

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Workers need road forward to battle economic and social crises  
— PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 84/NO. 13 APRIL 6, 2020

## Help 'Militant' win new readers, contribute to \$115,000 fund!

BY JOHN STUDER  
Editor of the *Militant*

The *Militant* is urging its readers to join us in stepping up efforts to expand the reach of the paper. Get the *Militant* into the hands of your co-workers and other workers you know.

To maximize our ability to get the paper out broadly to workers, farmers and youth — all over the world — join us in raising contributions for an immediate \$115,000 fund we are launching. This will allow us to strengthen our efforts to get out news of the struggles being waged by workers and farmers to protect themselves during the intertwined economic, social and health crises we face today.

This is the time to act!

Now more than ever workers need to work together on the job, to strengthen ourselves in the face of the employers' attacks and to gain confidence in our capacities to act together. Since it was first published in 1928 the *Militant* has been a vital voice for working-class struggles, building solidarity, and for needed discussions about how workers can fight most effectively.

As millions of workers are being thrown out of work, millions more are still on the job, looking for a way to stand up to the bosses. Supporters of the *Militant* are getting it into the

Continued on page 4

## Algeria rulers use pretext of virus outbreak to bar protests

BY EMMA JOHNSON

The Algerian government has faced weekly street protests for political rights across the country for more than a year. It has unleashed repression, offered cosmetic concessions and tried to sow divisions among demonstrators.

Nothing it has done has prevented working people from joining the actions. But when people started dying from the coronavirus the rulers found a justification to clamp down on the protests and buy themselves some time.

On March 17 President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announced that all marches are temporarily banned because of the spread of the disease. For the first time in 57 weeks the streets of Algiers, the capital, were empty the following Saturday.

In February last year, then President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced he would seek a fifth term in office. This triggered widespread protests that demanded a halt to the military's domination of the capitalist government, which has presided over an unemployment rate of 28% for young people and slashed spending on social programs.

Initially the government arrested participants who waved the flag of the Berbers, an oppressed nationality who

Continued on page 8

## Protests, job actions hit bosses' disdain for safety

Workers' fights today are road to force gov't action



Workers at Perdue chicken processing plant in Kathleen, Georgia, walked off the job March 23 to demand bosses clean, disinfect factory to defend them from coronavirus.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

As the bosses and their governments at a federal, state and local level seek to manage growing depression conditions and impose lockdowns

**SWP CALL TO ACTION**  
— See page 4

in the U.S. and elsewhere, working people are beginning to respond with protests and job actions.

Starting with demands the employers provide personal protective gear and equipment, these actions are key to advancing a broader fight for what working people need today.

"Workers and our unions need to demand that the government act now

## Working people in Cuba set the example for int'l solidarity

BY TERRY EVANS

"We have a revolutionary duty to fulfill, so we take our fear and put it to one side," Leonardo Fernández, 68, an intensive care specialist, told Reuters in Havana March 21. He was meeting up with the brigade of 52 Cuban volunteer medical workers on their way to fight the spread of coronavirus in Lombardy, Italy, which has the world's highest death toll from the disease.

This is his eighth international mission. He took part in the battle to push back Ebola in Liberia in West Africa in 2014.

"We are going to fulfill an honorable task, based on the principle of

Continued on page 11

to protect working people and humankind from the devastating consequences of today's intertwined global economic, social, and medical crises," the Socialist Workers Party says in a call to action that its members are

Continued on page 8

## Asarco strikers fight continues against bosses' union busting

BY BERNIE SENTER

"The strike lines are still up," Alex Terrazas, United Steelworkers Local 937 union president, told the *Militant* by phone March 23. Terrazas, a worker at Asarco's Mission Mine near Tucson, Arizona, was referring to the strike by 1,700 copper miners in Arizona and Texas against the mining bosses' union-busting drive. "We are

Continued on page 11

### Socialist Workers Party demands government take action now against economic, social, health crises

*The Socialist Workers Party urges workers to fight for the government to take immediate action to protect working people. See page 4 for the complete March 18 statement by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.*

- We must demand emergency relief for the working class, farmers, small shop owners, and other exploited producers under the hammer blows of lockdowns and layoffs struck by the bosses, their government, and their Democratic and Republican parties.

- Call on the government to construct emergency hospitals, provide beds and expand the production of medical equipment and supplies — now! Increase the training of workers to treat those infected and massively expand testing for the virus — now!

- Demand that the government provide immediate jobless benefits for all workers, farmers and other exploited producers — whether or not they have "papers" the rulers demand in order to be "legal" for as long as they need it! *Weekly unemployment relief* that working people can depend on — not just a one-time check in the mail that falls far short of what is needed.

- The working class and unions need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages — building hospitals, housing, and other facilities working people need.

- We need to demand a crash government program to greatly expand the resources to produce a coronavirus vaccine, as well as medicines to ameliorate the conditions and cure those infected. Such vital work can't be left to profit-driven decisions and priorities by the owners of giant drug companies, nor to billion-dollar federal bonanzas for their coffers.

### Inside

Bosses track your 'happiness' by spying on your life 3

Ohio, Texas use coronavirus to justify ban on abortion 6

Kurds honor those slain in Saddam's Halabja massacre 7

—On the picket line, p. 6—

UK: Workers strike over low wages, multitier conditions

Teachers in Minnesota strike three days, demand more hiring



# British gov’t debates impact of Huawei deal on US trade bloc

**BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN**  
LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson has faced down a revolt by some Conservative Members of Parliament. They had opposed his January decision to approve involvement of the Chinese company Huawei in building the next generation of the U.K.’s 5G telecommunications network. Johnson’s opponents say the decision will make it more difficult to reach a much needed expanded trade bloc with Washington.

Owen Paterson, one of 38 Conservatives who voted against the government, accused it of having “infuriated the Americans.”

Opposition was led by senior party members, including former leader Iain Duncan Smith who, just months ago, led Boris Johnson’s leadership election bid. Their amendment to outlaw Huawei’s involvement in U.K. networks after 2022 was defeated.

The U.S. administration urged an outright ban on the company. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo rebuked the government in a January visit to

the U.K. Mark Esper, U.S. defense secretary, threatened that the NATO military alliance was in jeopardy if European governments used Huawei technology in their 5G networks.

The U.S. rulers seek to maintain their position as the world’s dominant imperialist exploiter and to check the rise of Beijing. They see Huawei as a threat to this. Washington accuses the company of stealing trade secrets to “back engineer” U.S. products; industrial espionage; having links to the Chinese government’s cyber warfare programs; and of circumventing Washington’s sanctions on Iran.

Between 1998 and 2019, Huawei gained competitive advantage over its rivals through Chinese government grants, land licenses and other financial assistance worth “more than \$75 billion,” 20 U.S. senators said in a letter to MPs in the U.K.

The bipartisan letter called on the House of Commons to “strongly urge the United Kingdom to revisit” the decision.

The Australian government also weighed in against London. Both the U.S. and Australian governments, members of the “Five Eyes” international intelligence and security cooperation group — along with the governments of Canada, New Zealand and the U.K. — have banned the Chinese firm.

The conflict occurs as London-Washington trade talks get underway in parallel with post-Brexit negotiations between the U.K. government and the European Union.

Washington and London have long



SK Telecom  
**Technician installs 5G network in South Korea. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has clashed with party members and Washington over decision to allow Huawei to put 5G in U.K.**

boasted of a “special relationship,” and the U.S. market accounted for 19% of U.K.’s exports and 11% of imports in 2018. The British government seeks a stronger bloc with Washington and a reduction in U.S. tariffs, as a strategic move after the U.K.’s exit from the EU.

Johnson insists his government will do nothing to damage relations with Washington. He says that Huawei equipment is limited to just 35% of the U.K.’s 5G network. But Conservatives who led this month’s revolt are preparing for another attempt at a total ban.

## Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder Press offers books at a 50% discount plus \$2.75 shipping per order. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to:  
Pathfinder Press, PO Box 162767  
Atlanta GA 30321-2767  
Friends and family members can order for them online. For more info:  
[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)

## Workers donate Walmart ‘blood money’ to the SWP

This week several Walmart workers in the Twin Cities in Minnesota sent \$634.50 from bonuses — the bosses’ “blood money” bribes — they received to the Socialist Workers Party.

“In the wake of the coronavirus epidemic’s spread to the United States,” writes David Rosenfeld, “there has been a massive wave of purchasing items that would be needed during a quarantine or stay-at-home order from the government. Most working people have little confidence in the capitalist government to address the growing medical and social crises. And they know that when the going gets rough, the rulers will be leaving us to fend for ourselves.

“When the store manager where I work announced the MyShare bonus,” Rosenfeld said, “he was almost giddy over the increased sales. It was like back-to-back-to-back Black Fridays! Of course the pressure is on for workers to speed up and work overtime.”

Communists use the term “blood money” to describe production, attendance, safety and other so-called bonuses bosses offer in an effort to bribe workers to keep quiet about speedup, low pay and unsafe working conditions.

“We are proud to turn these bonuses over to a party that leads by example,” said Rosenfeld, “and responds to the social crises created by capitalism not by hunkering down as helpless victims but by deepening its work in our class.”

