

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Havana meeting discusses roots of antisemitism, road to eradicate it
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 23 JUNE 13, 2022

After over a year, Warrior Met strikers stand strong

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ATLANTA — “We’re keeping up our weekly solidarity rallies,” striking Warrior Met coal miner Otis Sims told the *Militant* in a phone interview May 29. “They’re important. Now we have them outside UMWA Local 2397’s union hall in Brookwood every Wednesday at 5 p.m. to hear about what’s happening with our strike and new support.”

Sims, who has worked underground in the mines for 43 years, was a long-wall operator at Warrior Met Coal’s No. 4 mine in Brookwood, Alabama, when the strike began last April 1, 14 months ago.

At the May 25 rally, Sims said, United Mine Workers of America officials reported that in recent negotiating sessions between the union and Warrior Met, the company insisted that a contract settlement can’t be reached unless the UMWA agrees that the company can fire 37 miners for picket line activity. “We won’t go on that,” said Sims. “That won’t do. Everyone needs to go

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Gun violence, crime are result of today’s crisis of capitalism

BY TERRY EVANS

The horrifying mass shooting that killed 21 children and teachers at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, has sparked heated debate and mutual accusations of blame on the left and right of capitalist politics. None address the root cause of the massacre carried out by Salvador Ramos on May 24, nor the one just days earlier of 10 people at a supermarket in a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York. Nor the daily violence that takes place in Black communities across the country.

Mass shootings like this are part of the violence that increasingly confront working people. In 2020, 45,222 people were shot dead in the U.S. That’s 123 people a day. Shootings grew in most major cities, rising 70% in New York City alone. That year was also the worst for killings in Chicago in three decades. And cops make no serious attempt to stop gang violence in many workers’ neighborhoods. Their

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SWP files for ballot in Minnesota, plans campaigning across the US



Minnesota’s *Faribault Daily News* reporter Kristine Goodrich interviews SWP candidates Gabrielle Prosser and Kevin Dwire while they campaign in Walmart parking lot there May 26.

BY JOHN HAWKINS

MINNEAPOLIS — During two weeks of daily campaigning through May 31, supporters of the Socialist Workers Party’s ticket of Gabrielle Prosser for governor and Kevin Dwire for lieutenant governor collected 2,566 signatures — well over the state’s requirement of 2,000 — to be placed on the ballot. And while doing so they introduced the SWP’s program to thousands of working people on doorsteps,

at plant gates and political protests. They sold 89 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 52 books by party leaders and other revolutionaries, and collected \$418 in contributions.

“We took on the ruling parties’ challenge of doing this in two weeks, and turned it into an opportunity to reach out broadly to the working class and its allies,” said Naomi Craine, the party’s candidate for governor of Illinois, who

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Back Ukraine independence! Get Moscow’s troops out now!

Unite Ukrainian, Russian workers against Putin’s war!



Atom Trade Union of Ukraine

Students, teachers in Rivne, Ukraine, organize June 1 fundraising race to help rebuild Chernihiv, hard hit by Moscow’s assault. Speakers included head of union at nuclear power plant there.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Moscow’s invasion and murderous bombardment of Ukraine has been resisted tenaciously by the Ukrainian people for over three months, opening a new stage in the decline and disintegration of the capitalist “world order” set up after World War II. The war is

the Russian rulers’ war has been re-focused and narrowed on extending areas they hold along with pro-Moscow separatists in the Donbas region of Donetsk and Luhansk, and on defending areas seized in the south of Ukraine, like the cities of Mariupol

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End US sanctions on Russia!

exacerbating the worldwide economic crisis coming down on workers’ backs and sharpening conflicts among rival imperialist powers as they rearm and search for the best way to defend their conflicting national interests.

After facing defeat and loss of morale at the outset of the invasion,

Arson at Wyoming family planning clinic is attack on women’s rights

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

An arsonist damaged a family planning and women’s health center under construction in Casper, Wyoming, May 25. Wellspring Health Access, a national health care nonprofit that provides reproductive care in rural areas, plans to offer a range of services, including abortion if a woman needs one, the only facility providing the procedure in Wyoming. Casper is a working-class city, a hub of oil drilling, uranium mining and cattle ranching.

The person who called in the fire said they saw someone “running away from the building with a gas can and black bag,” which was captured on

Continued on page 2

US gov’t, Seoul announce new provocations against NKorea

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Joseph Biden embarked on his first visit to South Korea May 20-22, where he and newly elected South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol announced plans to expand provocative joint war games and to push increased economic sanctions against North Korea.

Biden’s trip to South Korea, then Japan, was aimed at shoring up U.S. imperialism’s interests in the region and

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United Auto Workers on strike against Case fight boss takebacks

UK rail workers vote to strike for better pay and to stop job cuts

Arson at family planning clinic

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surveillance video. No one has been apprehended.

"I'm angry that people would take it upon themselves to try to shut us down this way," Julie Burkhart, a founder of the clinic, told the press. The clinic plans to make needed repairs, but its scheduled opening in June will likely have to be pushed back.

Since 1977 there have been 11 murders and 26 attempted murders of doctors who provide abortions as part of their practices, 42 bombings of clinics and homes, and 194 incidents of arson. It's a history that Burkhart knows firsthand. She worked with Dr. George Tiller, a doctor who offered abortion in Kansas. He was shot dead in the foyer of his church by a rightist in 2009.

Needed discussion on access to family planning was cut short by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that decriminalized most abortions, before millions had been convinced that access to the procedure was necessary as a part of family planning.

Fight for women's emancipation

The heart of the discussion has to begin on a broader basis: how can working people start a family and hold one together. This includes the fight for jobs with better wages and work schedules that allow family time.

"Working people need access to affordable child care, health care and programs that make it easier to adopt," Candace Wagner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor in Pennsylvania, told the *Militant*. "We need access to family planning, contraception and safe and secure abortion, the types of services that Wellspring

Health Access is bringing to Casper."

Buffeted by today's crisis of capitalism that puts more and more pressure on working-class women and their families across the U.S., they find themselves with less and less choice about how to live their lives.

Among the backers of the Wellspring Health Access clinic in Casper are Riata Little Walker and her husband Ian. She told the Associated Press that she had considered herself "pro-life," but when she got pregnant two years ago she was diagnosed with fetal heart and chromosomal abnormalities that doctors told her would likely cause her a traumatic miscarriage. She decided to get an abortion at a facility in Colorado.

"Not all aborted babies are unwanted," she said. "This needs to be available for people when they need it, even if they wanted their baby and they have to make the hardest decision that any parent could possibly make."

"When you find yourself in a difficult position, you just want to have choices," she said.

Today's shortage of baby formula is another stark example of what workers face trying to raise a family. Anxious parents are hunting from store to store and paying skyrocketing prices if they are lucky enough to find the formula their babies need.

In February — *three months ago* — the Federal Drug Administration ordered Abbott Laboratories to shut down its main plant due to contamination. The company accounts for some 48% of baby formula production in the U.S. There was no backup plan in place, no reserves, and President Joseph Biden's administration didn't think the problem was important



Greg Hirst/Oil City News

Riata Little Walker, backer of Wellspring Health Access family planning clinic damaged in arson attack in Casper, Wyoming, speaks at pro-choice rally there May 14. Women who face medical problems in a pregnancy "are the only ones who can make those decisions," she said.

enough to address until babies started being admitted to hospitals and the issue became a national scandal.

Moves to restrict family planning

Rightists and state governments aiming to eliminate the ability of women to make their own decisions on family planning confront the widespread availability of pills used for medication abortions. More than half of all abortions in the U.S. are now carried out this way, including from drugs that can be ordered online. Manufacturer GenBioPro has filed a federal lawsuit challenging a Mississippi law that requires women take the pill in the presence of a doctor and only obtain the drug through an in-person visit.

But no matter what the Supreme Court decides on Roe, the underlying

questions facing women and their families will continue to spur public debate. It's a much-needed discussion that working people should welcome and join. That's what the Walkers decided.

Growing numbers of working women and men, from nurses to autoworkers and coal miners, are standing together on picket lines around the country over the economic and social conditions the working class faces today.

