

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Alan Harris, 65-year leader of the communist movement
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 84/NO. 25 JUNE 29, 2020

Young people grab ‘Militant,’ books as they join in protests

BY SETH GALINSKY

“I want that book,” the young man pointing to *Women’s Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* told Socialist Workers Party campaigner Tamar Rosenfeld at the party’s literature table during one of the many protests against police brutality in New York City June 7. The book is by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the popular revolution in Burkina Faso in West Africa from 1983 to 1987.

“Do you know about Sankara?” Rosenfeld asked him.

“No, but I think I need to,” he replied.

The government Sankara led acted on the capacities of working people to change their conditions and fight imperialism’s plunder of their country. It nationalized the land, placing it in the hands of those who till it and mobilized peasants, workers, women and youth to carry out literacy and immunization drives. Sankara was assassinated during a counterrevolution.
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Atlanta cop charged with felony murder

Rayshard Brooks killed with 2 shots in the back



Steve Schaefer/Atlanta Journal-Constitution via AP

June 15 Atlanta march organized by NAACP. Protests continue across the U.S., worldwide.

BY JANICE LYNN
 AND BRIAN WILLIAMS

ATLANTA — “When I heard the news about the killing last night, I decided it was time to stand up,” 18-year-old James Teasley told the *Militant* in Atlanta June 13, as he joined his first demonstration. Protests erupted throughout the

city when Rayshard Brooks, a 27-year-old African American, was shot dead by Garrett Rolfe, an Atlanta cop, the night before. “If you want change you have to work for it,” Teasley said.

WHAT ROAD TO END POLICE BRUTALITY
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Rolfe faces charges of felony murder, the Fulton County district attorney announced June 17.

Widespread outrage at the killing of Brooks comes as hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets.
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Workers fight bosses, gov’t attacks as crisis unfolds

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Important vanguard struggles are taking place around the world by workers fighting against efforts by the bosses to expand production and profits on our backs.

From strikes by fruit packers in the Yakima Valley in Washington state, to textile workers on strike in Argentina

FIGHT FOR JOBS! DEFEND WAGES, CONDITIONS!
 — see SWP statement page 9

tina over unpaid wages, to Asarco copper miners on strike for months in Arizona and Texas, to autoworkers fighting against plant closures at Renault in France and Nissan in Spain, and Walmart workers fighting against speedup, these battles — and more — set an example and deserve broad solidarity.

The fruit packers struck at six plants, elected their own strike committees on the picket line, and in several plants won gains. Most importantly, they returned to work more organized and confident to continue to fight to defend their interests. (See article on page 7.)

These strikes and workplace battles have been strengthened by the explosion of protests here and around the world targeting cop brutality. Some
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Cuba’s revolution is an example for working people everywhere



Yale University Cuban Revolution Collection

One million strong rally at Havana Presidential Palace, Jan. 21, 1959, demonstrates in support of revolution with Fidel Castro, facing camera on right. In course of revolution, workers and farmers in Cuba transformed themselves, taking control of their country and their destiny.

BY SETH GALINSKY

The Cuban Revolution — a historic victory won in struggle by the workers and farmers of Cuba in 1959 and defended for more than six decades — is a striking alternative to the dog-eat-dog, “look out for number one” morality of capitalism. It is an example for working people everywhere to emulate. That’s why the U.S. capi-

talist rulers under every Democratic and Republican administration have fought relentlessly to try to overturn the revolution.

Washington has maintained a punishing economic war against the Cuban people, one that the U.S. government has expanded in recent years. The list of Cuban companies that are
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Liberals demand right to suppress political views on ‘social media’

BY TERRY EVANS

Bosses at Facebook, Twitter, Zoom and other “social media” claim their platforms are an open means of communication for use by all — kind of like a grander form of email. Their “business model” is to profit handsomely by charging for advertising, justified by the number and breadth of their users. Some of the nouveau riche techies who run these operations have now come under growing pressure from liberals to suppress political views they don’t cotton to, especially targeting tweets and postings by President Donald Trump.

Since Trump’s election in 2016, the liberal press and Democratic Party leaders and their backers, including FBI spy bosses like Robert Mueller and others, have sought to bring Trump and his administration down by any means possible. Twitter, run by billionaire college dropout Jack Dorsey, recently started putting snide

disclaimers on posts by the president, and then barred a video that particularly grated liberal sensibilities.

The Democrats’ presidential candidate, Joe Biden, added his voice to those pushing for political censorship, demanding bosses at Facebook bar Trump’s online “threatening behavior and lies.”

Liberals in the U.S. are not the only
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 Fruit packers celebrate gains in strike in Yakima Valley

Cop charged, protests continue

Continued from front page
sands of working people in cities, small towns and rural areas across the country and worldwide continue to protest cop brutality. The explosion began after four cops in Minneapolis killed George Floyd May 25, cuffing him and kneeling on his neck for over eight minutes while he repeatedly told them, “I can’t breathe.” Brooks was killed after he had fallen asleep in his car while waiting to pick up food at a Wendy’s drive-thru. He was planning to go to a birthday party for his daughter. The two cops, Rolfe and Devin Brosnan, roused him, patted him down and administered an alcohol breath test, which they say Brooks failed. They then moved in to arrest him.

A struggle ensued with Brooks grabbing one of the officer’s Tasers and running away. The cops gave chase, firing a Taser at him. Brooks fires a Taser near Rolfe. Rolfe pulls out his gun and fires three shots, two of them hitting Brooks in the back, killing him. This led to an uproar of protests.

Within 24 hours Rolfe was fired, Brosnan placed on administrative leave and Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields resigned. Brooks’ family members are calling for the officer who shot him to be arrested and charged for Brooks’ death.

Atlanta Police Department records show that Rolfe has faced multiple complaints for unauthorized use of force during his seven years as a cop.

Actions have taken place in at least 2,000 cities and towns across the country. They show the strength of the changes that have occurred in the working class as a result of the proletarian Black-led civil rights movement in the 1950s and ’60s that overthrew Jim Crow segregation and boosted the fight against racism around the world.

A series of actions are taking place nationwide on Juneteenth, the June 19 holiday that marks the day the last slaves in the U.S. were freed.

Today’s protests against cop brutality provide a powerful example of what workers and farmers can do when we organize around our common interests in the face of the bosses’ efforts to offload the capitalist crisis on our shoulders.

“We can’t live on our wages. We can’t afford a place to live, and it’s motivating a lot of people to come out to join the protests,” Sarah Scott, 30, told the *Militant* at an action against cop brutality in Seattle June 12. “It’s really inspiring.”

Protests spread in small towns

Many actions are being organized in smaller towns where protests have been rare in recent years. The vast majority of participants are Caucasian. Organizers — often area high school students — say they didn’t know what to expect and were surprised by how many people turned out. Each one spurred other calls to action in nearby villages.

In Pennsylvania, for example, protests have occurred in Jeannette, Monroeville, Butler, Murrysville, New Kensington, St. Marys, Reading, Hamburg, and Shippensburg, to name a few. In Irwin, a town of 3,700 people, students from Norwin High School organized a protest June 6. Several hundred joined in. This is the area that former President Barack Obama smeared as racist and reactionary at a San Francisco fundraiser in 2008. “You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania, and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone for 25 years and nothing replaced them,” Obama opined. “And it’s not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or re-



Allegheny Front/Kara Holsopple

Several hundred march June 14 in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, one of thousands of protests in cities, towns and rural areas all across the country. Many involve youth new to protest actions.

ligion or antipathy toward people who aren’t like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.”