Walmart worker Lisa Potash sent the party a check for \$269.69 from Atlanta. “The company just announced a one-time bonus of \$300 for full-time workers and \$150 for part time, supposedly as ‘thanks’ for working harder during the coronavirus pandemic,” she wrote.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

# THE MILITANT

## Support fights against hospital closures!

*The ‘Militant’ champions the fight of nurses in Daly City, California, who came together to fight against the bosses’ moves to close Seton hospital. They succeeded in keeping it open to provide sorely needed services and medical personnel for the protection of working people.*



Militant/Raul Gonzalez  
Nurses opposed to closing of Seton hospital after attending March 10 county hearing.

# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

## NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

### RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

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

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

## The Militant

Vol. 84/No. 13  
Closing news date: March 25, 2020

Editor: John Studer  
Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

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

**Business Manager:** Valerie Johnson  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.  
**Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
**Fax:** (212) 244-4947  
**E-mail:** [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)  
**Website:** [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

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

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

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

**Latin America, Caribbean:** For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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

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

**United Kingdom:** Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Larry Quinn: 20-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party

BY MAGGIE TROWE

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 60 people attended a meeting at the Everly Cromwell Community Center here March 15 to celebrate the political life of Larry Quinn, a 20-year cadre of the Socialist Workers Party who died March 6.

Quinn moved to the Albany area with his companion Kathie Fitzgerald in 2018. He rejoined the party and got a job at Walmart where he participated with others in the fight for a union. Quinn helped open the SWP's first public hall in the city in three decades.

Quinn was the 2019 SWP candidate for Troy City Council president and campaigned across the region with the party's mayoral candidate, Samantha Hamlin.

Jacob Perasso, an SWP leader in Albany, chaired the meeting. Perasso thanked Virgia Phoenix, director of the center, for hosting the celebration, recalling the speakout against police brutality there last May that featured speakers from the Black community.

Beverly Hogs, one of those fighters, attended the celebration. Quinn had a long history in the fight for Black rights. "He was a fighter for what he believed in," Hogs told this reporter. "I loved that dude."

Workers from upstate New York, New York City, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Illinois and Kentucky came to the celebration.

Mike Fitzsimmons, a leader of the Albany Medical Center nurses' organizing drive, was also present.

## Working-class line of march

Lawrence Michael Quinn was born in 1952 in Bayonne, New Jersey. He got his first job at 14 cleaning ship holds. For two decades he worked on state highways and bridges and was an active unionist.

Won as a young man to the Irish Republican movement and the fight to unite Ireland, he built solidarity with the struggles, from the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre by British soldiers to the peace agreement in the late 1990s. He was editor of the *Irish People* newspaper in the 1990s.

His experiences as a worker and his growing understanding of class politics led Quinn to first join the Socialist Workers Party in 2000 and move to Pittsburgh.

From 2003 to 2017 he and Fitzgerald took responsibility for maintaining the upstate New York facility where the party organized a leadership school and editorial work.

"Larry joined the Socialist Workers Party 20 years ago to become a better fighter," Paul Mailhot, a member of the SWP National Committee, told participants.

"His experience as a worker and a fighter for Irish freedom convinced him that only a working-class movement with a revolutionary leadership was capable of carrying the fight to the end, to the working class taking

power and beginning the transformations necessary to resolve the wars, national discriminations, oppression and exploitation that capitalism brings down on working people."

## Openings to join resistance

When Quinn joined in 2000 the Socialist Workers Party was organizing the "third campaign for the turn to industry," Mailhot said.

"There were new stirrings of resistance in the working class after a decade-long rout of the labor movement, with the most important developments in meatpacking plants, coal mines and garment factories."

The beginning of more strikes and organizing drives posed opportunities and challenges for the party. "Larry was inspired by the prospects and quickly jumped into it, inspiring others," Mailhot said.

"It's an appropriate time to draw on those experiences today as party members are seeking to join struggles with co-workers around conditions on the job at Walmart and on the railroad," said Tony Lane, an SWP leader in Pittsburgh who worked with Quinn in the mines.

"Larry helped the party establish fractions in meatpacking and coal, where conditions were very different from what he was used to."



Militant/Jacob Perasso  
Larry Quinn meets Rosanna Burgess on her porch in Troy, N.Y., last Sept. 13, campaigning as SWP candidate for City Council president.



Militant photos by Roy Landersen

Above, speakers at March 15 meeting celebrating life of Larry Quinn. From left, Samantha Hamlin, SWP candidate with Quinn last year; Paul Mailhot, member of SWP National Committee; chairperson Jacob Perasso, and Tony Lane, from Pittsburgh, who worked in coal mines with Quinn. Inset, crowd at the meeting.



Quinn, Lane and Frank Forrestal, another party member, got jobs at the United Mine Workers-organized Maple Creek mine owned by coal boss Robert Murray, "where we found ourselves in the middle of a fight." Workers at the mine forced Murray to bring pay and work rules in conformity with the prevailing union contract.

"The party ran Forrestal for mayor of Pittsburgh in 2001, in the middle of the U.S. war drive after 9/11," Lane said. "The front page of the first *Militant* after 9/11 featured the miners' fight against Murray and the statement party members used carrying out a working-class campaign against imperialism and war."

## Confidence in working class

Samantha Hamlin, now SWP candidate for Congress in Illinois, worked with Quinn in Albany.

"I joined the party at around the same time Quinn rejoined after a short time out of the party," she said. "We both knew the decision we were making was one of confidence in the working class."

"As we were getting to know co-workers at Walmart, we built solidarity with union and social struggles," she said. When workers at the Stop & Shop grocery chain in New England went on strike, she and Quinn and co-workers wrote solidarity messages on cards they took to strik-

ers. They did the same for nurses at Albany Medical Center.

"Through this kind of work on the job, party members became known not only as supporters of union struggles, but as revolutionaries who take up the fight of all oppressed and exploited," Hamlin said.

"It helped us join workers' struggles for better conditions on the job, like a recent situation in the tire and lube department at a Walmart in Chicago where I helped lead 10 co-workers to refuse to work in sewage after being ordered to by the boss. Or the recent fight in a Walmart store in Albany where the workers waged a successful struggle to take their meal break at lunchtime — when they were actually hungry — instead of at an earlier time that the boss was trying to force.

"Through struggles like these workers gain confidence and learn how to fight," she continued. "These are necessary battles to begin to build a union. And through them workers come to see our party as one of competent union fighters, capable of leading the struggle to overthrow capitalism and its dog-eat-dog values."

"Quinn's confidence in the working class shined through everything he did," Hamlin said. "He will be deeply missed by everyone who had the honor of knowing him. And we will continue building the proletarian revolutionary movement he dedicated his life to."

Participants in the meeting contributed \$2,800 to the Socialist Workers Party.

# Bosses track your 'happiness' by spying on your life

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Claiming they're determined to bring "happiness" to their workers, bosses are increasingly intruding into their personal lives, supposedly to monitor how pleased they are with the company. The fact is, this is part of the bosses' drive to speed up the pace of work to boost their profits.

"Smile! Your Boss Is Tracking Your Happiness," headlined a March 7 *Wall Street Journal* article that described companies' use of new software to spy on workers' thoughts and behavior.

Some companies pay up to \$1 million a year to software firm Receptiviti, which digs around in personal email and messages. When workers are down, Receptiviti Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Kreindler told the *Journal*, they less frequently use "we" or "us" in talking about their employers.

Another "happiness monitoring device," being developed by Cornerstone OnDemand Inc., is to gather heart-rate data through devices workers would wear, such as smartwatches that company snoops could monitor.

Also being promoted is programming company laptop cameras that would regularly scan workers' faces to monitor their moods. "Companies are going to have to figure out ways to better engage and drive up the performance of the employees that they have," Nicole Jordan, an executive at Grant Thornton, one of the largest accounting firms in the world, told the *Journal*.

At Ford Motor Co., "HappyOrNot" machines have been in place at the entrances to some plants since 2018. Workers are asked questions like "How optimistic are you feeling about your day today?" and told to answer.

Those working in retail face some of the greatest pressures. Amid a rash of panic-buying over coronavirus concerns, these government-designated "essential workers" are under intense pressure to restock shelves fast and often, 20 employees at Walmart, Target and CVS told *Business Insider*.

At the same time, with strict attendance policies and few if any sick days available, workers are concerned about losing their jobs if they become ill.

At Walmart, absences are counted on a point system, and if you get five points in a six-month period, you're in trouble. One point is equal to just one day off work, so you're sick and take off five days, you're toast.

Workers need to fight to defend our jobs, wages and working conditions. The victories we score will make us happier.



Help get out the ‘Militant!’

Continued from front page hands of other workers wherever they can, deepening discussions about a working-class road forward.

They are using the Socialist Workers Party’s call to action for workers to organize and demand the government act now to protect working people. The call is reprinted in this issue and the demands in it are highlighted on the front page.

The paper gives voice to workers’ fights — like that waged by packing-house workers in Georgia featured in this issue. And like the fight by Walmart workers in Los Angeles who won the right of cashiers to have stools and to sit down as they worked. At a Walmart store in the Washington, D.C., area a worker wrote out a petition on a piece of cardboard that workers circulated demanding bosses fix the broken sink in the break room so workers could wash their hands. They won that fight too.

Every fight on the job around wages and working conditions is important. The more workers learn about each other’s struggles, the more our self-confidence can grow.

Send in reports of your experiences



Militant/Terry Evans  
Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, right, and campaign supporter Róger Calero discuss party’s call to action with Debora Ortiz in New York.

on the job and in discussions with fellow workers! Help make the paper a lively and concrete source of information about working-class struggles today.