"These union battles include fights against cuts to real wages, forced overtime, life-draining schedules and other obstacles to family life," Wagner said. "Such struggles also provide a foundation for the broader fight for women's emancipation. That is central to organizing a working-class movement that is united, capable of taking power out of the hands of the capitalist class."

THE MILITANT

Protests sweep Iran as prices skyrocket

Iran's workers and farmers are facing widespread inflation, especially on food and other essentials, as well as the impact of Tehran's counterrevolutionary wars abroad. The *'Militant'* covers fights by working people there, and worldwide, as we fight to protect our interests.



Anadolu Agency
Protests over rising food costs across Iran in mid-May demand "Down with Khamenei!"

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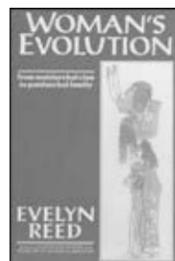
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Woman's Evolution: From Matriarchal Clan to Patriarchal Family by Evelyn Reed

An examination of prehistory from cannibalism to culture that uncovers the world of the ancient matriarchy. Reed reveals women's leading and still largely unknown contributions to the development of civilization, and offers fresh insights on the struggle against women's oppression and for the liberation of humanity. \$25

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women

by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed and Mary-Alice Waters

Why do ever-changing standards of beauty, as well as moral values, always reflect those of the ruling class? How do the wealthy owners of the cosmetics and fashions "industries" play on women's insecurities to sell products and rake in profits? \$12

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The Militant

Vol. 86/No. 23

Closing news date: June 1, 2022

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in August, one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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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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SWP campaigns in Minnesota

Continued from front page

chaired a Militant Labor Forum here May 28 celebrating the gains won by the Socialist Workers Party.

“We’ve been to the Red River Valley, to Worthington, Owatonna, Austin, Faribault, New Prague, the Iron Range, and many smaller towns,” Prosser told forum participants. “Articles about our campaign have appeared in two local newspapers, with promises of more to come, as a result of our campaigning throughout the state.”

“One of the things we’ve been raising with workers and others we meet is the stakes involved in organizing opposition to Russia’s war on Ukraine,” said David Rosenfeld, the party’s candidate for U.S. Congress, at the forum. “The war reflects the unraveling of the capitalist world order put in place by Washington after the second imperialist slaughter.

“Our call for independence of Ukraine, withdrawal of all Russian troops, opposition to U.S. and EU sanctions against Russia that hit working people there the hardest gets a hearing from workers we’ve met,” he said.

Meeting workers on Iron Range

In Hibbing, on the Mesabi Iron Range in north Minnesota, Dwire met Ryan Maki at his home on May 28. Maki, a member of the United Steelworkers union, has worked for 13 years as a heavy equipment operator at the Minntac open pit iron ore mine in the nearby city of Virginia. He wanted to know about the SWP’s view toward unions.

“We’re for organizing unions,” said Dwire, “and supporting struggles like the United Mine Workers 13-month strike against Warrior Met Coal in Alabama and the United Auto Workers strike against Case New Holland in Wisconsin and Iowa.”

“And what about gun control?” Maki asked.

“The SWP supports the Bill of Rights — the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, including the right to bear arms — and the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments adopted to wipe out the vestiges of slavery after the Civil War, and other protections against government abuse won by workers in struggle,” Dwire said.

“But workers today don’t need access to assault rifles and military grade weapons,” he continued. “We need organization, solidarity and class independence in the face of the dog-eat-dog morality and violence of the capitalists. Through collective struggle we will discover our

fighting capacities and self-worth.

“When our unions and other fighting organizations come under attack from vigilantes and fascist gangs as the class struggle deepens, we will need to take decisive steps to organize a disciplined defense.”

“I support you, and you’re going to get a good reception in this area,” Maki said, taking extra campaign flyers to “get around in the mine.”

Maki liked the SWP’s call for a labor party and for workers control of production. He subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Teamster Rebellion*.

On her doorstep in Monticello May 29, Sarah Burman, a 31-year-old mother of three with another on the way, and chef at a nursing home for Alzheimer patients, spoke with Dwire. He pointed to the devastating impact rising prices are having on workers’ real wages. “The government is for the rich, not the working class,” Burman said. “Even though my fiancé and I make a decent paycheck, it’s not enough. We still have to go to food pantries to make ends meet.”

David Rosenfeld and other party campaigners visited a picket line and rally May 24 by SEIU Health Care workers on a one-day strike here for better patient care and working conditions. He met Joe Rick, who has worked in hospital psychiatric care for 32 years. “I feel like I’m part of a corrupt system,” Rick said. “I feel like I’m expected to be more like a beat cop than someone providing care to a patient.”

Health care is run as a business to maximize profits, he said. “We face short staffing. There are teenagers being housed in parking garages. Patients know they are not receiving the kind of care they deserve and that makes them angry.”

‘Hire more people’

“There’s a simple solution to short staffing,” Rosenfeld said, “hire more people. Change will only come from the action of our class, the working class, and we have to organize to use union power to win that. We also need to do that on the political plane — break with the two parties of big business and form



Militant/Carole Lesnick

SWP campaigner Michael Najim, right, talks to Michael Hamer as he signs up for a *Militant* subscription in Minneapolis May 28, part of statewide effort to put party on the ballot.

our own party, a labor party.”

Rick signed to put the SWP candidates on the ballot, subscribed to the *Militant*, got *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* and contributed \$10 to the campaign.

Prosser was one of the speakers at a May 29 rally in Minneapolis demanding an end to Washington’s economic war against Cuba and to lift the U.S.-imposed travel ban. The socialist gubernatorial candidate recently returned from Cuba, where she was part of a team of SWP and Communist League members at the Pathfinder Press booth at the Havana International Book Fair.

“In 1959 the workers and farmers of Cuba made a socialist revolution,” Prosser said. “Under Fidel Castro’s leadership, they took political power. Despite all the obstacles, the revolution continues as a living, fighting revolution.

“Some of the Cubans I talked with,” she said, “were surprised when I told them that members of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States campaign door to door and on picket lines explaining to workers the need for a socialist revolution in the United States.

“I showed them a 1961 statement by Fidel Castro that is published on the back cover of the Pathfinder book, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. Castro expressed confidence in the U.S. working class, saying, ‘There will

be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.”

In New Jersey, Joanne Kuniansky and Lea Sherman, SWP candidates for U.S. Congress, filed petitions May 24 at the Department of Elections in Trenton for ballot status. Each filed petitions with more than 150 signatures, triple the number required.

After filing, Sherman visited the picket line of striking nurses and technicians fighting for better wages and staff-to-patient ratios at St. Michael’s Medical Center in Newark. “Solidarity from workers and our unions is crucial to the outcome of this struggle,” she said.

The SWP is planning to expand campaigning all across the country, including efforts to put the party on the ballot for U.S. Congress from Philadelphia. If you want to find out more about the party, or join SWP supporters in taking the party’s program to workers and farmers, contact the SWP campaign office nearest you, listed on page 12.

‘Militant’ publishing schedule

This is a three-week issue. The next issue will be mailed June 23

Newark nurses strike over safety, staffing levels

BY GALE SHANGOLD

NEWARK, N.J. — The 350 nurses and technicians at St. Michael’s Medical Center here, members of JNESO Council 1 International Union of Op-

erating Engineers, struck May 23 for a decent contract.

“During negotiations, management has demonstrated a lack of willingness to respond to issues such as safety, staffing levels, health insurance and pensions,” Virginia Treacy, negotiator for JNESO, told the press. “They have demanded more than 20 different givebacks.”

“They want to throw us on any floor without regard to training or experience, remove our weekend differential, reduce our wages and all our benefits, which are already lacking,” Margarita Prodon, a nurse with 17 years at the hospital, told the *Militant*. “They already pay so low that they can’t hire enough nurses.”

“Replacement” nurses from an outside agency have taken the strikers’ jobs.

For-profit California-based Prime Healthcare Services bought the 358-

bed hospital out of bankruptcy in 2016, getting \$190 million in debt relief from the state. “Solidarity from workers and our unions is crucial to the outcome of this struggle,” said Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress from New Jersey, when she joined the nurses’ picket May 24.



