

## Support the Asarco miners strike against union busting

BY ELLIE GARCIA

“People need to know what we are fighting for,” Alex Terrazas, a worker at the Mission Mine and president of United Steelworkers Local 937 told this *Militant* worker-correspondent Jan. 7. “Asarco is a multibillion dollar corporation. They’re taking from our families; we’re fighting for our families.”

Some 1,700 workers at the Mission Mine and three other Asarco complexes in Arizona, and at its refinery in Amarillo, Texas, have been on strike since Oct. 13.

In what workers call an “insult,” Asarco’s “last, best and final offer” — which the company said it put into effect Dec. 2 after the strike had been going for almost two months — included a wage freeze for three-quarters of the workers, a freeze in pensions, doubling or tripling health insurance costs and the gutting of union protections, which are essential for fighting for safety on the job.

Most workers haven’t had a wage

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## SWP advances working-class fight to bring troops home

BY JANET POST

The Socialist Workers Party calls for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of all U.S. troops from the Middle East,” Ned Measel, a member of the party in Louisville, Kentucky, told a rally of 50 people there Jan. 4. “The U.S. government has tens of thousands of troops in the Mideast and is sending more. We should say, ‘Out now!’”

“We have to speak out against this act of aggression,” said Steven Gardiner, representing Veterans for Peace, which organized the action to protest Washington’s Jan. 2 airstrike in Iraq, killing Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani and Tehran-backed Iraqi military leaders.

SWP candidates and campaign supporters joined and built protests against U.S. military intervention in the Mideast Jan. 4 and 5. Actions took place in over 70 cities across the country and were organized by a number of anti-war organizations.

Speaking out against Washington’s foreign policy, which defends the class

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## US hands off Iran, Iraq! Get out of the Mideast!



Militant/Dan Fein

Jan. 4 Chicago protest, one of over 70 in U.S. demanding Washington get out of Middle East.

### Protests hit cold-blooded murder of Iranian general

BY TERRY EVANS

Tens of thousands have joined demonstrations across the U.S. and around the world against Washington’s cold-blooded Jan. 2 killing of Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Quds Force, demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops and weaponry from the Middle East. More are planned.

Over the last week, the U.S. government has escalated its forces in the Mid-

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### ‘For immediate withdrawal of US troops from Mideast’

The following statement was issued Jan. 3 by Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois.

## SWP STATEMENT

The Socialist Workers Party condemns Washington’s assassination of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani; Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis,

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## Why fight against Jew-hatred is a key question for working class



Militant/Mike Shur

Thousands march from Manhattan to Brooklyn Jan. 5 to protest series of attacks on Jews.

BY SETH GALINSKY  
AND LEA SHERMAN

NEW YORK — Some 25,000 people marched here against anti-Semitism Jan. 5. The large turnout

## AS I SEE IT

on short notice reflects the growing interest in finding ways to stand up to anti-Semitism.

Members and supporters of the

Socialist Workers Party joined the march, called in response to the Dec. 10 attack on the Jersey City Kosher Supermarket that killed Leah Mindel Ferencz, Moshe Deutsch and Douglas Miguel Rodríguez; the Dec. 28 machete attack on a Hanukkah celebration in Monsey, New York, and a spate of other assaults on Jews in Brooklyn.

There were a wide variety of opinions from marchers. Where does Jew-hatred come from? What purpose

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## Impeachment drive targets workers who just ‘don’t vote the right way’

BY TERRY EVANS

Claiming high crimes and misdemeanors were committed, the Democratic Party leadership in the House shepherded their caucus to adopt articles of impeachment in a

completely partisan vote Dec. 18, seeking to oust sitting President Donald Trump less than a year before the 2020 presidential election. But since then, they’ve decided to sit on the indictment for over three weeks rather than — as the Constitution requires — submit it to the Senate for trial.

Continued on page 4

## Indiana prisoner challenges ban on ‘Militant,’ other political papers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

“Officials here at the Pendleton Correctional Facility have banned the last 4 issues of your paper, issues nos. 43, 44, 45 and 46,” inmate subscriber Kevin “Rashid” Johnson wrote the *Militant* Dec. 27. The Indiana Department of Correction, in violation of its own rules, never informed the paper about the impoundments or gave any reasons for them.

“I know that you all generally chal-

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# NY Red Squad videos point to ongoing gov’t spy operations

BY JOHN STUDER  
AND SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — On Dec. 3 the Gothamist, an internet news site run by New York Public Radio, published an article with the headline, “These Videos Shouldn’t Exist”: Hours of Old NYPD Surveillance Films of Protests Have Been Digitized.”

The article refers to more than 2,000 videos filmed by the New York City Police Department’s Red Squad between 1960 and 1980 as part of its spy operations against political and union groups and social struggles. Over the past year the city government has posted the newly digitized videos — some 140 hours worth — to its Municipal Archives website for anyone to access, with no agreement from those who were spied on.

By posting the videos — the city calls them “fascinating glimpses of the recent past” — the archives is glossing over the real story, the Red Squad’s targeting of hundreds of groups and individuals on the pretext that they were “potential security threats.” And the city’s political police’s primary goal was not to “monitor,” but to disrupt.

The Gothamist notes that the massive surveillance took place before newer spying devices like police “body cams, or LinkNYC kiosks or fake cellphone towers” existed. Today’s city political police have available feeds from at least 9,000 surveillance cameras in the city.

Among the Red Squad’s targets during those two decades: the Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Malcolm X, Black rights groups, women’s rights groups, supporters of independence for Puerto Rico, prisoners’ rights

groups, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. Other targets included the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union, the Seafarers International Union, opponents of the U.S. war in Vietnam and Irish Republican supporters.

In 1973 the SWP filed a federal lawsuit against the FBI and other government agencies for decades of spying, burglaries, wiretaps, use of undercover informers and disruption, including a counterintelligence program that specially targeted the SWP, under Democratic and Republican administrations alike. The party helped organize the Political Rights Defense Fund, which carried out a broad political campaign to back the suit and expose and push back the government’s anti-working-class domestic political police operations.

In the course of the nearly 15-year fight, the party brought to light that the FBI had gathered more than 30,000 days of wiretaps or “bugs” between 1943 and 1963, carried out at least 208 burglaries of SWP offices and members’ homes, and stole or photographed nearly 10,000 documents. And from 1960 to 1976 alone, the government used 1,300 informants inside and outside the party.

### Cops disrupt workers’ movement

This was not simply an information “gathering” operation. The FBI used the information to get SWP members evicted from their apartments and fired from jobs. It wrote “poison pen” letters full of vitriol and lies aimed at creating divisions within the party and with groups the party worked with in the Black movement and other struggles. And it did the same to numerous other groups.



Militant/Harry Ring

U.S. rulers’ political police, FBI and cop agencies, have spied on, disrupted labor battles, Black rights struggle and political protests, like 1967 national march against U.S. Vietnam War, above.

While the political police tactics succeeded in disrupting and breaking many organizations, it failed miserably on the Socialist Workers Party. That’s because of the party’s program and integrity. Party members openly and proudly defend their communist program. They say the same thing in private that they say in public. The party is part of the working-class vanguard, not a sect trying to impose a schema on workers and farmers.