In Butler, population 14,000, north of Pittsburgh, some 25 people turned out June 13. “I didn’t expect a protest to happen here, but I’m glad it did,” Aimee Kelly, a hairdresser, told the *Militant* at the action. Another Butler resident, Phil Heasley, added, “Police brutality is not just a big town issue.”

In Murrysville, Aryanna Hunter, a veteran of Washington’s 2003 war on Iraq, decided to initiate a similar action in her hometown.

“The number of folks turning out all across rural Pennsylvania is amazing,” she told the *Pittsburgh Tribune*. “If we’re going to change anything we also have to show our neighbors that Black lives matter. And I shouldn’t have to drive to Pittsburgh to do that.”

Several hundred people turned up, marching down the town’s main highway June 14.

“These small towns matter because it’s a lot of small towns,” Ande Green, one of two organizers of a protest in Alliance, Ohio — population 21,616 — told BuzzFeed News. “All of these small towns coming together, it’s what we need to make a change.”

Actions have taken place across all 50 states. In Alaska in early June rallies protesting the killing of Floyd were organized by Alaska Natives,

who spoke out against harassment they face from the cops. Actions have been organized from Kotzebue above the Arctic Circle to Ketchikan in the southeastern part of the state.

The impact of these protests nationwide resulted in authorities charging officer Derek Chauvin with second-degree murder, and also filing charges against the three other cops who helped Chauvin kill Floyd.

‘Charge cops who kill’

Protests have continued in Atlanta since the cops killed Rayshard Brooks. Members of the Amalgamated Transit Union joined several thousand marching on the Georgia state Capitol June 15 called by the NAACP.

“Union workers have to show some leadership in the fight against police brutality and for justice,” Britt Dunams, president of ATU Local 732, told the *Militant*. “Each and every time there’s been a rally, we’ve been there.”

The nationwide actions boost the fight to charge the cops who killed Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, March 13. Emergency room technician Taylor was killed when cops carried out a midnight no-knock raid on her apartment, spraying the bed where she slept with bullets. Charges have yet to be filed against the three officers who carried out the attack.

In Radcliff, Kentucky, more than 200 people rallied and marched June 13

The Militant

Vol. 84/No. 25

Closing news date: June 17, 2020

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, 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.
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E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

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

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THE MILITANT

Back Hong Kong protests for political rights!

For over a year hundreds of thousands of workers and youth have mobilized repeatedly in Hong Kong to protest the Chinese rulers’ moves to tighten their grip over the city and deal blows to the movement for political rights.

The ‘Militant’ covers and supports their fight.



Reuters/Tyrone Siu

June 4 Hong Kong rally honors victims of 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing.

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Militant/Betsey Stone

June 13 action at police station in Vallejo, California, protests dozens of police shootings there in recent years. Latest victim, Sean Monterrosa, pictured on posters, was killed on June 2.

in this town of 22,000 near the Fort Knox army base southwest of Louisville. Chloe Metcalf, a youth pastor at the Restoration Worship Center church, organized the protest. Speakers included Metcalf pastor Carl Smalls, Radcliff Mayor J.J. Duvall, Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and her running mate Malcolm Jarrett.

“These cops need to go to jail for what they did to Breonna,” Tamar Strong, who is laid-off from a job working with people with disabilities, told the *Militant* at the protest. “If we, the people, don’t stand up together, these attacks are just going to continue.”

In Benton, Kentucky, whose population is 4,500 and 97 percent Caucasian, Hope Davis called a protest, expecting a handful of people to attend. Three hundred showed up. “There has never been a civil rights protest here. This was the first one. Ever,” she told the Louisville *Courier-Journal*.

Young farmers speak out

“It is unacceptable that the murder of Black people goes unpunished,” said the National Young Farmers Coalition in a June 3 statement. “We stand in solidarity with protests across the country and with the individuals who demand justice and accountability from law enforcement.”

“To be a farmer and an organizer in our coalition is to commit to an anti-racist farming future. Black farmers deserve meaningful change and transformation. Now, yesterday, and tomorrow,” Martin Lems, Sophie Ackoff and the rest of the staff of the coalition said.

On June 13 hundreds marched to the police station in Vallejo, a city of 122,000 north of San Francisco. Protesters carried signs with the names of more than three dozen shot by the cops in the last couple decades.

Most recently, 22-year-old Sean Monterrosa was killed June 2 when a cop shot him through a police car windshield outside a Walgreens store. Monterrosa was on his knees when he was shot. The cop claims he mistook a hammer in the pocket of Monterrosa’s sweatshirt for a gun. “My brother did not deserve to be murdered, the same as anyone else’s family member here,” Michele Monterrosa, Sean’s sister, told the crowd.

Protesters demanded the prosecution of the cop and the release of the video of the shooting.

In New York, daily marches have been organized in different locations rather than one large centralized action. Sometimes they bump into each other and get together.

Hundreds of Puerto Ricans and others marched against cop brutality June 14 in Harlem, despite city authorities canceling the annual Puerto Rican Day Parade, saying it would spread COVID-19. It drew other protesters.

“The other day I heard Gov. Cuomo say that the protests should stop now,” Constance Malcolm told the rally. She is the mother of Ramarley Graham, who was shot and killed by New York cops in 2012. “No — we are not going to stop because just two nights ago we had another killing, in Georgia. That goes to show you that they don’t care and are not going to stop.”

The cops need to “do the time for the crime they commit,” she said.

In Montreal, tens of thousands



Militant/Samir Hazboun

Alyson Kennedy, left, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, joins more than 200 people marching against cop brutality in Radcliff, Kentucky, a town of 22,000, on June 13.

marched June 7 to protest Floyd’s killing. “I wanted to be here because I’ve seen racism from the cops,” freelance photographer Brandon Landerman told the *Militant* at the action. “I’ve seen my cousin being arrested for nothing. I’ve seen my uncle being pulled over because he’s driving a Mustang, being asked if he’s a drug dealer.”

Handmade signs listed names of those killed by cops on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border.

In Paris, some 15,000 people rallied against police brutality June 13. Among those addressing the crowd was Assa Traore, sister of 24-year-old Adama Traore, who died in police custody in 2016. “The death of George Floyd has a strong echo in the death in France

of my little brother,” she told the rally. Traore’s family says he was asphyxiated when three officers held him down. No one has been charged in the case. Thousands more joined similar actions throughout the country, including in Lyon, Marseille and Rouen.

Other rallies worldwide that day included 10,000 in Zurich, Switzerland; protests in London; and in several cities in Australia and New Zealand.

Susan LaMont in Atlanta; Tony Lane in Pittsburgh; Maggie Trowe in Louisville, Kentucky; Betsey Stone in Oakland, California; Rebecca Williamson in Seattle; Lynda Little in Montreal; and Derek Jeffers in Paris contributed to this article.

What is the road to end police brutality once and for all

BY JOHN STUDER

Following the cop killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, a powerful wave of protests has swept across the world, penetrating into hundreds of small towns and rural areas across the U.S., drawing a whole new generation of youth into political activity. As hundreds of thousands marched, all four of the cops involved in the killing of George Floyd have been arrested and indicted on serious charges.