Militant/Lea Sherman

Striking New Jersey nurses rally May 24. Margarita Prodon, with sign, explained conditions nurses face.

Socialist Workers Party 2022 candidates

California

Eleanor Garcia, US Senate
Joel Britton, Governor

Florida

Rachele Fruit, Governor

Georgia

Lisa Potash, US Senate
Sam Manuel, Governor

Illinois

John Hawkins, US Senate
Naomi Craine, Governor

Minnesota

Gabrielle Prosser, Governor
Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor
David Rosenfeld, US Congress

Nebraska

Joe Swanson, US Congress

New York

Sara Lobman, US Senate

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, US Congress
Lea Sherman, US Congress

Ohio

Samir Hazboun, US Senate
Jacquie Henderson, US Congress

Pennsylvania

Osborne Hart, US Senate
Candace Wagner, Governor
Chris Hoepfner, US Congress

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, Governor
Gerardo Sánchez, US Congress

Washington, DC

James Harris, Mayor
Arlene Rubinstein, Delegate to House

Washington state

Henry Dennison, US Senate

Cuban farmers celebrate 1959 agrarian reform, revolution

BY RÓGER CALERO

From very early in the morning farmers in Cuba held political events and festivities around the island to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the First Agrarian Reform law. The May 17, 1959, act, more than any other, defined the character of the workers and farmers government established by Cuban toilers after overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista five months earlier, and heightened U.S. imperialism's hostility toward the Cuban Revolution.

"The revolution dignified the men and women of the countryside," said Rafael Santiesteban, president of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), in his remarks at the main celebration held at a farm cooperative in Cienfuegos province. "It gave the land to its rightful owners, eliminated evictions, injustice and desperate living conditions" for millions of peasants and rural toilers, Santiesteban told the farmers at the event, which also marked the 61st anniversary of ANAP's founding in 1961.

The First Agrarian Reform nationalized millions of acres of large plantations owned by foreign — primarily from the U.S. — and Cuban capitalists, guaranteeing use of the land to those who work it and abolished the debt slavery of capitalism the peasantry lived under. Over 100,000 peasant families were granted land deeds.

There were other revolutionary measures carried out by the new popular government in the opening years of the revolution, but "the [agrarian reform] law for the benefit of the peasantry was enough for imperialism to mobilize against our country," Fidel Castro said in 1962, referring to the deepening class war opened by the law.

'Crossing the Rubicon'

It was a step from which there was no retreat. "It sealed the pact of the reactionary alliance of the big landowners and imperialism," explained Castro. But "it also sealed the pact of the alliance of the Cuban workers and peasants." To abandon the land reform would have meant betraying the interests and aspirations of the Cuban people.

The signing of the law by Fidel Castro in the Sierra Maestra mountains was followed by a broad effort to explain its significance and win even deeper support for the worker-farmer alliance at the heart of the revolution. This prepared the population as a whole to combat landowners who resisted the agrarian reform and were counting on Washington's intervention to stop it.

A sharpening class polarization ensued, with a big majority of peasants and workers supporting the measure, while big landowners did all they could to try to block it, waging a campaign of sabotage and terror. Washington responded with organizing a mercenary military invasion in April 1961 at Playa Girón. The strength of the worker-farmer alliance, and the socialist revolution unfolding in Cuba, was demonstrated decisively when the assault was crushed by the mobilization of Cuba's popular militias and armed forces in less than 72 hours.

The revolutionary leadership carried out the agrarian reform, and a series of far-reaching nationalizations of industry and utilities, through to the end. Millions of farmers, workers and youth

were involved in city and countryside, transforming social relations and themselves. They understood they were carrying out the first socialist revolution in the Americas, and were proud of it.

They understood this new social system was created to serve the interests of farmers and workers instead of the former capitalist rulers, including guaranteeing land, cheap credit and prices that gave farmers a livable income.

The Rebel Army and the July 26 Movement under Castro's leadership were central in leading the implementation of the agrarian reform. The measure was accompanied by a series of other mass mobilizations that wiped out illiteracy; built schools, housing and medical centers in rural areas; and brought electricity to rural Cuba — all steps to bridge the political and cultural gap between the urban and rural toilers.

Defending socialist revolution gains

"The founding of ANAP could not have come at another time," said Santiesteban, "two years after the enactment of the law, and after having dealt imperialism its first great defeat in Latin America at Playa Girón."

Since its creation, ANAP has played a central role in working with small farmers to participate and mobilize in defense of the revolution. The fact that the nationalization of the land meant farmers in Cuba cannot lose their land as long as they work it has had a big impact on farmers in the U.S. who have learned about Cuba's socialist revolution.

A message was sent to ANAP marking the anniversary of the agrarian reform from 16 farm families in the U.S., including some who have visited Cuba and seen what farmers have won first-

Protests demand 'End US economic war against Cuba!'



Militant/Laura Anderson

Over 100 people rallied at the Miami International Airport, above, May 29, after participating in a 42-car caravan through the city demanding an end to the U.S. economic war against Cuba and for lifting Washington's restrictions on travel to the island. A smaller rightist counteraction was organized across the street, but failed to disrupt the protest. A large number of Cubans living in the city oppose the U.S. embargo.

Similar actions took place in New York, Seattle, Minneapolis and more than 20 other cities around the world. In Canada, caravans and rallies were organized in at least eight cities, including Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

hand (printed on this page). "Excellent message, and we're very happy for it, and reknitting contact with farmers in the U.S.," said Rilma Roman of ANAP. The greetings will be included in the June issue of *Revista ANAP*, their magazine. What the U.S. rulers "fear most is your example of what can be accomplished by workers and farmers in a united struggle. We salute your example!" the U.S. farmers said.

At the Cienfuegos celebration, Santiesteban spoke about the challenges

working people in Cuba face. After two years of COVID pandemic, a deepening worldwide capitalist economic crisis, and tightening of Washington's economic war against the Cuban people and its socialist revolution, agricultural production and all aspects of Cuba's economy have been impacted. ANAP's central task is working with small farmers' cooperatives in the battle to increase food production and reduce hard-to-come-by imports.

US farmers send solidarity message to Cuban farmers on 63rd anniversary of agrarian reform law

Below is a letter initiated by farmer Willie Head from Pavo, Georgia. It was signed by farmers and farm families in the U.S. and two from Canada.

May 10, 2022

Greetings to National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba (ANAP) from farmers in the United States.

We send you warm greetings and solidarity from farmers in the United States on the 61st anniversary founding of ANAP and the 63rd anniversary of the First Agrarian Reform of the Cuban Revolution. The courage of Fidel Castro going forward with the workers and farmers and galvanizing them in unity, for six decades that historic accomplishment has been the foundation of the Cuban Revolution since January 1,

Willie M. Head

Cattle, vegetable farmer, Pavo, Georgia

Eddie Slaughter

Cattle, hay, vegetable farmer, Buena Vista, Georgia

Ben Burkett

Vegetable farmer, Petal, Mississippi

Larry Ginter

3rd Generation crop, livestock farmer (retired),

Rhodes, Iowa

Will Scott Jr.

Vegetable farmer, row crops, Fresno, California

Paul Buxman

Stone fruit farmer, Dinuba, California

Bernard Bates Family Ava, Karla, Theo, Terrie, and Brad Sr.

Nicodemus Descendant Legacy Black Farmers, Nicodemus, Kansas

Robert J. Smith

Produce farmer, Petal, Mississippi

1959. Some of us have travelled to Cuba, talked with Cuban farmers, and have been able to see firsthand what a difference a revolution makes. The agrarian reform put an end in Cuba to the debt driven exploitation farmers are facing with intensifying effects here in the U.S. and around the world.

Farmers in the U.S. are facing farm foreclosures; rising prices for seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs; to soaring inflation that makes it impossible to make a living. Farmers who are Black are disproportionately being driven off the land by continuing government discrimination. What the rulers here fear most is your example of what can be accomplished by workers and farmers in a united struggle. We salute your example!

Congratulations on your anniversaries!