Couple this with introducing people to books by Socialist Workers Party leaders on special offer. These include *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, both by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, and *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions*. Also *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa* by Enrique Ubieta Gómez, is a timely book that describes how the Cuban Revolution prepared workers and farmers there to offer support worldwide to those battling the scourge of the Ebola virus.

These titles explain what is behind the deepening crisis of capitalism we confront. They draw on decades of experiences of the working-class movement and of revolutionary struggles. They explain how the only way working people can get the lash of the bosses off our back once and for all is organizing to overthrow the rule of the exploiting capitalist class, and replace it with our own

workers and farmers government and changing ourselves in the process. These books describe how the kind of party necessary to do that can be built through our struggles, as well as the fact that there is an example we can look to in the 1959 revolution made by Cuban workers and farmers that stands strong today.

The *Militant* is a voice of uncompromising opposition to the punish-



Since 1928, the *Militant* has been a unique voice for working-class struggles and speaking out in the defense of all working people. It’s even more essential in times of crises, pointing a way forward. Clockwise from top left, front pages in 1929, 1951 and 2006.

ing sanctions Washington imposes on the people of Cuba, as well as Venezuela and Iran. And to the imperialist wars the U.S. rulers continue to wage in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Join in getting ‘Militant’ around

As the coronavirus outbreak continues to spread, the capitalist rulers worldwide have responded with efforts to defend their profit-driven system of exploitation. They’re increasingly imposing far-reaching lockdowns that make it more difficult for workers to organize to protect ourselves.

The *Militant* intends to continue publishing every week, and, with your help, aims to increase its circulation.

Many smaller papers, weeklies and others, are being forced to stop publication or retreat to the web. Their crisis is built on the fact that the provision of news under the profit system means that most media are dependent on advertising revenue. Because of the effects of the shutdowns, much of that advertising — especially from smaller businesses

that are also shut down — is drying up.

The *Militant* doesn’t seek advertising. The bedrock of the paper’s financing is our readers, who value its honest and forthright working-class coverage. They make sure it gets around and as they do so they seek contributions from others to assure its continuing publication.

Redouble your efforts!

The *Militant* reports on the discussions our readers are having today and their response to the SWP’s call to action. Malcolm Jarrett, the SWP’s candidate for vice president, and other supporters of the *Militant* spoke with 24-year-old Christian Canela. Jarrett asked him what he thought about the federal government plan to send some workers a \$1,000 check to help tide them by.

“That’s nothing,” Canela said. “Exactly,” Jarrett replied. “That’s why workers need to demand the government provide weekly unemployment benefits to everyone who is out of work.” Canela and his mother bought a copy of the *Militant*.

Alyson Kennedy, the party’s presidential candidate, spoke to Debora Ortiz in New York’s Harlem neighborhood. Ortiz said her employer had sent her home from work, and said she will continue to get paid “for now.” Many other workers are not so lucky.

Ortiz said she was surprised to learn from Kennedy that there were no unemployment benefits available for workers at the start of the 1930s Depression. This was only won by sizable struggles by unions and organizations of the unemployed that forced the government to extend some relief.

Kennedy showed Ortiz the call to action, and its demand “that the government provide immediate jobless benefits for all workers, farmers and other exploited producers, for as long as they need it! *Weekly unemployment relief* that working people can depend on — not just a one-time check in the mail that falls far short of what is needed.”

“We can make the federal government do these things, including the immediate measures to defend working people that we’re demanding,” Kennedy said, “but only if workers join together to fight for them.” Join in the *Militant*’s effort to expand our readership, and the reach of books by SWP leaders. Contribute as generously as you can to the \$115,000 fund, and ask others to join you.

You can contribute online at the-militant.com or mail a check or money order, made out to the *Militant*, to 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

A call to action to meet today’s unfolding crises

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following emergency call to action March 18. Malcolm Jarrett is the party’s 2020 vice presidential candidate.

Workers and our unions need to demand that the government act now to protect working people and humankind from the devastating consequences of today’s intertwined global economic, social, and medical crises.

The capitalist rulers, who are responsible for these breakdowns, must mobilize massive resources to contain and reverse the coronavirus epidemic and treat all those who fall ill. We must demand emergency relief for the working class, farmers, small shop owners, and other exploited producers under the hammer blows of lockdowns and

layoffs struck by the bosses, their government, and their Democratic and Republican parties.

We must reject the social isolation the rulers are seeking to impose on working people. Whatever health measures may be required under specific conditions, what workers need above all is class solidarity and united action to demand solutions to what we face.

Call on the government to construct emergency hospitals, provide beds and expand the production of medical equipment and supplies — now! Increase the training of workers to treat those infected and massively expand testing for the virus — now!

COVID-19 is a disease, with scientifically knowable causes, vaccines, and cures. There’s nothing “natural” about today’s worldwide crisis, how-

ever. It is a pure product of the profit-driven bosses and capitalist governments that serve them.

The propertied rulers want us to believe the social calamity we face is caused by a mutant virus, and all we can do is wait it out, let enough “carriers” die and hope we aren’t one of them. But class-conscious workers have an opposite moral and political compass. We keep looking for ways to advance the interests of humanity’s toiling majority, as we stand up to bosses’ attacks on our wages, job conditions and constitutional rights.

Workers at a Chicago-area Walmart this year, for example, refused to work in a tire and lube pit contaminated by raw sewage, despite the bosses’ insistence — and won a victory.

Workers at a store in New York state got together and pushed back efforts to force them to take lunch breaks at a time convenient to management, not when they were hungry and needed a break.

In each of these fights, workers won support and solidarity from other working people, who knew only too well how bosses try to make us pay for their crisis. By fighting, these workers strengthened both themselves and others. They showed we can rely on our own capacities for common action. In face of the crisis bearing down on us right now, we need to be at work, together with fellow workers,

Continued on page 11

**Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020!**  
**Campaign for what you are for, not who you’re against!**

- I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president.
- Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)
- I would like a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 ✉ Email: socialistworkers2020@gmail.com



# SWP candidate in Calif. backs nurses' protests for safety gear

BY BETSEY STONE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Holding signs reading, "PROTECT NURSES, PATIENTS, PUBLIC HEALTH," nurses protested outside more than a half-dozen Kaiser Permanente-owned hospitals in northern California March 19. They demanded immediate action to end the scarcity of N95 masks and other gear needed to protect health care workers treating patients with coronavirus.

The N95 masks, unlike simple surgical and dust masks, can block virus particles from being inhaled. Other crucial supplies, like gowns, gloves and goggles, are also in woefully short supply.

Nurses are also outraged that the Centers for Disease Control has relaxed safety guidelines. Hospitals are now allowed to use masks over and over, and to use inferior products, even bandanas, reversing longstanding guidelines for viral outbreaks.

"We are prudently managing our resources to ensure this equipment is available for our health care workforce for the duration of this pandemic," claimed Stephen Parodi, associate executive director of Permanente Medical Group.

Some hospital officials say they've

gone through a three-year supply in three months.

Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 13th District, talked with hospital workers outside Kaiser Permanente in Fremont March 21.

"We have to fight for masks. We are given one at a time, or none, and have to use masks over and over, for hours, with different patients," said Ana Ramirez, a phlebotomist there.

"The nurses' demand for immediate action must be supported," Britton said. "Working people can and should be mobilized to respond to the crisis."

"I saw two people come here bringing donations of masks," Britton told Ramirez. "A nurse at Kaiser's San Rafael Medical Center asked friends in construction to donate any N95 respirators to the hospital."

He gave Ramirez a copy of the call to action by SWP presidential candi-



Bonnie Castillo/National Nurses United

March 24 protest at Richmond, California, Kaiser Permanente, demanding immediate action to get needed protective gear. Nurses protested at other Kaiser hospitals earlier in the week.

date Alyson Kennedy demanding the government act *now* to protect working people and humankind.

"The successful fight by nurses in the California Nurses Association and hospital workers who are members of the National Union of Healthcare Workers

to prevent Seton hospital in Daly City from being closed is an example to be emulated," Britton said. On March 19 Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the state will keep the hospital open for at least a few more months to treat COVID-19 patients.

## Socialist Workers Party 2020 campaign platform

*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 colonial 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** The bosses and their government lie to working people about their production costs and profits, while they insist they can't afford to pay higher wages. Demand they open their books for inspection by workers and consumers. To prevent capitalist collusion and thievery — and their production of shoddy and dangerous goods like the Boeing 737 MAX — workers in their millions will need to fight for control of production, a step towards taking political power and a school for running the economy for ourselves in the interests of all.

**"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.

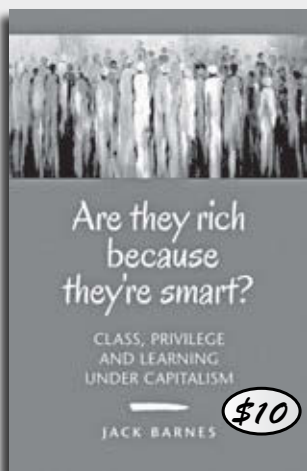
**PRISONER RIGHTS** End solitary confinement. End suppression of the *Militant*, books and newspapers by prison authorities. Abolish the death penalty, an anti-working-class weapon in the hands of the rulers.