The protests continue, as new and longstanding fights for cops to be prosecuted for brutality and killings have spread, like demanding charges be brought against Garrett Rolfe, the cop who shot and killed Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta June 12.

At the same time, liberal political figures are increasingly pushing to turn the protests into a discussion and debate over what “practical” steps can be taken to end racism and cop brutality.

Their goal is twofold. First, to try and convince those in the streets that there are ways to “solve” cop brutality with reforms to the capitalist criminal “justice” system. And second that they should now turn to working for lesser-evil — mainly Democratic Party — politicians to stop the “fascist” Donald Trump.

Their bywords are “defund the cops,” “police service not police forces,” we’ve got to root out the “bad apples,” and similar proposals. What they share in common is the idea the capitalist system and its cops, courts and prisons can be reformed. But they can’t.

And many of those advocating these measures know it. Like Nicholas Kristof, one of the dozens of liberal scribes on the *New York Times* opinion pages. “The idea behind ‘Defund the

Police’ as most conceive it,” he wrote June 10, is “not to eliminate every police officer but to reimagine ways to make us safe that don’t necessarily involve traditional law enforcement.”

In other words, cops would be left to deal with “crime,” while much else, like homelessness and drug addiction, would be dealt with by armies of social workers.

Every time there have been big mobilizations against police brutality, these are the reforms the liberals offer.

But the simple fact is that under capitalism, the role of the cops isn’t to fight crime. It’s to protect the private property and political rule of the capitalist bosses and bankers. This was described perfectly by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, in his introduction to *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, one of the best books you can read to understand what is happening today. Barnes says:

“We serve and protect” — that promise is displayed on squad cars across the United States from which cops harass and brutalize workers day in and day out, disproportionately singling out African-Americans, Latinos, and immigrants as targets. For working people, those words will always be a contemptible lie. But for the ruling class and privileged middle layers, they are a truthful summary of the function of the U.S. state apparatus — the armed forces; the multitude of local, state, federal, and military cop and spy agencies; the courts, bail-bond sharks, and probation and parole officers; the over-stuffed jails and prisons, with their evermore frequent, dehumanizing lockdowns and gang-controlled life, organized by those who run the “pe-

nal system” and overseen by thuggish prison guards (a true microcosm of bourgeois social relations). The U.S. state is the largest repressive apparatus in world history, with the highest — and increasing — incarceration rate of any country on earth.

These institutions of class rule, of bourgeois “law and order,” do brutally serve and protect the property, profits, and assumed prerogatives of the U.S. capitalist class — from the streets, factories, fields, mines, border crossings, and prisons across the United States, to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and beyond.

We *can* win concessions from the ruling class as we organize and fight their assaults on our jobs, living conditions and political rights. We *can* win the prosecution — and conviction — of cops who gun down our friends, family and co-workers.

But not by looking for ways to patch up and reform what is fundamentally an inhuman, class-divided, profit-driven and inherently brutal capitalist system. That just isn’t possible.

The cops do what they do because that is what the bosses and their hangers-on need. The only way a tiny minority whose wealth and position is based on the exploitation and misery of the vast majority of humanity can stay on top is to convince us there is no realistic alternative and deploy their criminal “justice” system to intimidate and brutalize working people to keep us in check.

The cops haven’t existed since the birth of humanity. The first police departments emerged in the 1830s as capitalism became the dominant social system worldwide. They grew out of the privately organized night watch paid

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‘Militant,’ books at protests

Continued from front page

lutionary coup, but his revolutionary course provides a powerful example to those standing up to exploitation and oppression today.

SWP members who have been marching in the actions coast to coast, bringing a working-class perspective on the road forward, have had scores of experiences like this.

Two teenagers came by the same table, Rosenfeld reports, and bought several books, including *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*. One said she knew little about Guevara, a leader of the Cuban Revolution, but “that’s why I want it.”

“Now I need to buy a bookshelf,” the other added.

“There’s a thirst for books, not only about the Black struggle but on women’s emancipation, the labor movement, revolutionary history,” Willie Cotton, SWP candidate for Congress in the 9th District in Brooklyn, told the *Militant*. Cotton has joined many of the protests. “We’ve sold over 100 books in New York since June 1.” The book sales went hand in with many protesters subscribing to the *Militant* and taking literature on the SWP campaign.

Many people joining the protests “were attracted to the wide range of literature on our table, with signs that highlight the SWP 2020 election platform, including workers control of production, the need for a labor party, defense of women’s rights, and the need for a fight for amnesty for immigrants,” he said.

Socialist Workers Party members are meeting young people who’ve never been to a protest before outrage exploded over the cop killing of George Floyd. The interest in books by revolutionaries and the *Militant* is also fueled by the effects of the unfolding capitalist

economic crisis and resistance by working people to employer attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions.

Interest in revolutionary literature

Continuing to campaign among working people on their doorsteps from big cities to small towns and rural areas is important to build a truly national working-class movement. Campaigners are also finding more interest among working people whether or not they have joined any of the protests.

“Campaigning in the South Bronx June 15, we sold three subscriptions to the *Militant* and two books in little over an hour,” reports Brian Williams in New York.

Many of those getting books or the *Militant* will want to join together in other protest actions, host house meetings for the SWP candidates, join campaigning for the SWP presidential ticket or get together to discuss what they have been reading.

World is ‘very different today’

The campaign tour stop in Kentucky by Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, SWP candidates for president and vice president, showed the opportunities to reach out broadly as well as deepen relations with those who are beginning to know the party. They joined protest actions, campaigned at a Walmart parking lot and talked to workers at their homes to learn about what they face, and introduced the party’s program.

In Central City, two hours southwest of Louisville, Kennedy and Jarrett met *Militant* subscriber Sherry Webb, who runs a dog-grooming business from her trailer. Webb, who is originally from eastern Kentucky, said that in the 1960s some towns had signs saying “‘If you’re Black, keep on trucking.’ But things are



Militant/Arnold Weissberg

SWP congressional candidate Willie Cotton, left, and SWP member Tamar Rosenfeld, wearing sign, talk with other participants at New York police brutality protest June 7. “There’s a thirst for books about Black struggle, women’s emancipation, revolutionary history,” Cotton said.

very different today and that’s good.”

A protest in Richmond, Webb’s hometown, was peaceful, she said, “but some of them in other places have been violent. I don’t like that. When mom-and-pop stores get looted, the owners lose their livelihood.”

“We need a disciplined movement led by the working class,” Kennedy said. At many demonstrations, protesters blocked attempts at looting and this has had an impact.

Webb got a copy of *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by Jack Barnes, the national secretary of the SWP. It’s a book about why a revolutionary working-class party recognizes the “worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organize and act against the capitalist class.”

Kennedy and Jarrett took part in a three-mile march of more than 200 people organized by a church in Radcliff, Kentucky, against police killings and racism. Both candidates spoke at the rally.

Tiffany Cooper, a warehouse worker from Louisville, marched with them. “When the truth came out that cops busted in the door and never announced themselves before shooting Breonna Taylor, I was so upset and angry! That’s why I’m here today,” she said.

The victims of police brutality are disproportionately Black. But as more workers resist the bosses’ attempts to make us pay for the capitalist crisis, workers of all skin colors will get a lesson on “what class the cops serve and protect,” Kennedy said, when cops harass strikers on picket lines and at other working-class struggles.