Byron Travis

Produce farmer, New Augusta, Mississippi

Darnella Winston

Cow, vegetable farmer, Church Hill, Mississippi

Daniel Teque

Row crop farmer, Sallas, Mississippi

Willie E. Adams

Dairy, poultry, livestock farmer, Greensboro,

Georgia

Karl Butts

Vegetable farmer, Plant City, Florida

Paul Plouffe

11th Generation Dairy Farmer, Bridport, Vermont

George Naylor

Organic corn, soybeans, oats, and apples farmer,

Churdan, Iowa

Morris and Linda Varcoe

Grain farmers, Clavet, Saskatchewan, Canada

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

United Auto Workers on strike against Case fight boss takebacks

After four days of negotiations, talks between Case New Holland Industrial and the United Auto Workers on strike at the agricultural implement and heavy equipment manufacturer ended without an agreement May 19.

Workers at the company's factories in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, and Burlington, Iowa, members of UAW locals 180 and 807, walked off the job May 2.

"We have been bargaining in good faith. But it turns out that they really are not interested," Rich Glowacki, chairman of UAW Local 180 and president of the UAW-Case New Holland Council, told the *Militant* in a phone interview.

"The conversations we were having with the company and their verbal agreement on many of the issues led us to believe that we were approaching a proposal that would meet the needs and concerns of our members," he said. "But the written proposal they came back with contained none of what we thought had been agreed to. In fact, in some ways it contained provisions that are worse than what we have already."

Among concerns workers want addressed are schedules and excessive overtime that wreak havoc with family life and vacations, and a big enough wage hike to keep up with inflation.

"Morale on the picket line is high," Glowacki said. "CNH is in for a surprise when this thing is settled. Everybody who went out is not coming back. Already a good number have quit for higher-paying jobs with better benefits and working conditions."

— John Hawkins

UK rail workers vote to strike for better pay and to stop job cuts

MANCHESTER, England — A large majority of the 40,000 union members at 15 train operating companies across the U.K. and Network Rail, the company responsible for rail infrastructure, voted May 25 to authorize a strike over wages, job cuts and work conditions.

"There's such a great buzz about

the solid ballot results," said Clayton Clive, a train conductor at Piccadilly station here and secretary of the Manchester South Rail Maritime and Transport union branch.

Many rail workers are in the third year of a pay freeze and inflation is now 9%, according to the official consumer price index. Gas and electricity costs have risen by 53.5% and 95.5% respectively over the last year; car fuel by a third and supermarket "low-cost" food items are up 50%. The government-run Network Rail is also cutting 2,500 maintenance jobs, which will impact rail safety.

Workers who voted to strike include conductors, station workers, signallers, track maintenance workers and some drivers.

In an attempt to divide rail workers from other working people and undercut support for a strike, the *London Times* claimed the union is "not just against the rail companies but also the traveling public and the taxpayer."

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps threatened legislation to require some rail workers to break any strike so that bosses can keep a "minimum" of operations going, and to ban strike action by rail workers altogether if that level is not met.

Tens of thousands of rail workers employed by contractors and agencies were not included in the union's ballot. The union is pressing for talks and says it will hold daylong walkouts beginning in mid-June. Strikes would take place in both freight and passenger rail.

— Ólöf Andra Proppé

UK rail workers demand bosses rehire fired unionist

BY ÓLÖF ANDRA PROPPÉ

MANCHESTER, England — Rail bosses' attempt to fire union fighter Peter Clifford here is being met by a strong response from workers and their union determined to win his job back.

A statement from Clifford's Rail, Maritime and Transport union branch explains he was removed from his job as a train dispatcher for TransPennine

Apple workers in Shanghai protest brutal lockdown



Fed up with strict COVID-19 lockdown restrictions imposed in Shanghai by the Chinese rulers over the past two months, workers at Quanta, a Taiwanese-owned plant that makes MacBook laptops, have organized protests against the conditions they face. This has included hundreds of workers clashing with factory guards in hazmat suits and jumping across plant barriers to get out and buy basic supplies. *China Times* reports workers chanted "Down with capitalism."

Like many other bosses in the city, Quanta has adopted what they call a "closed loop" production system to keep factories going and profits rising during the lockdown. Workers are banned from leaving company property even during off hours and are forced to live and sleep in the factory or crammed into adjacent dormitories. They are forbidden to see other people, including their families.

"People are getting frustrated and tired of these controls," one worker at the locked-down Apple facility told *Bloomberg News*. "That's inevitable, especially when there is no timeline on when all this will end."

They're also demanding raises. One worker told *Bloomberg* they're paid just \$450 per month.

Typical housing conditions for workers at the Quanta plant under the lockdown include packing 12 workers in bunk beds per dorm room.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 23, 1997

In his recent travels, president William Clinton has been touting the Marshall Plan between 1948 and 1951 as a model for peace and economic development. Under this scheme, the U.S. rulers provided \$13 billion in loans to restart industry and rebuild the infrastructure of the war-torn capitalist countries in Europe.

The Marshall Plan represents the most finished and thought-out scheme of American imperialism to bend ruined and prostrate Europe to its needs and realize hegemony of the continent.

The Marshall Plan bases itself on the new relationship of forces: Not only America's military and industrial superiority vis-a-vis Russia, but the disintegration of the British Empire and its inability to maintain the pretensions of a first-rate power; the helplessness of the European capitalist classes; and the out-and-out bankruptcy of Europe.



June 23, 1972

Three B-52s can obliterate an area more than half a mile wide and nearly two miles long. There are more than 100 B-52s and over 1,000 U.S. warplanes altogether now striking North and South Vietnam daily.

The aim is "sealing off North Vietnam's coast and harbors with mines, followed by the systematic and relatively unrestricted destruction of military and industrial targets," *New York Times* correspondent Neil Sheehan reported June 9.

In an effort designed to conceal U.S. control of the "pacification" program in South Vietnam, the U.S. Public Affairs Office — which headed "psychological and political warfare" — is being closed out. It organized a "campaign of selective terror," *Times* correspondent Malcolm Browne reports, "seeking to kill known Vietcong agents in ambushes or in their beds and making sure the lessons were not lost on local residents."



June 21, 1947

JUNE 17 — With only three days left before the veto deadline, [President] Truman has not yet broken his silence on the Taft-Hartley Bill, the most ruthless piece of anti-labor legislation this country has seen in decades. Every worker must recognize that both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are political organizations of Wall Street.

The policy of permitting Wall Street to exercise a monopoly of politics is suicidal. The bill will be followed by other legislation even more dangerous in character. In the struggle against Taft-Hartley, the labor bureaucrats gave aid to the capitalist class by sabotaging effective mass protest action.

If workers make up their mind that no more delays can be countenanced in organizing an independent Labor Party, then Wall Street's success in pushing the Taft-Hartley bill will prove a hollow victory.

position for three years and has no disciplinary record.

"Why is this happening?" asks the union statement. "Is it because he is a well-known RMT union activist across the station?" Clifford has organized solidarity among rail workers for strikes by Chep pallet workers and bus drivers.

Eleven of the 14 Carlisle-employed dispatchers at the station joined a special union branch meeting May 19. It urged the union's national executive to authorize a ballot for strike action in Clifford's defense. Along with four other dispatchers, Clifford joined a May 22 picket line by TransPennine Express conductors at the station. They were part of a one-day walkout across northern England to protest working conditions.

The support Clifford is winning "is not surprising," said station worker Kissle Cowie. Union branch officers are circulating the union's statement, with over 700 people signing an online petition.

Up to half the workers hired at the station are employed by contractors. They face lower pay rates, worse conditions, and longer hours than workers employed by train operating companies, alongside the threat of summary dismissal.

Clifford is also well known as a distributor of the *Militant*. Last year he was the Communist League's candidate for Greater Manchester mayor.

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'Militant' online at
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Back Ukrainian independence!

Continued from front page and Kherson.

Under cover of continual and deadly artillery bombardment, Moscow's forces fought their way into the city of Severodonetsk, in Luhansk province. Ukrainian forces are inflicting heavy losses on the invaders, but lacking long-range artillery were pushed out of the city.

About 13,000 civilians remain in shelters there, out of a prewar population of 100,000. Many hundreds have been killed and large swathes of buildings and infrastructure obliterated.

