of the massive peaceful protests.

Chinese government officials seek to drive a wedge between the large numbers of working people at many of the protests and those leading violent confrontations with authorities. Yang Guang, Beijing's spokesperson in Hong Kong, claimed there was a division between "kind-hearted citizens who have been misguided and coerced to join" and "a small number of violent radicals."

Growing economic inequalities in the territory are also driving unrest among working people. Hong Kong has the world's longest working hours and highest rents, according to the *New York Times*. Rents have skyrocketed in recent years and over 210,000 Hong Kong residents live in subdivided apartments known as "cages," where tenants are squeezed into spaces as small as 15 square feet.

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IAM Local 2018 on strike in Valparaiso, Indiana, Aug. 2, for higher pay, benefits.

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'Fight to organize unions'

Continued from front page

his 12-year-old son when they tried to arrest him at his home July 22. For more than four hours the worker and the boy sat in a van in their driveway surrounded by neighbors, who brought food, water and kept the gas tank full to run air-conditioning in 90 degree heat. The ICE agents eventually left.

"I would do it again," said Farley.

Fruit showed Farley an article in the *Militant* describing the fight waged by coal miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, to get pay owed them from Blackjewel mine bosses who have declared bankruptcy. "Taking a stand like these miners are, and like you and your neighbors here, are important examples for all of us," Fruit said.

"The whole neighborhood knew about what happened here," Lee Butler, a 30-year old glazier, told Fruit when she spoke to him on the same street where Farley lived. "These ICE raids are just to scare people."

Fruit pointed out that her campaign calls for an amnesty for all undocumented workers to unite working people and cut across the divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. Butler got a subscription to the *Militant*.

Campaigning in the same area, Fruit spoke with Michael Smith, a 30-year-old floor layer. "Many here are barely surviving. What is 40 hours a week at \$7.25 an hour?" he asked. "Even if two people are working you can't make it with kids. After rent and utilities, there's nothing left for food or anything else." Part of the fighting program presented by SWP candidates is the call for the minimum wage to be set at a rate that allows workers to have a home and start a family.

Fruit told Smith, "This is why working people need to organize ourselves in unions, fight to change our conditions and quit supporting the Democrats and Republicans, the parties of the bosses."

'Hands off Iran! End the sanctions!'

"The same government that attacks workers' living standards, unions and health care in this country is now

threatening Iran," Communist League member Hugo Wils told people passing by a protest called by the League Aug. 4 in Manchester city center in the U.K. The action demanded an end to U.S. sanctions on Iran and that the U.K. government release a tanker carrying oil from Iran that was seized by Royal Marines off Gibraltar. "They do this to shore up their profits at the expense of working people in both Iran and the U.K.," Wils added.

Many of those who stopped to talk agreed with Wils. But one person told protesters, "They got our oil tanker, why should we release theirs?"

After speaking to those picketing, Benjamin Higham subscribed to the *Militant* and bought a copy of *In Defense of the US Working Class* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. "I don't like the Iranian regime, but we've had enough devastation," he said. "The U.K. soldiers should come home," from where they are stationed in the Middle East.

Solidarity with Hong Kong protests

"Working people have a common interest in the fight for democratic and political rights," Annalucia Vermunt told participants attending a forum organized by students at the University of Auckland Aug. 6, in support of the



Militant/Lisa Potash

"Many people here are barely surviving," floor-layer Michael Smith told Rachele Fruit, SWP candidate for Atlanta School Board, in Hermitage, Tennessee, Aug. 9. "Workers need to organize ourselves into unions and fight to change our conditions," Fruit replied.

wave of protests for political rights in Hong Kong. Vermunt is the Communist League's candidate for Auckland mayor. "We continue to stand with you as you press further with your demands."

The meeting, attended by more than 100 people, was called after student Serena Lee was pushed to the ground at the school by three supporters of the Chinese government. Beijing's Consulate in Auckland released a public statement praising this act, claiming it was "spontaneous patriotism."

"We are here to show solidarity with the Hong Kong anti-extradition bill movement," Lee said at the meeting. "This is a platform for students to express their views and opinions on the issue of democracy in Hong Kong."

Other speakers at the forum called for those present to uphold freedom of speech and to debate the issues.

A few participants spoke in opposition to the demonstrations, which have included calls for more direct elections.

US Steel 'doesn't care about health of Mon Valley people'

BY RUTH ROBINETT

PITTSBURGH — Residents of Allegheny County vented their anger at U.S. Steel bosses and county officials at a public hearing July 30, after publication of a draft agreement that allows the company to continue operating its Clairton plant after years of violating air pollution regulations. Over 50 of the 200 people present signed up to speak.

Steel bosses operated the plant for 100 days without its desulfurization equipment working after its pollution control system was destroyed in a December 2018 fire.

In the three years prior to the fire, company bosses had "been in violation of the Clean Air Act 12 times" and have "received 33 fines from the Allegheny County Health Department in the last five years," according to StateImpact Pennsylvania.

County Health Department officials say pollution at the plant has gotten worse since 2014 and claim that U.S. Steel tries to mask its violations of pollution controls when inspectors scrutinize the plant's operations. The company employs some 1,200 people at the plant and produces 4.3 million tons of coke a year, a key component of steel production.

The agreement levies fines of \$2.7

million against U.S. Steel and requires it to install pollution control upgrades, which the company says will cost \$200 million.

Several top managers from U.S. Steel — and some workers at the plant — spoke in favor of the agreement. Mike Rhoads, Clairton plant manager, claimed, "The facility has fully complied with the terms of the county enforcement orders and its new investments will enable it to further reduce emissions at its three Mon Valley plants."

"How can you still be in business?" asked local resident Kelly Nelson, at the hearing. "It's unacceptable. The fines don't come near to representing the money the company makes."

Deborah Gentile, an asthma specialist, told the hearing that the number of acute asthma visits to clinics and emergency rooms has doubled since the fire, compared to a year earlier.

"Had you done your job, maybe the fire wouldn't have happened," Clairton resident Melanie Meade said. "What I do know is U.S. Steel is not in compliance with the law. You just don't care about the health

of Mon Valley people."

Several people complained that the agreement did not force U.S. Steel to idle any coke oven battery that does not comply with pollution regulations.