At a rally against police brutality outside Louisville Metro Center June 11, Kennedy and Jarrett met factory worker Defrederic Robards, who was at his seventh protest against cop brutality.

“What’s your strategy for getting well-known like Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders?” he asked Kennedy.

“The kind of party I’m in is comprised of serious fighters who know that the working class is capable of uniting and becoming strong enough to take power,” Kennedy replied. “I was a part of a 10-month-long strike for union representation at a coal mine in Utah several years ago. The bosses thought they could get away with paying workers \$5 an hour because most were foreign-born. We didn’t allow the bosses’ intimidation tactics to defeat us. This is an example of the kind of party the SWP is and how we get known.”

“Wow,” Robards replied, adding he appreciated that Kennedy was the only presidential candidate to come to protests against the police killings. He bought a subscription to the *Militant* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*.

At the end of the tour in Kentucky 16 people attended a barbecue, including seven Walmart workers who have been part of a fight against speedup in the store’s online grocery department.

To get involved in the protests, and join in winning new readers to the *Militant* and books by revolutionary leaders, see the list of distributors on page 8.

Maggie Trowe in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this article.



Militant/Gerardo Sanchez

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, left, with Christine Oles in Weatherford, Texas, June 5. Oles bought subscription, books on SWP, Cuba, said “What you are doing is important.”

Vote Socialist Workers Party in 2020! Alyson Kennedy for president Malcolm Jarrett for vice president

SWP candidates coast to coast:

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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

Omari Musa, 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
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
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Alan Harris: 65-year leader of the communist movement

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON — “Alan Harris was a proletarian party-builder,” said Jonathan Silberman, organizer of the Central Committee of the Communist League in the United Kingdom, welcoming people to a gathering here May 31 to celebrate Harris’ life and political contributions.

“Alan was an internationalist, immersed in the class struggle at home at the same time as he worked with others to build the world communist movement. For him the two were inseparable.”

A 65-year veteran leader of the communist movement, Harris died March 26 after contracting coronavirus in a hospital where he was being treated following a major stroke. He was 86.

The course Harris exemplifies, Silberman said, is “necessary today as the rulers step up efforts to make working people pay for the deepening crisis of capitalism — with tens of millions thrown out of work worldwide, devastating cuts to the livelihoods of farmers and other small producers, and assaults on workers’ rights.”

Harris’ political life was featured at the gathering with an attractive photo display. Participants were also able to read the more than 30 tributes to Harris sent by comrades and Communist League leaders in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the U.S. and the U.K.; by the Talaye Porsoo publishing house in Iran; and by Harris’ stepdaughter, Sue Mohammed.

Working-class fighter, revolutionary

Harris was born in the depression year of 1933 to a working-class family in Lincoln in rural East Midlands.

Like all 18-year-old workers of his generation, he was conscripted into the British army. There he learned from fellow soldiers returning from Korea that the “British interests” peddled by the Labour Party government, in pursuance of their participation in the U.S. rulers’ war, masked what the United Nations “police action” was about. Alan discovered we’re *not* “all in this together,” Silberman said. Korea’s workers and farmers were struggling to throw off decades of colonial and imperialist oppression, liberate their nation and put an end to capitalist exploitation.

Who “we” are and who “they” are was a lesson Harris took with him when he emigrated to Canada in 1955, getting work as a truck driver. In Toronto

he walked into the Vanguard Bookstore, organized by communists who formed the Canadian section of the Fourth International. Harris joined the party — which became the League for Socialist Action a few years later — and soon became one of its leaders. A member of its fraction in the Teamsters union, Harris stood as the League’s candidate in the Toronto municipal election in 1960 and became a full-time party organizer.

The 1959 Cuban Revolution was an acid test for revolutionists the world over, and Harris was an ardent supporter from the start. He was a delegate from Canada to the 1963 world congress of the Fourth International that reunified communist forces based on a common response to the revolutionary triumph led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement. That same year he also traveled to Algeria to see firsthand and bring support to the revolution unfolding there, under the Ahmed Ben Bella leadership of the National Liberation Front.

The former U.K. affiliate to the Fourth International, the Socialist Labour League, was bitterly opposed to the Cuban Revolution and split before the reunification congress. Harris responded to a call from the international leadership to return to the U.K. to throw himself into politics and the class struggle here and help rebuild a party. Together with his wife Connie, a member of the communist movement in Britain since 1943 who died in 2007, he founded a book center that later became Pathfinder Books and helped win young people to the movement.

He and Connie returned to Canada in 1966, settling in Vancouver where Alan became the organizer of the LSA branch. In 1968, as the party in the U.K. began recruiting significant new forces, they once again crossed the Atlantic to continue party-building work there.

Alan became a full-time volunteer for the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, helping to build protests against London’s complicity with Washington’s war. Connie Harris spoke at the Aug. 21, 1968, protest outside the Soviet Embassy, called within hours of Moscow’s invasion of Czechoslovakia that snuffed out the “Prague Spring” uprising against the Stalinist regime. The book center was a vital source of communist literature for revolutionaries in France during the May-June 1968 student upsurge and general strike.



Above, Graeme Cookson; inset, Militant/Jonathan Silberman
Alan Harris and his wife Connie played a decisive role in the struggle to establish modern communist party in the U.K. Before moving there, Harris had been a leader of the communist movement in Canada. Above, Harris, front center, marches at 1987 miners’ gala in Mansfield. Right, Harris promotes *Militant* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* at London 2010 protest against social welfare cuts.



“The International Marxist Group, a predecessor of the Communist League in the U.K., emerged out of the efforts of Alan and his collaborators,” Steve Penner, organizer of the League’s sister party in Canada, wrote in greetings to the meeting. “A true internationalist, Alan played an important role at different times in the leadership of the party both in Canada and the U.K., as well as of the Fourth International.” For more than 15 years, Harris was a member of the Fourth International’s executive body, the United Secretariat.

‘Behind class contempt was fear’

In the early 1970s the reunified International was deeply divided by the anti-working-class course adopted by a majority of its sections in Europe and Latin America. Alan and Connie, who opposed that course, became the target of factional attacks by leaders of the Fourth International in Europe and their ultraleft supporters in its British section, Silberman said.

Those attacks were “a manifestation of class contempt for proletarian cadres,” wrote Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., in a message to the meeting from himself and SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. Both Barnes and Waters worked closely with Harris for many years as part of the International’s leadership.

Underneath the majority’s treatment of Alan and Connie, however, “was fear of them as a dangerous ‘European’ beachhead of the ultimate target — the Socialist Workers Party and the continuity of the communist movement back to

the Bolshevik Revolution and founding years of the Communist International,” the SWP leaders wrote.

Alan and Connie never responded in kind. They played a decisive role within the IMG, later renamed the Socialist League, in the yearslong struggle to establish a party in the U.K. with a proletarian membership, program and course of conduct. Without that fight, “what became the growing number of comrades in the U.K. who were won to a proletarian course in those years, the Communist League would not exist today,” Barnes and Waters said.

‘A man of principled politics’

“Throughout his life as a communist revolutionary, Alan Harris was a man of principled politics,” the message from the SWP leadership emphasized. “His political enemies often thought his kindness toward others, carefully chosen words, and hatred for factionalism, duplicity, and demagoguery registered political weakness. They soon learned to their dismay there was a core of steel underneath — a working-class strength that guided his activity.”