Ukrainian forces launched a limited counterattack in the southern region around occupied Kherson. This has forced Moscow to divert troops from their Donbas offensive. Moscow also canceled plans to stage a rigged "referendum" to incorporate the area into Russia. Kherson residents held daily protests in March until the occupiers savagely clamped down, but still find ways to express support for Ukraine.

Protesters in Melitopol against the Russian occupation May 29 held signs saying, "Melitopol is Ukraine," part of broader actions organized by the "Yellow Ribbon" movement.

Resistance by Ukrainians in other occupied areas is also causing problems for Moscow. Networks of thousands inform the Ukrainian military about the movements of enemy troops and equipment. Some stage guerrilla attacks on warehouses and occupying forces.

With depleted infantry reserves, the Russian government is recalling troops from Syria and elsewhere. The Kremlin has been forced to merge depleted army units, many exhausted with low morale and short of officers. Russian President Vladimir Putin scrapped the upper age limit of 40 for recruits May 28. Russian casualties from three months of war in Ukraine are estimated to be higher than those suffered by soldiers from the Soviet Union during Moscow's 10-year invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

The Ukrainian people's defense of their country's sovereignty has deep roots. Putin seeks to force back under Moscow's domination peoples that had previously been conquered by the czars, whose empire was known as a "prison house of nations." Ukraine won its independence in the early 1920s after the Russian Revolution led

by V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks overturned capitalist rule and established a workers and farmers government. It drew widespread support from Ukrainians and other oppressed peoples.

A counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin from the mid-1920s overthrew Lenin's policy supporting national self-determination and drove working people from power. It once again imposed Moscow's domination of Ukraine. Independence was secured again after the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. Millions of working people took to the streets of Ukraine in 2014 to oust the brutal pro-Moscow regime of Viktor Yanukovich.

Divisions among imperialist powers

While Washington is the biggest provider of weapons to Kyiv, it does so to advance its own imperialist interests, not to defend working people in Ukraine. The U.S. rulers aim to reassert their place as the dominant power in Europe, at the same time as they seek ways to check the rise of Beijing, their main economic and military competitor today. This has further destabilizing consequences for the capitalist world order.

Washington has assured the Kremlin that it won't provide Ukraine with weapons that will provoke Moscow. "We are not going to send to Ukraine rocket systems that can strike into Russia," President Joseph Biden told the media May 30.

The next day, Biden announced advanced rocket-launching systems with medium-range missiles would be supplied to Kyiv. But Washington refused to provide the longer-range missiles they can fire.

Divisions among Washington and other capitalist powers in the NATO alliance are sharpening. The governments of the U.K. and Poland, for their own interests, are pushing for more armaments for the Ukrainian army. Those of Germany, France and Italy are holding their own discussions with Putin, hoping to draw Moscow into negotiations with Kyiv to wind down the war. They fear deepening instability in Europe and are worried about more economic dislocation and a growing crisis at home.

Chevron oil workers vote to end California strike

BY BETSEY STONE

RICHMOND, Calif. — After 10 weeks on strike, hundreds of workers at the Chevron refinery here voted May 27-28 to accept the latest company offer and return to work. The contract was similar to the one they rejected twice, before going on strike in March.

"Chevron has never bargained seriously on the big issues we're raising," Justin Gilmore, a striker with 15 years at the refinery, told this *Militant* worker-correspondent May 21. The demands of the strikers included ending dangerously inadequate staffing and the long hours of overtime that leave little time for family. They also called for an extra one-time wage increase of 5% to address the high cost of living in the Bay Area and the rising cost of health care. Many operators at the refinery work 60 to 70 hours a week.

"Chevron preaches we are family. But how they really see us is more like we're robots," Gilmore said. "They look at our wages not as something we need, but as a minus num-



In Russko-Vysotskoye, eight hours north of Moscow, shopkeeper Dmitry Skurikhin, inset, painted "Peace to Ukraine, Freedom to Russia!" on his shop wall. In blood-red paint he has listed Ukrainian towns that were ravaged by Moscow's assault, like Mariupol, Bucha, Kherson and Chernihiv. Roof is giant yellow and blue Ukrainian flag. Fined by police, he refuses to take the sign down, saying "people are starting to realize what's happening is a calamity."

After decades of refraining from doing so, the rulers of Sweden and Finland have applied to join the Washington-led NATO military alliance, fearing threats from Moscow. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, a NATO member, is threatening to veto their applications, demanding they drop all criticism of the Turkish rulers' assaults on the Kurdish people's struggle for national rights in Syria.

Sanctions hit working people

Under severe U.S.-led sanctions, everything from paper and buttons to airline spare parts are in short supply in Russia. Unemployment is growing as bosses from factories to retail chains are forced to close them. A thousand brand-name foreign companies have cut production and sales in Russia. Soviet-era style shortages, shoddy locally produced goods, and inflation are on the rise.

A March 3 statement issued by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, on behalf of the SWP's National Committee, explains the party "opposes the broadly aimed economic and financial embargo imposed on Russia by the U.S., European and other imperialist ruling classes, as well as military maneuvers by these governments." Those sanctions, whoever they target, worsen the economic

crisis in Russia and end up imposing the greatest hardships on working people. They cut across forging working-class solidarity between the toilers of Ukraine, Russia and around the world, including in the U.S.

Opposition to the war by working people in Russia, including in the ranks of Moscow's army, continues. One hundred fifteen members of one domestic security force were fired after refusing to go and fight in Ukraine. A court rejected a lawsuit brought by the national guardsmen in their defense May 25.

Many hundreds more have been dismissed for refusing to fight, the *Wall Street Journal* reported June 1. Seeking to avoid publicizing the issue, the Kremlin hasn't charged them.

The highest-ranking Russian diplomat to quit so far, Boris Bondarev, resigned from the country's mission to the U.N. in Geneva May 25, saying the invasion was a "disaster." He said, "Never have I been so ashamed of my country as on Feb. 24."

Putin's war has aggravated the economic and political contradictions that drove the Kremlin to use its military might in the first place. Now the Russian rulers face not only a deeper economic crisis at home, but the challenge of imposing their rule against the wishes of Ukrainians in parts of the country they occupy.

ber from their profits."

According to B.K. White, vice president of United Steelworkers Local 5, the contract passed by a slim majority.

On the last day of the vote no one on the picket line was defending the new contract. Those who voted yes told the *Militant* they did so because they didn't think they could win more by staying out longer.

While refusing to meet the strikers' demands, Chevron announced the highest quarterly earnings in almost a decade. The price of gasoline in California has been raised to a point where the oil companies are profiting by as much as 70 cents on a gallon, according to an article in the *Mercury News*.

The union reached a national pattern agreement with the oil industry Feb. 25. Workers at the Chevron refinery here were the only bargaining unit to strike over local issues.

Workers will get a 12% wage increase over four years set in the national pattern. In February, Chevron offered a one-time signing bonus of \$2,500 to workers at the Richmond re-

finery. This was reduced to \$1,500.

Chevron organized managers, engineers, contract workers and strikebreakers from their nonunion Mississippi refinery to operate the refinery during the strike. Over time dozens of the 500 workers at the plant crossed the picket line.

Boss strikebreaking threatens safety

Workers feared for safety when forced to turn over the refinery units to strikebreakers unfamiliar with them. According to the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Programs, there were nine flaring incidents at the refinery during the strike, a sign of malfunctions. Such flaring often involves releases of toxic chemicals.

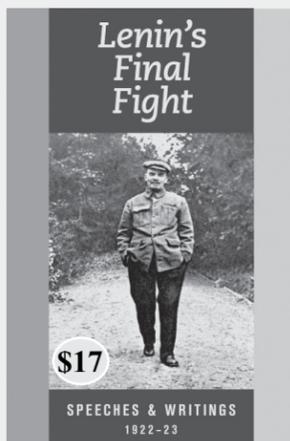
Several expanded picket lines were organized during the strike, where members of Bay Area unions, including grocery workers, machinists, teachers and others rallied in solidarity.

"We have solid members who held the line," striker Colt McKonville told the *Militant*. "Now we have to go in and keep building the union."

Lenin's Final Fight Speeches and Writings, 1922-23

"I declare war to the death on
Great Russian chauvinism."