**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!*

### Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning Under Capitalism by Jack Barnes



*"Only when capitalist social relations are uprooted through working-class action along the road to the conquest of state power — only when economic compulsion, the wages system, ceases to be the foundation of all social interaction — will new human relations emerge."*

**pathfinderpress.com**

### 2020 Socialist Workers Party candidates Alyson Kennedy for president Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

#### New York/New Jersey

Lea Sherman, US Senate, New Jersey  
Willie Cotton, 9th CD, New York  
Seth Galinsky, 10th CD, New York  
Abby Tilsner, 20th CD, Albany  
Jacob Perasso, 21st CD, Albany  
Candace Wagner, 8th CD, Union City, NJ

#### Mid-Atlantic Region

James Harris, delegate to Congress, D.C.  
Osborne Hart, 3rd CD, Philadelphia  
Ruth Robinett, 14th CD, Washington, PA  
Dave Ferguson, 18th CD, Pittsburgh

#### South

Rachele Fruit, US Senate, Georgia  
Anthony Dutrow, 27th CD, Miami

#### Midwest

Naomi Craine, US Senate, Illinois  
Maggie Trowe, US Senate, Kentucky  
David Rosenfeld, US Senate, Minnesota  
Samantha Hamlin, 3rd CD, Chicago  
Samir Hazboun, 3rd CD, Louisville  
Helen Meyers, 4th CD, St. Paul

#### Southwest and West Coast

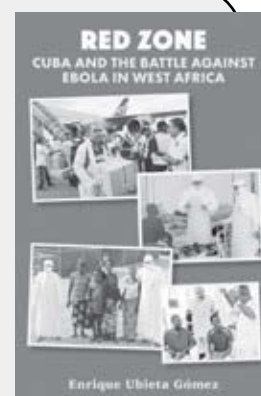
Henry Dennison, Governor, Washington  
Rebecca Williamson, 9th CD, Seattle  
Gerardo Sánchez, US Senate, Texas  
Joel Britton, 13th CD, Oakland  
Dennis Richter, 37th CD, Los Angeles  
Deborah Liatos, 40th CD, Los Angeles

See directory on page 10 to contact party campaign office nearest you.

### RED ZONE: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa

**Special offer: \$14 Normally \$17**  
In English or Spanish. See page 10 for distributor nearest you or visit:

**pathfinderpress.com**





# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

Are you involved in a union organizing drive or strike? Brought solidarity to fellow workers on the picket line? Let us know! Send articles, photos and letters to [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com) or through our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

## UK: Workers strike over low wages, multitier conditions

LONDON — Seventy refuse workers picketed the Thames Road Serco waste disposal depot in Bexley, in south-east London, March 18. Unite union members were taking strike action against low wages, lack of sick pay and multitier wages and conditions. Truck drivers passing along the busy highway sounded their horns in solidarity with the strikers.

“With this coronavirus problem, some workers have been refused time off to tend to family members,” Richard Thompson told the *Militant*. He has worked at the depot for 15 years. “The company hasn’t even provided hand sanitation for when we’re out on a run. The last they told us was that we’d have to wait four weeks for supplies.”

“Some people are on less than 9 pounds per hour (\$10.50) and there are at least four different sets of conditions involving huge differences in pay,” striker Henry Powell said. “People are fed up. Some workers get sick pay, others don’t. Same on holidays. Some are on zero-hour contracts. If you’re doing the same job, you should get the same pay and conditions.”

The union is demanding 13 pounds per hour, the rate refuse workers get in the neighboring Greenwich Borough. Danny Hogan, union secretary at the plant, told the *Militant* that conditions have deteriorated since Serco took over a decade ago. “The vote for industrial action was 93% in favor on a 60% turnout,” he said.

Workers reported that six months ago there were 40 union members at the depot. There are now 140.

One of the newer members is Garth Evans, who has worked there for 18 months. Celebrating the size and militancy of the picket, Evans commented: “We really need this. The company didn’t expect it. But we know we need unity and strength.” A couple of workers joined the strike and signed

up for the union, convinced by the pickets to do so.

Attempts by company supervisors to break the action by driving trucks out of the depot were stymied for hours as pickets blocked their path. The company then called cops who manhandled strikers as they tried to let the trucks pass. The next morning supervisors got the trucks out at 4 a.m. before picketing began.

After two days of strike action the company conceded it would cover sick pay, and workers approved a proposal from union officials to suspend the stoppage.

— Jonathan Silberman

## Teachers in Minnesota strike 3 days, demand more hiring

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Teachers ended a three-day strike March 13 that shut down public schools here, the first such walkout since 1946. The St. Paul Federation of Educators, with 3,600 members, picketed schools each morning and held spirited rallies and marches throughout the city every afternoon.

“We need more interpreters, more mental health support and more staff for



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Sanitation workers, members of Unite union on strike in south-east London, stop refuse truck March 18. Two-day walkout won sick pay. Workers are also demanding end to multitier wages.

special education students,” high school teacher Peter See told the *Militant* at a rally March 10 on first day of the strike. “And every school needs a nurse.”

Jason Bresette, a middle school teacher, said, “Most teachers work 60 to 80 hours per week. Our students have so many needs, they need more adult support.”

The school district has not released details of a proposed two-year settlement, and a date hasn’t been set for teachers to vote on the contract. Federation President Nick Faber told the

*Pioneer Press* that the union was concerned the district would use the coronavirus outbreak against the teachers.

“Some of the largest gatherings in St. Paul this week have been the daily rallies of striking teachers,” the paper said, while government officials have called for an end to public events and protests amid panic over the virus.

We didn’t want to put ourselves in a position where strikers were “quarantined out,” Faber said, “without pay and without leverage, as well.”

— Kevin Dwire

# Ohio, Texas use coronavirus to justify ban on abortion

BY EMMA JOHNSON

In decisions that deal blows to women’s rights and violate constitutional protections, the governments of Ohio and Texas have banned abortions, using the spread of the coronavirus as a pretext.

On March 17 Ohio’s Department of Health ordered all abortion providers to immediately stop performing the operation. Attorney General David Yost, three days later, declared abortions are “nonessential” medical procedures and the personal protective equipment used to carry them out is needed for coronavirus treatment. Under the order women would be forced to carry pregnancies to termination against their will.

This is the latest step in the state government’s attacks on women’s

right to choose, which have already led to severe restrictions. Last year a U.S. District Court judge issued an injunction against an Ohio law that bans women from getting an abortion if doctors can detect a heartbeat in the embryo, something that is possible within five weeks of a pregnancy.

The heads of two Planned Parenthood clinics issued a statement in response to Yost’s order, saying that they will “still continue providing essential procedures, including surgical abortion. ... Our doors remain open for this care.”

“The consequences of being unable to obtain an abortion profoundly impact a person’s life, health and well-being,” said a March 18 statement by organizations representing physicians working in

reproductive health, in response to the Ohio state ban.

On March 22 Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order “to expand hospital bed capacity as the state responds to the COVID-19 virus.” The following day Attorney General Ken Paxton “clarified” the order, saying abortions are one of the procedures not “medically necessary” and must be stopped.

Paxton threatened that failure to comply can result in a fine of up to \$1,000 or 180 days of jail time.

Texas has a slew of restrictions that make abortion very difficult for women to access. There are also few clinics outside the state’s big cities. As a result, the extra costs of travel for working-class women and those living in rural areas make abortion even harder to access.

The state has mandatory counseling to discourage women from getting the procedure; waiting periods; complicated protocols for medical abortions; parental consent for minors; and an obligation that the patient be shown an ultrasound image of the fetus. In addition, health plans purchased under the Affordable Care Act only permit abortion when a woman’s life or mental health is in danger.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



April 10, 1995

PARIS — A strike wave in France, taking place in the midst of the presidential election campaign, continues to shake up politics here. Walkouts are spreading among postal, railroad, bus and subway workers, as well as to the state-run airline.

Several thousand Renault strikers from plants throughout France demonstrated in front of the company’s headquarters during the reopening of wage negotiations. Thousands of others blocked gates at struck plants.

As workers assert themselves through strike action, presidential candidates adapt to the new situation. Jacques Chirac, the leading candidate, explained to the conservative *Le Figaro*: “There is a tear in the social fabric like our country has never seen, which is getting worse and imperils the cohesion of the nation.”



April 10, 1970

NEW YORK — Close to 3,000 demonstrators, mostly women, marched through the streets of New York March 28 in a militant show of support for “Free Abortions on Demand.” The demonstration was organized by People to Abolish Abortion Laws, a broad coalition of women’s liberation groups and other organizations supporting the fight to abolish New York State’s 140-year-old reactionary abortion statute. It was the first time in decades that such a broad spectrum of groups have been brought together to fight for a demand that is of vital concern to all women.

Signs demanded the right to abortion at any age, establishment of free abortion clinics, total repeal of all abortion laws and no forced sterilizations. The response from many people along the march route was friendly and encouraging.



April 7, 1945

Under the weight of the contradictions inherent in the bourgeois regime; under the growing pressure of the revolutionary upsurge of the proletariat and under military defeats, the Hitler apparatus is inexorably going down!

The governments of Washington and London, and the industrial and banking magnates, know that the collapse of Hitler will give impetus to the revolution in Germany and through all Europe.

Imbued with this preoccupation, the so-called democracies are today at the Quebec conferences drawing up the most detailed plans to stem the offensive of the working class and to replace, without grave consequences for themselves, the man whom in 1933 these same “democracies” aided in taking power with the mission to crush the revolution in Germany and abroad.

