

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Join int'l effort to expand reach of 'Militant,' revolutionary books  
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 83/NO. 37 OCTOBER 14, 2019

## Blackjewel miners end protest camp, fight goes on

BY MAGGIE TROWE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Miners who had blocked the railroad near Cumberland, Kentucky, since July 29 took down the encampment, cleaned the area and ended this phase of their struggle Sept. 26. But, they and their supporters said that this doesn't mean the fight is over.

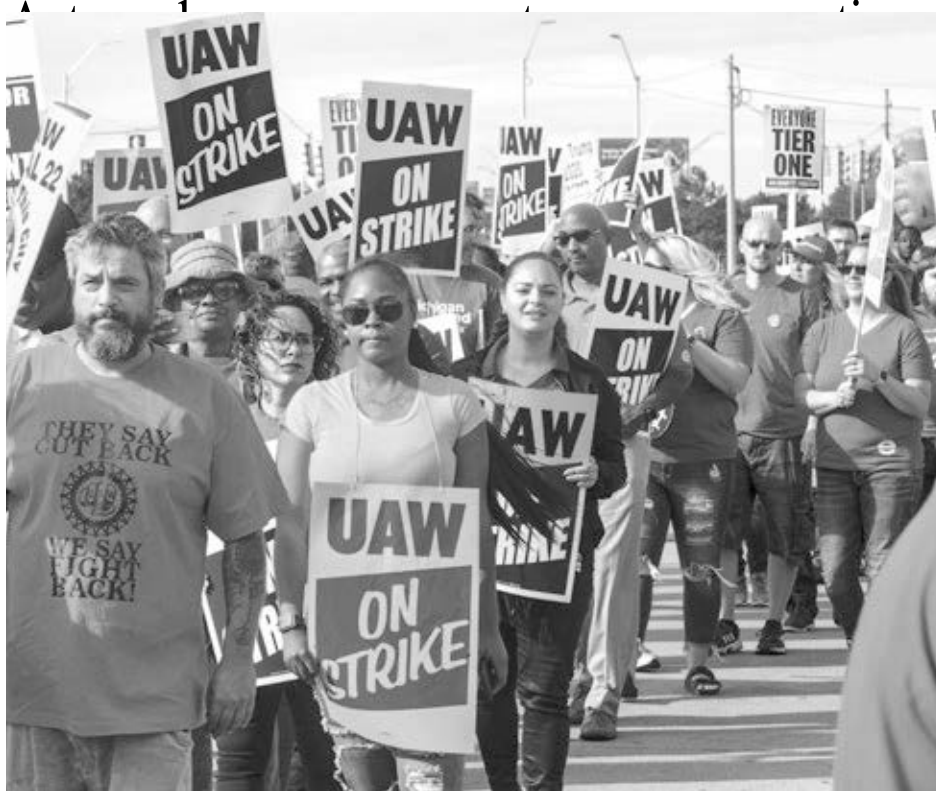
"We will remain strong," Donna Sexton, a home health worker and mother of Chris Sexton, the miner who first set up the blockade, told the *Militant* Sept. 28. "That's what we are and what we truly believe in."

After Blackjewel LLC, the sixth-largest coal mining company in the U.S., declared bankruptcy July 1 and laid off 300 miners in southeastern Kentucky and 1,400 more in Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming, the company withdrew the final paychecks out of the bank accounts where miners had deposited them.

When angry miners in Harlan County found out the company was planning to haul coal they had mined

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## Step up solidarity with UAW strikers at GM!



Zuma Wire/Jim West

Autoworkers picket Detroit GM Hamtramck Assembly Plant, Sept. 25. Key issues are permanent status for temporary workers, end to divisive two-tier pay scale, reopen shuttered plants.

BY SAMANTHA HAMLIN

BOLINGBROOK, Ill. — The nearly 49,000 United Auto Workers union members on strike against General Motors since Sept. 16 are winning solidarity in their fight to make tem-

porary workers permanent, as well as to get rid of two-tier wages and to force GM bosses to put workers at four plants they are shuttering back to work making cars.

Fellow autoworkers from other companies, members of other unions, workers at Walmart and others who have no union, and many more have joined them on the picket lines at the 33 factories and 22 parts warehouses on strike. They've brought food, sup-

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## Impeachment hysteria targets working class, political rights

BY TERRY EVANS

The liberals in the big-business press editorial offices and the Democratic Party are ecstatic about a leak from an anonymous "whistleblower" — reported to be a CIA agent — who said President Donald Trump mentioned former Vice President Joseph Biden in a phone call with the new president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. They think they've finally got what they've been looking for in their relentless effort to smear Trump and impeach or indict him.

Driven by contempt and fear of the millions of working people who voted for President Trump, or who couldn't bring themselves to vote at all, Democrats announced a fast-track impeachment inquiry in the House of Representatives.

And Democratic House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi says that's not enough. She says she will push to change U.S. law so sitting presidents

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## Dallas cop who killed Botham Jean is found guilty of murder



Christian Chronicle/Bobby Ross Jr.

Sept. 30, 2018, Dallas protest after cop Amber Guyger shot and killed Botham Jean as he ate ice cream in his apartment. Protests forced cops to fire Guyger and led to murder conviction.

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

DALLAS — A 12-person jury here found Dallas cop Amber Guyger guilty of murder Oct. 1 in the killing last fall of Botham Jean, a 26-year-old Black man. Jean was shot while eating ice cream in his own apartment. Guyger, who is Caucasian, had just come off duty at the time and was still in uniform and armed. She claimed she thought it was her apartment and

she feared for her life when she saw someone else there. She faces from five to 99 years behind bars.

Jean, a native of the island of St. Lucia in the Caribbean, was working in Dallas as an accountant. He was also a part-time preacher and song leader at the Dallas West Church of Christ. Fifteen hundred people attended his memorial service in Rich-

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## SWP: Building solidarity helps boost working class struggle

BY JANET POST

"We came here to be in solidarity with the fight pressing for Amber Guyger to be convicted and jailed for killing Botham Jean," Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Pittsburgh City Council told Shelia Bennett, one of the many opponents of police brutality gathered outside the Dallas courtroom where Guyger was on trial Sept. 27. "The SWP stands for the fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system."

Jarrett and Alyson Kennedy, the SWP's candidate for president in 2016, are on a national tour speaking for the party, offering solidarity to autoworkers on strike against GM and taking part in other battles and dis-

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## Declining trade, growing rivalries heighten crisis of imperialist 'order'

BY ROY LANDERSEN

World trade growth has turned down to its weakest point since the global financial crisis shook the capitalist rulers worldwide in 2007. Manufacturing activity has begun to contract, led by falling auto production.

In Germany, Russia and the Czech Republic factories are running at the lowest levels in a decade. U.S. manufacturing contracted as consumer

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Calif. sheet metal workers walk out over low pay, health care

British Columbia Steelworkers strike Western Forest Products



# Thousands protest against racist abuse in West Papua

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Demonstrations of thousands in Jayapura, Manokwari and elsewhere across the West Papua region — the Indonesian-ruled half of the resource-rich island of New Guinea — broke out in mid-August against racist abuses faced by indigenous Papuans.

Despite stepped-up military and police repression the protests are continuing, leading to the renewal of the nationalist movement. Many Papuans are demanding the government in Jakarta allow a referendum on independence for West Papua.

News of attacks on Papuan students in cities in Java on Aug. 17, Indonesia’s independence day, sparked the protests. According to the U.K.-based Free West Papua Campaign, “military officers” in Surabaya taunted Papuan students as “monkeys” and accused them of desecrating the Indonesian flag. Tear gas was used in an attack on student dormitories.

The indigenous people of West Papua face systematic military repression, slurs and attacks. West Papua, the last colonial outpost in the Dutch East Indies, was incorporated into Indonesia in 1963. Indonesia itself gained independence from Dutch colonial rule after World War II. Capitalists, both from Indonesia and overseas, profit mightily from mining and forestry in West Papua.