That “core of steel” bore its fruit in the regroupment of forces in the Socialist League following the 1979 world congress of the Fourth International. Led by the SWP, that congress adopted what became known as the turn to industry, the decision that our parties must be rooted in the industrial working class and industrial unions. The “pro-turn” forces won a majority in the party in the U.K. The minority, however, promptly

Continued on page 9



Alan Harris, right, Connie Harris and Jack Barnes arrive in Belgium from U.K. in early 1970s for leadership meeting of Fourth International. Harris served on its executive body for 15 years.

Over \$123,000 donated to SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal

This week six new contributors added \$7,400 to the appeal, which has been ongoing since the government announced it would distribute \$1,200 “stimulus” checks. The Socialist Workers Party has received a total of \$123,400 so far from 111 contributors!

The spirit of contributors, from the beginning, has been: “It’s on the way, whenever the government stimulus comes” to “Here it is, happy to contribute.”

“I’m glad to be able to make this contribution with opportunities growing to join with others in struggle and build the party,” writes Jacob Perasso, from Albany, New York, who works on the railroad.

Sara Gates and Bob Bruneau in Seattle sent the following note with their check: “It is our pleasure to contribute the enclosed toward a new social order based on human solidarity. What a thrill to see the working class awakening.”

The contributions have qualitatively augmented the party’s long-term capital, dedicated to building a proletarian party now and in the future. A party that will organize workers in their millions to end capitalist exploitation and rule, and join hands with toilers worldwide to build a new social order.

The appeal is in the long-standing tradition of the workers’ movement, building its resources on political support.

If you’d like to donate from your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, marked “Special Fund.”

— EMMA JOHNSON

Workers fight bosses’ attacks

Continued from front page

150 Philadelphia sanitation workers, the vast majority of whom are Black, rallied June 9 against attacks on city workers, saying “Black lives matter at work.”

After months of government-imposed lockdowns on production and jobs, capitalist bosses worldwide are pushing to ramp up production, reorganizing their plants, warehouses, supply lines and workforces. Their goal is to maximize their ability to take on rival bosses in the never-ending battle for market share and profits. Many are closing plants, laying off workers, or cutting shifts and hours, while pushing to speed up production on the backs of remaining workers. “Fewer Hours, Less Pay and More Anxiety Greet Returning Workers” was the headline in the June 7 *Washington Post*.

The depression conditions engendered by the shutdowns came on top of an already sputtering capitalist economic slowdown. The results have accelerated the crisis of the capitalist system. The German government reports industrial production fell 18% in April, with the auto industry hit hardest, down by 75%.

The British economy declined by over 20%. Spain 21.8%, France 20.1%, Italy 19.1% — overall 17.1% across the EU. Auto production in France plummeted 88%. Airbus cut production by a third.

More than 44 million workers in the U.S. have filed for unemployment since mid-March. Another 9.7 million are drawing on the temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits from the government to workers deemed self-employed. Though these official figures don’t reflect the actual broader figure of unemployment, they add up to over 53 million workers — over 16% of the entire U.S. population.

The fight for jobs is crucial for workers.

We are extending these special offers below because of the growing interest among those fighting against police brutality and the attacks of the bosses. Take advantage now!

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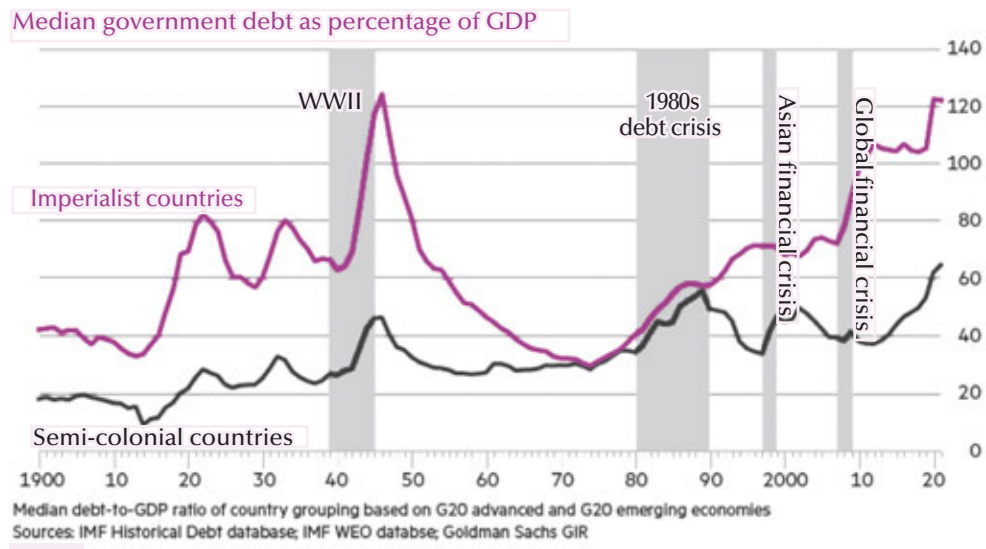
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Global debt soars to highest level since second world war



helping the bosses ride out the shutdowns have driven global debt levels in the imperialist countries to heights not seen since the second imperialist world war. These debts will become a drag on future growth.

‘Globalization’ shatters

For decades the bosses have sought to increase profits by expanding what they called globalization. This included keeping production and storage costs low for bosses in the imperialist countries by instituting “just in time” delivery, and transferring production of goods and parts to China and elsewhere in the semicolonial world. Higher profits were extracted from exploitation of the cheaper labor power of hundreds of millions of workers and peasants there. The last few months have driven the nail in the coffin of this “business model.”

Supply chains are disintegrating, some production is being repatriated, and trade, political and military tensions are rising among the capitalist bosses in the U.S., China and other powers.

Liberal pipedreams of a return to a never-realizable peaceful stable globalized world presided over by multilateral institutions from the United Nations and European Union to the World Trade Organization lie in tatters. The capitalist rulers worldwide are fighting ever more aggressively over sources of raw materials, markets and profits, while looking to protect their own “national security” interests.

Out of these conditions, millions of textile and garment workers across South Asia have been thrown out of work by the shutdown in orders from fashion and retail stores in the U.S.

and elsewhere. Pakistani police using guns and batons charged at hundreds of garment workers demanding better conditions and wages outside their factory in Karachi May 27.

“Most of the textile factory owners are using the coronavirus crisis to lay off workers,” labor activist Farooq Tariq told the *Guardian*. “The crisis was already going on, but the pandemic has only accelerated it.”

Many already faced months of unpaid salaries. Some 15,000 workers lost their jobs amid a deepening economic crisis in Pakistan, the world’s fifth most populous country. Hundreds of workers in Lahore organized a strike over the nonpayment of wages at several factories in late May.

Workers are fighting in the U.S. as well. Hundreds of public transit workers on the subway system in Staten Island protested outside the Eltingville Transit Center June 10 to demand a new contract and higher pay. Members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 726 are demanding parity with the contract bosses agreed to on the public transit system for the rest of New York City earlier this year.

They pointed out that the government has been praising them as “essential workers,” continuing to work, as some get sick during the virus outbreak. Now these same bosses refuse to give them a raise. “They call us heroes,” workers chanted, but “they offer us zeroes.”