Gloria Ford, also from Clairton, said she had gone to the hospital earlier this month because she had trouble breathing. "U.S. Steel acts with impunity," she said.

"This settlement is a 'pay to play' scam that the bosses at U.S. Steel, in collusion with federal, state and local governments, have been carrying out for decades," Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh City Council, told the hearing. "Under the capitalist system profits take priority over everything else, including workers' lives and health on the job or in the community."

"My campaign explains that workers' fight for safety is inseparable from the fight to end the bosses' pollution of our air, water and land," he said. "It is only through a fighting workers' movement using union power to organize the protection of workers in the plant and residential areas that we can win against the bosses."

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Layoffs, workers' debts refute gov't claims of 'good times'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

According to acting Department of Labor Secretary Patrick Pizzella, July's official unemployment rate of 3.7% "demonstrates the steady and consistent growth of the American economy." But for millions of working people facing low-wage jobs, many at part-time hours; layoffs; and rising debts to cover basic expenses, assertions about the "good times" provided under capitalism do not ring true.

Lowe's Co., a hardware retail giant, announced Aug. 1 that it will lay off thousands of workers, from assemblers to janitors. Workers being eliminated include many who have worked full time for the company for years helping to put together grills, wheelbarrows and other products. The bosses plan to outsource this work, a common step that many employers take to transfer work to other companies that pay lower wages and offer fewer benefits.

Lowe's, in competition with Home Depot to boost its profits off the back of workers, has already closed 140 stores over the past year. Workers laid off in the most recent job cuts, including those who have worked at the company for many years, will not get severance pay. Instead, they will receive up to two weeks "transition pay" and the "chance" to apply for jobs elsewhere in the company, without being guaranteed the same wage they had been paid.

With union officials refusing to mobilize workers and lead labor struggles to push back the employers' offensive in retail or other industries in recent years, bosses at Lowe's and elsewhere hope they can enforce these kind of attacks without meeting any serious resistance from workers.

"The Retail Reckoning Has Only Just Begun," headlined an article in *Barron's* magazine Aug. 3. It reports that 7,500 store closings have already been announced this year, on pace to set a new record. Many have depleted once thriving malls. The rising dominance in retail sales of Amazon and Walmart, trying through robotization and speedup to outcompete each other, accounts for much of this.

Over the past year, for example, Sears Holdings, the largest U.S. retailer until 1991, declared bankruptcy. So did Payless Holdings for the second time, in February, closing 2,500 stores in the U.S. and Canada.

Retail sales have been a key component to the so-called economic recovery, but it's based on trapping millions of working people in ever growing indebtedness. Consumer debt, not

counting mortgages, has climbed to \$4 trillion, higher than it has ever been. This includes student debt now at \$1.5 trillion and \$1.3 trillion in auto debt, up 40 percent over the past decade.

Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the gross domestic product.

While costs for cars, housing and medical care have gone up, wages over the past several decades have remained stagnant. More than one-third of workers are paid less than \$15 an hour. And 4 million workers seeking full-time jobs are forced to accept part-time hours, according to government figures.

Job openings in manufacturing, mining and construction are slowing down this year compared to 2018, when these jobs increased by 58,000 a month. That figure is down to 23,000 a month so far in 2019 — and a mere 15,000 in July, the Labor Department reports.

Plant layoffs in towns and rural areas continue to have a devastating impact on working people living there. In Fayetteville, Tennessee, the Goodman Manufacturing air conditioning plant



Reuters/Lucas Jackson

Workers at Amazon fulfillment center in Robbinsville, New Jersey, November 2017. Competition between retail giants drives bosses' assaults on workers who face job cuts and low wages.

will lay off about 700 workers by the end of September, the company announced July 31. The factory had been one of the largest employers in town.

A boon for the banks is the high interest rates working people are forced to pay on credit card debts, topping 17 percent on average in May. There is about \$850 billion in credit card debt outstanding, according to the Federal

Reserve, a record high amount. In the first quarter of 2019, U.S. households owed an average of \$8,390 on these cards, up 9% from four years earlier.

And when the next downturn hits and making payments on these debts becomes harder, more working people will discover that things we thought were "ours" are in fact owned by credit card companies and other loan sharks.

Ebola outbreak worsened by wars wracking Congo

BY JANET POST

In the worst ever Ebola virus outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, some 1,800 have died and at least 2,700 people have been infected with the disease in the past year. The spread of the outbreak is exacerbated by the wretched conditions confronting millions of working people and the impact of wars waged by rival forces fighting to control the exploitation of the country's resources and peoples.

The virus is spread by contact with bodily fluids of those infected and contaminated objects.

The first cases were reported Aug. 1, 2018, in North Kivu province, a densely populated area riven by numerous military clashes, including a major assault since January by troops of the capitalist government of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi against the Allied Democratic Forces, which has links to jihadist groups.

The North Kivu and Ituri provinces — the focus of the epidemic — have been centers for almost 100 armed groups since the 1996-97 and 1998-2003 civil wars fought between government forces and opponents over control of land and mineral wealth.

More than a million people have been displaced in North Kivu, with thousands fleeing burned-out villages.

Doctors Without Borders has withdrawn from its Ebola treatment centers in the North Kivu cities of Butembo and Katwa. The group reported that steps by the army and cops to coerce people into complying with government health measures have contributed to people's distrust of receiving treatment.

The current outbreak is now the second worst since more than 11,000 people died in West Africa, 2014-16. The callously inadequate response of the world's leading capitalist powers to that epidemic ensured the death toll was so high. Currently, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a mere 15 health care workers deployed in the Congo.

This is the 10th outbreak of Ebola in that country over the last 40 years. The current epidemic was declared an international health emergency by the World Health Organization July 17. Reflecting their disregard for those affected, government authorities in Congo had pressed WHO not to make such a declaration, claiming it would "hurt the economy," reported The Associated Press.

Despite statements by pharmaceutical companies touting their development of Ebola vaccines, only some 163,000 people have been vaccinated in the country since 2018. The experimental vaccine produced by Merck "is effective" but "in relatively short supply," reported BBC News Aug. 2. More than 71 million people live in Congo, the fourth-largest population in Africa.

"Given the limited amount of vaccine

that's available," Dr. Daniel Bausch, director of the United Kingdom's Public Health Rapid Support Team, told NPR Aug. 1, "I think we should be prepared for a long outbreak that will still go on for many months or years."