Less than half the population has access to electricity. Over a quarter of West Papuans live below the poverty line, more than twice the official na-

tional average.

Days after the attacks in Java, angry crowds took to the streets across West Papua, home to 3.6 million people, as well as in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta in central Java. Thousands rallied in highland villages.

An Aug. 29 mass march in Jayapura highlighted a second wave of protests. With more than 250,000 people, Jayapura, capital of Papua province, is the largest city in the West Papua region.

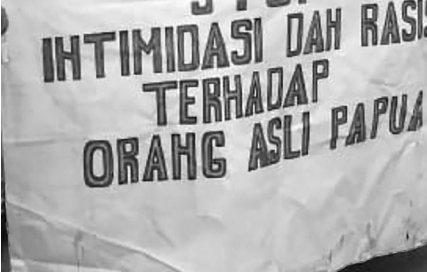
### Solidarity in the region

Marches in solidarity with the West Papuan people were held early in September in Papua New Guinea and in Vanuatu, both predominantly Melanesian Pacific island countries.

As part of rallies across Australia, several dozen people gathered in Kingsford, Sydney, an area with a substantial Indonesian population, Sept. 7, to condemn violence against the protests in West Papua.

Bridget Harilaou, of the Anti-Colonial Asian Alliance, who is of Indonesian-Australian descent, said it was “important to show there are Indonesians who support independence and freedom for West Papua and who condemn the violence from the Indonesian government.”

Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League candidate for Auckland mayor, told the *Militant* Sept. 29, “Working people around the world, and especially in New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific should support the West Papuan people’s nationalist



AP Photo/Safwan Ashari Raharusun  
Led by a banner reading, “Stop intimidation and racism towards indigenous Papuans,” march in Manokwari, West Papua, Aug. 19 protested Indonesian government repression. Many Papuans call for government in Jakarta to allow a referendum on independence for West Papua.

aspirations against Indonesian military repression. We have a common enemy in the imperialist rulers in Canberra and Wellington who have backed Jakarta’s decadeslong occupation.”

### National repression continues

Weeks after the Java attack, police shot and killed demonstrators in Jayapura, Wamena, as well as Fakfak and Deiyai. Jakarta has sent in thousands of soldiers and police to reinforce tens of thousands of security forces already stationed there.

Michael, who is originally from West Papua, told the *Militant* in Auckland Sept. 29, “There are military and police bases in Jayapura” and the West Papua provincial capital of Manokwari. He declined to use his real name for fear of government victimization. The Indonesian government takes a “military approach” to the Papuan indigenous people, he said, “but that won’t solve the problem.”

Tens of thousands of people in the mountains, Al Jazeera reports, have been “forced from their homes as

security forces attempt to flush out” armed pro-independence groups.

Alleged “ringleaders” of the protests have been arrested by Indonesian police, including Buchtar Tabuni, a leader of the United Liberation Movement for West Papua, and Surya Anta, spokesperson for the Indonesian People’s Front for West Papua. Jakarta has moved to cut off news from the region, imposing limitations on internet access.

Fearing violence by cops and armed pro-military militia, hundreds of students have returned to West Papua from cities across Indonesia.

“Papuans want a final decision for their political right for self-determination,” Yason Ngelia, chairman of the Student Movement at Jayapura’s Cenderawasih University, told Radio New Zealand in early September. “We are flying the Morning Star” flag of independence, he said. This is an act of defiance punishable by imprisonment under Indonesian law.

*Felicity Coggan in Sydney, Australia, contributed to this article.*

## The Militant

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# THE MILITANT

## Construction workers protest unsafe conditions

*Building trades unions in New York rallied against nonunion job sites Sept. 17. The ‘Militant’ explains unions need to organize all workers — native-born and immigrant — as bosses try to pit us against each other. We need the power to stop working in unsafe conditions.*

Count Me In  
Construction workers rally in N.Y., Sept. 17 over job conditions and need for unions.

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# SWP: ‘Build class solidarity’

Continued from front page  
cussions with working people.

“I have been in the courtroom every day,” Bennett said. “Guyger should have to pay a price. Botham Jean is gone; he isn’t coming back.”

Guyger killed 26-year-old Botham Jean in September 2018, shooting him twice in the chest as he ate ice cream watching TV in his own apartment. The cop claimed self-defense, saying she accidentally went to the wrong apartment thinking it was hers, and thought he was an intruder. On Oct. 1 she was found guilty of murder.

Kennedy told Bennett that she had been the SWP’s candidate for mayor of Dallas this year. “I spoke out against police brutality and joined the protests demanding that Guyger be prosecuted and jailed,” she said. “It’s in the interests of all working people.”

The next evening Bennett came to hear Kennedy and Jarrett speak at the Militant Labor Forum about the party, its program and activities, followed by a lively discussion.

## Build solidarity with GM strikers

After leaving the courthouse, the candidates joined the picket line of United Auto Workers Local 276 members at the large GM assembly plant in Arlington, Texas, part of the national strike. With campaign supporter Hilda Cuzco, Kennedy and Jarrett also stopped by the union hall to extend solidarity.

“We are standing for the temps,” picket captain Eric Smith, who builds rear axles at the plant, told them on the picket line. Two of the main demands

of the strike are to make the 7% of GM workers who are temps full-time “regular” workers and to take on the unequal wage “tiers” that GM uses to attempt to divide workers. “All of us work hard, we are all ‘regular’ workers,” said GM body shop worker Chris Roberts. “We need solidarity.”

Kennedy and Jarrett talked with the workers about the national SWP tour and described their discussions while visiting UAW picket lines in other states, as well as the encampment by miners in Kentucky who are fighting for pay stolen from them by the Blackjewel coal company. (See article on front page.)

Two days later the candidates and Dallas SWP members knocked on doors in a working-class neighborhood in Arlington near the GM plant. They discussed the strike and the stakes in it for all working people, as well as introducing the SWP to workers who had seen the nearby picket lines. They found real interest in what the party had to say about how workers can fight effectively under the crisis of capitalism today. Three workers got subscriptions to the *Militant* and one bought a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

## Need to organize workers

Kennedy and Jarrett toured in Minnesota before coming to Dallas. In addition to visiting the UAW picket line at GM’s parts warehouse in Hudson, Wisconsin, they had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Abdi Ali and Marty Knaeble, two Minneapo-



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

UAW picket line at GM plant in Arlington, Texas, Sept. 28. From left, striker Scott Rigney; Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidate for Pittsburgh City Council; striker Chris Roberts; and Alyson Kennedy, SWP 2016 presidential candidate. Working-class solidarity boosts struggle.

lis-St. Paul airport workers, at a local coffee shop Sept. 20. Ali drives a passenger transport cart for an airport contract company where workers recently won a union-organizing drive. Knaeble, who works on the ramp for Delta Air Lines, helped organize support for their fight.

Workers won representation by Service Employees International Union Local 26, which organizes baggage handlers, cabin cleaners, cart drivers and other airport workers at Delta subcontractor AirServ. “We won a union, but we are still fighting for \$15 an hour,” Ali said. “I only make \$10 driving a cart after nine years on the job.” He said workers there have been fighting five years for the \$15.

Like Ali, many of the SEIU members are from East Africa. He described a protest by aircraft cleaners after some Muslim workers were fired by another Delta contractor for demanding the right to pray during their work shift in 2018. The workers won their jobs back.

In light of the GM strike, Knaeble talked about the “temp” workers exploited by Delta who only won sick days after other airport workers fought for and won them.

“The ruling class and the working class are being drawn into battle. The GM bosses want to impose even more concessions on the autoworkers,” said Jarrett. “They want to keep them divided by a two-tier wage structure and more and more temps. This led to the strike.

“There have been massive mobilizations in Sudan, Hong Kong and Puerto Rico. These struggles show the power of the working class,” Jarrett said. “But they don’t lead to real, lasting change. The missing ingredient has been independent working-class leadership.”