That’s why despite years of spying the FBI could not find one illegal act committed by the party, while the FBI itself had committed thousands of illegal acts in efforts to smear and disrupt the SWP.

In 1986 Judge Thomas Griesa ruled in favor of the party. He found that the its constitutional rights had been violated. He awarded the party over \$650,000 in damages and attorneys fees. And the party fought for and won an injunction that not only said the FBI’s files could no longer be accessed by the government but also protected the privacy rights of those names in them.

The party’s lawsuit and political fight was at the cutting edge of battles in a number of cities, including New York, to curtail cop red squad spy and disruption operations.

### More than a million spy files

In New York in 1971 victims of city police spying, harassment and disruption activities brought a class-action lawsuit against the Red Squad, known

as the Handschu case, named after one of the plaintiffs. The Red Squad had maintained files on more than 1 million individuals and organizations! A similar lawsuit was filed in Chicago in 1975.

But agreements reached in those lawsuits undercut the fight against the political police instead of advancing it.

In New York, despite a challenge from the Socialist Workers Party and other victims of the political police, the court imposed a settlement — backed by the New York Civil Liberties Union and some other liberal groups — pretending to reel in the Red Squad.

But in reality the settlement gives the cops the right to investigate any group it says is “engaged in, about to engage in or has threatened to engage in conduct which constitutes a crime.” And to hang on to the spy files they gathered. The newly digitized videos are just one part of those files. All supposedly monitored by an “independent” three-person board — composed of one “civilian” and two police commissioners! Business as usual with a little extra red tape.

The New York Red Squad has been around since 1904, when it was called the Italian and then the Anarchist Squad. It has gone through many name changes since then. Today the NYPD has at least two red squads — the Intelligence Bureau and the Counterterrorism Bureau. As the class struggle in the U.S. heats up, working-class fighters should be under no illusions. The political police have not gone away.

# THE MILITANT

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*Only in the ‘Militant’ can a class explanation of recent British politics, elections be found. Working-class vote in 2016, 2019 for UK to leave EU has driven politics there. Many workers abandoned Labour, voting Tory for first time, deepening crisis of bosses’ capitalist rule.*

Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Rail workers picket Waterloo station for jobs, safety during December strike in London.

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# Fight to bring US troops home

Continued from front page

interests of the U.S. rulers abroad, is a crucial part of the working-class course advanced by the SWP candidates.

In addition to participating in actions demanding U.S. withdrawal from the Middle East, SWP members also raised this discussion with fellow workers on their doorsteps as well as among co-workers on the job. They introduced the *Militant*, books on revolutionary politics and the party's statement "For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel."

Supporters of Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, campaigned in Stephenville where they talked with Jordan Carpenter, who works at McDonald's. The SWP "is for building a labor party," SWP member Hilda Cuzco explained, and for getting all U.S. troops out of the Mideast. Carpenter replied, "The Democratic Party is the reason why there is no labor party. Are you an independent party?"

SWP member George Chalmers explained that working people did need to organize independently of the Democrats and Republicans. "The way we're going to change things is through building a powerful working-class movement that fights to take power." Carpenter got a copy of the *Militant* and asked the SWP campaigners to call back.

Naomi Craine, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, reports that she and campaign supporters knocked on doors in Stone Park, near Chicago. "We met one guy who said he, his wife and daughter had been debating the U.S. military action. He got a copy of the *Militant* and the supplement "Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran" by SWP leader Steve Clark. The supplement explains that rising unrest among working people in Iran is rooted in opposition to the bitter toll of the Iranian rulers' military intervention across the Mideast.

Craine's statement for the party, "U.S. hands off Iran and Iraq" — printed in this issue — is being used by party members and supporters across the country.

"The SWP says, 'U.S. troops out of Afghanistan, Korea and the Middle East. End U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico,'" party member John Benson told some 200 people at a protest in Atlanta. "The road to end imperialist war as well as the war against working people here is to break with the capitalist two-party system, both the Democrats and the Republicans, from Trump to Sanders."

Some 500 joined a New York demonstration Jan. 4. "One student at the action told me that he was shocked to see another participant carrying a sign that portrayed Soleimani as a hero," SWP member Seth Galinsky reported.

"He told me, 'I'm totally opposed to the U.S. assassinating him. But he was not a good guy.'"

Galinsky agreed. "We don't need to pretend the Iranian government is a friend of working people to oppose U.S. intervention and assassinations."

SWP members built and joined a march and rally of 2,000 people in San Francisco and actions of hundreds in Chicago, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Seattle. Socialist campaigners report widespread interest among many attending the action in the party's campaigns, including issues of the *Militant* and books on revolutionary politics.

Some 100 people joined a protest in Albany, New York, Jan. 5, reports Jacob Perasso. "I came to the protest because I wanted to tell people that this was an imperialist action," restaurant worker Lee Ferrini told Perasso. "It's the people of Iran who are going to feel the brunt of this." Ferrini picked up a couple of books by SWP leaders.



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Protest in New York Jan. 4, part of national weekend of demonstrations calling for "U.S. out of the Middle East." SWP supporters joined in, advancing working-class road forward.

Two *Militant* subscriptions, several copies of the paper and the books *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon and two copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Pow-*

*er* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes were bought by participants at an anti-war rally of 100 in Montreal, from members and supporters of the Communist League there.

## Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

*As the Socialist Workers Party prepares to launch its 2020 campaign for president and vice president, the party has begun announcing a series of candidates for federal and state offices across the country (see page 3).*

*This is the SWP's fighting campaign platform to confront the economic, social and moral crisis caused by capitalism:*

**UNIONS/FOR A LABOR PARTY** Support workers' struggles to organize to defend themselves, to use union power on behalf of ourselves and all working people. Workers need their own party, a labor party. *One* union for *all* drivers — taxi, Uber, Lyft, other app-based and car service drivers! Support farmworkers in their fight to organize unions and for safe working conditions.

**AMNESTY FOR ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS** in the US, a life-and-death question for the unions to unite workers and cut across divisions the bosses use to drive down wages. For access to driver's licenses for all.

**JOBS** Fight for a federal government-financed public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages building roads, bridges, hospitals, child care centers, mass transportation and quality affordable housing workers need. Set the minimum wage to allow workers to have a home and support a family.

**OPPOSE WASHINGTON'S WARS** US hands off Iran, Venezuela and Cuba. US troops out of Afghanistan, Korea, the Middle East. End US colo-

nial rule in Puerto Rico.

**CUBA'S REVOLUTION — AN EXAMPLE** End the US rulers' economic war against Cuba; US out of Guantánamo. The Cuban Revolution in 1959 showed it is possible for workers and farmers to transform themselves in struggle, to take political power and uproot capitalist exploitation.

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

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

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

**WORKERS CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION & SAFETY** Capitalism's profit drive is the despoiler of nature and cause of unsafe working conditions. Workers and our unions must fight for workers control over production and safety in the factories, mines, railroads and all energy monopolies to protect those on the job and in nearby communities, and to control emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases to prevent the poisoning of the air, water and soil. Workers control over production to prevent disasters like the Boeing 737 MAX.

**"JUSTICE" SYSTEM** Fight against police brutality, racist discrimination and the entire capitalist injustice system

with its frame-ups, "plea bargains," onerous bail and outrageous prison sentences, all of which disproportionately hit workers who are Black. For the right to vote for ex-prisoners and all workers behind bars.