V.I. Lenin, 1922



\$17

SPEECHES & WRITINGS
1922-23

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Iran-backed terror, Israeli retaliation increase Mideast tension

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The assassination in Tehran May 22 of Col. Hassan Sayyad Khodaei, an operative of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Quds Force, widely believed to have been carried out by Israel's spy and counterterrorism agency Mossad, has ratcheted up tensions in the Middle East.

Khodaei — previously a senior aide to Qassim Suleimani, the Quds Force head killed in a U.S. attack in Baghdad in 2020 — was shot and killed in broad daylight while sitting in his car in front of his home.

The Israeli press says Khodaei was a leader of the Quds Force's Unit 840, which plans the group's foreign operations. These include terrorist attacks along the Israeli border in the Golan Heights, as well as on Jewish and Israeli targets in Turkey, South America, Asia and Europe.

The Quds Force is central to the bourgeois-clerical regime's counter-revolutionary actions abroad, shoring up the dictatorial regime in Syria and aiding reactionary forces in Iraq and Lebanon.

The Iranian regime openly calls for the destruction of Israel and expulsion of all the Jews. These are not idle threats, given Tehran's stationing of Iranian forces in Syria close to Israel's border, its patronage of Hezbollah in Lebanon, its deepening ties with Hamas in Gaza, and its long-term efforts to develop a nuclear weapons capability.

In the midst of growing antisemitic attacks in countries worldwide, Israel serves as a refuge.

Iranian drones have been deployed in attacks against Israel, as well as in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, and against a U.S. base in Syria.

Unit 840's most recent operation was an assassination attempt on the Israeli consul in Turkey. That plot was reportedly uncovered by Mossad agents who abducted an officer of the Revolutionary Guard in Tehran and interrogated him for hours before releasing him.

The Israeli government refuses to confirm or deny responsibility for killing Khodaei. The *New York Times* reported that Israeli officials informed Washington that Mossad carried out the attack. Israeli officials were furious.



Iran's Natanz underground "missile city" houses large quantities of missiles, other weapons. Iran's counterrevolutionary rulers continue efforts to develop nuclear arms, back terrorist attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets from the Golan Heights to South America, Europe, Asia.

Former Mossad Deputy Chief Ram Ben Barak said the leak "violated" its relationship with the U.S. government, while Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi vowed to take "revenge."

Three days after the assassination, drones launched from inside Iran — with little doubt also by Israeli agents — hit the Parchin military complex run by the Iranian army, 37 miles southeast

of Tehran, killing an engineer. The facility develops missile, nuclear and drone technology.

That Mossad can operate like this inside Iran is an indication of the weakness of the bourgeois-clerical regime. Many of the Israeli operations in Iran — like the assassination of key nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh in November 2020 — are aimed at undermining the regime's drive to develop a nuclear weapons capability.

Tehran's nuclear ambitions

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei claims that Iran's nuclear program is solely for "peaceful purposes," but its nuclear weapons plans are no secret. That is a problem not just for Israel but for Tehran's rivals in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Since Washington withdrew from the nuclear pact with Tehran in 2018, the time it would take for the Iranian regime to produce enough nuclear fuel for a bomb "has shrunk to about one

Continued on page 13

US gov't, Seoul announce provocations against NKorea

Continued from front page

pushing back against Beijing's drive to expand its influence.

Biden and Yoon's announcement marks a shift from the Donald Trump administration's attempts in 2019, backed by then South Korean President Moon Jae-in, to reach an agreement with Pyongyang to ban nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula. Trump sharply scaled back joint military exercises with South Korea in the course of face-to-face negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Biden and Yoon claim "their common goal is the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." But Biden also said Washington is committed to "using the full range of U.S. defense capabilities, including nuclear," in any confrontation with North Korea.

The joint statement by the two presidents also challenged Beijing. It claimed they stood for "freedom of navigation" in the South China Sea and "a free and open Indo-Pacific." But for decades the U.S. imperialist rulers have considered the South Pacific as one of the prizes of their bloody victory in the Second

World War. They aim to push back Beijing's efforts to establish new "security alliances" and bases in the region.

For all of Biden's bombast against North Korea, Washington is the only government to ever launch nuclear weapons. In 1945 it dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, obliterating the overwhelmingly civilian cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 110,000 people almost instantly and another 230,000 within five years. During the 1950-53 Korean War the U.S. military high command recommended using nuclear weapons again, but Washington decided the political cost would be too high.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has repeatedly stated that it would end its nuclear program if Washington signs a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War and pledges not to attack North Korea.

The Korean War grew out of the division of the peninsula into North and South by Washington following World War II, with the connivance of the Stalinist rulers in Moscow, despite opposition by the Korean people. Korean workers and farmers had risen up in

mass struggles for independence and social gains after decades of Japanese occupation of their country.

U.S. troops countered with ruthless repression, installing the dictatorship of Syngman Rhee in the South. Before the start of the Korean War, Rhee's regime had killed 100,000 workers and peasants fighting for land, unions and democratic rights.

Increased rivalry, shifting alliances

In the North, working people ousted the capitalist landlords, placed factories under workers control and by 1948 brought to power a government of workers and farmers.

After the war began and the Korean people succeeded in nearly pushing U.S. forces off the peninsula, Washington launched a counterattack. Using carpet bombing and napalm to level large parts of the country, U.S. troops advanced almost all the way to China's border.

With the aid of Chinese volunteers, the U.S.-led forces were pushed back to the 38th parallel. The war ended in a stalemate in 1953, the first military defeat of U.S. imperialism. Despite signing an armistice, the U.S. rulers have never agreed to sign a peace treaty and keep over 25,000 troops on Korean soil.

Similar strictures were passed over the next decade, with the complicity of Beijing and Moscow. Those measures threw thousands out of work and increased scarcities of basic necessities.

But on May 26 — on the heels of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine — Russian and Chinese representatives to the U.N. Security Council vetoed Washington's latest resolution to strengthen sanctions, the first such veto in 15 years.

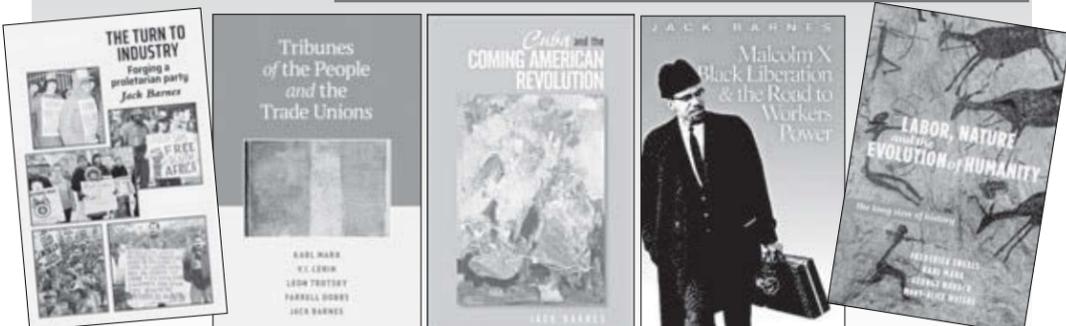
After his three-day stay in South Korea Biden headed to Japan for a meeting on moves against Beijing with government officials from Japan, Australia and India, the so-called Quad alliance.

Showing their displeasure with U.S. moves, Beijing and Moscow flew six bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons into South Korea's air defense zone in the East Sea between Korea and Japan on May 24, precisely while the alliance was meeting.

After the war began and the Korean people succeeded in nearly pushing U.S. forces off the peninsula, Washington launched a counterattack. Using carpet

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Lively Havana book fair meeting discusses roots of antisemitism, road to its eradication

BY PATRICK BROWN AND RÓGER CALERO

HAVANA — “*The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* is an important contribution by the revolutionary fighter Abram Leon,” said José Altshuler. “He wrote it to explain the foundations of anti-Jewish hatred in the imperialist epoch and the road to its eradication, as David Prince tells us in the introduction.”

Altshuler, president of the Cuban Association on the History of Science and Technology for many years and frequent speaker on Jewish and Cuban history, was speaking on a panel that launched Pathfinder Press’s new edition of that book during the Havana International Book Fair.