The four talked about what kind of leadership is necessary in the labor

movement today. “There is a change in the U.S. working class — it started with the teachers strikes last year,” Kennedy said.

“You cannot transform the unions into fighting organizations without organizing workers to stand up for themselves and offer solidarity to others who do so,” she said.

“Fighting to unify the working class, to build self-confidence and class consciousness in struggle, is the road forward,” Kennedy said. “It is on the line of march to fight to end capitalist exploitation and oppression once and for all, for working people to take political power into their own hands.”

To get the SWP’s 2019 campaign program, a fighting program to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism, go to the home page of the *Militant*’s website at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

*George Chalmers from Dallas and David Rosenfeld from Minneapolis contributed to this article.*

## Drive to expand reach of ‘Militant,’ revolutionary books

Starting Saturday, Oct. 5, the *Militant* is launching a nine-week drive to expand the readership of the paper and of books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and other revolutionaries internationally. The drive has an international goal of 1,100 subscriptions and 1,250 books.

Over the same weeks the Socialist Workers Party will win new financial support from working people and others as part of raising \$100,000 to build the party.

“Socialist Workers Party members and others who see the *Militant* as their paper will use the drive to introduce working people to the political activity of the party and its election campaigns and to discuss what we can do together,” said Terry Evans, managing editor of the *Militant*, Sept. 29. “There is an uptick in workers’ battles, like the United Auto Workers fight against General Motors and the Blackjewel miners fighting for the pay stolen from them.

“More workers can see that the bosses, their parties and government are stepping up efforts to make us pay for the crisis of their capitalist system. They need the *Militant* for its reporting on workers organizing today, and the political perspective for a class-struggle road forward.”

“The books present lessons from past working-class battles, the party’s program and revolutionary perspectives,” he said. “The drive will help the party meet unionists and other class-struggle-minded workers and deepen relations with them.”

Going door to door in cities, towns and rural areas to extend the reach of the Socialist Workers Party will be at the heart of this effort. SWP members will work together with those we meet door to door, co-workers, and those at labor actions and social protests, and encourage workers and young people to join in campaigning and distributing the *Militant*.

All of the rich arsenal of books published by Pathfinder Press, as well as the *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, will be offered at 20% off. Eight books with key aspects of the party’s program and that explain political questions facing workers today will be half-price for those who buy a *Militant* subscription. In addition, those who join the Pathfinder Readers Club will receive a 30% discount on selected titles each month.

Many workers who buy a subscription or book will want to make a contribution to the party-building fund to help the work of the party.

To join in the drive, get a subscription, order some books or copies of the paper to sell to others, get in touch with the SWP or Communist League in your area, listed in the directory on page 8.

Contributions to the Party-Building Fund can be made by check or money order, payable to the Socialist Workers Party, and sent to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY, 10018.

— JANET POST

## Hear the SWP candidates

Come meet and hear Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett.

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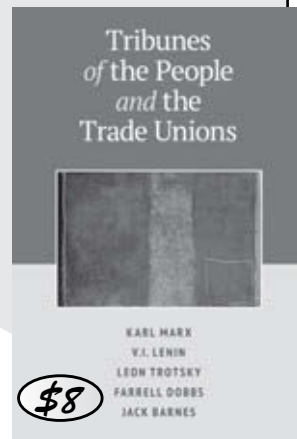
Oct. 8-10 Montreal

The SWP campaign has launched a \$10,000 fund to make the tour possible. Send your contributions to the SWP National Campaign Committee, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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# UK rulers move to stop ‘Brexit’ as Johnson seeks US trade bloc

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson is shifting his minority government towards a closer trade and foreign policy bloc with Washington and away from the European Union, as conflicts sharpen with opponents of all stripes who are determined that the U.K. never leave the EU. The real target of all the “Remainers” is the working people who voted to get out of the EU.

Johnson returned from the U.S. to denunciation from opposition parties after the Supreme Court overturned his temporary shutdown of Parliament. In response to their criticism, Attorney General Geoffrey Cox described Labour and other opposition parties as “cowardly” because they refuse to put motions that would lead to a new general election. They fear Johnson would win a majority.

There is an unfolding political crisis. No section of the capitalist rulers or their political servants favor carrying through an unequivocal break with the EU. They backed “Remain” in the 2016 referendum and have spent the years since their defeat trying to prevent its implementation and overturn it. Johnson says he wants a “deal” with the EU, but threatens the U.K. will quit by Oct. 31, “do or die,” if he can’t get one.

Johnson met President Donald Trump in New York Sept. 24. Trump said trade with the U.K. could quadruple under a deal with the U.S. after leaving the EU. According to the London *Times*, that figure “would make the UK among the US’s largest trading partners.”

A trading bloc between London, the Commonwealth and Washington would replace EU adherence, as the U.K. rulers need allies as their economic, military and political weight fades.

Johnson also aligned his government politically with Washington — breaking with Berlin and Paris — by calling for a new nuclear agreement with Iran. The White House last year withdrew the U.S. from the deal the Obama administration had made with Tehran in 2015. “I think there’s one guy who can do a better deal,” Johnson told NBC, “and that is the president of the United States.”

“Capitalist politicians of all stripes harangue each other about what’s best for ‘our country,’” Jonathan Silberman, Communist League prospective parliamentary candidate for Tottenham, in north London, told the *Militant*. “But

there are two Britains with counterposed interests: on the one side the propertied exploiters and their hangers-on, on the other, us, the exploited majority. We need to chart a course independent of all capitalist parties.

“We say, ‘Get out of the EU now!’ It serves the bosses’ interests and strengthens them against workers and farmers. The U.K. should get out of Ireland and let the Irish people determine their own future. We need to build solidarity with each other’s struggles here and with fellow workers around the world to overcome the divisions the rulers foster among us.”

## Crisis of European ‘Union’

For the German and French imperialist rulers — the ones for whom the EU “works,” unlike those in Italy, Spain, Greece and other weaker capitalist powers, who see their wealth being sucked away — keeping the union together is critical. EU officials in Brussels want to punish the U.K. government, seeking either to prevent it from leaving or to deter other EU member states from following its example.

Like others among the world’s capitalist rulers, they have no way out of a looming economic downturn, nor of halting the coming apart of their world order. For Berlin and Paris the EU protectionist bloc is an increasingly important weapon in their conflicts with Washington and Beijing.

Mario Draghi, European Central Bank president, announced a new round of “economic stimulus” Sept. 12, including cuts to already negative interest rates and a €2.6 trillion program (\$3.2 trillion) to buy up government bonds. The move was denounced by President Trump, who said it would make U.S. exports to Europe more expensive.

EU officials are aided and abetted in the U.K. by a “Remain” alliance of the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Scottish National parties, along with Conservatives expelled by Johnson who were obstructing the course of his government.

The Liberal Democrats openly declare they will overturn the 2016 referendum result if they form a government. The Labour Party wants a second referendum with a “choice” of a Labour-“Brexit” that keeps the U.K.’s trading relations with the EU in place or simply remaining in the EU. These parties are now fighting each other over who will head a caretaker government of “national unity,” once they have deposed Johnson.

## Johnson’s ‘do or die’ rhetoric

Despite his “do or die” rhetoric, Johnson is pressing for a revised version of the withdrawal agreement promoted by his predecessor, Theresa May, that was rejected by Parliament.

Millions of workers are fed up with the endless delays, angry that the country’s capitalist parties have no intention of implementing their 2016 vote.

The bloc of opposition parties pushed a law through Parliament requiring the government get another extension of the deadline for the U.K. to leave if it can’t cut a deal with Brussels by Oct. 31. Johnson labels the law a “surrender bill” because it allows

## Climate change panic fuels Dutch gov’t attack on farmers



Sipa via AP Images

Thousands of farmers organized tractor convoys from across the Netherlands to the Hague Oct. 1, protesting a government report that blames them and their livestock for fouling the air. “No farmers, no food,” read their placards.