**POLITICAL RIGHTS** Defend democratic rights — the right to vote, to free speech and assembly and to bear arms, under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike. Stop FBI and other government spying, harassment and disruption.

**PRISONER RIGHTS** End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

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

*Working people must organize and act independent of the ruling capitalists and break from their political parties — the Democrats and Republicans. For a labor party and a movement of millions to fight for these demands along a course to replace the rule of the exploitative capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.*

*Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!*

## The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party

Explains the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name "revolutionary" in the imperialist epoch.

The only kind of party that can recognize the most revolutionary fact of this epoch — the worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organize and act against the capitalist class in all its economic, social, and political forms.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the world.

— Jack Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

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

*The Turn to Industry*  
Forging a  
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# New York meeting celebrates 61 years of Cuban Revolution

BY WILLIE COTTON

NEW YORK — A festive reception with food and music brought together some 80 people here Jan. 5 to celebrate the 61st anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. The Cuban people overthrew the U.S.-backed Fulgencio Batista dictatorship in January 1959, opening the road for workers and farmers to begin building a new society in Cuba.

“The foundation of all the revolution’s gains is the transformation of the men and women of Cuba who made the revolution,” said Steve Clark, who spoke for the Socialist Workers Party. “Advances that only a consciously organized and led socialist revolution can achieve.”

He pointed to what the Cuban Revolution demonstrated in “life and in struggle” to revolutionary-minded workers and youth in the U.S. and worldwide — that U.S. imperialism is not invincible. “We are guided by the conviction that, as Fidel Castro said in 1961, ‘a victorious revolution will be seen in the United States, before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba,’” said Clark.

He urged everyone to help make the May Day brigade to Cuba — which offers the opportunity to learn about the revolution firsthand — a success.

The celebration was sponsored by the SWP in New York and Northern New Jersey. Present were representatives of the Cuban Mission to the U.N. and their families; activists with the New York/New Jersey Cuba Sí Coalition; party members and supporters; and others. Many participants had marched in two actions over the weekend, one calling for Washington to get out of the Middle East and the other in response to anti-Semitic attacks across the U.S.

Ambassador Humberto Rivero thanked those present for their continued support to the revolution and for opposing the U.S. economic war against Cuba. We are determined to continue resisting, he said, in the tradition of struggle of our national hero José Martí, our commander Fidel Castro, and Army General Raúl Castro passed on to current President Miguel Díaz-Canel and today’s generations.

The event also celebrated the publication of two new books by Pathfinder Press, *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa* by Cuban journalist Enrique Ubieta, and *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. The latter is about the course the SWP has followed in building a revolutionary party rooted in the working class, and “efforts by working people in

the U.S. to emulate what workers and farmers in Cuba have done,” Clark said.

*Red Zone* is a timely addition to Pathfinder’s arsenal of books and pamphlets that tell the truth about the Cuban Revolution, said Róger Calero, an SWP leader. The book is an account of the role of Cuba and its internationalist medical mission in beating back the deadly Ebola epidemic in West Africa. “It’s an answer to Washington’s slander campaign against Cuba’s medical collaboration around the world,” he said.

Greetings were also given by David Quedraogo, on behalf of the organization Stand for Life and Liberty.



Militant/Mike Shur

Humberto Rivero, Cuban ambassador to U.N., foreground, and SWP leader Steve Clark, inset, spoke at Jan. 5 New York reception celebrating accomplishments, example of Cuban Revolution.

## ‘Impeach’ drive targets workers who ‘don’t vote right’

Continued from front page

Whatever they say, they know the Senate would vote to clear him of any wrongdoing.

Since the day Donald Trump was elected, the liberals have teamed up with former FBI political police bosses, like James Comey and Robert Mueller, to set up “independent” investigations in an effort to get something on him. Each charge raised with fanfare — like collusion with Moscow — has come apart and been discarded, just to latch on a new one, just as fruitlessly.

They fear this moment, because almost all of the Democrats and their cheerleaders in the liberal press are convinced Trump would likely win in November if they can’t bring him down before then.

Some argue the House, which they control, should just keep their impeachment so-called inquiry open. “Never send over the articles,” Jennifer Rubin recommends in the Dec 16 *Washington Post*. Just let them sit in the House as a “permanent stain on Trump’s presidency,” she writes.

Others argue for keeping the inquiry open like a permanent grand jury-type inquisition, constantly digging around for new evidence or new charges. After all, they might finally hit on something they could use to prevent the president from running again this November.

All of this is a mockery of the Constitution as well as guarantees in the Bill of Rights crucial for working people — the presumption of innocence and the right to confront your accusers in a court of law, to name a few. Instead, the kinds of frame-up methods commonly used against workers in the capitalist “justice” system are being used by the Democrats

against a rival capitalist politician, who was elected to the presidency.

Now Republican Sen. Josh Hawley is pressing the Senate to dismiss the allegations on Jan. 12, 25 days after they were adopted, “for failure to prosecute.” Others push for the Senate to just set up its own trial on the charges and reject them.

### Target is the working class

Democrats are trying to find ways to prevent those that voted for Trump in 2016 or who didn’t vote for anyone at all — sick of the lack of anything positive for working people from the rulers’ two-party system — from ever being able to do something like that again.

Janan Ganesh in the *Financial Times* complains it is “impossible for Mr. Trump to disappoint” those who voted for him because “they never had hopes to dash.” The 2016 election he says was merely a “howl against perceived national decline,” by people “resigned to the unimprovability of things.”

What Ganesh disparagingly calls a “howl” was the vote of millions of working people and others who were looking for a way to halt the worsening conditions of life and work that they faced under Democratic and Republican administrations alike. Trump won the votes of many of those who voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012, looking for a “change.”

Commentators on the left and right of capitalist politics argue that everything is going great for working people.

“This has been the best year ever,” proclaims Nicholas Kristof in the Dec. 28 *New York Times*. “For humanity all over, life just keeps getting better.” “The roaring ‘20s have begun,” crowed the *New York Post* Dec. 31.

And the White House demands credit for creating “prosperity for all.” Its New Year’s Eve message says “wages are rising fastest for low-income workers.”

There has been an uptick in wages on the heels of an expansion in hiring in the U.S. But this hasn’t made any substantial dent in the economic and social crisis working people face today. Coal miners, rail workers, Uber and taxi drivers, retail workers from Walmart to Amazon, workers trying to live on tips and others have faced declining real wages and deteriorating conditions for years. This is the result of the bosses’ profit-driven efforts to make us pay for the deepening crisis of their capitalist system.

In fact for the last three years, life expectancy has fallen in the U.S. — the richest capitalist country in history. It is harder than ever for young workers to

decide to marry or to start a family, with growing numbers living with their parents, unable to afford their own home.

Debt is soaring for workers of all ages — from college loans to credit cards, as well as mortgages and rents. Health care continues to deteriorate, with hospitals closing in rural areas across the country.

In stark contrast to the Democrats and Republicans of all persuasions, Socialist Workers Party candidates explain why workers — union and nonunion alike — need to fight back against this class exploitation, and out of these struggles build our own party, a labor party. We need to organize together to fight the bosses’ attacks on wages and the unsafe working conditions they impose on us. Through such experiences workers can transform ourselves, gaining the courage and self-confidence needed to build a movement that can put an end to capitalist rule.