He was joined on the panel by Maritza Corrales, author of *The Chosen Island: Jews in Cuba*; Adriana Hernández, a professor at Havana’s San Gerónimo College; and Martín Koppel, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and editor of the Spanish-language translation of the book.

Among the 50 people attending the April 27 event were members of the local Jewish community, including leadership delegations from the three synagogues in Havana: the Sephardic Jewish Center, Adath Israel, and Beth Shalom, known as the Patronato. Others present included retired brigadier general Gustavo Chui; longtime revolutionary combatant Victor Dreke; José Ramón Cabañas, former Cuban ambassador to the United States and director of Cuba’s International Policy Research Center; and Graciela Chailloux, historian and editor of *De dónde son los cubanos* (Where Cubans Are From).

Eager to understand today’s world

The Jewish Question was the highest-selling Pathfinder title at the book fair and sold out before the end of the 10-day event. One person after another remarked, “I know very little about this subject, but I’m really interested in learning about it.”

Those sales registered a broader interest expressed by many about understanding the sharpening social and political turmoil in the world today, from Moscow’s war on Ukraine to the capitalist economic crisis and its impact on Cuba and beyond. The most sought-out titles at the Pathfinder stand included “Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun,” “U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War,” and “Washington’s Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III,” all published in *New International* magazine, as well as *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*, which was also launched at the Havana fair.

The fight against Jew-hatred remains a central question today, Altshuler emphasized. “The fact that during World War II, the Nazis exterminated 6 million Jews in concentration and death camps, including the author of this book, is a clear indication of the importance of this question.” Many of Altshuler’s own close relatives in Poland were murdered by the Nazi regime.

He noted how Leon describes the evolving place of Jews as a com-



April 27 panel at Havana book fair. From left, Jonathan Silberman (moderator), José Altshuler, Maritza Corrales, Adriana Hernández, Martín Koppel. *The Jewish Question* is an important contribution to understanding the source of Jew-hatred and the fight against it today, said Altshuler.

mercial “people-class” before the rise of capitalism. The book explains how modern-day antisemitic demagogues distort that history to create a myth of “Jewish capitalism” in order to “divert the masses from their real enemy,” the capitalist ruling class.

In Cuba, Altshuler said, antisemitism was never deeply rooted in the population, but during the 1930s depression, rightist figures like the editor of the newspaper *Diario de la Marina* decried a “Jewish invasion” by European refugees. Altshuler highlighted a 1939 “Cuban Manifesto Against Antisemitic Racism” signed by prominent figures such as Fernando Ortiz and others associated with the Popular Socialist Party, of which Altshuler was a longtime member.

Record of Cuban Revolution

The leadership of Cuba’s socialist revolution has opposed and combated antisemitism from the start, Altshuler concluded. He noted that Enrique Oltuski, son of Polish Jewish immigrants, “was named the revolution’s first minister of communications” at age 28. Altshuler, an electrical engineer, worked with Oltuski in that ministry and played a prominent part in the development of scientific institutions in Cuba, including as president of Cuba’s National Space Commission.

Both Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro,

he emphasized, made a point of visiting the main synagogue in Havana on more than one occasion, part of the revolutionary leadership’s record of safeguarding the religious and cultural rights of Jews in Cuba.

Maritza Corrales recalled that when she first read an earlier Spanish-language edition of *The Jewish Question* many years ago, she was impressed with Abram Leon’s record as a communist. While still in his 20s, she said, Leon had the “theoretical maturity” to write this book and the political capacity “to serve as political secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party in Belgium, become editor of the newspaper *La voie de Lénine* [Lenin’s road], and undertake extremely dangerous underground work among the working-class soldiers” of the German occupation army during World War II.

She said Leon reminded her of Julio Antonio Mella, a co-founder of the early Cuban Communist Party in 1925. Both, she noted, “were murdered when they were only 26 years old by totalitarian regimes, those of Gerardo Machado [in Cuba] and Adolf Hitler.”

Jew-hatred by rightists, among left

Today, Corrales said, “it is of deep concern that 2021 has seen the highest number of antisemitic incidents in a decade,” from France and the United Kingdom to the United States. That in-

cludes “a 100% increase in New York City, which has a large Jewish population, compared to last year.”

“A particularly troubling development,” she said, “is evident on U.S. university campuses and among left groups in the U.S. and Europe who, in their just defense of Palestinian rights, equate the state of Israel with Jews, provoking attacks and harassment against Jewish students on those campuses” and elsewhere. She also cited the recent example of liberal TV personality Whoopi Goldberg, who dismissed the Holocaust as a dispute between “two white groups of people.”

“I want to thank the compañeros of Pathfinder for publishing this very timely book,” Corrales concluded, and “for remaining true to their revolutionary convictions against all odds and for their determined, unconditional support over the years” to the Cuban Revolution.

Adriana Hernández, author of *El antisemitismo en Europa* (Antisemitism in Europe), said, “One of the things that motivated me to study antisemitism after World War II was that people tended to think it was a thing of the past. But nothing is further from the truth.”

The book’s introduction, Hernández said, “points out that antisemitic positions have sometimes been adopted by the left,” including under the cover of criticizing policies of the Israeli government. “That’s something very dangerous we must be alert to,” she said.

Hernández praised the quality of the new edition of *The Jewish Question*, including “its very useful maps and photos.”

Martín Koppel underscored that the new book is an important tool to un-



“Nothing compares to the Holocaust,” Fidel Castro told Jeffrey Goldberg in 2010 interview. Castro, left, with Goldberg, right, and Jewish community leader Adela Dworin in Havana, August 2010.

derstand why “Jew-hatred and the fight against it are central questions for the working class the world over.” Today’s rise in anti-Jewish violence and persecution is “fueled by growing class polarization, as the economic and social crises of world capitalism multiply.”

Anti-Jewish actions “do not come from ultra-rightists and jihadists alone,” he said, but today are “growing among the left,” and “among Democratic Party politicians and the liberal media.” Often this “is carried out under the cloak of anti-Zionism.” As an example, Koppel pointed to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign, which seeks to turn Israel and Israeli Jews into pariahs.

Working people, Koppel said, need to recognize the fact of Israel’s existence “and unconditionally support the right of Jews to seek refuge in Israel.” He pointed to Fidel Castro’s leadership over the years in unambiguously explaining the need to oppose Jew-hatred as well as recognize Israel’s right to exist.

“The way forward,” he concluded, “is to emulate the example of Cuba’s socialist revolution. That is, to build proletarian parties, in the U.S. and other countries, that can lead working people in struggles toward taking state power and joining the fight for a socialist world.”

Discussion on Israel, Jew-hatred today

The presentations were followed by a lively exchange of views.

“I am proud to be a Jew living in Cuba, where we can take part in an event like this, where we enjoy freedom and peace that we sometimes take for granted, because we don’t face antisemitism,” said Esther Jequin, president of Havana’s Sephardic Center.

But, she added, “I’m alarmed at the situation we hear about in other countries. We know many Jews are

facing difficulties in other countries.” She pointed to the thousands of Jews fleeing Ukraine in face of Moscow’s invasion, and noted that many are seeking refuge in Israel.

Fernando García Bielsa, who for years served as a Cuban diplomat in the U.S., said he came to the book presentation to learn more, but didn’t understand how the international campaign to boycott Israel could be called antisemitic. He said it seemed comparable to the 1980s sanctions campaign waged against the apartheid regime during the revolutionary democratic movement in South Africa. García said he supported the existence of both an Israeli and Palestinian state, but that “to be anti-Zionist is not necessarily to be antisemitic.”

In reply, Koppel said the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign paints all Israeli Jews as the enemy, and often targets Jewish-owned businesses abroad. Israel is a class-divided society, he noted, and what is needed there, as in other countries, is a perspective to unite working people — Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druze, and immigrants — in struggles for their common interests.

“I am in favor of a Palestinian state” along with Israel, said Hella Esquenazi, who serves as executive secretary of the Patronato. “But there is a very thin line between anti-Zionism and antisemitism.”

She condemned the Iranian government’s support for terrorist attacks on Israel, “which also harm the Palestinian cause.” Only when other governments in the region recognize Israel “will it be possible to open a road to peace” in the Mideast, Esquenazi said.