Farmers are fed up with being called “environmental criminals,” sheep farmer and protest organizer Bart Kemp told demonstrators outside parliament.

Driven by the same reactionary hysteria about the earth’s imminent doom advanced by many at the recent United Nations climate change summit, the Dutch government says “drastic measures” are needed immediately. One party in the ruling coalition government has called for the elimination of half the livestock in the country — 6 million pigs and 50 million chickens.

The farmers demanded the government keep their hands off the animals. They called for formation of an organization independent of the government to be responsible for measuring nitrogen and carbon emissions on farms. Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten came to the protest, promising her department wouldn’t impose restrictions on farmers’ livestock.

Farmers were hit hard in May when the Dutch top court, the Council of State, halted farm and construction permits, saying they violate EU environmental protections. This shut down thousands of projects, including new farms, roads, housing blocks and airport expansion. Another recent government report calls on local authorities to buy up area farms and drive farmers off the land.

At the protest, cattle farmer Peter Boogards told the Associated Press that it’s a lie that farmers don’t care about the environment. “Nobody listens to us,” he said. “We don’t like that.”

— TERRY EVANS

the EU to select the date for the U.K.’s departure. He refuses to say whether he will comply with it.

## So-called ‘Irish backstop’

Johnson is negotiating with EU officials over trading arrangements between the Republic of Ireland, which is in the EU, and British-ruled Northern Ireland. The border partitioning Ireland was imposed by British imperialism nearly a century ago after an independence war that liberated a ma-

jority of the country from British rule.

In recent years the island of Ireland has become a single market in many products. But Johnson says London will need to re-establish customs checks after the U.K. leaves the EU, a measure opposed by the government of the Republic of Ireland. The British rulers are determined to prevent Northern Ireland, the last piece of their oldest former colony, from becoming part of a united Ireland and stop a further breaking apart of the U.K.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### Los Angeles

**The Socialist Workers Party Campaign and the 2020 Election: Why Working Class and the Voting Franchise are Real Targets of the Presidential Impeachment Inquiry.** Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 13, 5 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2826 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 1. Tel: (323) 643-4968.

#### Oakland

**U.S. and Chinese Rulers Intensifying Rivalry.** Speaker: Jeff Powers, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel: (510) 686-1351.

## Further reading for fighting workers



“How long ago was it that many ruling class figures in Europe were insisting that the European powers were on the road toward political unity?

“The opposite actually happened however. Despite all the talk about unity, the evolution of world capitalism has increased uneven developments across Europe and made its character more explosive.”

— Jack Barnes in *Capitalism’s World Disorder*

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in *New International* no. 14

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## Calif. sheet metal workers walk out over low pay, health care

STOCKTON, Calif. — More than 250 members of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers Local 104 on strike against Simpson Strong-Tie here overwhelmingly voted down what workers said was the company's "last, best and final contract offer" Sept. 23. The strike began Sept. 5. In dispute are company attacks on pensions, health care benefits and wages.

"We are super underpaid," Santos Fuentes, a machine operator, told the *Militant* on the picket line. Strikers said since the strike began, the company has backed away from demanding that workers contribute to their medical, dental and vision premiums, but refuse to raise their pay offer from less than 75 cents an hour in each year of the new contract.

This is the first walkout at the plant since 2007. Simpson Strong-Tie makes metal parts used in the building and construction industries.

Strikers have won broad support from workers in the area, as well as involving many workers' family members.

— Joel Britton

## Steelworkers in British Columbia strike Western Forest Products

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Some 2,600 loggers and sawmill workers who are members of United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 have been winning solidarity in their strike against Western Forest Products. The unionists, who walked out July 1, are fighting concessions demanded by the bosses including contracting out jobs, eliminating defined benefit pensions, a two-tier wage with different pay for new hires, and attacks on seniority rights.

"Our morale is high and we will never accept the concessions the company is demanding," Brian Butler, Local 1-1937 president, told the *Militant*. "It's about corporate greed." The company made over \$70 million in profits last year.

Picket lines have been going strong

in Nanaimo, Chemainus, Ladysmith, Port Alberni, Cowichan Bay, Campbell River and 15 logging operations across Vancouver Island.

Shortly after the strike began, the British Columbia Federation of Labour, representing 500,000 unionized workers, issued a "hot edict," which calls on affiliated union members to no longer handle any of the company's coastal lumber, log and wood products.

The 5,000 members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 400 in British Columbia are among those refusing to deal with the company.

— Ned Dmytryshyn

## Quebec Steelworkers on strike at Galvano plant win solidarity

SAINT-MATHIEU-DE-BELOEIL, Quebec — Chanting "15 years of concessions, enough with the humiliation" and "a 12-hour day, no way, it sickens us," some 60 workers rallied in support of United Steelworkers Local 9414 members on strike at the Galvano plating plant here Sept. 26. Supporters came from Montreal, the Monteregion, Becancour and as far as Sept-Iles.

The unionists have been on strike since July 9. They're fighting against the bosses' plan to impose mandatory 12-hour shifts. The plant currently operates on three 8-hour shifts Monday to Friday.

"We want to commend the strikers' courage to say enough is enough," said Eric Drolet, president of the United Steelworkers Local 9700 at ABI aluminum smelter in Becancour, told the rally. Workers there were locked out by the company for 18 months until reaching an agreement in July. Their local has pledged weekly financial contributions to the Galvano strikers.

Galvano is owned by the Chicago-based aerospace company Heico, which took control of the factory after the previous owners declared bankruptcy in 2004 and imposed concessions on pensions and health care coverage. The workers make galvanized copper parts and other products sold across the globe.



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Sheet Metal Workers Local 104 members picket Simpson Strong-Tie in Stockton, California, Sept. 23 in strike over company attacks on pensions, health care and wages.

Messages of solidarity and donations can be sent to Syndicat des Metallos Local 9414, Fonds greve Galvano, 946 Boulevard d'Iberville, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu J2X 4A7.

— Philippe Tessier

## Unionized university workers in Quebec strike for higher wages

MONTREAL — Unionized support workers at the University of Quebec at Montreal went on strike Sept. 3, the opening day of classes, to press their demand for higher wages. The 1,800 members of Union of UQAM Employees have been without a contract since May 2017. While the university administration didn't cancel classes, the registration and student life services offices, cafeterias, sports center, and the sciences and music libraries all shut down.

After a large demonstration supporting the strike Sept. 12, the unionists voted by 87 percent to accept a new offer from the university Sept. 19.

Both the Education and Sciences and the Human Sciences student associations voted to back the strike, with students joining the picket lines. Many classes had to be cancelled. "The University is nothing without us," said a sign carried by a striker.

After UQAM bosses presented its final offer July 3, the unionists voted 93 percent in favor of organizing protest actions, including five one-day strikes

to conclude by Sept. 9. But when that day came, the unionists voted by 73 percent to continue their strike for another five days because the wage offer "is still not sufficient."

Many workers expressed anger at the slow pace of negotiations. "As long as the offer is correct, we'll accept it, but we don't want to give them a blank check," striker Johanne Levesque told the *Militant* Sept. 9.

— Beverly Bernardo

## British Columbia aerospace workers fight Avcorp lockout

DELTA, British Columbia — The bosses at Avcorp Industries Inc. locked out 300 members of the International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 11 Sept. 16 here. For several weeks the workers had carried out rotating strikes against the concessions bosses demanded.

"The two main issues are contracting out and seniority retention," said a union news release. "In many cases, when IAM members at Avcorp are laid off, their recall rights expire and they must start again as new employees losing all wage levels and accrued benefits."

An agreement was reached Sept. 25 with workers returning to their jobs the following day.

"We showed the company that we became united," Doug Smith, a 22-year mechanic at Avcorp, told the *Militant*. "We got what we wanted on contracting out language."

Workers at Avcorp assemble aircraft structural parts for Boeing, Bombardier, Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems.