Infection and progression of the disease is exacerbated by the fact that three-quarters of the population, especially in rural areas, have no access to safe drinking water or sanitation even though the Congo has over half of Africa's water reserves.

During the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, the revolutionary government of Cuba acted rapidly sending 265 volunteer doctors and nurses to treat the disease. This was in marked contrast to the tardy and paltry response of the world's wealthiest capitalist nations, whose governments seek to maximize profits, not extend human solidarity.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

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Windrush Deportations and Immigrant Rights: What's at Stake for Working People? Speakers: Anthony Brown, Windrush Defenders; Pete Clifford, Communist League. Sun., Aug. 25, 3 p.m. Donation: £2.50. Unit 9, Progress Centre, Charlton Place, M12 6HS. Tel: (0161) 258-2569.

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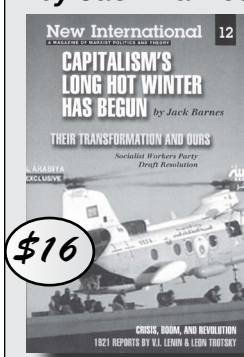
by Jack Barnes

"Class consciousness and revolutionary proletarian solidarity have enabled hundreds of thousands of Cuban working people to volunteer for internationalist missions from Algeria to the Congo and Angola, Grenada and Nicaragua, Bolivia, Venezuela and beyond."

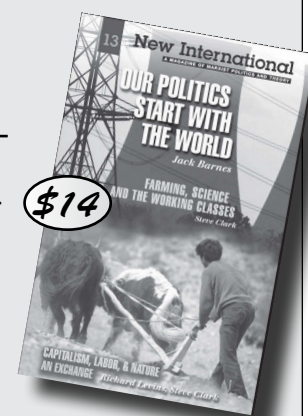
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Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun

by Jack Barnes



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Stop the raids! Amnesty for immigrant workers!

Continued from front page

“You have to try to fight, try to find a lawyer, try to get them out, try to fight the system,” Maria Elizabeth Tello, another U.S. citizen who works at Koch, told the media. “These people haven’t done anything. They’re just here to work.”

While many U.S.-born workers, like Hughes, oppose the raids and deportations, some workers in the plant have been taken in by the virulent anti-immigrant rhetoric of sections of the U.S. ruling class. They yelled, “Take them away” during the raid, Tello reported.

The next day supporters of immigrants rights held a press conference and protest meeting at the NAACP offices in Jackson.

Jason Coker, field coordinator of the Jackson-based Cooperative Baptist Church, took part in the meeting. He told the *Militant* in an Aug. 12 interview that he went to Canton after the raid there at Peco Foods.

“These people have been here 14, 15, 16 years and all their children were born and raised in Canton,” he said. Coker called the raid and possible deportations “diabolical.”

Wayne Daniels, president of the Jackson chapter of the NAACP, told the meeting it will do whatever it can to support the families of those detained.

The day after the raid, more than 300 of those held had been released, according to ICE, but had to wear GPS ankle bracelets.

Federal prosecutor Mike Hurst told a press conference that the raids are equally aimed at undocumented workers and those that employ them “who use illegal aliens for competitive advantage.” But the raids, in fact, aid the bosses in their efforts to drive down wages by increasing the fear of undocumented workers that they might be seized by ICE.

Two of the factories raided, a Koch Foods plant in Morton and the Peco Foods plant in Canton, are organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers. Union officials, however, did not issue a call for preventing the deportation of the workers but for their “right to due process.”

President Donald Trump defended

the raids Aug. 9, saying, “I want people to know that if they come into the United States illegally, they’re getting out.”

His policy stands on the shoulders of previous administrations. Until 2008 factory raids were routine. But in the wake of massive protests by immigrant workers in 2006 — including a May 1 strike of more than a million protesting proposed anti-immigrant legislation — almost every raid was met by protests that included significant numbers of U.S.-born workers.

After 2008, the U.S. government shifted to so-called silent raids, firing

thousands of workers at plants after ICE conducts immigration “audits.”

The Trump administration has brought back factory raids. Nonetheless, the rate of deportations under his administration is still less than under Bill Clinton or Barack Obama.

The U.S. rulers for now have no intention of carrying out mass deportations. They depend on immigrant labor to compete against their rivals around the world.

In fact, in the face of what many bosses see as a labor shortage, Washington has been expanding its “guest worker” program by more than tripling the num-

ber of visas since 2017 to more than 250,000 this year.

Under the program, workers get temporary visas that allow them to work “legally” in the U.S. But if they quit or are fired, they are subject to deportation.

“Working people need to overcome the competition and divisions among us fostered by the bosses and their political system,” said Candace Wagner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey General Assembly. “We need to demand amnesty for workers without papers and an immediate end to the raids and deportations.”

Blackjewel miners win solidarity in fight for stolen pay



Militant/Jacque Henderson
Ned Measel, left, brought greetings on poster from co-workers at Kentucky Walmart to the coal miners, backing their fight.

and supporters rallied at the encampment to hear an update from their attorney, Ned Pillersdorf. Many said they would keep blocking the tracks until they get paid in full.

“We had to give voice to these coal miners,” Chris Lewis, a worker in the mines for 20 years, who was one of the first miners to block the train, told the *Militant* at the rally. “We miners are a brotherhood. We stand together. Our families are with us. We work hard all our lives at this, and then these companies rob us.”

Their encampment is well supplied with donated food, water and soda. Several churches in town organize food banks for the miners and their families. Hollywood Hair and Spa is offering free haircuts to miners’ families. Dozens of pizzas have been sent over from a local restaurant. Rail union members brought by an ample supply of Kentucky Fried Chicken and sides Aug. 9. Workers at two Walmart stores in Louisville sent food, household and school supplies and cards with signatures, saying, “Pay the miners now!” and “Don’t quit!”

Retired union miners, members of

the United Mine Workers of America, began visiting the protest camp as soon as they heard about it. Stanley Sturgill, a UMW member for 41 years, came from the nearby town of Lynch. “If the trains get out that’s more money for the company and nothing for the coal miners and they have shafted these coal miners,” Sturgill told the Ohio Valley ReSource July 30.

Solidarity in Wyoming

Similar efforts by workers and small business owners in Gillette, Wyoming, have brought solidarity and aid to the 600 miners who lost their jobs when Blackjewel shut down its Eagle Butte and Bell Ayr mines in the area.