## Abortion Is a Woman’s Right!

by Pat Grogan, Evelyn Reed

Why abortion rights are central not only to the fight for the full emancipation of women, but to forging a united and fighting labor movement. — \$5



[pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)



# Kurds honor those slain in Saddam's Halabja massacre

BY TERRY EVANS

Some 30 million Kurds across the Middle East have fought for their national rights and sovereignty, long denied them, by the rulers in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Their fight has continued in the midst of the endless wars in the region inflicted by U.S. imperialism and the ruling classes across the area.

On March 16 Kurds in Iraq and elsewhere commemorated the 1988 chemical weapons massacre by the Saddam Hussein regime in Halabja. The horrors of that assault — which killed 5,000 people and injured 10,000 — failed to quell the fight for a Kurdish homeland and fueled another uprising by Kurds against Saddam just three years later.

“We know that many events have been cancelled but I feel like there are certain things that are important to do and we will not allow it to be forgotten,” Brian Futcher, organizer of a memorial service to honor those killed at Halabja in Southsea, England, told the Portsmouth *News* March 16.

Halabja was targeted by the Iraqi government as part of its 1988 Anfal campaign of extermination and forced removal of Kurds, during the latter part of its eight-year war on Iran. That war, fought with Washington's help, was aimed at pushing back the 1979 revolution in Iran that had overturned the dictatorship of the U.S.-backed shah. It was coupled with moves by the Saddam regime to crush resistance in Iraq's Kurdish region.

In addition to the tens of thousands of Kurds who were killed or forcibly relocated, the regime's genocidal assaults forced some 100,000 to flee to Iran, where they were welcomed and offered support by fellow Kurds.

The Anfal and Halabja attacks were organized by Ali Hassan al-Majid, Saddam's cousin, better known to the Kurds as “Chemical Ali” for ordering poison-gas attacks on Kurdish villages. Saddam's forces sought to replace the Kurds with Iraqi Arabs, who were offered cheap land. Kurds captured during the offensive were removed to other parts of the country and forbidden under threat of execution from returning.

The assault on Halabja was launched days after it was captured by Kurdish peshmerga fighters and allied Iranian Revolutionary Guard, which was fighting to repel Baghdad's invasion of Iran.

Saddam's forces struck Halabja with artillery fire and napalm to drive residents into underground shelters or out into the streets. Then they launched



Mass Kurdish uprising in Duhok, northern Iraq, in 1991. Three years earlier, Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein, with U.S. rulers' help, used chemical weapons to massacre Kurds in Halabja.

poison-gas bombing attacks using sarin and other deadly toxins aimed at exterminating the town's population. Sarin is heavier than air and easily penetrated into the shelters. In the immediate aftermath of the onslaught Saddam's regime expanded its Anfal offensive, including further gas attacks, and took control of other territory held by Kurdish fighters.

Washington backed the Iraqi rulers' 1980-88 war on Iran, though it publicly claimed “neutrality.” CIA files unearthed later show Washington provided Saddam's military with targeting information throughout the Anfal campaign. The U.S. rulers kept quiet about Baghdad's assaults on Kurds until they sharply shifted their policy against Saddam's regime and began publicizing its brutality in order to rationalize U.S. imperialism's 1990-91 war against Iraq.

In 1990 the Saddam regime invaded

Kuwait, offering Washington an excuse to unleash its own bloody slaughter. After the notorious “turkey shoot” that slaughtered thousands of fleeing Iraqi soldiers, the U.S. government declared a military victory.

Far from creating better conditions to enforce U.S. imperialism's domination of the region, Washington's assault exacerbated turmoil and class and national struggles there. The Kurdish people took advantage of the weakening of the Iraqi rulers and revolted across northern Iraq, driving out Saddam's forces. At the same time, the Shiite population of southern Iraq rose up against Saddam's hated government.

Washington's war had unintended consequences. “Baghdad's defeat opened a wedge for our uprising and then in 1992 for the establishment and survival of the Kurdistan Regional

Government in northern Iraq,” Hazhar Majeed, owner of a the Endese bookshop in Sulaymaniyah, part of the KRG's territory, told *Militant* reporters in a 2017 interview.

After a second U.S. intervention in 2003 overthrew Saddam, mobilizations against successive Iraqi regimes have taken place, including today's battle to rid the country of its current government and end Tehran's and Washington's intervention there.

## Struggle for Kurdish sovereignty

The Kurdish people had been denied a homeland when the imperialist governments of France and the U.K. carved up the Mideast after the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire in the first imperialist world war. But the Kurds have never stopped fighting to win sovereignty. Slaughters like that at Halabja only deepened their determination.

Neither Washington nor Baghdad anticipated the depth of the Kurds' rebellion. “The Kurdish people have come to the center stage of world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as courageous and determined fighters,” Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes wrote in “Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq” in *New International* no. 7.

The capitalist rulers in Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey remain determined to prevent advances in the Kurdish people's fight for national rights. But the impact of today's wars, and the economic and social crises that go with them, will deepen the Kurds' resolve to prevail. And further struggles by workers and farmers across the region will provide the Kurds with allies.

## A conspiracy to keep women from being beautiful?

BY SETH GALINSKY

Author Sesali Bowen provides a justification for the so-called “beauty” industry in the March 4 *New York Times*, in the name of opposing what she calls the “shaming” of women who use cosmetic surgery.

In “What Women Who Criticize Plastic Surgery Don't See,” Bowen says that from makeup and hair weaves to breast augmentation and lipoplasty, many women have “found ways to leverage those standards ... in order to pass, to survive and to thrive.” This is especially necessary, she says, for Black women.

Bowen complains that plastic surgery “has been oversimplified as unnecessary, self-obsessed and harmful.” She writes off the stories of women who were left disfigured or dead as scare tactics to “shame” those who undergo the surgeon's knife. They should not have gone to the “black market,” she says. And she ignores the fact that cosmetic surgery is a big business, worth some \$20 billion a year.

There is nothing new in Bowen's argument. In 1954 a sharp debate broke out in the pages of the *Militant*, after it published an exposé by Joseph Hansen of the cosmetics industry and how it profits off undermining women's self-confidence. This debate is available in the book *Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women* by Evelyn Reed, Joseph Hansen and Mary-Alice Waters.

In the 2010 introduction to the Spanish-language edition of the book, Waters describes the even greater resources devoted by capitalist companies since the

1954 debate to create markets and push the working class to “shop until you drop” — to “need” everything “from must-have cellphones, to the latest model automobiles ... [to] an exploding array of ‘cosmetic’ surgeries.”

“The pressure to be ‘fashionable’ — that is to be ‘employable,’ and attractive to a potential spouse,” Waters writes, “has penetrated even more deeply into the working class.” And the ever-changing “beauty” standards are an integral part of the perpetuation of women's oppression.

Bowen says women who criticize plastic surgery are “conventionally attractive with flat stomachs and round derrieres,” and have an ulterior motive. They “fear that their pretty privilege — the benefits they get to enjoy for meeting those standards without the help of a doctor — is at risk. If beauty became democratized by more people simply paying surgeons for it, the proverbial finish line gets pushed further away.” Even more women should undergo surgery to even up the competition, she contends.

Similar arguments were presented in the 1954 debate. *Militant* reader Louise Manning complained that the exposé of the cosmetics industry by Hansen was an affront to the right of working-class women to strive for “some loveliness and beauty in their lives.” And she added, “The wealthy are beautiful because the workers are wretched.”

Hansen responded that you might as well say that “morality is predominantly monopolized by the wealthy” and that the “wealthy are moral because the

workers are immoral.”

He concluded that “as for so-called ordinary women, whether housewives or workers, I think they are beautiful, no matter how toil worn or seasoned in experience, for they are the ones who will be in the forefront of the struggle to build a new and better world.” Hansen pointed out that standards of beauty and fashion are *class* questions that cannot be separated from the history of class struggle.

Today we are living through an intertwined and deepening capitalist economic, social and health crisis. Like in previous crises, the ruling class unleashes a “culture war” aimed at pushing us to accept their dog-eat-dog values.

Given the harsh reality of the competition for jobs, women often give at least token recognition to the dictates of the cosmetic and fashion industries, Reed notes. But that “doesn't mean that we must accept these edicts and compulsions complacently or without protest.”

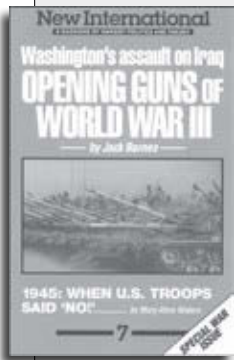
“The workers in the plants are often obliged to accept speedups, pay cuts, and attacks on their unions,” Reed says. “But they always and invariably accept them under protest, under continuing struggle against them, and in a constant movement to *oppose* their needs and will against their exploiters.”

Reed concludes that “the class struggle is a movement of *opposition*, not *adaptation*, and this holds true not only of the workers in the plants, but of the women as well, both workers and housewives.” That's as true today as it was during the 1954 debate.

### Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes

In *New International* no. 7



“The Kurdish people have come to the center stage in world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as courageous and determined fighters for national rights.”

— Jack Barnes

\$14. Also in Farsi, French, Spanish, Swedish

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)



# Algerian rulers bar protests

**Continued from front page**  
have fought for national and language rights for decades. When that didn't quell the actions authorities arrested thousands of others, saying they were leaders of the protests.