— Ned Dmytryshyn, member of IAM Local Lodge 11

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 17, 1994

DECATUR, Illinois — Striking and locked-out workers here have put out a call for solidarity with their struggles. October 15 is set for a march and rally backing the locked-out unionists at A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., members of the United Auto Workers on strike against Caterpillar Inc., and United Rubber Workers members on strike against the Bridgestone/Firestone company.

The action follows a series of company and local government attacks on the right of workers to freely assemble and express their views. An attempt by the Decatur City Council to enact a law requiring a 15-day advance application for a permit to hold a gathering on public property was turned back by the unionists and their supporters two weeks ago.

But the city fathers retaliated by convicting eight Staley workers on charges of "residential picketing" September 23.



October 17, 1969

NEW YORK — More than 125 women, medical personnel, attorneys, social workers, writers, clergy and others have joined as plaintiffs in a Federal Court action to declare the New York State abortion laws unconstitutional.

The complaint argues that the laws abridge the right of every woman to choose whether to bear children.

Patricia Grogan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan Councilman-At-Large, and one of the plaintiffs in the suit, told the press conference, "New York's medieval abortion laws are but one example of the kind of violence prevalent in American society and the kind of treatment accorded to women as second-class citizens. But just as women fought to obtain the right to vote, they are fighting to gain greater control over their lives. We are organizing to use our combined strength to gain our rights."



October 14, 1944

Continuing the Roosevelt administration's conspiracy in railroading 18 Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO leaders to prison under the infamous Smith 'Gag' Act, the President's Pardon Attorney announced that the appeals for a presidential pardon have been denied.

Like the Supreme Court which three times refused to review the convictions, Roosevelt is hiding behind a technicality to avoid direct responsibility for a decision in the most important case involving violation of labor and civil rights during this war, a case growing out of a deliberate frame-up prosecution directly initiated by Roosevelt himself.

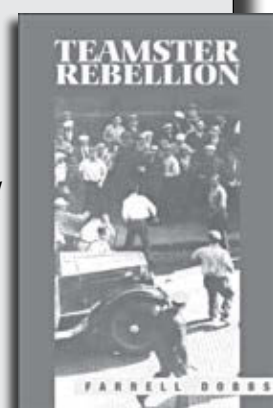
Appeals to free the 18 [were] sent to the White House by over 300 labor and progressive organizations. Roosevelt has brushed aside these demands of over 3,000,000 organized workers.

## Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs

The story of the strikes and organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement. \$16

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# Impeachment targets workers

**Continued from front page**  
can be indicted and imprisoned.

These moves are popular on the left of bourgeois politics. Michigan Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib is selling T-shirts to fund her 2020 re-election campaign that says, “Impeach the motherf-----.”

Liberals’ effort to criminalize their political differences with Trump go back before the 2016 election, when FBI boss James Comey tried and failed to swing the election for Hillary Clinton. Then the Justice Department set up Robert Mueller — another former FBI chief — as special counsel to push baseless claims that the president’s campaign had “colluded with Russia.”

Mueller’s team of FBI agents — a number of whom had to be let go because their political bias against Trump became public — utilized hundreds of search warrants, thousands of subpoenas and armed raids on the president’s associates, some of whom were indicted and imprisoned on unrelated charges. But, after three years and endless press hysteria, the liberals had to drop the “Russian influence” campaign against Trump.

## The Ukraine hysteria

Pelosi launched the impeachment inquiry, Sept. 24. She and the liberal media and late-night talk shows allege Trump used his office to get Zelensky to provide dirt on Joseph Biden, the front-runner in the Democratic primaries. Pelosi cited Trump’s request that Zelensky look into the firing of Viktor Shokin, the Ukrainian prosecutor general, who says he was fired at former Vice President Joe Biden’s insistence, because he was investigating Burisma Holdings Limited, a company where Biden’s son held a lucrative position.

Now if you want evidence of a U.S.

government official using his position to push Ukraine around, listen to Biden boast how he got Shokin fired. “I was supposed to announce that there was another billion dollars” coming to Ukraine, he told the Council on Foreign Relations in a 2018 talk posted on YouTube.

“I’m leaving in six hours,” Biden said he told then Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. “If the prosecutor is not fired, you’re not getting the money.

“Well, son of a bitch,” the ex-vice president says to laughter, “he got fired.”

All U.S. government officials — bar none — have used Washington’s economic weight to press other governments to do as they want. Trump is no better or worse.

## Liberals real target is working class

*New York Times* columnist and Trump-hater Charles Blow claims the meeting with Zelensky shows that “the Constitution is not a sufficient restraint on a lawless president.” He fears that a Democratic candidate defeating Trump in 2020 “is by no means a surety.” In an op-ed in the same paper, Will Wilkinson insists Trump “can’t be allowed to run for *any* public office, much less the presidency, ever again.”

Even though these liberal meritocrats insist the enormous perfidy of Trump is completely clear to all but a dullard, they also believe he can win the 2020 elections. They’re convinced working people — his “base” — are so racist, reactionary and backward that they’ll elect him again, and they have to be stopped.

The liberals and middle-class left see working people as a problem that needs to be suppressed. That’s why the impeachment inquiry has been launched. They want to prevent Democrats from having to go up against the president in 2020.

The 2016 elections showed the rulers’ two-party system is in crisis today.



“The U.S. rulers and their government have begun to *fear* the working class,” explains Socialist Workers Party leader Steve Clark in the introduction to *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record: Why Washington Fears Working People*. “Because they recognize that more and more working people are beginning to see that the bosses and their political parties have no ‘solutions’ that don’t further load the costs — monetary and human — of the crisis of *their* system onto *us*.” To defend their class privilege, they intend to attack the rights of working people because they just aren’t capable of making the “right” decision at the ballot box.

The anonymous CIA agent who the liberals insist on calling the “whistle-blower” maintains his or her identity must be kept secret, and admits that his or her accusations are entirely based on secondhand unattributed stories. But this violates the president’s basic constitutional right to confront his accuser.

The use of anonymous and unchallengeable “evidence” — and the rulers’ political police agencies, the FBI and CIA — to remove a president from office, would make it much easier for the government to use similar methods to

frame up working-class fighters — the rulers’ far more serious enemy.

The nameless CIA agent’s lawyer is Andrew Bakaj, a liberal who has worked for both Hillary Clinton and Sen. Chuck Schumer. Even the Justice Department Office of Legal Counsel, which recommended giving the transcript to Congress, said information it reviewed on the “source” showed “political bias on the part of the Complainant in favor of a rival political candidate.”

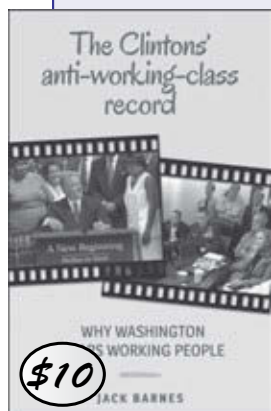
Some liberals fear the impeachment inquiry is misguided, and will only hand Trump the 2020 election. They note one fact — there is virtually no chance the Republican-dominated Senate will vote by two-thirds to oust the president.

For working people, three things are clear. First, the liberals are hell-bent to attack our rights, to suppress working people’s ability to practice politics. Two, they are out to strengthen the bosses’ political police in preparation for deeper attacks on labor and working-class struggles to come.

Third, working people need to organize and build their own independent political party to counter the capitalist rulers’ two-party system, and fight for political power.

## The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record Why Washington Fears Working People

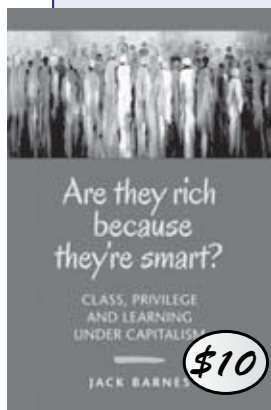
by Jack Barnes



“For the first time in decades, the U.S. rulers and their government have begun to fear the working class. They sense that mounting struggle — class struggle — lies ahead.”

## Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism

by Jack Barnes



“The meritocracy are mortified to be identified with working people. They fear someday being ruled by the ‘great mob’: the toiling and producing majority.”

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# Cop who killed Botham Jean found guilty of murder

**Continued from front page**

ardson, many from St. Lucia and from his alma mater, Harding University, in Arkansas.

Allison Jean, Botham’s mother, a former government official in St. Lucia, told the press she knew her son was a victim of murder “from the very start.”

After weeks of protests, Guyger was fired by the Dallas police. Initially arrested for manslaughter, she was released the same day. As protests continued, her case was taken before a grand jury, which changed the charge to murder.

The weeklong trial was accompanied by pro-cop-slanted coverage in area media, including the *Dallas Morning News*. The paper reported repeatedly on Guyger’s defense, that the shooting was just a “series of horrible mistakes.”

But the evidence showed Guyger should have been well aware that she wasn’t in her own apartment. Her key to the door didn’t work, and it turned out to be open; there was a red rug welcome mat that she didn’t have; and the apartment was carpeted, unlike hers. Jean was sitting on the couch watching TV. Guyger barged in and shot him two times in the chest.

There was no self-defense involved.

“Botham Jean was never a threat to Amber Guyger — never,” prosecutor Jason Hermus told the jury before they left to deliberate. They took only four hours to reach a verdict.

Many of those who had taken part in protests were in the courtroom when the verdict was announced.

## ‘Victory against police brutality’

“This is an important victory for all opponents of police brutality,” Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Dallas earlier this year and the party’s 2016 candidate for president, told the *Militant* while on a speaking tour in Georgia. Kennedy got the news of the conviction as she was attending the Atlanta murder trial of ex-DeKalb County cop Robert Olsen, who is charged with shooting Anthony Hill in 2015, killing him. There is no question Hill didn’t have a weapon — he was naked at the time.

“Cop shootings and brutality are aimed at intimidating the working class, and fall disproportionately on workers who are African American,” said Kennedy, who joined others outside the Dallas courthouse Sept. 27. “The Socialist Workers Party calls for all workers to join the fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capi-

talist ‘justice’ system, with its frame-ups, plea bargains, onerous bail and outrageous prison sentences.”

Opponents of police brutality lined up outside the courtroom to get a seat at Guyger’s trial. Others waited outside and watched the proceedings live on their cellphones. “It’s not right to be murdered for sitting at home in your living room minding your business,” Michelle Powell, a 29-year-old cosmetologist, told the *Militant* there Sept. 27. “It’s a shame the lengths the justice system will go to cover officers of the law, to protect them.”

Cops who do face charges of brutality or murder rarely get convicted. But in the last two years, three Dallas County cops have been convicted of murder. In addition to Guyger, Ken Johnson, an off-duty Farmers Branch cop, was convicted of murder in 2017 and sentenced to 10 years for killing 16-year-old Jose Cruz. The following year former Balch Springs cop Roy Oliver was convicted of murdering 15-year-old Jordan Edwards in 2018 and sentenced to 15 years.

These were the first convictions of cops for murder in the county since 1973, when Darrell Lee Cain was convicted in the notorious shooting death of 12-year-old Santos Rodriguez.



# Solidarity with GM strikers!

**Continued from front page**

plies and solidarity to the strikers.

More solidarity is needed in the face of GM's intransigence. The bosses claim they need more temps to compete with lower-paying nonunion auto companies like Honda and Volkswagen. They say they need more concessions to deal with cutthroat competition over coming production of electric and driverless cars. The UAW has called for beefed-up "Solidarity Sunday" picket lines until workers win a new contract.

"I started in 2006," 33-year-old Ismael Zuniga, president of UAW Local 2114, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent during a solidarity visit to the picket line at the GM parts plant here Sept. 25. "I didn't get hired on as a permanent employee until 2012 and I didn't get full wages until this year. So it took seven years after getting on as permanent to get my full wages. I don't want anyone else to go through the 13-year journey that I had to take."

Temporary employees get hired for \$15.78 per hour; for permanent "legacy" workers, top pay is \$31 per hour. The second tier tops out at \$29.90, Zuniga said.

"Temporary workers get no vacation. They get half the benefits of permanent employees. I don't want that for my brothers and sisters," Zuniga said. "GM has had four to five years of straight profits. Why can't that trickle down to us?" The company's after tax profit last year was \$8.1 billion.

At GM two-tier wages were imposed in 2007. It takes eight years for new hires to approach the pay scale of "legacy" workers. With a U.S. government bailout, the U.S. auto giant carried out a carefully crafted bankruptcy in 2009, imposing further concessions. The company dumped financially troubled divisions and the pensions and health care of workers there, while cobbling together a "new" GM around their most profitable brands.

Joe Fruggiero, a Walmart worker who lives in Woodridge, joined this correspondent on the picket line and delivered a solidarity card signed by 18 co-workers to the GM strikers.

"So while the CEOs and financiers are top priority, the workers get basically nothing," he told Zuniga.

## 'They make profits on our backs'

"Yes, the CEO of GM made \$22 million last year. They say they offer 'profit shares' but we don't want that. We want higher wages," said Zuniga. "It's on our backs that they make these profits."

There has been an outpouring of solidarity. The awning that shades picketers was donated by Chrysler workers in Belvedere. Stacks of donated food and water were piled up underneath.

UAW members from the John Deere agricultural implements plant in East Moline, members of the National Nurses Association, airline unions and the Teamsters have also stopped by. UPS drivers, organized by the Teamsters, refuse to cross the picket line.

The strikers are in high spirits because they see themselves as fighting not just for better wages and conditions for themselves, but for their fellow workers.

UAW officials say they are fighting for a "defined path" from temporary to permanent workers and to narrow the gap between tiers. Workers on the picket line don't want to wait. On the picket line at Spring Hill, Tennessee, GM worker Keisha Montgomery sported a T-shirt that said, "Equal work, equal pay! Temp lives matter." At many picket lines strikers hold signs saying, "No more tiers!"

## Solid strike makes bosses nervous

GM claims it needs to hire temp workers and keep wages low to be more "competitive" with its nonunion rivals. It's not only General Motors that is worried that the strike, if successful, will dent their "bottom line." After GM, the UAW will open negotiations with bosses at Ford and Fiat Chrysler, whose contracts have been temporarily extended.

A Sept. 29 article in *Automotive News*, which reflects the views of the auto barons, worries that "the longer the strike has dragged on, the more expectations have grown" among autoworkers. The article complained that "years of multibillion-dollar profits by the Detroit 3 stoked eagerness to reverse past concessions."

Bill Quigg, a leader of the fight to get a union at Volkswagen's plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, told *Business Insider* Sept. 25 that because of the strike workers there who up to now have been ambivalent toward joining

# Blackjewel miners end protest camp, fight goes on

**Continued from front page**

out of the Cloverlick No. 3 mine July 29, Sexton rushed to the tracks and put out a call to fellow miners. Chris Rowe, Chris Lewis, Dalton Lewis and Blake Watts came to reinforce him. Soon families, friends and other supporters from the surrounding area joined them. Retired union miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, stopped by. Individuals, unions, organizations, churches and small businesses gave moral and material support.

After two months, however, many miners have had to find other jobs or go to school to acquire new skills, and only a handful of miners and supporters were able to keep up the occupation 24/7.

Chris Rowe, who slept in a tent next to the tracks every night, has just bought a rig and started taking driving jobs to pay for it. His wife Stacy, another stalwart at the protest, will go with him. As they and others cleaned up the camp area they spoke with WYMT television reporters, who have given supportive and consistent coverage of their struggle.



Militant/Chris Hoepfner

Some 200 UAW strikers and union supporters rally at GM picket line in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, Sept. 28. Striking autoworkers have won widespread support from fellow working people.

the fight for a union are asking questions about strikes and what the union would do if it won representation.