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



pathfinderpress.com

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta**  
Help Kick Off the 2020 Socialist Workers Party Campaign of Rachele Fruit for U.S. Senate. Celebrate 61 Years of the Cuban Revolution. Fri., Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 777 Cleveland Ave. SW, Suite 103. Tel: (678) 528-7828.

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Pittsburgh**  
What Can Workers Learn from Cuba’s Socialist Revolution? Speaker: Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m. Donation: \$5. First Unitarian Church, 605 Morewood Ave. Tel: (412) 610-2402.

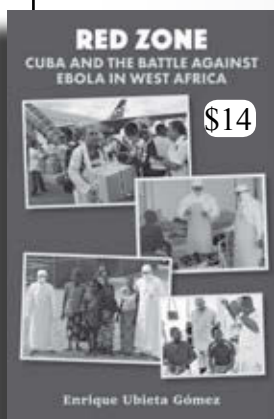
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“Just as the Cuban combatants in Angola set an example that can never be erased, the heroic actions of Cuba’s army of white coats will occupy a place of honor.”  
FIDEL CASTRO, October 2014

### Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa by Enrique Ubieta

In 2014 three West African countries were hit by the largest epidemic of the deadly Ebola virus. Within weeks, Cuba’s revolutionary government provided what no other country even tried — over 250 volunteer doctors and other health workers to give hands-on care to thousands of desperately ill human beings and their traumatized families and communities. By mid-2015, the Ebola epidemic was virtually eradicated. Also available in Spanish

pathfinderpress.com





# Uber, Lyft drivers fight bosses exploiting them as ‘contractors’

BY BERNIE SENTER

LOS ANGELES — The day a new California labor law was to go into effect a federal judge blocked it for more than 70,000 independent truckers. Assembly Bill 5 was designed by liberal politicians to “solve” the problem many workers face — from Uber and Lyft drivers to port truckers. Bosses designate them as independent contractors. This bill imposes new regulations to reclassify them as employees starting Jan. 1.

Uber and Lyft bosses employ hundreds of thousands of drivers they call independent contractors, making it easier to superexploit them. Companies don’t have to pay overtime, unemployment benefits, workers compensation or minimum wage. Workers have to purchase or lease their own trucks or cars and bear all responsibility for insurance, maintenance and taxes.

Like the trucking bosses, Uber, Lyft and food delivery companies like Postmates and DoorDash are also contesting Assembly Bill 5 in court and have amassed a \$100 million war chest — to place a referendum on the ballot to nullify the law. Claiming the law doesn’t cover them, they refuse to comply.

In recent years truckers at the ports and rideshare drivers have protested deteriorating wages and working conditions. Hundreds demonstrated here last spring against Uber’s decision to slash mileage rates by 25%. Even though federal labor laws prohibit contractors from unionizing, thousands have joined organizations like Rideshare Drivers United and groups affiliated with the Teamsters and Service Employees unions.

Uber and Lyft hide what drivers get paid by a complicated labyrinth of pay rates and bonuses. The bosses’ “growth model” is to draw investments to expand explosively dealing blows to regular taxicab drivers as they forego profits for now. They dream of superprofits after the competition is crushed. For now, they seek to cut their losses by reducing the pay and conditions of their drivers.

“I’m making half of what I made a couple years ago” for the same hours,

Uber driver Makeba James told the *Militant*. “They have no plan to make us employees.” Many prefer to work “as contractors because of the flexibility.”

Lyft and Uber executives preach that workers as contractors can be their own boss, set their own hours and be better off “if we update century-old employment laws.”

Port truckers and warehouse workers — who know damn well they’re workers exploited by a boss — have protested the contractor classification for years, fighting for better working conditions and a union. But the *Los Angeles Times* reports that in 2019 only 1,000 of the 13,000 port truckers are unionized.

Passing Assembly Bill 5 became the focus of union officials and liberal politicians last spring. They urged workers to rely on their “friends” in Sacramento and Washington to win new regulations to rein in the bosses, not to fight for a union and for gains in pay and conditions. Drivers’ and truckers’ actions



Militant/Deborah Liatos

Uber and Lyft drivers picket Los Angeles airport May 8, 2019, demanding to be treated as workers, not contractors. To win, SWP says, fight is needed to organize “one union for all drivers.”

slowed during the state legislative debate as the liberals focused on lobbying.

“Working people can only make gains if we rely on ourselves,” organize our strength in numbers “and the solidarity we will win in struggle,” Dennis Richter said in a statement for the Socialist Workers Party Jan. 2.

“I have joined the picket lines with

port truckers and rideshare drivers. These point a way forward. We need to keep fighting for *one* union for *all* drivers, be they taxi, Uber, Lyft or other app-based and car service drivers,” Richter said. “Workers need our own party, a labor party, to strengthen our class’s battles, and to fight for political power ourselves.”

## Support Asarco miners strike against union busting

Continued from front page

increase in nearly 10 years.

Asarco, which is owned by Grupo Mexico, one of the biggest copper operations worldwide, has refused to negotiate with the Steelworkers, Teamsters and five other striking unions. The only other union mine in copper-rich Arizona is the Pinto Valley open-pit mine owned by Capstone, with 500 workers.

Phelps Dodge succeeded in busting the unions at the huge Morenci mine complex in a bitter strike there from 1983 to 1986. Bosses closed down other union mines in Arizona, then sold them or reopened them later nonunion.

International copper barons like Freeport-McMoRan, Rio Tinto, Glencore and BHP Billiton are now pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into expanding mines, including in Arizona, in the expectation that copper prices will go higher, pushed by the manufacture of electric vehicles.

In the face of Asarco’s blatant union busting, the strikers have received solidarity from area workers and unions. Contributions and visits have come from oil refinery workers in Los Angeles, steelworkers in Wyoming and Walmart workers — who don’t have a union but know what boss exploitation is about — from a number of cities.

Strike supporters are encouraged to join the picket lines, kept up round-the-clock. “On the picket line we have had help from ‘Red for Ed’ teachers, the Machinists and carpenters union,” Terrazas said. “The nurses union is always on our picket line. Jobs for Justice makes dinner for the Silver Bell strikers every Friday night.”

David Copeland was driving home from picket duty at the Silver Bell Mine in Marana when he spoke with the *Militant* Jan. 2. “Solidarity has been more than I could have hoped for,” Copeland said. “About two weeks ago Machin-

ists union members from Raytheon brought around \$1,000 in cash they had collected at work and gift cards.”

Adrian Lopez, a shovel and drill mechanic at the Ray Mine, said, “Old Time Pizza in Kearney sends three or four boxes of pizza with a note on top ‘We support you guys.’

“Families of strikers bring a big pot of menudo or chicken soup, which warm us up. Local businesses in Kearney and Superior send sandwiches or burritos. Retirees from the three Steelworker locals here bring us lunch, dinner and fruit,” Lopez said.

From the start the company has used supervisors, nonunion contractors and a few hundred workers who crossed the picket line to maintain some production.