The fight for jobs, organizing workers, taking on the bosses’ attacks, building solidarity with others in struggle, and political independence from the bosses’ political parties are the road forward.

What is the road to end police brutality once and for all

Continued from page 3

for by the bosses to protect their plants, warehouses and property in the North. In the South they grew out of the slave patrols that were organized by the plantation bosses to brutalize and keep chattel slaves on the masters’ land.

These new government institutions of oppression and brutality emerged alongside the prisons, workhouses, chain gangs and other essential institutions of capitalist rule.

The only thing that can do away with them is to do away with the capitalist system itself. As Barnes puts it:

Only the conquest, and exercise, of state power by the working class and expropriation of finance capital can lay the foundations for a world based not on exploitation, violence, racial discrimination, class-based pecking or-

ders, and dog-eat-dog competition, but on solidarity among working people that encourages the creativity and recognition of the worth of every individual, regardless of sex, national origin, or skin color.

A socialist world.

Former President Barack Obama often tried to discourage working people from organizing to fight against the attacks of the government and the bosses, urging them to “work within the system” and look for the lesser of the capitalist political evils on display every four years. “Don’t boo,” he said, “vote.”

But the political road forward isn’t to hold your nose and pick the less-worst capitalist mouthpiece and then regret it for the next four years. We need to continue to fight against the attacks of the employers and their government,

Cuba’s revolution an example

Continued from front page

banned from doing any business with the U.S. has grown. Marriott International officials announced June 5 that U.S. officials ordered them to end all hotel operations in Cuba.

An island nation of 11.5 million people, Cuba has to import most of its oil, some 60% of its food, and much of the basic materials it needs for agriculture, such as fertilizer. Under U.S. sanctions, a lot of its industrial machinery is antiquated, kept running only by workers’ ingenuity.

Despite all this, workers and farmers in Cuba are making progress in increasing food production at the same time that they have pushed back the spread of coronavirus.

Cuba’s success in combating the spread of the virus — like in meeting all challenges the revolution faces — is the result of the mobilization of working people and youth, led by their mass organizations. These include the CTC union federation, Federation of Cuban Women and neighborhood Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, working alongside Cuba’s preventive health care system.

Medical students have joined with thousands of other volunteers to carry out *millions* of home visits to make sure everyone on the island gets the medical attention they need. The Cuban government announced these visits will continue indefinitely.

Those who test positive or have symptoms are moved to special medical centers, where they are quarantined, fed and receive top-notch medical care, all at no cost.

This is an extension of how Cuban working people and their government organize medical care all the time. Clinics and doctors are based in working-class neighborhoods. Their goal is to prevent diseases, not just to try and catch up with them after they spread. Compare that to the U.S.!

At the same time, Cuba has sent 34 volunteer brigades, totaling 3,337 health care workers, to treat COVID-19 patients in 27 countries, from Italy to Haiti to South Africa. This is in addition to 50,000 volunteers already providing care around the world, a tradition of international solidarity that began in the first years of the revolution.

Proud of their internationalism,

thousands of cheering people lined the streets of Havana when the first of those brigades — the 52 men and women who treated patients in Lombardy, Italy — returned to Cuba June 8.

“The empty streets, the curfews, many sick people, and without any treatment plan, many deaths, but here we are, waging the battle,” Leonardo Fernández, one of the doctors told the Cuban press about the conditions they faced in imperialist Italy. “It hurts a lot to see the listlessness of powerful governments in the face of such a calamity.”

Cuba’s accomplishments are only possible because workers and farmers waged a revolutionary struggle, led by Fidel Castro, that overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. In the course of the revolution — and the battles to deepen and extend it afterward — Cuban workers and farmers transformed themselves, throwing off the self-image and morality that capitalist society imposed on them, and established a workers and farmers government. Argentine-born Cuban revolutionary leader Che Guevara said they had embarked on creating no less than new men and women.

A revolutionary people organized to nationalize key sections of the economy — including large capitalist farms — and run them under workers control. Landless peasants were given land to farm. Small farmers were guaranteed they would not lose their land. One million Cubans learned to read and write, as the Cuban government organized young volunteers to spread across the island in an unprecedented literacy campaign.

Unlike in the capitalist world, at



Organized by Union of Young Communists, Cuban workers and students do voluntary work weeding fields of cassava in Ciego de Ávila June 10, helping relieve country's food shortages.

Castro’s initiative, health care was transformed, ceasing to be a commodity bought and sold, and becoming a human right.

‘First there must be a revolution’

Guevara got at the heart of what was involved in an Aug. 19, 1960, speech. “Almost everyone knows that a number of years ago I started out my career to be a doctor,” he said. “I dreamed of working tirelessly to achieve something that could really be put at the disposal of humanity, but that would be a personal triumph at the same time.”

But he realized that “the desire to sacrifice an entire lifetime to the noblest of ideals — all that is for naught if the effort is made alone, solitary, in some corner of Latin America, fighting against hostile governments and social conditions that permit no progress.”

In the course of the struggle in Cuba,

he learned that “to be a revolutionary doctor, or to be a revolutionary, there must first be a revolution.”

With that spirit thousands of working people and youth in Cuba are joining volunteer brigades to boost agriculture today. They are fighting to increase industrial production and to challenge the bureaucratic obstacles they confront. Some 400 union members at the Las Terrazas tourism complex in Artemisa are now working at the nearby Los Graverán farm, spreading fertilizer, preparing fields and making irrigation ditches. “We’ve been moved to where we are most useful: producing food,” José Alberto Lamas, one of the workers, told *Trabajadores*.

They know their hard work is not going to benefit a handful of capitalist bosses, but to improve the lives of working people in Cuba and around the world.

Fruit packers celebrate gains in strike in Yakima Valley

BY HENRY DENNISON

SEATTLE — Workers rallied outside fruit processor Columbia Reach Pack in Yakima, Washington, June 11 to celebrate their strike victory. “The most important thing we won is that the company recognized and signed an agreement with the committee” elected by the workers, Ramón Torres, president of the independent farmworkers’ union Familias Unidas por la Justicia, told strikers. The fruit-packing bosses also agreed to make some improvements in working conditions and for no reprisals against any strikers.

Strikes in the Yakima Valley fruit industry began May 7 when workers walked out at Allan Brothers in Naches and then spread to half a dozen other fruit-packing plants. The actions by mainly immigrant workers in the crowded, high-speed and low-paid plants began as a response to the bosses’ lack of steps to protect workers from coronavirus infection, and quickly expanded to long-standing issues concerning wages, hours, safety and boss harassment.

The workers’ committee at Columbia Reach was elected on the picket line May 14 on the first day of the strike. “The committee will keep on representing workers inside the plant,” Torres said.

“In a lot of places the workers don’t know what to do, or how to defend themselves,” 41-year-old worker Rosa Maria Paniagua said to celebrating picketers. “What we did here set an example.”

Workers committees earlier reached agreements at Matson Fruit, Monson

Fruit, both in the nearby town of Selah, and Allan Brothers. Workers on strike at Frosty Packing in Yakima returned to work when they won a new bonus pay program. “Columbia Reach was the last one,” Torres said.

Not all the workers’ demands were settled in the agreements and the fight on these issues will continue.

“I feel like we have the power to change things,” Rosalinda Gonzalez, a member of the elected committee, told

the *Yakima Herald-Republic*. “If they don’t fulfill their part of the agreement, we can fight back,” Paniagua added.