When he heard the news, Trey McConnell, manager of The Railroad restaurant, told the *Gillette News Record* he offered miners half-price burgers and drinks. Within hours people had called in over \$4,000 in donations and McConnell made everything free. The next day some 300 Blackjewel miners came in. Similar free meals were offered at other area restaurants and bars.

Miner Rory Wallet decided to set up a group for miners and others to discuss and share information about what was happening and to get solidarity. He started “Blackjewel Employees Stand Together” on Facebook. That afternoon there were 400 members. Now there are over 2,000, including miners from Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

The laid-off miners in Wyoming have now started holding fundraisers to send money for their fellow miners thrown out of work in Appalachia.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 29, 1994

The U.S. government’s failure to defend a woman’s right to choose abortion is feeding a polarization on the issue. Rightist assaults on abortion rights are meeting resistance from youth and other defenders of women’s rights.

Clinic defenders dealt right-wing thugs in Jackson, Mississippi, a significant blow by successfully outmobilizing them August 6-13 during their “No Place to Hide” campaign sponsored by the American Coalition for Life.

Clinic defenders in Jackson consistently outnumbered anti-choice forces by 3-to-1. Abortion rights opponents made no serious attempts to block access to the clinic. By the end of the week both the national and local leaderships of the rightist groups had left town and the remaining right-wing cadres were demoralized, barely attempting to harass patients. More than 100 clinic defenders from seven states came to Jackson.



August 22, 1969

Over 5,000 youth turned out Aug. 9 to Toronto’s first antiwar rock festival, sponsored by the Vietnam Mobilization Committee. The featured speaker was Joe Cole, one of the Ft. Jackson Eight, who is now on tour for the GI Civil Liberties Defense Committee.

The Toronto *Daily Star* quoted extensively from Cole’s talk: “The GIs — especially Black GIs — know the war is not in their interest. The generals want to see the war go on because they get promotions out of it. The people who run my country, that is the big businessmen, want to see it go on because they’re making money out of it. But not the GIs. I never hear a GI saying he is going to Vietnam to defend freedom. He’s going because he was sent.”

Cole described the growing opposition to the war in the ranks of the U.S. armed forces and the organization of antiwar action on their bases.



August 26, 1944

AFL President William Green has announced a national campaign to get the approximately 7,000,000 AFL members to register and vote in the presidential election. Green stated in his letter of instructions to all AFL bodies that “if labor participates fully in the election, labor and the friends of labor can win.”

But 7,000,000 or 70,000,000 labor votes will not “win for labor,” if these votes are cast for the parties and candidates of Wall Street. All the workers will get is a continuation of Big Business domination, unemployment, wage-slashing and union-busting.

The workers will win a program really in their interests only by their own independent labor action through a fighting labor party free from any control by the owning-class. When the workers have such a party there will be no need for big ballyhoo campaigns to get out labor’s vote.

Fight to end US embargo of Cuba discussed at Nepal forum



Left, Militant/Baskaran Appu

Left, delegates to Asia-Pacific conference of solidarity with Cuba, held July 26-27 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Above, Fernando González, speaking at July 24 event in solidarity with Cuba in New Delhi.

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

KATHMANDU, Nepal — “We are thankful to the Cuban government for sending a medical team to Nepal and assisting us during the devastating earthquake in 2015. The support from Cuba was prompt, spontaneous, and genuine,” said Pushpa Kamal Dahal, former prime minister of Nepal, at the opening of a regional Cuba solidarity conference.

Dahal was referring to the volunteer brigade of 50 Cuban health workers who provided care to thousands in this Himalayan nation following that disaster.

He was speaking at the 9th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Solidarity with Cuba, held here July 26-27. Some 130 delegates from 16 countries exchanged experiences and discussed plans for activities to tell the truth about the Cuban Revolution and demand Washington lift its economic sanctions against Cuba.

Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), was a keynote speaker. He was one of the five Cuban revolutionaries who spent up to 16 years in U.S. prisons after being framed up for their activity defending Cuba from counter-revolutionary attacks. He noted that the conference marked the 66th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks. This launched the revolutionary war led by Fidel Castro that in January 1959 overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship and opened the road to Cuba’s socialist revolution.

“We are attacked for the sole fact that we have chosen the road of socialism,” González said, “but Cuba will continue to resist.” He condemned Washington’s efforts to overthrow the Venezuelan government. In doing so, he said, “the U.S. government also aims to destroy the Cuban Revolution,” but that will not deter Cuban support to the Venezuelan people.

González pointed to Washington’s recent tightening of its 60-year-long sanctions against Cuba. He cited moves to hinder Cuba’s international financial transactions, prevent shipping companies from transporting oil from Venezuela to Cuba, tighten restrictions on U.S. travel to Cuba, and enforce Title III of the 1996 Helms-Burton law, which allows lawsuits by U.S. citizens over Cuban properties nationalized by the revolutionary government.

González said Cuban international-

ist doctors have served in “some of the most remote areas of Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Pakistan, China and Japan following natural disasters that hit the region hard in recent years.”

The guest of honor at the conference was Aleida Guevara, daughter of Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. She gave a video presentation on Che’s first tour of Asian countries in 1959, a few months after Cuba’s revolutionary victory.

Asia protests against U.S. sanctions

Delegates described recent actions they have organized in their countries. Nilotpal Basu, coordinator of the Committee for Solidarity with Cuba in India, reported on a July 24 public event of 300 people in New Delhi on “60 Years of the Cuban Revolution and the Fight Against Imperialism,” addressed by Fernando González and Aleida Guevara.

Indian delegate Sonya Gupta, who took part in the New Delhi event, told the *Militant* she was impressed when “Fernando talked about the support the Cuban Five received from ordinary Americans” when they were in U.S. prisons, including from fellow prisoners. She was delighted to find an account of their prison experiences in a book available at the conference, “*It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System*,” published by Pathfinder.

“We must campaign to demand that the U.S. government get out of Guantánamo,” said Robert Corpuz, president of the Philippine-Cuba Friendship Society. In May Corpuz headed a Filipino delegation to an international conference held in Guantánamo, Cuba, to build that campaign.