But the strike forced the company to shut the Hayden, Arizona, smelter and the Amarillo refinery. Now the bosses are attempting to increase production. The company is advertising for workers on its website and strikers say they are also using temporary workers.

“There’s more scabs coming in to work,” Lopez said. “Before there was one bus from Phoenix and one from Tucson. Now there’s two buses from each direction. There’s probably, with supervisors and all, about 150 people working in the Ray Mine.”

In addition, Asarco hasn’t been honoring its obligations to retirees, Lopez said. “Those that retired recently are owed five weeks or more vacation pay, but Asarco is holding on to their money.”

“On Monday, Jan. 13, we will be at the state Capitol lawn in Phoenix when the legislature opens,” Terrazas said. “And we will be marching in the Martin Luther King parade in Tucson.”

Send contributions for strikers at the Mission and Silver Bell complexes near Tucson to the Pima Area Labor Federation Community Services via paypal.me/palfcommunityservice. Send solidarity messages to palfchair@gmail.com. For strikers at the Ray Mine and Hayden Smelter, send contributions and messages to USW Local 915, Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137. For strikers at the Amarillo refinery, send to USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy. 136, Amarillo, TX 79108.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



January 23, 1995

DES MOINES, Iowa — Thousands of rubber workers on strike against Bridgestone/Firestone here and in Decatur, Illinois; Noblesville, Indiana; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, voted overwhelmingly to continue their strike against the tire giant.

Several days earlier the company had announced it would fire hundreds of striking workers, giving no reason for who was and who was not dismissed.

Strike demands center on Firestone’s insistence on pay cuts; a 7-day, 12-hour continuous shift; removal of cost-of-living protection; and elimination of the union’s safety committee.

“There’s no way a tire builder can work 12 hours a day — over and over lifting tires that weigh 25 to 60 pounds on and off the machine,” striker Bob Fischer told the *Militant* outside the meeting of United Rubber Workers Local 713 in Decatur.



January 23, 1970

The murders of Joseph A. Yablonski, his wife and daughter, sent tremors through the union movement and brought large numbers of miners out of the pits in mourning — and with a new determination to change the conditions of their lives and the character of the United Mine Workers union.

After the first shock of the awful crimes, miners began walking away from their jobs. In the week before the burial, surveys showed 20,000 miners were out at more than 30 mines in southwestern Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia. At a meeting in Monongah, W.Va., leaders of Yablonski’s campaign for the presidency of the UMW called for a nationwide strike “until some arrests are made.”

Yablonski’s attempt to unseat UMW President W.A. Boyle was made possible by the deep dissatisfaction within the ranks of the unions.



January 20, 1945

The current drive for a national service law to conscript labor for work in private industry aims to utilize the repressive machinery of government to chain workers to their jobs at frozen wages. Under a forced labor law, the unions would be paralyzed, strikers would be jailed or herded into concentration camps, workers would be placed at the mercy of their exploiters.

Since the beginning of the war, anti-labor legislation has wiped away many of the social gains of the past decades. Anti-labor executive decrees have supplemented this legislative assault.

The workers do the fighting, dying and paying for the war, while the capitalists coin fabulous profits out of the agony of humanity. It is this system which the capitalist rulers are determined to preserve by crushing the organizations and institutions of the working class.



# Fight against Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

does it serve under capitalism? How can it be combated?

One of the Socialist Workers Party signs said, “It’s not ‘hate,’ it’s Jew-hatred: Oppose scapegoating of Jews.” The sign helped in initiating discussions on the unique role Jew-hatred plays under capitalism. The main slogan of the protest, “No Hate! No Fear!” obscures what is at stake.

Anti-Semitism predates capitalism. But under capitalism it has taken on added virulence. Even under relatively stable conditions, there is a layer of the middle class and some workers who believe the falsehood that “the Jews” run the banks, they are the landlords, they form conspiracies and enrich themselves at the expense of non-Jews. As if the ruling class was divided into “good” capitalists and “bad, evil” Jewish capitalists.

Fidel Castro in a 2010 interview with *The Atlantic* magazine reporter Jeffrey Goldberg, put his finger on a key aspect. The Jews “are blamed and slandered for everything,” Castro said, explaining his opposition to anti-Semitism.

“Over 2,000 years they were subjected to terrible persecution and then to the pogroms,” Castro said. “There is nothing that compares to the Holocaust.”

Jews, just like everyone else, are class-divided. There are capitalists, middle-class layers and workers. In fact, the vast majority of capitalists, including landlords, are not Jewish, but Christian.

Scapegoating Jews diverts attention from the real source of the problem: the crisis-racked capitalist system, with its every man for himself morality.

In the U.S. there are as many as 6 million Jews, but they still make up less than 2% of the population. “If the defense of the Jews depended on themselves alone, then their case would indeed be hopeless,” a 1938 resolution by the Socialist Workers Party pointed out. “It is primarily upon the American workers that the Jews must lean for support in their struggle to maintain their joint rights.”

The Jan. 5 march though was up to 95% composed of Jews. Workers of all nationalities and especially our trade unions, as well as church groups and organizations that fight racism, need to be won to acting on the importance of standing up to Jew-hatred, no matter who perpetuates it.

## Anti-Semitism in the Epoch of Imperialism

Below are excerpts from *The Jewish Question, A Marxist Interpretation* written by Belgian revolutionary Abram Leon on the eve of the second imperialist world war. Leon was killed at the Auschwitz extermination camp at the age of 26.

“The disappearance of Hitler can change nothing fundamental in the situation of the Jews. A transitory improvement of their condition will in no wise alter the profound roots of twentieth century anti-Semitism. ...

The tragic fate of Judaism mirrors with singular sharpness the situation of all humanity. Capitalism bars the road of the past as well as the highway to the future. Only the destruction of capitalism

will make it possible for humanity to benefit from the immense achievements of the industrial era.”

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## Mass actions in India protest anti-Muslim law



Reuters/Vinod Babu

Large actions continue to rock the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, protesting his push to implement a new anti-Muslim citizenship act, undermining India’s secular constitution. As many as 200,000 demonstrated in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad Jan. 4, above. A similar-sized demonstration took place in Kochi, in the southern state of Kerala Jan. 1. A prominent banner in Hyderabad — “Not Hindus. Not Muslims. Not Jains. Not Christians. Not Parsees. Not Buddhists. ONLY INDIANS” — reflected the breadth of the mobilizations.

Modi’s Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is seeking to ease citizenship requirements for non-Muslim undocumented minorities emigrating from neighboring majority-Muslim countries, like Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The BJP also drew up a reactionary nationwide new citizen roll to register all of India’s 1.3 billion people. Some 200 million Muslims, India’s second-largest religious community, who are amongst the poorest layer of class society, often don’t have the required documentation to prove citizenship. A pilot program in Assam led to the detention of hundreds of Muslims.

India’s tricolor flag has been adopted by the current protest movement as a symbol of the country’s secular tradition. Some Muslim protesters carried placards reading, “I am an Indian by choice, not by chance,” referring to millions of the Islamic faith who live in India. In 1947 the British colonialists engineered a bloody partition of the country when they were forced to relinquish their century-long hold, breaking Pakistan away as a Muslim state and weakening the overall independence movement.