Leaders of Familias Unidas, which grew out of battles by berry pickers in Washington’s Skagit Valley in 2013, have been in Yakima since the strikes began, helping packing-house workers organize themselves. They’re staying to work with other packinghouse and orchard workers as the cherry harvest begins.

New edition from Pathfinder:

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by Abram Leon

At the opening of the 21st century, incidents of violent assault on Jews and anti-Semitism have begun spreading, fueled by today’s capitalist crises. From antiquity to feudalism, to capitalism’s rise and death throes of the past century — Jews have been targets of persecution.

Why is Jew-hatred still raising its ugly head? What are its class roots? Why is there no solution to the Jewish question without revolutionary struggles that transform working people as we fight to transform our world?

The 2020 edition includes a new introduction by Dave Prince, 32 pages of photos and illustrations, 7 pages of maps, a glossary, an expanded index and a revised translation.

Abram Leon was killed in October 1944, at age 26, in the Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz.

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Workers need to break from dead end of ‘lesser evil’ politics

The Lesser Evil? Debates on the Democratic Party and Independent Working-Class Politics by Jack Barnes and others is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for June. The excerpt is from a 1965 debate between Barnes, now national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Stanley Aronowitz, who was a leader of Students for a Democratic Society. Barnes explains why workers need to lead all the exploited and oppressed to break from the capitalist rulers’ Democratic and Republican parties and organize their own independent party, a labor party, to fight to take political power. Copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

It is only by seeing the character of the 1930s and the big social movement of the 1930s, which was built around the rise of industrial unionism in this country, that you can understand what coalitionism really is today, what it has grown up to be and what role it plays. The first thing to point out is that the building of the CIO was not just the building of a union movement. It was the building of a great social movement that embraced millions of American workers and their families who had never before been active in political life, in any meaningful



Nov. 12, 1938, *Socialist Appeal*, as the *Militant* was named then, explained how “New Deal demagoguery” of President Franklin Roosevelt was “losing its mass hold.” This opened door for workers to build their own party, a labor party, to answer rulers’ attacks and drive to war.

way, either on the economic, political, or social front. Industrial unionism, which only a few years before had been considered a utopia, embraced millions before the war began. It was the crisis of the 1930s which undoubtedly produced the CIO, that is, it prepared the conditions for the tumultuous development of industrial unionism. The CIO was not a union of the traditional type known in America, that is, a craft union with conservative, special interests. It began and was organized as a broad class movement based on the factory workers.

In fact, it was a semipolitical movement with profound revolutionary implications. If we look at it correctly, we can say that the CIO, from the moment it began to take mass form, was an incipient or potential labor party, political party of labor, in itself. Thus, as millions flocked into the CIO and as millions made up this social movement in the thirties, the central political question in American politics became: Would the workers, who in unprecedented numbers and with unprecedented speed and combativity had organized themselves as a class on the economic front, would they be capable and would they find the leadership to organize politically as a class, to carry out the fight on the political arena; and eventually, within whatever framework this political movement developed, would the workers then develop a program capable of replacing capitalism with socialism, replacing the capitalist parties’ rule with their rule? Not only was this the key ques-

tion for the workers and for the great social movement in the thirties, it was of course the key question for the capitalists in this country, who, under the leadership of Roosevelt, attempted to adjust, reshape, and reform the institutions of rule in order to absorb the discontent and the upsurge into the traditional political forms.

In 1936, the leaders of the CIO, backed up by the leaders of the Communist Party and many in the Socialist Party, supported Roosevelt. They urged support for the Democratic Party and established for the first time the labor-Negro-liberal Democratic Party coalition. These leaders had no real perspective of independent political action by the workers themselves. ...

Before going any further, we might start cleaning up the language about coalitionism, the Democratic Party, labor, et cetera. That is, when you talk about the Democratic Party, or read someone discussing the Democratic Party, as a labor-Negro-liberal coalition — and when you include the great mass of the American workers in it — you are not really talking about a party membership, you are talking about a voting bloc, an electoral weight. That is, the average worker, the average Negro, who once every four years or once every two years pulls the Democratic lever, is a voter, not a party member. ...

This is very important, because it brings more sharply into focus the basic idea that a political party’s policy is determined not by who pulls the lever for it every four years. The party is defined and determined by the program

it puts forth and by what set of policies and strategies in the world and at home it puts forth, and what class or group within a class these policies serve.

The class the party votes for in its program and policies, not the party that the class votes for, is what determines the kind of party it is. By this criterion the Democratic Party in the 1930s and 1940s was, and remains today, a bourgeois party, a party whose basic program is in the interests of the American ruling class. The electoral coalition forged by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, by the CIO heads, and by the Communist Party, merely guaranteed a solid constituency, to use a term in common usage, at least for a brief period of time.

What we are really talking about when we use the phrase American labor-Negro-liberal coalition is a coalition between the owners of American industry and finance and, on the one hand, the professional ward-heelers and politicians who keep the party machinery oiled, and, on the other hand, the various trade union bureaucrats and leaders of protest movements in American society, whose job it is to bring out the ranks of the coalition at voting time to guarantee the continuance of the rule of this party as opposed to the Republican Party. They are the safety factor, they are the insurance policy, because when the general propaganda fails, when someone starts to step out of line, when the candidates of the party get to be a little too much to stomach, it’s those boys who whip things into shape, who go to the workers, to the Negroes, to the socialists, and say, “Look, it’s in your class interests, it’s in your interests as socialists, to come out and vote for this group, as a tactic” — in order, of course, to defeat the “greater evil.” ...

Who really needs this coalition? If you stop to think about it for a moment, it is crystal clear that the small minority who manage to maintain their rule through this coalition — the American capitalist class — are the ones who need the coalition. ...

Just as the major task, the central question, of the 1930s was whether the working class would build a political arm, so the major concern, the major task, of the politicians who serve this minority capitalist class today is to prevent the majority class from organizing itself as an independent political force and destroying this coalition.

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Fight for jobs! Defend wages, conditions!

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following statement June 17. Malcolm Jarrett is the party's candidate for vice president.

The biggest division working people face is between those of us working and those out of work. We need to join together in struggle to protect ourselves as bosses seek to use the division to attack wages and working conditions.

Joblessness is caused by the drive for profits that's integral to capitalist exploitation. Competition among workers for jobs is used by the bosses to intensify every other division they foster — between Black and Caucasian, native- and foreign-born, women and men — to turn us against each other and weaken our capacities to unite and fight their attacks.

But a fight for jobs can strengthen workers' unity and morale and boost fights for higher wages and better conditions.

- That's why my campaign urges workers and their unions to fight for a federally funded public works program to put millions back to work, at union-scale pay — to build the homes, hospitals and many other things working people need. The battle for jobs is central to building a fighting labor movement to combat the effects of the bosses' crisis-ridden system on our lives.
- To strengthen the unity vital for organizing more workers into struggles to improve wages and working conditions, the SWP demands an amnesty for all undocumented workers living in the U.S. Lift the threat of deportation from millions of fellow workers!

The bosses and their government try to convince workers we should accept the many injustices the capitalist system inflicts on us because “we're all in this together.” But that lie is being laid bare by the hundreds of thousands of working people and youth who have joined protests in big cities and small towns to fight

police brutality, bred by capitalism, showing in practice the fighting capacities our class can exercise. They stand on the shoulders of mighty gains won by the proletarian Black-led fight for civil rights that eradicated Jim Crow segregation.