Annalucia Vermunt, from the Cuba Friendship Society in Auckland, New Zealand, who is also the Communist League’s candidate for mayor in that city, explained that the annual International May Day Brigade in Havana, which she was part of this year, is a good way for youth and workers to learn more about the Cuban Revolution.

Delegates broke up into two commissions. One discussed activities to oppose the U.S. embargo. The other focused on using the media to reach broader numbers of people. Among the recommendations from the commissions was a call to organize events answering the U.S.-led smear campaign

against Cuba’s internationalist medical volunteers serving abroad.

Pashupati Chaulagain, coordinator of the conference organizing committee, said Cuban resistance to Washington’s unceasing attacks “is an example of how to stand strong.”

Delegates came to the conference from India, Japan, Philippines, North Korea, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia and Laos, as well as from Cuba and the United States. The largest delegations were 40 from Nepal and 33 from India. Also attending was Iraklis Tsavdaridis, executive secretary of the World Peace Council, and Oscar Martinez, Cuba’s ambassador to both India and Nepal.

Nepal in economic, political flux

The closing session was addressed by Madhav Kumar Nepal, who, like Dahal, previously served as prime minister, each coming from a different wing of the recently fused Nepal Communist Party. They and other top party leaders focused on explaining the NCP-led government’s course of promoting capitalist economic development and “socialist-oriented policies” under the slogan “Prosperous Nepal, happy Nepalis.”

Nepali participants said that the country, unlike the rest of the Indian subcontinent, was never a direct British colony — a source of national pride.

Today, however, the largely agricultural nation remains one of the most underdeveloped in the world. Although caste discrimination in this overwhelmingly Hindu nation was prohibited by law in 1962, caste as well as class divisions affect every aspect of social and political life today.

Nepal is squeezed on both sides by its powerful neighbors, India and China, which along with Washington and other imperialist powers exert heavy influence in its economic and political affairs.

During the conference, New Delhi’s weight was underscored by news of monsoon flooding in Nepal that left dozens dead and thousands displaced. Some delegates noted that the floods were largely due to dams built by the Indian government near the border in disregard of working people’s safety.

Likewise, a reminder of Beijing’s influence was the restoration projects on earthquake-damaged buildings across Kathmandu that carried big signs proclaiming “China aid.”

Today Nepal is undergoing economic and political upheaval as it gets drawn increasingly into the world capitalist

market. Delegates described the growing migration, especially since the 2015 earthquake, of millions of Nepali workers seeking jobs in the Gulf states, Malaysia, Australia and elsewhere. Immigration is broadening horizons and raising expectations of many workers as they become exposed to higher wages and class-struggle experiences abroad.

And the end in 2006 of a brutal guerrilla war waged by a wing of the Nepal Communist Party, together with the abolition of the monarchy in 2008, has opened political space for working people to organize and fight for their interests.

Earlier this year, tens of thousands of tea plantation workers waged a successful 45-day strike across eastern Nepal demanding the wealthy owners pay the minimum daily wage, social security and other benefits stipulated by a 2017 law. And in June nearly 400 workers at the Hotel Hyatt Regency here struck for a week to protest mistreatment and denial of breaks and sick leaves.

Many delegates were drawn to a table displaying Pathfinder Press books on the Cuban Revolution and the class struggle in the United States and internationally. They purchased nearly 100 books. Members of the conference organizing committee expressed appreciation for a donation of Pathfinder books for use in their Cuba solidarity work.

The regional conference adopted a Final Declaration that called for ongoing actions to demand Washington lift all its sanctions against Cuba and keep its hands off Venezuela.

The only discussion on the declaration was when a Vietnamese delegate proposed changing a phrase on “the struggle against U.S. imperialism” in the region to a vaguer “struggle against imperialism.” After the Philippine delegation objected, a proposal from Fernando González was adopted to say “U.S. imperialism and its allies.”

The statement also expressed support for “the denuclearization and reunification of Korean Peninsula and withdrawal of all sanctions” against North Korea.

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

“It’s the poor who face the savagery of the US ‘justice’ system”

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Working-class road forward

Continued from front page

pollution spewed out at U.S. Steel's Coke Works plant that has sickened workers and area residents there. Jarrett was met with applause when he told supporters he had been certified for the ballot. "We gathered our signatures by visiting and talking with workers about the need for a working-class alternative and this effort led us to fighters like Melanie."

Meade described the fight she is involved in against U.S. Steel. "They racked up 6,700 violations and got hit with \$2 million in fines for their pollution," she said. "They had two fires within six months and deny they caused any harm to working people."

Meade and Jarrett both spoke out at a recent hearing about a settlement between the Allegheny Health Department and U.S. Steel. "The Health Department is in cahoots with industry," she said. "They don't believe we have a voice. That's why I was glad to be with the Socialist Workers Party there."

"A fighting union movement is needed where workers can win control over safety and production," Jarrett said.

He pointed to the example of the Miners for Democracy movement in the United Mine Workers in the late 1960s and '70s. "Workers led a revolution in their union and won the right to shut down the mine when they determined there were unsafe conditions and fought to end the devastation of black lung disease." For the capitalist owners, "their biggest fear is what workers will do."

Crisis facing working class continues

"Today the stock market is high and the government claims workers have close to full employment," Studer said. "But tens of millions of workers continue to face crisis conditions. For the first time in decades, life expectancy in the U.S. is falling. Young workers have to wait longer before moving out of their parents' home and starting a family."

"And there are storm clouds ahead for capitalism that forebode deeper attacks on working people," he added. "Manufacturing and production is falling in Germany, the U.K. and across Europe."

"More and more workers have to go into debt to try and get by," he noted.

"Record numbers of workers over 65 are facing bankruptcy," Studer said. "The *Financial Times* says the 'culprits' are vanishing pensions, soaring health care costs and tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid student loans for themselves, their children and even their grandchildren."

"Because the unions are weak, and the officials are beholden to the Democratic Party as opposed to relying on the fighting capacity of the working class," Studer said, the bosses have blood in their mouth and are demanding deeper concessions.

"The Socialist Workers Party joins workers on strike picket lines, social protests and in discussions on their doorsteps about how to organize a fighting working-class movement, build unions and rely on ourselves to fight against the capitalist bosses and their government," Studer said. "This is the road forward."