The Modi regime responded to the mobilizations with bans on the internet and social media and with cop repression. On Jan. 5 dozens of masked men entered the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, a center of the protests, assaulting students and staff and injuring more than 30.

The following day fresh student mobilizations erupted in at least 19 cities to protest these assaults.

— ROY LANDERSEN

right to be considered innocent until proven guilty and giving the cops more tools to victimize Blacks and other workers will do nothing to advance the fight against anti-Semitism, or to win working people over to solidarity with their Jewish neighbors.

“When the capitalist rulers’ hold on power is threatened by a rising working-class movement, the capitalists will not only express and tolerate anti-Semitism, they will give it free rein and finance it through ultra-rightist forces whose goal is to smash the workers’ movement. That is not the case today,” said a statement by the SWP that party members have been distributing in working class neighborhoods and at the march. “But as the crisis of capitalism deepens, that day will come.”

As long as capitalism exists, there will be anti-Semitism. What is needed today is a working-class leadership that tells the truth about the crisis of capitalism and that refuses to rely on any of the capitalist parties.

The road to building a fighting labor movement, capable of standing for and defending all of the oppressed necessities taking on Jew-hatred.

Lea Sherman is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey.

# Protests hit US killing

Continued from front page

east to over 80,000 Army, Marine and naval forces and sent additional B-52 bombers and other armaments.

Washington’s deadly drone strike near Baghdad airport also killed six others, including Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces, militias organized by the Iranian rulers in Iraq to advance their intervention there. Muhandis commanded the Kataeb Hezbollah militia that Washington held responsible for recent attacks on U.S. military bases in Iraq and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

The Donald Trump administration said the killings, as well as airstrikes in Iraq Dec. 29 that killed and wounded dozens of militia members, were necessary to defend the lives of U.S. troops deployed across the region.

The reactionary clerical regime in Tehran responded with threats of retaliation worldwide. Tens of thousands of largely middle-class, conservative pro-regime forces carrying government-printed signs saying “Death to America” mobilized in religious centers and Tehran after the regime announced four days of mourning for Soleimani. Over 50 people were killed and hundreds injured in a stampede during the planned funeral service for the military figure Jan. 7, leading to its postponement.

Iran’s rulers also used the occasion to increase the state budget for Quds Force operations by over \$220 million.

Trump threatened further strikes if there were any new attacks on U.S. forces, saying the administration had targeted “52 Iranian sites” that would be hit “very fast and very hard,” including Iranian cultural sites.

## Decades of war, U.S. intervention

Both Washington and Tehran have been locked in a long-term conflict, as each ruling capitalist class pushes to further its own economic, political and military interests in Iraq, Syria and other

countries in the Middle East. Their conflict is part of broader clashes between U.S. imperialism, Moscow, Ankara and other regional capitalist rivals.

Iran’s rulers aim to increase their regional sway by force of arms, extending beyond their border the nearly four-decade-long, cleric-dominated political counterrevolution that pushed back the workers, farmers, women and oppressed nationalities who carried out the mass popular Iranian Revolution of 1979. Soleimani was the central organizer of the Iranian rulers’ wars across the Middle East.

The U.S. rulers have been bogged down in decades of wars in the region, under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Washington reimposed sanctions on Iran in 2018 and then cranked them up, with ruinous consequences for working people there, who’ve been hit with huge price rises and shortages of basic necessities. The Iranian rulers place the cost of their military adventures on the backs of workers and farmers.

Pro-Tehran politicians and organized militias, who dominate the government in Iraq, have stepped up their drive to push Washington back. Iraq’s parliament adopted a motion Jan. 5 demanding the expulsion of Washington’s 5,000 troops stationed in the country. But the resolution was “nonbinding.” Virtually all Sunni and Kurdish delegates boycotted the session, despite threats from the Kataeb Hezbollah militia, who “ordered” all delegates to attend.

The Pentagon told the press Jan. 6 that Washington has no intention of leaving Iraq. And Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that the U.S. military will “follow the rules of armed conflict” — which means no attack on cultural sites or institutions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif announced Tehran had now “concluded” its armed retaliation against Washington after the regime fired some two dozen



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Jan. 4 protest in New York City calling for US hands off Iran, US troops out of Middle East.

missiles at bases in Iraq where U.S. and other U.S.-coalition troops — Iraqis and troops from Australia, Britain, Denmark, Poland and Sweden — are based. The missiles hit a base in Sunni-populated western Anbar province and another near Erbil in the northern Kurdish region. Zarif said Tehran did “not seek escalation or war.”

President Trump, surrounded by Pentagon brass Jan. 8, confirmed there were no casualties and that Tehran “appears to be standing down.” He celebrated the assassination of Soleimani, stressed the U.S. rulers have the most powerful military in the world by far, and urged NATO to join Washington in its Middle East operations. He said Washington would levy yet another round of economic sanctions on Tehran, but did not announce any new military moves.

Trump demanded a new, more effective nuclear deal and offered to work with the Iranian rulers — if they back off all nuclear ambitions and their expansionary posture in the region — to “build a great future.”

Iraq protests: ‘No to Iran, no to U.S.’ Democratic Party politicians and the liberal press that backs them insist that the Trump administration is out to start a war. They claim U.S. actions have caused the Iranian people to line up behind the clerical regime and Iraqis to turn their backs on months of protests against the regime there.

But this isn’t true. Working-class pro-

tests against Tehran’s adventures abroad and crisis conditions at home rocked the country last fall. They were ended by brutal repression — the murder of over 300 people, arrests of thousands, shutting down the internet and social media.

“How do they expect people to rally behind them and support their cause for vengeance when they beat the same people on the streets and cut their internet just a few weeks ago?” 30-year-old Atena, who feared to use her last name, told Bloomberg News Jan. 4.

At protests in over 100 Iranian cities in November, Soleimani was often called out by name during chants in opposition to Tehran’s interventions in Syria, Gaza, Lebanon and Yemen. Pointing to the Iranian rulers, Atena said, “This is their loss, not mine.”

In Iraq, protests continue throughout majority Shiite areas in the country’s south. From the beginning working people have spoken out against interference in Iraq by both Tehran and Washington.

Hundreds of demonstrators chanted “No to Iran, no to America” at a protest in the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniyah Jan. 5. Participants in similar protests clashed with pro-Tehran militia forces mourning Soleimani and Muhandis in Nasiriyah and Basra the same day, reported Middle Eastern Eye News.

Soleimani’s recent visits to Iraq included helping direct Tehran-backed militia forces in carrying out deadly assaults on those protesting the government and Tehran’s interference there.

## Militant Labor Forums:

### US Hands Off Iran and Iraq! All US Troops Out of the Middle East Now!

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 10:

**Chicago:** Hear Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$10 for dinner; \$5 for program. 1858 W. Cermak, 2nd floor. Tel.: (312) 455-0111.

**Oakland, Calif.:** Hear Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party. 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

**Philadelphia:** Hear Chris Hoepfner, Socialist Workers Party. 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite #16. Tel.: (215) 708-1270.

**Pittsburgh:** Hear Sarah Ruth Robinett, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 14th District. 7 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 605 Morewood Ave. Tel.: (412) 610-2402.

**Seattle:** Hear Henry Dennison, SWP candidate for governor of Washington. 7:30 p.m. 5418 Rainier Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.