The workings of capitalism inevitably drives workers to look for ways to fight.

- As our struggles deepen more workers can be won to taking control of production out of the hands of bosses who are driven only by their thirst for more profit off our labor. Their control of production ensures workers continue to face life-threatening speedup and the bosses' destruction of the soil, air and oceans. But as workers wrest control of production, we can expose the bosses' decisions for planned obsolescence, their intolerable waste of resources and their efforts to grab more of the wealth that our labor produces. The fight for workers control of production is the first step towards workers and our allies running the entire economy in the interests of the great majority.
- To lead that struggle workers need their own party, a labor party. A party that builds solidarity with strikes by fruit packers in Washington state and autoworkers in France and Spain for jobs, and for the struggle to charge and prosecute the cops who killed Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and countless others. A party that acts on the fact that working people have common interests that can only be defended in struggle against the capitalist exploiters and their Democratic and Republican parties.

A labor party would lead the fight to accomplish what workers and farmers in Cuba have proved we are capable of — waging a revolutionary struggle to replace the rule of the capitalists with a workers and farmers government — the greatest weapon we can use in the fight to end all exploitation and oppression.

Join us campaigning for this program!

Alan Harris, 65-year communist leader

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declared the majority “expelled,” and the Communist League was born.

Throughout the long political battle, Silberman said, Harris acted as a “citizen of time,” confident in the victory of the communist program.

Books by revolutionary leaders

A key part of that struggle for a proletarian party was organizing to distribute books containing the communist program and lessons of past working-class battles. Harris was a steward of that endeavor for many years.

It was in the course of workers' struggles in the 1980s that the cadres who founded the CL “learned to place priority on getting books by revolutionary leaders into the hands of fight-minded workers,” Pete Clifford told participants. Clifford worked under Harris' leadership in the Pathfinder Distribution Center in London in the latter 1980s and is today the organizer of the League's Manchester branch.

During the 1984-85 coal miners strike, “many of us virtually lived on the picket lines, as we had through the preceding steelworkers strike and struggles by engineering workers,” Clifford said. “We promoted books like *Teamster Politics* by SWP leader Farrell Dobbs, which enabled us to see that a decisive lesson of the miners' battle was the need to fight for a workers' party independent of the capitalist class. We organized meetings to promote *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* and *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, as well as speaking tours by Cuban leaders.”

On a sales trip to Northern Ireland in 1988, Clifford had been arrested and detained by occupying British forces, facing frame-up accusations of terrorist offenses. Protest messages were sent from around the world that won Clifford's release within 24 hours. Alan Harris led a delegation to Ireland that included the Member of Parliament where Clifford lived, union leaders and others, delivering hundreds

of Pathfinder books to Irish prisoners.

“Alan took the lead in the early 1960s in distributing hot-off-the-press copies of *The Second Declaration of Havana* by Fidel Castro and the *Tripoli Programme* of the developing Algerian Revolution,” Ólöf Andra Proppé, another leader of the CL in Manchester, told the meeting. “At the same time, he participated in Hands Off Cuba activity and the international campaign in defense of Algeria's war orphans.”

One of some 30 messages to the meeting from around the world came from Greg McCartan in Norway, who wrote about working with Alan at a book fair in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1989, helping to get the communist program into the hands of anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa.

A message from SWP National Committee member Norton Sandler in Los Angeles pointed to Harris' leadership in “shoe leather” work to visit commercial bookstores and get orders. The Pathfinder office in London has also been central to expanding the circulation of its books at the Tehran International Book Fair, and more recently at book fairs in Baghdad, Iraq, and Erbil in the Kurdish region.

Clifford described how years before, as a party leader in Canada, Harris had joined what they called “Trailblazer” teams — party members who went out on the road for several weeks at a time, traveling to cities, small towns and rural areas across the country campaigning with the party press and books by communist leaders.

Alan sold books, but “he was not a book seller,” Communist League leader Catharina Tirsén told meeting participants. “He was a party-builder who got out the communist program across Europe and around the world, helping to attract revolutionary-minded young people like myself to a working-class perspective.”

The celebration wrapped up with a fine spread of food and a special collection in Alan Harris' honor that raised 2,800 pounds (\$3,500) for the work of the Communist League.

Suppress political views

Continued from front page

ones pushing social media political suppression — the government in Beijing successfully forced Zoom bosses to bar its political opponents in Hong Kong and elsewhere from using the platform.

Owners of Twitter and similar media have been legally absolved by the government for any liability for comments people post, on the basis that they are supposed to be “neutral.”

But Twitter censors decided anyone reading Trump's tweets about voter fraud in May had to receive a “fact-check” label, cautioning them there were questions about the truthfulness of the president's views. They hid another of his tweets urging the use of military force to stop looters, behind a banner alert that claimed the president's comments “violated” rules about “glorifying violence.”

For some liberals warnings are not enough. Writing in the *New York Times*, Greg Bensinger complains Dorsey and Twitter bosses merely scold the president, when instead they should just remove all his posts that they deem violate “good taste.” After all, Bensinger says, “That's the beauty of being the boss.”

Twitter bosses have now appointed an executive in charge of “good taste,” Yoel Roth, who has been designated “head of site integrity.” Roth tweeted his good taste opinion that the president is a “racist tangerine” and called White House adviser Kellyanne Conway a latter-day Joseph Goebbels, referencing the Nazi minister of propaganda. Twitter censors decided no “fact-check” warning was needed!

Twitter and other social media bosses are hypocritical. They never posted warnings about “glorifying violence” when Barack Obama sent tens of thousands of troops as cannon fodder to Afghanistan. Their decisions on fact checks and suppression are grounded in partisan politics and liberal pressure.

This month Facebook unveiled a new “content moderation tool” that claims to reduce online “bullying” by removing some words, including the term “unionize.” After protests by union officials Facebook bosses tabled their plans and apologized.

After criticism for censorship, Facebook guru Mark Zuckerberg — who also runs Instagram — set up an Oversight Board to review these outfits' decisions on what they call content moderation. On May 6 Facebook announced the first 20 people appointed to the board, with 20 more to come. These experts will be “compensated an undisclosed amount for their time.”

Among those chosen for their expertise and fair-mindedness is Alan Rusbridger, for 20 years the editor-in-chief of the notoriously liberal *Guardian* newspaper in the U.K. In 2016 he offered the “good-taste” opinion that “Americans had elected a liar.” How do you think he'll vote on blackballing Trump?

The point isn't whether Trump's positions are right or true. The Socialist Workers Party opposes the politics of all capitalist politicians, Democrats and Republicans alike. They all seek to advance the interests of the capitalist rulers against the needs of working people. The point is the falsehood that pompous liberal social media overlords are equipped to decide what is or isn't politically correct, and then act on it.

Zoom, a newer company that has greatly expanded its reach — and profits — sells online conferencing as many political groups have turned to its service in response to government lockdowns against gatherings on the pretext of the coronavirus. Like all the others, it claims to be apolitical. But Zoom officials shut down the account of Humanitarian China after it posted a videoconference protesting Beijing's 1989 massacre at Tiananmen Square.

Officials at California-based Zoom openly admit they did so at the request of the Chinese government.

‘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