In April army chief Gen. Ahmed Gaed Salah urged Bouteflika to resign, which he did within hours. Then the army postponed elections. Gaed Salah assumed the role of the public face of the regime, presenting the decisions of the government.

Protests demanding the whole regime step down continued. The arrests of figures linked to Bouteflika did nothing to stop them. Calls for Gaed Salah's resignation and for the army to stay out of politics started appearing. In September the government set elections for December. The election campaign took place while big marches in the streets continued and many prominent figures in the protests urged a boycott. With a turnout

of some 40%, former Prime Minister Tebboune was elected president.

According to the *Algiers Herald*, authorities had tried to shut down the protests on the four Saturdays preceding the March 17 ban. Security forces were deployed from the morning hours, and when protesters showed up in the early afternoon cops chased them across the city center in Algiers, "beating and arresting passers-by," the paper reported. When demonstrators tried to start the march, they were charged by the police.

As the virus has spread the government closed schools and universities and banned incoming flights from some European countries. A week before the ban on demonstrations, the president suspended "meetings and gatherings of a cultural, economic, political and sporting nature." Despite this, hundreds of people were back in the streets of the capital three days later.

There were differences of opinion among those who have joined the pro-



Reuters/Ramzi Boudina  
**Demonstrators at Feb. 28 anti-government protest in Algiers. Placard reads: "The authority and its supporters are deadlier than the coronavirus." After year of massive protests, military-dominated regime used justification of virus crisis to ban demonstrations March 17.**

tests about whether to pause them or not. "I think Tebboune said something reasonable. Health is our top priority in these circumstances," Djamel Aziz, a student who has marched

every week, told Reuters March 17. Teacher Mohamed Hachimi, on the other hand, said, "The system is trying to use coronavirus as an argument to end our revolution."

## Protests, job actions take on bosses' disdain for workers' health, safety

**Continued from front page**  
campaigning with on the job and in working-class neighborhoods nationwide.

In Walmart stores, packinghouses, hospitals, and other factories and workplaces, working people are seeking ways to protect themselves. One thing today's crisis clearly shows — it is the working class that is the essential class for production and transport. They create all the wealth the bosses and their hangers-on appropriate.

Fifty workers walked out at the Perdue Farms chicken slaughterhouse in Kathleen, Georgia, March 23, and rallied outside the plant. "We're not getting nothing — no type of compensation, no nothing, not even no cleanliness, no extra pay — no nothing," Kendalyn Gran-

ville told channel 13WMAZ. "We're up here risking our life for chicken."

Granville said supervisors tell them the company sanitizes the building every night, but when she comes in every morning, there is food on the floor from the night before and the bathrooms are still dirty.

"All we're asking now is just to sanitize the building," she said.

The bosses response was to send Houston County Sheriffs deputies, who ordered the workers to disperse.

Earlier this year Walmart workers in Los Angeles fought for and won the right of cashiers to have stools and to sit down as they worked. Workers at numerous Walmart stores have organized to demand bosses take immediate steps to make work safer.

Pork packing plant bosses have asked the U.S. government to approve additional guest worker visas, hoping temporary workers from Mexico and Central America will be more willing to accept rotten wages and working conditions.

Some workers told Bloomberg News that they believe the bosses are trying to ramp up production as high as possible, seeking profits now before they face virus-related disruptions that slow down production.

Workers in Amazon warehouses in the U.S., France and Italy — all countries where coronavirus outbreaks are widespread — have protested against unsafe conditions. At Amazon's Italian hub in Castel San Giovanni, workers called a strike, accusing the bosses of endangering their health and safety by not slowing down the pace of work.

airport, were laid off, Abi Colon Gomez talked to the *Orlando Weekly*.

"To me, the union will be the perfect tool to stop companies from taking advantage of us," he said. Without one, "we don't even know if we're going to get a job back. The only way for this to change is for us to have a union."

All of this shows that workers facing the threefold economic, social and medical crisis today are more than willing to stand up, come together and fight.

### Small businesses face disaster

Many small business owners face disaster. Like many other newspapers in towns and smaller cities across the country, Doyle Murphy, editor of the weekly *Riverfront Times* in St. Louis, told the *New York Times*, he's in trouble.

The virus, and the city's imposition of restrictions on people dining out, meant the paper's advertising base dried up. Similarly, their other big source of revenue — ads from area concerts and other public events — also disappeared.

Murphy called the virus "a nearly perfect weapon against alternative weeklies." While he hasn't given up, he's had to lay off staff, and, if the shutdown continues, he says he may not make it.

We at the *Militant* extend a hand of solidarity. Unlike the *Riverfront Times*, we aren't reliant on ads from the bosses, but on generous contributions from workers who are determined to see our working-class coverage and our revolutionary perspective get a broader reach. Join them!

Farmers, small shopkeepers, self-employed workers and many others face similar pressures.

### How can we fight?

The bosses, their government and their Democratic and Republican parties are doing what they can to make such fights harder, scrambling to adopt more forceful quarantine and curfew policies that curb people's movements and rights, including meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and other recovery groups that are an essential medical need.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced... **Continued on page 9**

## Three books to be read as one ...

**Special Offer!**  
All three \$30

Either book plus *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* \$25

**... about building the only kind of party worthy of the name "revolutionary" in the imperialist epoch.**

- A party that's working class in program, composition, and action.
- A party that recognizes, in word and deed, the most revolutionary fact of our time:

That working people — those the bosses and privileged layers who serve them fear as "deplorables," "criminals," or just plain "trash" — have the power to create a different world as we organize and act together to defend our own interests, not those of the class that grows rich off exploiting our labor. That as we advance along that revolutionary course, we'll transform ourselves and awaken to our capacities — to our own worth.

Three books about building such a party in the U.S. and worldwide.

See distributors page 10 or visit [pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com)



# Workers need road forward to battle economic and social crises

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The coronavirus pandemic has precipitated the fastest fall ever on the capitalists' stock markets the world over, posing the need for workers to organize and chart a road forward out of the unfolding economic and social crises.

In the U.S. and around the world, the capitalist rulers are trying to stem the virus tide by shutting down much of the economy and globalized world production and trade, apart from "essential" industries and services. Borders have been closed, lockdowns and curfews imposed in ever more far-reaching fashion. As the social dislocation for hundreds of millions of working people increase, so too will attacks on our rights and political space.

And protests and job fights by workers seeking to defend their livelihood and wages, and enforce a measure of safety on the job, are taking place and will spread.

Workers need to find ways to discuss and take action against the efforts of the bosses to boost profits with disregard for safety and working conditions, like nurses, meatpacking, Walmart and other workers have been doing.

Urgent relief, including a government-guaranteed weekly living income, is needed for the many millions of workers, farmers, small shop owners and other self-employed workers hit by layoffs and lockdown regulations, whether in big cities, small towns or rural areas. So are massive government resources for a crash program to produce effective ameliorative medications, a vaccine and a cure.

This is what the Socialist Workers Party's call to action, reprinted in this issue, explains. Used alongside the *Militant* newspaper, it is being advanced by SWP candidates and fighting workers on the job and in discussions across the country.

Bosses and coupon-clipping investors in stocks and bonds are in panic mode, as their confidence in government and central bank measures to stem the deepening crisis swings up

and down. The capitalist rulers have little room today to use banking or currency manipulations to curb the sharpening contraction of their economy.

The shutdowns of all but certain key industries and government lockdowns spreading around the world have spawned a growing international depression. The "Big Three" auto bosses, Boeing and other large factory owners have shut down.

An additional external shock, in the midst of this crisis, is the collapse of the crude oil production quotas and price fixing deal between the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Russia. This caused a glut amid falling demand and already plummeting prices. Low prices will hit highly indebted U.S. shale oil producers hard as well as the budgets of governments dependent on oil exports like Venezuela, Nigeria and Iran.

## Unemployment relief for all now!

Unemployment has skyrocketed. In mid-March, in big cities nationwide work hours dropped by over half in just one week. In San Francisco, they plummeted almost two-thirds. This, not government statistics, is the real indicator of joblessness.

Many workers seeking sorely needed unemployment pay or other state aid face websites crashing, no one answering the phone and — if they do get through — being told that because of the massive numbers applying, their benefits won't begin for weeks or even months.

So-called essential workers, exempt from government lockdown orders, include millions of farmworkers and workers in health; rail, trucking and other transport; retail; and a variety of different factories. Most farmworkers and many others don't have sick pay. Many of the 34 million workers in food, retail and hospitality have been thrown out of work, and many live paycheck to paycheck. Undocumented workers in agriculture and other jobs can't turn to the government for aid.

Millions already faced a crisis before the virus struck. More than a third of



Workers, suddenly without jobs, line up for unemployment benefits in Las Vegas March 17. The virus outbreak triggered the coming depression, which has been looming for some time.

the U.S. population didn't have enough cash on hand to cover an unexpected \$400 expense, a 2019 Federal Reserve survey concluded.

"Getting infected with the virus is not as much of an existential threat to my life as not having money for rent and food," Ali Tahir in Austin, Texas, told the March 20 *Wall Street Journal*. He operates a small Pakistani food catering business and has a second job as an event bartender. Being self-employed like many gig workers, he is ineligible for unemployment benefits.

The SWP says workers need to come together to fight back. Demand that the government provide "*weekly unemployment relief*" that working people can depend on — not just a one-time check in the mail that falls far short of what is needed."