**St. Paul, Minn.:** Hear David Rosenfeld, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress. 7:30

p.m. Donation: \$5. 1821 University Ave. W., Room S-106A. Tel.: (651) 340-5586.

**Auckland, New Zealand:** Hear Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged; \$2 unwaged. 188a Onehunga Mall Road. Tel.: 09-636-3231.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

**Dallas:** Hear Gerardo Sanchez, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$7. 1005 West Jefferson Blvd., Suite 305. Tel.: (215) 939-3371.

**Louisville, Ky.:** Hear Samir Hazboun, Socialist Workers Party. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 1939 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 134. Tel.: (502) 882-1041.

**New York:** Hear Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party. 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 307 W. 36th St. 13th floor. Tel.: (646) 434-8117.

**Northern New Jersey:** Hear Terry Evans, Socialist Workers Party. 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. 3600 Bergenline Ave., 2nd floor, Union City. Tel.: (551) 257-5753.



# Fidel Castro on Grenada: ‘Bishop was a true revolutionary’

*Below is an excerpt from a speech by Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban Revolution, given in 1983 soon after an internal coup led by Bernard Coard overthrew the 1979-83 revolution in Grenada, opening the door for the U.S. rulers to invade the Caribbean island. It is in Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-1983, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January. Inspired by the Cuban Revolution, Bishop mobilized working people, in their majority Black and English-speaking, to take political power into their own hands and carry out a popular revolution. On Oct. 19, 1983, he and other leaders were assassinated as the workers and farmers government he led was overthrown. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY FIDEL CASTRO

Bishop was not an extremist; rather, he was a true revolutionary — conscientious and honest. Far from disagreeing with his intelligent and realistic policy, we fully sympathized with it, since it was rigorously adapted to his country's specific conditions and possibilities.

Grenada had become a true symbol of independence and progress in the Caribbean. No one could have foreseen the tragedy that was drawing



Maurice Bishop, left, and Fidel Castro, 1980 May Day rally, Cuba. Castro said 1979 revolutions in Grenada and Nicaragua joined Cuba as “three giants rising up on threshold of imperialism.”

near. Attention was focused on other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, the Grenadian revolutionaries themselves unleashed the events that opened the door to imperialist aggression. Hyenas emerged from the revolutionary ranks. Today no one can yet say whether those who used the dagger of divisionism and internal confrontation did so motu proprio [for their own ends] or were inspired and egged on by imperialism.

It is something that could have been done by the CIA — and, if somebody else was responsible, the CIA could not have done it any better. The fact is that allegedly revolutionary arguments were used, invoking the purest principles of Marxism-Leninism and charging Bishop with practicing a cult of personality and with drawing away from the Leninist norms and methods of leadership.

In our view, nothing could be more absurd than to attribute such tendencies to Bishop. It was impossible to imagine anyone more noble, modest, and unselfish. He could never have been guilty of being authoritarian. If he had any defect, it was his excessive tolerance and trust.

Were those who conspired against him within the Grenadian party, army, and security forces by any chance a group of extremists drunk on political theory? Were they simply a group of ambitious, opportunistic individuals, or were they enemy agents who want-

ed to destroy the Grenadian revolution? History alone will have the last word, but it would not be the first time that such things occurred in a revolutionary process.

In our view, Coard's group objectively destroyed the revolution and opened the door to imperialist aggression. Whatever their intentions, the brutal assassination of Bishop and his most loyal, closest comrades is a fact that can never be justified in that or any other revolution. As the October 20 statement by the Cuban party and government put it, “no crime must be committed in the name of the revolution and freedom.” ...

It is to our revolution's credit that, in spite of our profound indignation over Bishop's removal from office and arrest, we fully refrained from interfering in Grenada's internal affairs. We refrained even though our construction workers and all our other cooperation personnel in Grenada — who did not hesitate to confront the Yankee soldiers with the weapons Bishop himself had given them for their defense in case of an attack from abroad — could have been a decisive factor in those internal events. Those weapons were never meant to be used in an internal conflict in Grenada and we would never have allowed them to be so used. We would never have been willing to use them to shed a single drop of Grenadian blood.

On October 12, Bishop was removed from office by the Central Committee,

on which the conspirators had attained a majority. On the thirteenth, he was placed under house arrest. On the nineteenth, the people took to the streets and freed Bishop. On the same day, Coard's group ordered the army to fire on the people and Bishop, Whiteman, Jacqueline Creft, and other excellent revolutionary leaders were murdered.

As soon as the internal dissensions, which came to light on October 12, became known, the Yankee imperialists decided to invade.

The message sent by the leadership of the Cuban party to Coard's group on October 15 has been made public. In it, we expressed our deep concern over both the internal and external consequences of the split and appealed to common sense, serenity, wisdom, and generosity of revolutionaries. This reference to generosity was an appeal not to use violence against Bishop and his followers.

This group of Coard's that seized power in Grenada expressed serious reservations toward Cuba from the very beginning because of our well-known and unquestionable friendship with Bishop. ...

The thing that placed Cuba in a morally complex, difficult situation was the announcement that Yankee naval forces were en route to Grenada. Under those circumstances, we couldn't possibly leave the country. If the imperialists really intended to attack Grenada, it was our duty to stay there. To withdraw at that time would have been dishonorable and could even have triggered aggression in that country then and in Cuba later on. In addition, events unfolded with such incredible speed that if the evacuation had been planned for, there would not have been time to carry it out.

In Grenada, however, the government was morally indefensible. And, since the party, the government, and the army had divorced themselves from the people, it was also impossible to defend the nation militarily, because a revolutionary war is only feasible and justifiable when united with the people. We could only fight, therefore, if we were directly attacked. There was no alternative.

It should nevertheless be noted that, despite these adverse circumstances, a number of Grenadian soldiers died in heroic combat against the invaders. [Applause]

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# US hands off Iran, Iraq: Get out!

## Continued from front page

a leader of the pro-Tehran Kataeb Hezbollah militia; and other militiamen near the Baghdad airport Jan. 2. The U.S. imperialist rulers act as judge, jury and executioner, trampling on the sovereignty of other nations — just as their cops do here every day to working people at home.

We call for the immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of U.S. troops, bases, weaponry and armaments from Iraq, Syria and the region. Resolving the crisis facing working people across the Middle East is the business of workers and farmers there. Join or call protests against Washington's escalation!

Soleimani was no friend of working people in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria — or Iran. He was a central leader of Tehran's efforts to extend the Iranian capitalist rulers' military sway in the Middle East. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is a central force in efforts to suppress the struggles of working people inside Iran.

The U.S. press, like the regime in Tehran, tries to present Soleimani as a leader who came to power as a result of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. In fact, his rise was part of a *counterrevolution*, one that pushed back the gains made by workers, women and oppressed nationalities by the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the shah there. That upheaval was a deep-going, popular social revolution.

Soleimani rose through the ranks of the Revolutionary Guard as part of the counterrevolutionary drive by the cleric-led capitalist regime that consolidated power by attacking the gains of that revolution. He became the leader of the reactionary Revolutionary Guards' international Quds Force.

Soleimani played a key role in marshaling pro-Iran militias to keep the brutal regime of Bashar al-Assad in power in Syria during the civil war there, at a huge cost in working people's lives. He orchestrated the expansion of Hezbollah and its attacks on Israel and reactionary anti-worker policies in Lebanon in the 1990s.