Kristin Dziczek from the Center for Automotive Research told the *Militant* that just 27 of the 57 assembly plants in the U.S. are union — making barely 50% of all cars produced in the U.S.

In 2000 just 17% of cars manufactured in the United States were assembled nonunion — by companies such as Toyota, Hyundai and Volkswagen — which pay about one-third less to permanent workers than unionized Big Three auto companies.

## Broad solidarity

Three workers from Lincoln, Nebraska, joined the UAW Local 31 picket lines at the GM Fairfax plant, in Kansas City, Kansas, Sept. 28. The plant's 2,000 UAW members produce the Chevrolet Malibu sedan and the Cadillac XT4 crossover SUV.

One of the workers from Lincoln, railroad conductor Lance Anton, a member of SMART-TD Local 305, had collected signatures on a support letter from 115 of his co-workers, including members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

Railroad union members "stand with you in solidarity in your effort for a con-

tract that UAW members can support," the letter said. Anton said he encouraged rail crew members that make runs to Kansas City to join the picket line when they're off duty.

"My union will soon be organizing for our national contract and we might need your help," Anton told strikers. "If you all can get a contract you can support, that will help us."

Jared Hayes, an electrician in training in Lincoln, like Anton, had never been on a labor strike picket line before. "Walking the picket line was inspiring to participate firsthand to see workers standing up for themselves," Hayes said.

Workers toiling as lower paid temps, working side by side with regular workers, are increasingly common in industry worldwide.

Maintenance worker Otis Bulloch was one of a couple Walmart workers who went to the picket line at a small GM parts warehouse in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. "I was a temp for two years at a steel plant," he said, "even though it was supposed to be only 90 days. It's a just fight to make temps permanent."

Joe Swanson in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Chris Hoepfner in Philadelphia contributed to this article.

## In Defense of the US Working Class by Mary-Alice Waters



\$5

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# Castro: Coup opened door to US invasion of Grenada

Fidel Castro: Nothing Can Stop the Course of History, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October, is a wide-ranging interview by Jeffrey M. Elliot and Mervyn M. Dymally with the central leader of the Cuban Revolution. The excerpts are from a discussion on Grenada. Maurice Bishop led the 1979 Grenadian Revolution as workers and peasants took power into their own hands. The Cuban government viewed Bishop's leadership, and the revolution on this small English-speaking Caribbean island, as a powerful reinforcement. In October 1983, the workers and farmers government there was overthrown. Bishop and others were murdered in a Stalinist coup led by Bernard Coard that paved the way for a U.S. military invasion the following week. Copyright © 1986. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

MERVYN M. DYMALLY: Let's shift to Grenada. How do you explain the failure of the socialist revolution in Grenada? Was failure inevitable?

FIDEL CASTRO: In effect, what was taking place in Grenada was not a socialist revolution, but a process of social changes. I believe that the basic factor that opened the door — that served the United States a pretext on



Maurice Bishop, left, and Fidel Castro at Havana May Day rally, 1980. Castro said workers and farmers governments in Grenada and Nicaragua joined Cuba as “three giants rising up to defend their independence, sovereignty and justice on the very threshold of imperialism.”

a silver platter for invading that country, at a lower political price — were the activities of an ambitious and extremist sectarian group. In my view, the main responsibility for the domestic situation created there lies with [Bernard] Coard. An alleged theoretician of the revolution who had been a professor of Marxism in Jamaica, he profited from his reputation as a theoretically well-prepared man and used his reputation as a theoretician to promote his personal ambitions and conspire against Bishop. ...

[I]t is not impossible for the disease of extremism to take hold of some people; this often occurs even among petty-bourgeois elements who draw up utopias and try to put them into practice. Unfortunately, there have also been cases of extremism in other revolutionary processes. In Grenada, however, I don't believe it was an extremist policy on Coard's part. Rather, I think, personal ambition was Coard's basic motivation and what really confused many people in whom he inculcated extremist ideas from supposedly revolutionary positions, as a means of gaining support. In the name of the purity of Marxist-Leninist principles, he portrayed Bishop as a man insufficiently prepared to lead the country. Very subtly, he did it very subtly. He worked in the rank and file of the party, the armed forces, the Ministry of the Interior — always presenting himself as

an apostle of the purity of ideas — and astutely, little by little, he created the image of a vacillating, reformist Bishop. Thus, he confused many people of good faith in the revolutionary ranks.

Bishop had great popular support and was well liked by the population. But Coard and his group — who belonged to one of the organizations that joined with Bishop to form the New Jewel Movement — didn't work with the masses. That is, the Coard group didn't work with the masses; it worked among the party members — who were a small group of about 200 — and with the cadres of the army and the Ministry of the Interior. This fifth column, this undermining of Bishop's authority, coalesced at a moment when Bishop — though he had the support of the immense majority of the people — lost the majority within the party, both in the Central Committee and among the membership. This was the fruit of the conspiracy led by Coard and his group. It explains the senseless and mad step of arresting Bishop and, even worse, of firing upon the people and assassinating Bishop. It was that unfortunate event that made it possible for the Reagan administration to perpetrate the cynical and opportunistic invasion of the country.

If Bishop had been alive leading the people, it would have been very difficult for the United States to orchestrate the political aspects of its intervention

and bring together that group of Caribbean stooges in a so-called coalition that didn't include a single policeman from the Caribbean — it was exclusively U.S. soldiers. In short, Coard and his group served the United States, on a silver platter, ideal conditions for the invasion of Grenada.

Naturally, they were not going to be met with the people's resistance, for the simple reason that the people were outraged, traumatized by the attitude of this group that had fired upon the people and assassinated Bishop. Thus, a divorce took place; those involved in the coup gathered the weapons of the militia. They disarmed the militia on various pretexts, precisely for fear of the people after what they had done. ...

The government could not have endured. We wouldn't have offered any support to that government after it murdered Bishop and fired on the people. After we had assumed that attitude, it would have been difficult for any other socialist or progressive country to support that group, because Bishop actually had great authority and great international prestige. He had attended numerous meetings of the Commonwealth, the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, and the United Nations. The whole world thought highly of Bishop; that Pol Pot-type group that murdered him would never have been forgiven. ...

We fully endorsed Bishop's policies, because they were realistic. They weren't extremist policies. They were based upon the country's situation and its level of development, and they were working for the people's well-being, for Grenada's development. I think the airport would have meant great economic progress for them. Grenada was receiving different kinds of assistance to develop its energy networks, roads, infrastructure, and agricultural production.

Bishop had a program, but not a socialist program — nor could he have had a socialist program. Rather, it was a program for social justice and for the country's development. Bishop implemented an agrarian reform, but he didn't nationalize the hotels. A country that lived on tourism, did not even have its own currency, and had no industries, could not rush headlong into drastic social changes. Bishop was implementing a rational, intelligent program and was really making progress.

**October BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

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# Working people need their own party

As growing evidence points to a slowdown in the world capitalist economy, no ruling class around the world has any solution to defending their profits and national interests other than through currency, trade and military conflicts — and above all offloading their system’s crisis onto the backs of working people.

Workers also face the consequences of the factional clashes between the bosses’ parties. The target of liberals in both the U.S. and U.K., who are criminalizing the political differences of their rivals, are the millions of workers who voted for the U.K. to get out of the protectionist European Union, or who cast their ballot for Donald Trump seeking to “clean the swamp” in Washington. Liberals think workers are too ignorant and bigoted to be allowed to make such decisions. They are determined to overturn those votes.

But workers today are neither reactionary nor stupid. They are searching for a course to fight against the attacks of the bosses and their government.

Workers look to organize together to resist the bosses’ attempts to profit off our backs. Such struggles are bred by the very workings of capitalism — from the strike by autoworkers against GM bosses, to the fight for dignity and national rights waged by the people of West Papua against Indonesian authorities and the fight of millions for political rights in Hong Kong.