For workers in industries that aren't shut down — like Walmart and other large retail chains and grocery stores — the bosses are using the crisis to push fewer to work harder and other speedup measures, while largely ignoring safety considerations.

## Workers face depression conditions

John Mauldin, an investment adviser for the boss class, wrote March 20 that jobless figures "are not recession numbers. They are depression numbers."

"The U.S. is facing a deflationary depression. One cannot have the economic impacts we are seeing and think they will magically go away when the virus does," he said. And conditions are far worse for the toilers in the semicolonial world in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The coronavirus pandemic has acted as an external shock to the already crisis-ridden global capitalist economy, which turned that crisis into a spiraling economic, social and medi-

cal disaster for humanity. The rulers' woefully inadequate, profit-driven and insurance-organized medical and hospital system can't begin to deal with the spread of the disease. Global production and trade is tumbling.

The 1988 Socialist Workers Party resolution "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold" and a brief 1923 article "The Curve of Capitalist Development" by Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky are invaluable weapons for working-class fighters to understand the deeper economic forces at work behind this unprecedented historic crisis. They are reproduced in *New International* no. 10, a journal of Marxist politics and theory, available from distributors listed on page 10.

The resolution explains that "the October 1987 international stock market crash was a product of explosive pressures that have built up by the evolution of the imperialist-dominated world economy since the deceleration of capital accumulation in the late 1960s and early 1970s."

Trotsky, in his short piece, notes that "a transition from an entire boom epoch to one of decline ... engenders the greatest historical disturbances."

"Coming partial crises," the SWP resolution explains, "instead of being buffered by a robust and expanding international capitalist economy, will more and more threaten to trigger a credit collapse and a worldwide depression of production and employment." The coronavirus pandemic is such a crisis, and has triggered this "historical disturbance."

As the SWP's call to action explains, "Workers organizing to fight the bosses is the foundation on which all other progress rests." And fights have begun being organized against the bosses today.

## Protests, job actions hit boss disdain

Continued from page 8

nounced new moves "to keep people separated," including using cops to police lines at stores or break up groups of teenagers playing basketball in the park.

The city sent cops into over 7,000 supermarkets, pharmacies, bars and restaurants March 21 — both those that have been ordered closed and those still open — the beginning of what they promise will be ongoing forays.

They say they're making sure those ordered closed are really closed, and those open are rigidly enforcing "social distancing." They will expand their patrols to include hair salons, nail salons and tattoo parlors, all of which have been ordered to shut down.

*Newsweek* reported March 21 that the U.S. military has contingency plans for suppressing "civil disturbances" and imposing "law and order." And California Gov. Gavin Newsom said he has the power to declare martial law, if needed.

"We must reject the social isolation

the rulers are seeking to impose on working people," the SWP call to action says. "Whatever health measures may be required under specific conditions, what workers need above all is class solidarity and united action to demand solutions to what we face."

And there is medical evidence to back this up. Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, told the *Star-Tribune* March 22 that "crowd size really makes no difference." He cited evidence showing it is direct physical contact more than close proximity that increases the risk of transmission.

What we need today is "a battle to win protection for the working class and our oppressed and exploited allies, here and all over the world," the SWP call says. "As we gain confidence in ourselves and fellow workers, we can rebuild our badly weakened unions and begin using union power once again."

### In *New International* no. 10

## 'What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold'

### Resolution adopted by SWP 1988 convention

*"The October 1987 crash on the world's stock markets signaled the consequences: no longer can the exploiters be confident that a major bankruptcy, loan default, crop failure, bank collapse, deflationary slump, stock market dive, or other partial crisis will be buffered and absorbed by the strength of production, investment and trade in the broader capitalist economy."*

*"Today, at this advanced point in the stagnation of capital accumulation, any of these partial crises has the growing potential to spiral out of control and trigger a worldwide depression and generalized social crisis."*

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)





# Cuban revolution addresses key questions facing workers

The First and Second Declarations of Havana: Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas Adopted by the Cuban People is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March. The two declarations were adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962. "What does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible," Cuban leader Fidel Castro explained, reading the Second Declaration to the 1962 Havana rally. The excerpt below is from the preface by Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters, who edited the book. Copyright © 2007 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Are the program and strategic course that resulted in the victory of workers and farmers in the Bolshevik-led 1917 October Revolution, as well as the debates that led to the formation in 1919 of a new revolutionary international — explained with such clarity by V.I. Lenin — still worth studying a century later? Or are the class forces shaping the world of the twenty-first century so fundamentally different that the Russian Revolution and the trajectory of the first five years of the Communist International are largely irrelevant? Are the political



Cuban workers and farmers, many having just learned to read and write through mass literacy campaign, sign Second Declaration of Havana, 1962. In face of U.S. imperialist attacks, they defiantly showed their support for Cuba's socialist revolution, and for struggles for popular power throughout the Americas.

foundations of revolutionary activity today the same as those presented by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels? ...

Is socialism a set of ideas? Or is it — as Marx and Engels pointed out in the Communist Manifesto, and as has been confirmed in blood and sweat over a century and a half of popular struggles — the line of march of the working class toward power, a line of march "springing from an existing class struggle, from a historical movement going on under our very eyes"?

Nowhere are these kinds of questions that today confront men and women on the front lines of struggles in Latin America addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in the First and Second Declarations of Havana, presented by Cuban prime minister Fidel Castro and adopted by million-strong General Assemblies of the Cuban People on September 2, 1960, and February 4, 1962. That is why Pathfinder decided these declarations need to be broadly available today, presented in a way that helps make them and their interconnections more transparent and accessible to new generations of militants who did not live the tumultuous revolutionary events in the heat of which these documents were forged and signed on to by millions. ...

The first National General Assembly of the Cuban People was convoked

on September 2, 1960, during the most intense period of mass mobilization the revolution had yet known. In the weeks before and after that outpouring, in response to the imperialists' increasing acts of armed terror and economic sabotage, hundreds of thousands of workers were taking control of more and more industrial enterprises in Cuba — factory after factory was "intervened," as Cuban workers termed it, and then nationalized by the revolutionary government.

In June 1960 three major imperialist-owned oil trusts in Cuba had announced their refusal to refine petroleum bought from the Soviet Union. Cuban workers responded by taking control of refineries owned by Texaco, Standard Oil, and Shell and refining the oil themselves. Within days U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered punitive action, slashing by 95 percent the quota of sugar Washington had earlier agreed to import during the remaining months of 1960. Within seventy-two hours, the Soviet Union announced it would purchase all Cuban sugar the U.S. refused to buy.

Across the island, Cubans responded by defiantly proclaiming "*Sin cuota pero sin bota*" — without the U.S. market, but with the imperial boot no longer on our neck.

On August 6, as the capitalists' economic sabotage escalated, the revolu-

tionary government adopted a decree expropriating the "assets and enterprises located on national territory . . . that are the property of U.S. legal entities." The following days and nights became known in Cuba as the Week of National Jubilation. Tens of thousands of Cubans celebrated by marching through the streets of Havana bearing coffins containing the symbolic remains of U.S. companies such as the United Fruit Company and International Telephone and Telegraph, tossing them into the sea.

By the end of October, Cuban workers and peasants, supported by their government, had expropriated virtually all imperialist-owned banks and industry, as well as the largest holdings of Cuba's capitalist class, including such icons as Bacardi rum. Together with the 1959 agrarian reform, which expropriated millions of acres of the largest landed estates and issued titles to some 100,000 landless peasants, property relations in city and countryside had been transformed, definitively establishing the character of the revolution as socialist — the first in the hemisphere — and making clear to all that state power now served the historic interests of working people.

Participating alongside the Cuban people in the events of this historic turning point were many of the nearly one thousand young people from across Latin America, as well as the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, China, and elsewhere, who had traveled to Cuba to take part in the First Latin American Youth Congress that opened July 26, 1960, in the Sierra Maestra mountains. Among those who that summer were convinced of the necessity, and the possibility, of emulating the revolutionary road traveled by the Cuban people were a good many of the future leaders of revolutionary struggles throughout the Americas. This included young leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance in the United States.

It was Che Guevara, in his welcoming speech to the youth congress delegates on July 28, who explained to them — and to the world — that "if this revolution is Marxist — and listen well that I say 'Marxist' — it is because it discovered, by its own methods, the road pointed out by Marx."

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

### UNITED STATES

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

**FLORIDA:** **Miami:** 1444 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 215. Zip: 33132. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

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

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

**KENTUCKY:** **Louisville:** 1939 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 134. Zip: 40218. Tel: (502) 882-1041. Email: louisvilleswp@gmail.com

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

**NEBRASKA:** **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811. Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@gmail.com

**NEW JERSEY:** 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 257-5753. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

**NEW YORK:** **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** 285 Washington Ave. #1R. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 810-1586. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA:** **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** P.O. Box 79142. Zip: 15216. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

**TEXAS:** **Dallas:** 1005 W. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 207. Zip: 75208. Tel: (469) 513-1051. Email: dallasswp@gmail.com

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

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

### AUSTRALIA

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

### CANADA

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

### FRANCE

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

### NEW ZEALAND

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

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND:** **London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

*March* **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

**PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS**

**30% DISCOUNT**

**The First and Second Declarations of Havana**  
Manifestos of Revolutionary Struggle in the Americas Adopted by the Cuban People \$10. **Special price: \$7**

**The First Ten Years of American Communism**  
Report of a Participant by James P. Cannon \$17. **Special price: \$12**

**Military Writings**  
by Leon Trotsky \$15. **Special price: \$10.50**

**The Changing Face of U.S. Politics**  
Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions by Jack Barnes  
How millions of workers will revolutionize themselves, their unions and all of society. \$23. **Special price: \$16**

**Woman's Evolution**  
From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family by Evelyn Reed \$25. **Special price: \$17.50**

**Los cosméticos, las modas y la explotación de la mujer**  
(Cosmetics, Fashions and the Exploitation of Women) by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, Mary-Alice Waters \$12. **Special price: \$8.50**

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

**ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM OFFER GOOD UNTIL MARCH 31**



# Call to action to meet unfolding crises

Continued from page 4

in order to multiply such resistance.