Tehran's efforts to expand its counterrevolutionary reach have been the target of mass protests, in Iran, Iraq and Lebanon. Many of Iraq's workers and farmers hated Soleimani for helping to keep Tehran's boot on the country. For the last several weeks tens of thousands of Iraqis have joined protests demanding an end to both Iranian and U.S. interference in their affairs. More than 450 demonstrators have been killed and thousands injured, many of them at the hands of the reactionary Shiite militias that Soleimani traveled to Iraq to help organize. A popular chant has been — and still is — “Iran out out, Iraq remains free.”

But none of this excuses the U.S. imperialist intervention in Iraq and the region. There are over 80,000

U.S. troops on the ground and a massive arsenal of warplanes, tanks, missiles, drones and other armaments in the Middle East.

## U.S. rulers' war policy is bipartisan

While many Democratic Party politicians criticized the Trump administration for the attack, seeking partisan political advantage, they have joined in presiding over the U.S. rulers' wars there for more than 30 years.

Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden said he agreed that Soleimani “deserved to be brought to justice,” complaining only that President Trump needed to give an “explanation” of how his administration plans to protect “our troops” and “our interests.” But there is no “our.” These troops are tasked with executing the goals of U.S. imperialism and *their* “interests.” Our class provides the cannon fodder.

Some of the Democratic 2020 hopefuls say the assassination of Soleimani, however laudatory, was a “dangerous escalation” carried out “without consultation with Congress.” But go look at the famous picture of Biden, along with Pentagon officials and President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sitting in the White House War Room, avidly watching the special forces killing Osama bin Laden and his family in cold blood at their compound May 2, 2011.

The simple truth is that both the Democrats and the Republicans are the parties of imperialist war.

As the Socialist Workers Party said in our 2017 statement, “For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel,” the road forward for working people in the Middle East starts with “the class interests and solidarity of workers and toiling farmers across the Middle East — be they Palestinian, Jewish, Arab, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian or otherwise, and whatever their religious or other beliefs — as well as working people in the United States and around the world.

“We are *for* whatever helps working people organize and act together to advance our demands and struggles against the capitalist governments and ruling classes that exploit and oppress us and their petty bourgeois political servants and media apologists.

“We are *for* whatever renews our class solidarity and self-confidence, advancing us along a revolutionary course toward a united struggle for workers power.”

The people of Iraq have been fighting to regain their nation's sovereignty, to find a way forward to unite working people and take control of their own destiny. The best way to demonstrate solidarity with them is for working people in the U.S. to demand U.S. hands off Iraq, Syria and Iran. Get out now!

# Indiana prison ban

## Continued from front page

lenge such bans, so I want to give you all relevant information to support your challenge,” Johnson said. He was referring to the successful fights waged by the *Militant* against attempts by prison officials in Florida and other states to deny subscribers behind bars access to the paper.

In response to appeals filed by the *Militant* and a growing outcry of public protests, Florida authorities, who had impounded 14 out of 16 issues over a three-month period last year, overturned most of the bans and haven't impounded any issues since August.

Johnson had read about this fight in the *Militant*. Those who joined the fight to overturn the ban included Amnesty International USA, PEN America, National Lawyers Guild and many others.

The “Notice and Report of Action Taken” given to Johnson lists only “security risk” as the reason for denying him the paper. But it gives no indication what material in these issues of the *Militant* Pendleton officials claim poses such a risk, in violation of prison authorities' rules and regulations. The Department of Correction Manual of Policies and Procedures says publications should be admitted, unless they specifically describe “construction or use of weapons,” “encourage methods of escape from correctional facilities,” are pornographic, or encourage “activities which may lead to the use of physical violence or group disruption.” Nothing in any of the banned *Militant* issues can possibly be considered in violation of these strictures.

The suppression of the paper “has nothing to do with security concerns,” writes Johnson. “I have been confined here at Pendleton since November 2018, and had a subscription to your paper throughout most of this time. They never denied your paper until now.”

Johnson is a well-known political and prisoners' rights advocate, and a leader of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party who has faced repeated harassment from prison authorities. He was originally incarcerated in Virginia in 1990, and became political in prison. Since then he has been **forcibly** transferred under the notorious Interstate Corrections Compact to Oregon, Texas, Florida and back to Virginia in an unsuccessful effort to isolate and intimidate him. Most of this time he's been thrown into solitary confinement. He was transferred to Indiana a little over a year ago.

## Challenge the ban

“The *Militant* is preparing to challenge these bans,” said its editor, John Studer. “We are asking unions and supporters of the rights of prisoners and of the press to urge the Indiana Department of Correction to overturn their suppression of the *Militant*.”

“Johnson told us other publications he gets — like the *San Francisco Bay View* and *Socialist Viewpoint* — are also being barred, and he plans to challenge all of these impoundments,” Studer said.

“Workers behind bars are protected by the Bill of Rights, and the *Militant* by freedom of the press. Workers behind bars need to be able to read material of their choosing, to think for themselves, and to be part of the world,” said Studer.

Letters urging prison authorities to overturn the suppression of the *Militant* should write to Indiana Department of Correction, 302 W. Washington St., Room E-334, Indianapolis, IN 46204, earmarked “Appeal of literature impoundment.” Please send a copy to the *Militant*.

## Fight prison ban on the ‘Militant’

**Get out the word.** Distribute copies of *Militant* articles on this fight.

**Get statements of support** for the *Militant's* appeal from unions, churches and defenders of workers rights and free speech. Send to: themilitant@mac.com

**Send a check** to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Prisoners Rights Fight.”

# LETTERS

The Dec. 22 letter below was received from a worker behind bars in the United States. It refers to his experiences getting to know Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five, when they were incarcerated in the same prison. The five Cuban revolutionaries — Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, René González, Hernández and Ramón Labañino — were arrested in Florida in 1998 and framed by the U.S. government for their actions to protect Cuba from bombings and other deadly attacks launched from U.S. territory by Washington-backed opponents of the revolution.

They were given sentences ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández. As the result of a growing international campaign, the Five won their freedom after serving up to 16 years in prison with the unwavering support of the Cuban people and an international “jury of millions.”

The *Militant's* Dec. 16, 2019, article he mentions was an excerpt

from the Pathfinder Press book Cuba and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

## ‘A great article’

I enjoyed so much your article titled “Peoples of Cuba and the US are Fraternal and Invincible.” It brought a smile to my face when I saw the picture of the five true heroes, especially Gerardo who is an outstanding individual and a credit to his nation.

Over the many decades of my incarceration, I have seen how the majority of individuals who were

in our situations lacked a love for their country and could never have kept faith that one day the abuses imposed by the U.S. Justice system could be overcome. Gerardo always stayed focused and never gave in to the many pitfalls of penitentiary life as did so many others.

If you communicate with him, please give him my warmest regards and tell him I will be home in less than a year. After a brief stay here, I plan on traveling to Colombia and hopefully seeing him once again in his beautiful country of Cuba.

Again, thank you for exceptional work and revealing the truth as opposed to the propaganda of the American news media.

A prisoner

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

## ‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the ‘Militant’ and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)