Bosses and their governments count on keeping

working people from gaining confidence in ourselves and on fostering divisions to pit us against each other. But as workers fight together to change the conditions we face, we also change ourselves. We learn our self-worth and begin to *act* on our capacities as a *class*. And fighting workers begin discussing how to use our numbers and union power to defend *all* those exploited and oppressed by capitalism.

As long as the capitalist class holds state power, the workings of their system guarantees they will endure and we will pay. What the working class requires is a party with a program and strategy for the conquest of power by our class and its allies.

The struggle to build such a party “does not arise spontaneously” and “is impossible without the generalization of lessons of working-class battles — not in any single factory or industry, not in any single country, nor at any given moment,” explains the Socialist Workers Party resolution “Their Transformation and Ours,” published in *New Internationalist* no. 12.

The Socialist Workers Party is launching a nine-week campaign to win new readers — on strike picket lines, at social protests and door to door in working-class neighborhoods — to the *Militant* and books that explain the lessons won in blood from past revolutionary battles. And to raise \$100,000 to finance the ongoing work of the SWP. Join us!

## Crisis of imperialist world ‘order’ deepens

Continued from front page

spending and business investment is slowing.

Trade tensions and rising tariff barriers are adding to the cooling global economy. This has raised capitalist investors’ fears that the next economic crisis is near and they’re scurrying to find safer bets for investment.

This deepening capitalist crisis and heightened competition is fueling the disintegration of the old imperialist global order put in place after Washington’s bloody victory in the second imperialist world slaughter. The U.S. rulers remain by far the dominant capitalist power, despite clear signs of their decline.

The veneer of a “rules-based” world order and relatively stable multilateral institutions marked earlier decades of Washington’s era — like the U.N., which gave its sponsorship to the U.S. rulers’ war in Korea, the World Trade Organization and others.

This facade is being pulled apart at the seams. The imperialist competitors’ problems are being foisted on working people at home and in the semicolonial world.

The growing rivalry between the rising Chinese capitalist class and the U.S. ruling families has accelerated over the past decade of protracted crisis. This strategic conflict over which ruling class will come out on top in the 21st century is over the division and redivision of the spoils from plundering the earth’s resources and the wealth produced by workers and farmers worldwide.

“No force can stop the Chinese people and the Chinese nation from forging ahead,” Chinese President Xi Jinping said at the parade celebrating 70 years since the founding of the People’s Republic Oct. 1. That same day, cops and thugs backed by Beijing were assaulting protesters for political rights in Hong Kong, shooting one.

The global capitalist economy is now the most interdependent — and the most overleveraged — it has ever been. The international debt mountain has more than doubled from a high of \$116 trillion in 2007 before the global financial crisis to \$244 trillion today. During the same time, the global total of gross domestic products has grown by only half from \$58 trillion to \$85 trillion. With growing idled productive capacity, deflationary pressures are increasing.

The European Union is being torn apart from

within by competing national interests of the rulers and from without by the polarizing rivalry between Beijing and Washington. In May, German Chancellor Angela Merkel — who is on the way out as chief executive officer of German capital — acknowledged that “the old certainties of the postwar order” are over. One of the central problems facing the German rulers is they have only a fifth-rate military, having relied on Washington for decades for defense. The same is true of all the European ruling classes.

### Threat of a ‘currency war’

“Threats to European integration are mounting,” was the headline of an article by Wolfgang Munchau in the Aug. 11 *Financial Times*. He noted the bloc of capitalist powers called the European Union now faces “an economic downturn, a global currency war, a technology shock in the car sector, possibly a no-deal Brexit and an Italian government crisis.”

Munchau warns the capitalist rulers in Europe risk “a vicious circle during the next downturn or financial crisis” with already low interest rates. The Italian government, he notes, is threatening to free itself from EU fiscal rules and to set up a parallel currency, which it could devalue more freely. Manchau suggests that the economic argument for integration has been weakened, perhaps mortally, “after the devastating experience of austerity in southern Europe.”

And he says the “real threat to European integration” will come “from the EU’s voters.” From workers in the U.K. who voted overwhelmingly to get out of the EU to this year’s yellow vest protests in France, the rulers’ fears of the working class are growing.

On top of growing tariff disputes, there now is a much more serious threat of an all-out currency war. On June 18, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi announced that the ECB was prepared to cut interest rates and restart bond buying as an economic stimulus weapon aimed at the U.S. dollar in hopes of seizing more of the world market.

Draghi’s remarks were challenged by President Donald Trump as “immediately drop[ping] the Euro against the Dollar, making it easier to compete against the U.S.A. They have been getting away with this for years, along with China and others.” The threat to respond in kind, and more, was clear. Effects of a spiraling currency battle would reverberate worldwide.

Working people will pay the piper whichever country’s capitalist class claws its way to the top. The only alternative for working people is to unite and fight for their own independent class interests, to build a revolutionary leadership capable of replacing today’s dictatorship of capital with workers power.

# Oberlin College keeps up drive to crush the Gibsons

BY SETH GALINSKY

Despite a unanimous jury verdict finding Oberlin College and Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo guilty of libeling father and son Allyn W. and David Gibson, and their bakery, as racist, officials of the liberal arts school continue to go after the family and its store. The college is preparing to appeal the June 7 verdict and the \$31.5 million damages awarded the Gibsons and their lawyers.

Oberlin College — one of the 20 most expensive universities in the country and the largest employer in the small Ohio town — is used to getting its way.

College President Carmen Twillie Ambar and other officials have toured the country, seeking media coverage of their slanders, claiming the school and the students’ “free speech” are the victims, not the Gibsons. Their disdain and class prejudice against working people and small business owners in the area shine through.

In its latest attempt at undermining the verdict and driving Gibson’s bakery and market out of business, the college filed a post-trial motion Aug. 28 to unseal and make public personal Facebook postings by Allyn D. Gibson, the son of David Gibson. Allyn D., who wasn’t a party in the suit, was the store clerk on duty who caught an Oberlin College student shoplifting.

The Gibsons’ lawsuit stems from that November 2016 incident, when three students who are Black were involved in an attempt to steal wine from the store. There is a long history of student shoplifting in the town, acknowledged and joked about in the student newspaper. Allyn D. Gibson followed the students out and attempted to stop them until police could arrive. By the time the cops showed up, the three had young Allyn D. on the ground and were beating him. They were arrested.

Over the next two days, Raimondo encouraged and organized students — giving them use of college facilities and resources and offering class credits — to protest outside the bakery. She joined in handing out flyers calling for a boycott. The flyer falsely claimed that Gibson’s is “a RACIST establishment with a LONG ACCOUNT OF RACIAL PROFILING and DISCRIMINATION.”

The university canceled Gibson’s contract to provide baked goods to the campus dining hall and carried out other actions aimed at exacting maximum economic harm on the family.

The three students later pled guilty and issued statements that there was no racial bias involved in their case.

Gibson’s lawyers opposed the college’s new motion. “Unhappy with the jury’s verdict, Defendants now seek to exploit these materials,” they explained, “in a further effort to harass and smear the Gibson family.”

“They should not be permitted to do so,” the lawyers said.

Lorain County Judge John Miraldi agreed, denying the college’s motion Sept. 18, noting that Oberlin College “made no attempt to introduce these materials as evidence of the Bakery’s reputation in the community” during the trial.

Oberlin College officials try to paint the verdict by a jury drawn from Lorain County as an attack on students’ free speech and right to protest. They blame it on “prejudice” by area workers. But the lawsuit wasn’t directed at the students at all, let alone their right to protest. It was aimed at the malicious *actions* of college officials, who helped organize the protests and promoted the slanders of racism against the Gibsons.

Emails entered as evidence during the trial showed that Raimondo threatened “unleashing the students” on a professor who said that college officials were making a mistake in slandering the Gibsons.

An FAQ featured on the college’s official website continues to insinuate that Gibson’s is racist, violent and at fault for the 2016 incident.

Before they filed their lawsuit, the Gibsons asked the college to make a simple statement of fact that the business has never conducted racial profiling. The college refuses to this day.

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