The Democrats, liberal media and middle-class left say the problem is President Donald Trump, Studer explained, and more particularly what they call "his base" — the working class. "They say the workers, especially those who

are Caucasian, are all racists and bigots, and Trump just riles them up. They say workers have to be controlled."

Conquests of fight for Black rights

The liberals say Trump and his working-class "base" are responsible for the heinous killings in El Paso and Dayton.

"And they prefer to use the term 'people of color,'" Studer said, which dissolves the living history of centuries of struggle by African-Americans against slavery, the Civil War and Radical Reconstruction, the bloody imposition of Jim Crow and the powerful Black-led working-class movement that dealt a death blow to segregation in the 1960s and '70s. Participation in these struggles advanced the confidence and fighting capacities of those who joined them as they transformed themselves and social relations, demonstrating that Black workers will be in the forefront of revolutionary class battles to come.

There is less racism in the working class today than ever before and less anti-immigrant prejudice, Studer said.

It's also revealing, he said, what the liberals say about those who carried out the massacres. In the case of the El Paso shooter, they paint him as an ultrarightist. But in his manifesto, in addition to targeting immigrants, he also railed against climate change and said he was angry at the corporate world, angry at their treatment of working people.

The Dayton shooter was an "antifa," a leftist, a support of Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, who joined armed protests against the Ku Klux Klan.

Both killers clearly had psychological problems, Studer noted. But the rulers have slashed mental health care.

New Puerto Rico governor defends US colonial rule

BY SETH GALINSKY

Ending — for the moment — the immediate political crisis in Puerto Rico, Wanda Vázquez took the oath of office Aug. 7 as governor of the U.S. colony following weeks of protests that forced the resignation of Ricardo Rosselló.

But the underlying causes of the protests remain: the distrust toward all the capitalist parties there; the contempt towards working people by the capitalist politicians; the anti-worker measures imposed by the U.S. government and the local colonial regime; and the lack of sufficient government aid for rebuilding two years after Hurricane Maria devastated the island.

Hundreds of thousands had taken to the streets after online "chats" by Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and his closest aides were made public July 13. Rosselló and his aides revealed total contempt for working people, even joking about the corpses of hurricane victims.

For wide layers of the island's population, Rosselló's chats were the straw that broke the camel's back in the face of a government that for an entire year insisted that only 64 people had died from the hurricane. Rosselló finally admitted that the death toll was closer to 3,000.

His arrogant disregard for working people comes on top of more than a decade-long bipartisan offensive against the wages and living conditions of working people in the U.S. colony.

More than 30,000 government workers have been laid off since 2006.



John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director, speaks at Pittsburgh campaign forum Aug. 10 with Malcolm Jarrett, the party's candidate for Pittsburgh City Council.

It's been replaced by prison and homelessness, another sign of the disdain the rulers have for working people, he said. The cut-throat values and violence bred by the workings of capitalism will not be curbed without fundamental change.

"The SWP fights for mental health care as part of universal, government-guaranteed health care for all," he said.

The liberals talk about stepping up attacks on political rights in the name of stopping "domestic terrorism," Studer said. Former Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein claimed a more precise name is "white terrorism," pushing the notion that racist views held by Caucasians were responsible for the shootings.

"The liberals — and many conservatives — want to use these brutal murders to justify expanding the FBI, the rulers' political police, to target people for their 'ideology,'" Studer said. And the *New York Times* says free speech is too free.

Hundreds of schools closed. Sales taxes rose to 11.5%, higher than any of the 50 states. Pensions have been slashed. Decaying infrastructure even before Hurricane Maria ravaged Puerto Rico in 2017. Hundreds of thousands abandoned the island to move to the U.S., and even more in the aftermath of the storm.

Tania Hernández was one of those who left. "I couldn't afford to move out from my mom's house," she told the *Militant* from California. "So I scraped up enough for a plane ticket and here I am." She is working two jobs, to get by.

Feud over Rosselló successor

Rosselló announced his resignation effective Aug. 2 at 5 p.m. The colonial constitution says the next in line was the secretary of state. But he was also caught up in the chat scandal and had resigned. On Aug. 1 Rosselló named Pedro Pierluisi as secretary of state.

Pierluisi has been one of the lawyers aiding the Fiscal Oversight and Management Board, which was appointed by President Barack Obama, and has the power to compel the government to speed up its anti-worker measures.

Though a member of Rosselló's party, Pierluisi is viewed by some workers as a less corrupt lesser evil.

The Senate put off voting on Pierluisi's appointment to Aug. 5. That didn't stop Pierluisi and Rosselló. They declared that Pierluisi was secretary of state and then had him sworn in as governor just after 5 p.m., Aug. 2.

They criticize the Bill of Rights for its restrictions on government interference with the right to express one's opinion.

"The liberal press says nothing about the largest source of shootings and mass killings in the U.S., which take place in Black communities all across the country. These don't fit their agenda," he said.

"The SWP explains that there is a road to end anti-social violence," Studer said. "It's the fight to end capitalism's exploitation and oppression, its wars, racism and injustice. As Malcolm X said, it is struggle that awakens you to your self-worth."

"During the civil rights battles, crimes and shooting in the Black community plummeted," he added. "Working people had something worth fighting for and were transformed by the struggle. This is the road shown by the Cuban Revolution as well. Studer urged participants to, "Join the SWP campaign!"

The island's Supreme Court disagreed and ruled that the appointment was unconstitutional Aug. 7. Vázquez, next in line as secretary of justice, was sworn in, becoming the island's third governor in three days.

The fiscal board, meanwhile, is continuing to press for deeper measures aimed at making working people pay for the economic crisis and to maximize payment on the government's \$74 billion debt.

The board has reached an agreement on a "haircut" that would guarantee some bondholders 64 cents on the dollar. Still not bad for those investors who bought the bonds at as low as 15 cents on the dollar.

As the protests were winding down the board released its annual report, which states that "Puerto Rico must urgently adopt a series of bold actions to improve its fiscal and economic trajectory." Everyone knows what that means: more pension cuts, more school closings, more layoffs.