Demand that the government provide immediate jobless benefits for all workers, farmers and other exploited producers, for as long as they need it! *Weekly unemployment relief* that working people can depend on — not just a one-time check in the mail that falls far short of what is needed.

Jobless workers need such benefits, regardless of what kind of work they'd been doing. No matter where they live — in a big city, small town, or rural areas. Whether or not they have “papers” the rulers demand in order to be “legal.” Whether these workers had been “permanent,” “temporary” or “self-employed.”

In face of sudden job cuts and health emergencies, it is essential to ensure that no worker or their family is left by the bosses to fend for themselves. It's a precondition to strengthening the solidarity and combativity of our class.

The working class and unions need to fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale wages — building hospitals, housing, and other facilities working people need.

From the polio epidemic and outbreak of the HIV virus in the last century, medical treatments have been developed to protect human beings from such deadly scourges.

We need to demand a crash government program to greatly expand the resources to produce a coronavirus vaccine, as well as medicines to ameliorate the conditions and cure those infected. Such vital work can't be left to profit-driven decisions and priorities by the owners of giant drug companies, nor to billion-dollar federal bonanzas for their coffers.

It is the capitalist government's responsibility to mount an immediate and compulsory mobilization to produce a vaccine, using all the scientific and technological advances available. What's more,

steps forward in developing vaccines and treatments must be shared with those who need it around the world, not wrapped up in patents and “intellectual property” red tape at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives.

Price gouging by profiteers, anti-social hoarding, turning your back on others in need — all these are by-products of the panic and fear bred by the rulers' refusal to take the necessary measures. Such cowardice and fear are especially rampant today among middle class and professional layers.

But resolute action by the working class and unions can counter these anti-working-class attitudes and acts by pointing a way forward.

Workers organizing together to fight the bosses is the foundation on which all other progress rests. A war footing is necessary to confront today's deepening capitalist crisis and its consequences. Not a war for superprofits of the ruling class in the U.S. and around the world, like the wars workers have experienced throughout our lives and of those who came before us. But a battle to win protection for the working class and our oppressed and exploited allies, here and all over the world.

As we gain confidence in ourselves and fellow workers, we can rebuild our badly weakened unions and begin *using* union power once again.

We can establish our own party, a labor party that helps us organize and fight politically for these demands. A revolutionary party that speaks — *and above all, acts* — for all working people.

And we will develop the courage, class consciousness, and battle-tested experience and savvy needed to build a movement of millions. A movement to overturn rule by the capitalist exploiters, replace it with a workers and farmers government, and march arm in arm with our sisters and brothers everywhere toward a socialist world.

## Asarco strikers fight bosses' union busting

Continued from front page

continuing to fight this corporate tyrant.”

In October members of the Steelworkers, Teamsters and five other unions went on strike after voting 77% to reject the company's demands. These included jacking up health care costs, extending the decadelong wage freeze for most workers, freezing pensions and restricting the unions' right to protect workers on the job.

Miners picket 24/7 at the company's three open-pit mines — Mission, Ray and Silver Bell — and the smelter in Hayden, Arizona, and refinery in Amarillo, Texas. They've won a steady stream of solidarity from working people and local small businesses.

Spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. has had an effect on the strike. “We cut back to 10 people max at the picket lines,” Terrazas said. “We stopped the regular Sunday dinners at the Mission Mine picket line and the Friday night dinners and movie showings at the Silver Bell Mine.”

These were events that drew strikers, their families and supporters together every week. Strikers and their supporters continue to get together on the picket lines, many at a regular time slot, he said.

The impact of the virus has also affected the strikers' food pantries, especially the run on essential products at stores in smaller cities, where the mines are located. The food pantry in Kearny, Arizona, closed March 16 after available grocery supplies dwindled. The pantry in the Tucson area is still open, but short on many needed items.

Asarco has maintained some production with workers who have crossed the picket lines, replacement workers, nonunion contractors and supervisors.

Terrazas noted that with less experienced workers a fire broke out at the Mission Mine Feb. 19, slowing down production.

At the refinery in Amarillo “the company is trying to make coils out of copper from the mines in Arizona but it hasn't worked out very well,” Leonardo Segura, vice president of USW Local 5613, told the *Militant* by phone March 24. Segura is a worker on

strike there. “About three weeks back we heard a big boom. The second cooler in the rod line messed up on them.” Segura said strikers are maintaining picket lines of two to five people.

In March, Asarco paid \$33,000 in fines to the Environmental Protection Agency for releasing dust containing lead, arsenic and other hazardous pollutants at the Hayden smelter in 2015. The EPA reported that industries in Arizona released 170 million pounds of toxic chemicals and heavy metals in 2018. That year eight of the state's top 10 ranked releases came from copper mines and smelters.

The American Federation of Teachers union at Seattle community colleges voted March 3 to send a \$400 contribution to the strike fund along with a message of support to the strikers.

Send financial contributions and solidarity messages to USW Local 915 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 550, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5252 Strike Assistance, P.O. Box 896, Kearny, AZ 85137; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, TX 79108; or via paypal.me/palfcommunityservice for Tucson-area strikers. Solidarity messages can be sent to palfchair@gmail.com. Contribute to the food pantries at: USW 915 and 886 hall, 107 Hammond Dr., Kearny; IBEW Local 570 hall, 750 S. Tucson Blvd., Tucson; USW Local 5613, 4230 Texas Hwy 136, Amarillo, Texas.

*Deborah Liatos contributed to this article.*

### Cuba May Day brigade postponed

The U.S. National Network on Cuba announced March 18 that this year's May Day International Brigade of Voluntary Work and Solidarity with Cuba has been postponed.

The decision by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), the organizer of the brigade, is part of measures taken by the Cuban government to fight the spread of COVID-19 there.

## Cuba int'l solidarity

Continued from front page

solidarity,” fellow doctor Graciliano Díaz told Reuters.

Such working-class internationalism has been a hallmark of the Cuban Revolution since workers and farmers, led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army, overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959 and went on to take power into their own hands. During the revolutionary war they established clinics and field hospitals in areas they controlled, treating rebel soldiers, but also enemy combatants as well as local peasants, many getting medical care for the first time.

Working people gained confidence in their own capacities to resolve what at times seemed like insurmountable problems as they began running society.

In recent days the government has also sent medical brigades to combat coronavirus in Grenada, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Suriname and Venezuela, boosting the more than 28,000 medical volunteers it has serving in 61 countries around the world.

“We are not slaves, we are going voluntarily to offer our solidarity, to heal those who need it anywhere in the world,” Eduardo Ropero Poveda, coordinator of the brigade heading to Jamaica, told *Juventud Rebelde*.

Ropero was referring to lies perpetrated by Washington that the Cuban medical volunteers are “held in servitude.” The U.S. rulers use such slanders to advance their six-decades-long economic war aimed at overthrowing Cuba's revolutionary government.

### Government looks to working people

The government's response to the worldwide spread of the virus is consistent with the steps to minimize the impact of the disease in Cuba. It looks to the creativity and capacities of the country's working people to combat natural disasters and meet other challenges.

Nearly 65,000 workplace meetings involving some 2.5 million workers have already taken place since March 9, organized by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), to discuss the prevention of coronavirus.

Garment shops all over the country have switched over to production of thousands of face masks every day.

The government has mobilized 28,000 medical students to visit people at their homes nationwide. They rapidly received training to safely screen and isolate individuals who might have the disease, and then inform family doctors who make sure those infected get treatment.

Each student is expected to visit 80 houses a day. More than a million people had been visited by March 20, reported Prensa Latina.

“We're taking every precaution to protect the medical students involved,” Jorge González Pérez, national director for Medical Studies at the Cuban Ministry of Public Health, told Radio Havana. “The aim is for the early detection and diagnosis of any possible cases of COVID-19.”

Susanne Santiesteban, a third-year medical student, knocked on the door of an elderly resident of Manzanillo in the southeastern part of the island, *Juventud Rebelde* reported. When she asked if he or his family had any symptoms, he told her they were well and “ready for the fight.” As she was leaving he called out, “Today the revolution came to my house. That's why I will defend it until I die!”

On March 23, the Cuban government announced new measures, including suspending school for four weeks; closing dance clubs, pools and gyms; giving special attention to senior citizens who live at home or who live alone; increasing food production; and ending most travel between cities. All Cubans returning to the island are quarantined for 14 days and tourists can no longer enter the country. Restaurants must cut their seating in half.

To make sure that everyone is well-informed of what to do, the mass organizations together with local governments organize visits to every home in the country.

### ‘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)