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Women's emancipation requires ending domestic servitude

Women and the Family by Leon Trotsky, is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. Trotsky, a leader of the Russian Revolution, fought to continue the communist course of V.I. Lenin after his death, in the face of a bureaucratic counter-revolution led by Joseph Stalin. The excerpts are from the chapters: "From the Old Family to the New" and "A Letter to a Moscow Women Workers' Celebration and Rally," both written in 1923. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY LEON TROTSKY

In politics and economics the working class acts as a whole and pushes on to the front rank its vanguard, the Communist Party, accomplishing through its medium the historic aims of the proletariat. In domestic life the working class is split into cells constituted by families. The change of political regime, the change even of the economic order of the state — the passing of the factories and mills into the hands of the workers — all this has certainly had some influence on family conditions, but only indirectly and externally, and without touching on the forms of domestic traditions inherited from the past.

A radical reform of the family and, more generally, of the whole order of



Women attend literacy class in Soviet Union in early 1920s during Russian Revolution. "A radical reform of the family, and of the whole order of domestic life," Leon Trotsky writes, "requires a great conscious effort on the part of the whole mass of the working class."

domestic life requires a great conscious effort on the part of the whole mass of the working class, and presumes the existence in the class itself of a powerful molecular force of inner desire for culture and progress.

A deep-going plow is needed to turn up heavy clods of soil. To institute the political equality of men and women in the Soviet state was one problem and the simplest. A much more difficult one was the next — that of instituting the industrial equality of women and men in the factories, the mills, and the trade unions and of doing it in such a way that the men should not put the women to disadvantage. But to achieve the actual equality of man and woman within the family is an infinitely more arduous problem. All our domestic habits must be revolutionized before that can happen. And yet it is quite obvious that unless there is actual equality of husband and wife in the family, in a normal sense as well as in the conditions of life, we cannot speak seriously of their equality in social work or even in politics. As long as woman is chained to her housework, the care of the family, the cooking and sewing, all her chances of participation in social and political life are cut down in the extreme. ...

The physical preparations for the conditions of the new life and the new family, again, cannot fundamentally be

separated from the general work of socialist construction. The workers' state must become wealthier in order that it may be possible seriously to tackle the public education of children and the releasing of the family from the burden of the kitchen and laundry. Socialization of family housekeeping and public education of children are unthinkable without a marked improvement in our economics as a whole. We need more socialist economic forms. Only under such conditions can we free the family from the functions and cares that now oppress and disintegrate it. Washing must be done by a public laundry, catering by a public restaurant, sewing by a public workshop. Children must be educated by good public teachers who have a real vocation for the work. Then the bond between husband and wife would be freed from everything external and accidental, and the one would cease to absorb the life of the other. Genuine equality would at last be established. The bond will depend on mutual attachment. And on that account particularly, it will acquire inner stability, not the same, of course, for everyone, but compulsory for no one. ...

The problem of women's emancipation, both material and spiritual, is closely tied to that of the transformation of family life. It is necessary to remove the bars from those confining and suf-

focating cages into which the present family structure drives woman, turning her into a slave, if not a beast of burden. This can be accomplished only through the organization of communal methods of feeding and child-rearing. ...

There are two paths leading to the transformation of everyday family life: from below and from above. "From below" denotes the path of combining the resources and efforts of individual families, the path of building enlarged family units with kitchens, laundries, etc., in common. "From above" denotes the path of initiative by the state or by local Soviets in building group workers' quarters, communal restaurants, laundries, nurseries, etc. Between these two paths, in a workers' and peasants' state, there can be no contradiction; one ought to supplement the other. The efforts of the state would come to naught without the independent striving toward a new way of life by the workers' families themselves; but even the most energetic display of initiative by individual workers' families, without guidance and aid by the local Soviets and state authorities, could not bring great success either. The work must be carried on simultaneously both from above and from below.

An obstacle in this path, as well as in others, is presented by the scarcity of material resources. But this only means that actual success will not be as rapid as we would have wished. It would be totally inadmissible, however, if on the grounds of poverty we began to brush aside the question of building a new kind of life.

Inertia and blind habit, unfortunately, constitute a great force. And nowhere does blind, dumb habit hold sway with such force as in the dark and secluded inner life of the family. And who is called upon first of all to struggle against the barbaric family situation if not the woman revolutionist? By this I do not mean to say at all that conscious workers are relieved of the responsibility to labor toward the transformation of the economic forms of family life, above all the forms of feeding, child-rearing, and education. But those who fight most energetically and persistently for the *new* are those who suffer most from the *old*. And in the present family situation the one that suffers most is the woman — the wife and the mother.

August

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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The Militant August 26, 2019

Protests call on India to get out of Kashmir



London protest Aug. 7 against direct rule by Indian government in Kashmir.

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ing a demonstration here in Birmingham Aug 10.

The protests follow a decision by the Indian government of Narendra Modi to send tens of thousands of troops to join the hundreds of thousands already there to impose a curfew, close schools, block streets with razor wire and arrest hundreds, including two former chief ministers. All phone, TV and internet connection has been shut.

Kashmir, an oppressed nationality of some 14 million people, has been divided between India and Pakistan since 1947, with the rulers in both countries laying claim to the whole territory.

The seeds of the conflict over Kashmir were sewn by the British rulers as their colonial domination of India was ended by a mass movement of millions, led by a young working class that had begun to forge unity of the country's many different nationalities and religions. The Labour Party government at the time protected the interests of the U.K.'s ruling families by pressing the dominant bourgeois and landlord forces in India to accept a majority-Muslim Pakistan and a majority-Hindu India — thwarting steps toward a unified nation-state and keeping the working classes divided and weakened.

The two new states immediately went to war over Kashmir. A U.N.-brokered peace deal divided Kashmir — two-thirds to India, today known as Jammu and Kashmir; one-third to Pakistan, called Azad Kashmir.

Pakistan's rulers, feigning sympathy for the Kashmiris, have pressed their interests against their regional rivals and sponsored armed Islamist militias to carry out terror attacks against Indian forces. One such attack in February this year killed 46 paramilitary police. The Indian government has used such attacks as a pretext for extreme brutality against the Kashmiri people. There have been two further wars between the two capitalist states over the Kashmiri people and their land — in 1965 and 1990. During the last of these the Pakistani government put its nuclear arsenal on alert.

Seeking to gain popular support for partition, New Delhi granted a degree of autonomy to India-administered Kashmir: its own flag, the right to enact laws on matters other than foreign affairs, defense and communications. Indians from outside

the region were blocked from owning property or getting government jobs. Women who marry someone from outside the area were prevented from inheriting property.

This 70-year status was abruptly ended Aug. 5 by the Indian government's revocation of the constitutional arrangements. Modi claims Kashmir's integration will provide jobs, economic development and prosperity and end discrimination against women. The move was welcomed by other capitalist parties and by the propertied rulers, such as mining magnate Gautam Adani. The main opposition Congress Party voiced some tepid criticism.

The Pakistan government of Imran Khan closed train services to, and downgraded diplomatic relations with, India, suspending bilateral trade. But it amounted to what the *New York Times* described as "high-level hand-wringing." With China's support, Pakistan is looking to the U.N. Security Council to press India to reverse its assaults.

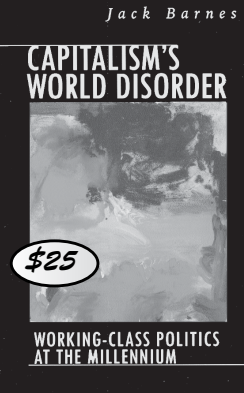
Changing relations among rival powers

Relations between capitalist states in the region have changed since the Cold War, when Pakistan was aligned first with Washington and second with China; and India with Moscow.

Beijing has upgraded relations with the rulers in Pakistan. A 2015 visit by President Xi Jinping inaugurated \$75 billion of Chinese investment in roads, railways, energy production and pipelines linking China to a port in the Pakistani city of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. The transport corridor passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In December Beijing and Islamabad concluded their sixth joint military exercise.

Washington hosted a July visit to the U.S. by Pakistani Prime Minister Khan, offering to mediate with India over Kashmir. But the Indian government rejected the offer. The rulers there are a more reliable U.S. ally against the growing weight of Beijing. Washington and New Delhi have their own military exercises. President Donald Trump has not condemned Modi's violation of Kashmiri rights, echoing U.N. calls for "restraint." London has called for "calm."

Capitalism's World Disorder
by Jack Barnes



"Whether in North America, Europe or Asia and the Pacific, working people over time will move into action against the devastating consequences of capitalist militarism and the rulers' drive toward World War III."

pathfinderpress.com

'Militant' reporters head to Puerto Rico

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president in 2016; Seth Galinsky, the SWP candidate for New York City public advocate; and Linda Joyce from Atlanta are heading to Puerto Rico Aug. 15 for five days to bring solidarity, report the truth in the *Militant* about the conditions working people face there and to learn about the fight that forced the resignation of Gov. Ricardo Rosselló.

They will talk to working people in San Juan as well as smaller towns like Humacao, Yabucoa and Naguado, where residents organized to confront the consequences of Hurricane Maria, which ravaged the island in 2016.

The delegation will bring their experience as participants in working-class struggles in the U.S. And they will take part in discussions on what is the road forward in the face of the crisis of capitalist and colonial rule.

When they return they will speak at forums, house meetings and anywhere they are invited, to explain why it is in the interests of workers of all nationalities in the U.S. to support the fight against U.S. colonial rule.

Help fund this trip and make future ones possible. Contribute online at www.themilitant.com or send your check to the Militant, 306 W. 37th St, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Earmark it: Puerto Rico trip.

End ban on 'Militant'

Continued from front page

pounded 11 of the last 12 issues of the paper, nos. 17-20 and 22-28. They claim these present "a threat to the security, good order, or discipline of the correctional system."

Florida prison authorities are banning the *Militant* "because of disagreement with its political viewpoint," wrote David Goldstein, the *Militant's* attorney, in an appeal filed with the Literature Review Committee challenging the impoundments of issues no. 26 and 27.

The notice for impounding no. 27 cites "Front Page & pg 9 Victory over ban in Kansas — fight in Florida." The article points to the decision by Kansas prison authorities to overturn their ban on the *Militant*. Facts about the Kansas censorship first came to light in May when *Newsweek* magazine reported that the Human Rights Defense Center had obtained and made public a list of 7,000 books and periodicals banned there. It included eight issues of the *Militant*.

When the *Militant's* attorney informed Kansas prison officials that the paper would appeal these bans, they were promptly overturned. Kansas officials said they reviewed every issue the *Militant* had sent, and could find no valid reason to ban them.

"It is simply inconceivable," wrote Goldstein, "that coverage of censorship in Kansas prisons that Kansas prison officials subsequently overturned as presenting no threat to prison operation could threaten prison security in Florida."

The first ban the Literature Review Committee upheld this year was for issue no. 15. It covered a speaking tour by Albert Woodfox, who spent over 40 years in solitary confinement in a state penitentiary in Angola, Louisiana, including a speech at the Brooklyn Public Library. All but one of the rest were clamped down on for reporting on the *Militant's* ongoing fight against prison censorship.

Over the past several months Florida prison authorities have stepped-up efforts to keep the paper out of the hands of subscribers behind bars. From mid-2017 to late 2018, nearly one-third of issues were impounded, but almost all were overturned by the Literature Review Committee. Of the 10 issues recently banned, the committee has upheld censorship of nos. 18-20, 22 and 23. Appeals of nos. 24, 25, 26 and 27 are pending.

Impoundments of over 30 *Militants* in Florida over the past two years is "at least 6-7 times as many as in the entire rest of the nation, state and federal prisons combined, in the past decade," noted Goldstein.

The *Militant* currently has 142 subscribers in 74 prisons in 21 states, but it is only being systematically censored in Florida.

Among the groups that have called on Florida officials to overturn the bans are Amnesty International USA, the National Coalition Against Censorship, the Florida Press Association, National Lawyers Guild, the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, We-Count! in Miami-Dade County, and the Riverside Church Prison Ministry.

In a letter sent to the Literature Review Committee Aug. 2, Mark Ginsburg, a professor at the University of Maryland-College Park, writes, "Banning of any issues of this informative newsweekly violates the prisoners' First Amendment rights to read as well as publishers' and others' rights to send literature to individuals who have been incarcerated." Instead of banning the *Militant*, he added, each prison library should get a subscription.

"With every issue they ban, it becomes even clearer that Florida prison officials just object to our political views," said *Militant* editor John Studer. "This is a violation of constitutional rights. We're fighting to defend our right to have subscribers behind bars and the right of prisoners to read material of their choosing."

Fight 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. Mail to: Literature Review Committee Att: Dean Peterson, 501 South Calhoun St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500. Email to: Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com Send copies to themilitant@mac.com