Rafael Cheni Camps, a biology professor who is a leader of Havana’s Sephardic community, added that Hamas, the governing party in Gaza, calls for the “elimination of Israel and of Jews there.” He endorsed a suggestion by Esquenazi that broader forums to discuss these issues be organized in which representatives of the Jewish community in Cuba can participate.

The exchange and debate continued after the program, as audience members bought copies of *The Jewish Question* and browsed other books at the Pathfinder table.

Afterward, representatives of the Sephardic Center and the Patronato were delighted to receive copies of a Pathfinder photo display used during the book fair to illustrate the themes of *The Jewish Question*.

‘Fight against Jew-hatred is indispensable to building revolutionary workers parties’

Following are the remarks Martín Koppel gave to the April 27 Havana International Book Fair presentation of Pathfinder Press’s new edition of *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon. The event was held in Old Havana at the Palacio del Segundo Cabo. Koppel, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, is the editor of the Spanish translation of this new edition. Copyright © 2022, reprinted by permission.

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

It’s a pleasure to share this panel with compañeros and friends here to discuss *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation* by Abram Leon. My co-panelists draw on a lot of knowledge based on their work and their experiences here in Cuba and elsewhere.

I’d like to focus my remarks on why Pathfinder Press has published this new edition of the book — in English, Spanish, and French. And how communist workers in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and other countries are using it broadly as a political, educational tool to reach working people and youth.

As Dave Prince, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S., explains in the new introduction, Jew-hatred and the fight against it are central questions for the working class the world over. Abram Leon describes the roots of antisemitism over 2,000 years of class society. He explains how it became and remains intrinsic to capitalist rule.

Reaffirming a programmatic foundation of the communist movement to which he had been won, Leon wrote, “There is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism, just as there is no solution to the other problems posed before humanity — without profound social upheavals,” revolutionary upheavals. “Unless the deep roots of the Jewish question are eliminated, the effects cannot be eliminated.”

The fight against Jew-hatred is an indispensable part of building revolutionary working-class parties in the U.S. and the world over. Parties capable of leading tens of millions of working people to overturn capitalist rule

and take state power. Only along that road can the class exploitation, oppression and unending wars bred by capitalism be ended for all time.

Rise in Jew-hatred today

Today we see a rise in anti-Jewish violence and other attacks on Jews in many countries. They are fueled by growing class polarization, as the economic and social crises of world capitalism multiply. The world order imposed by the victors of World War II, by U.S. finance capital above all, is in decline, wracked by sharpening and explosive ruling-class rivalries.

We see that breakdown today with Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine and assault on its national self-determination — on Ukraine’s very right to existence. We see it in the accelerating militarization drive by rival imperialist powers in North America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific. We see it in the two decades of wars that have torn apart countries from Afghanistan to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Libya.

Many of you have read about murderous incidents in recent years, from the shootings in synagogues in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles to the assault on a kosher supermarket in Paris. These have been actions by individuals. Organized fascist-type forces are still very small in the U.S. today.

Anti-Jewish actions are not aberrations, however. And they do not come from ultra-rightists and jihadists alone.

Antisemitism and acceptance of expressions of Jew-hatred are widespread and growing among Democratic Party politicians and the liberal media in the U.S. This is often carried out under the cloak of “anti-Zionism.” I’ll mention a few examples:

First, the “Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions” campaign to exclude Israeli musicians, athletes and academics from international events and performances, and to boycott Israeli-made products and companies that do business with Israel. This campaign used to be largely confined to university campuses but has now spread much more widely.

In contrast, I should note, here in

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“I am in favor of a Palestinian state” along with Israel, said Hella Esquenazi (at mic), executive secretary of Beth Shalom synagogue in Havana. Only when governments in the region recognize Israel “will it be possible to open a road to peace” in the Mideast.

Books that are needed for a road forward amid today’s sharpening class conflicts



www.pathfinderpress.com or see distributors on page 12



Antisemitic demagogues scapegoat Jews for inequalities created by capitalism. They try to turn Blacks against Jews, claiming “Jewish landlords” are to blame for high rents. Above, bullet-strewn Jersey City Kosher Supermarket in December 2019, after two attackers killed Moshe Deutsch, Leah Mindel Ferencz and Douglas Rodríguez, from left to right in inset.

'Fight against Jew-hatred'

Continued from page 9

Cuba there is not a boycott of international sports competitions with Israeli teams and athletes, and there are cultural exchanges with Israel.

Second, the spreading acceptance of the slogan, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free." That means *free of Jews*. It means the expulsion of all Jews from Israel — from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean. That is the proclaimed goal of the reactionary Hamas government in Gaza — the "obliteration" of Israel, as its 1988 Charter declares. And Hamas, as we know, is allied with and armed by the government of Iran.

Third, the widespread antisemitism in the leadership of the British Labour Party, especially under its recent leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Fourth, the refusal of the Democratic Caucus in the U.S. Congress to condemn antisemitic statements by some of its own members.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. and of our sister parties in other countries seek every way possible to reach workers, farmers and young people to present a revolutionary working-class perspective, including the fight against Jew-hatred.

We use this book and others, like the ones on the table outside this room, and the weekly *Militant* newspaper. We go door to door to meet and talk with workers of all backgrounds and nationalities. We join fellow workers in strikes and other union actions. We participate in demonstrations against anti-Jewish violence and other social protest actions. In election campaigns, the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party reach the broadest audience possible.

Most working people are repelled by Jew-hatred. Many want to discuss where it comes from and what can be done about it. Some are interested in the revolutionary working-class perspective we present, and we encourage them to join us in political activity and to join the Socialist Workers Party.

Record of communist movement

In opening the meeting, the chairperson told you a little about Abram Leon, and you will learn more in the book. Leon was a leader of a revolutionary workers party in Belgium during World War II. He fought for the communist, internationalist course carried out by the Bolsheviks under Lenin's leadership.

The Bolshevik-led government that

came to power in the Russian Revolution of October 1917 put an end to the long history of anti-Jewish pogroms in the former czarist empire. It defended the political rights of Jews and fostered a revival of Yiddish theater, literature, and other Jewish culture. Under Lenin's leadership, it set an example for the working class worldwide.

Leon was murdered in the Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz in 1944. But his book was published, first in France in 1946, then in English in 1950 by the forerunner of Pathfinder Press, which has kept it in print ever since. A Spanish edition, long out of print, was first published in Argentina in 1953. And now we have this new edition.

Material roots of Jew-hatred

Leon's understanding of the Jewish question is rooted in the materialist dialectics and history of class society of Karl Marx. "We must not start with religion in order to explain Jewish history," Leon wrote. "To the contrary, the preservation of the Jewish religion or nationality can be explained only ... by the Jew in his economic and social position." He examines how that position evolved over two millennia.

Jews were a trading people in antiquity and became a commercial class in feudal society, serving an irreplaceable economic function. For many centuries they were the link between Europe and Asia. As a merchant capitalist class began rising in Europe from the 11th century on, it ruthlessly displaced Jews, unleashing mass persecution and expulsions.

Under modern industrial capitalism and finance capital, Leon explains, the ruling classes take that centurieslong history and twist it to scapegoat Jews and try to divert the masses from the real source of their exploitation and oppression — the capitalist system of production and trade.

Antisemitic demagogues blame "Jewish bankers" for the social inequalities created by capitalism. They try to turn Blacks against Jews, saying that "Jewish landlords" are to blame for high rents in U.S. cities like New York. They falsely assert that powerful Jews control the media and are out to control the world. They claim that a "Jewish lobby" dominates U.S. foreign policy.

Jew-hatred is not just one more form of prejudice. A rise of antisemitism doesn't come initially from the ruling class. It originates in the insecure mid-



Rambam Health Care Campus

Hospital workers in Haifa, Israel, with signs in Hebrew and Arabic that say "Jews and Arabs refuse to be enemies," May 2021. It's an example, said Koppel, of potential for working people — Jews, Arabs, others — to break down divisions fostered by the capitalist ruling classes throughout the Middle East and to fight together.

dle classes, who in times of acute social crisis fear being ruined and pushed into the working class. We see this today both in ultra-right politics and in the anti-capitalist demagoguery of privileged middle-class layers in the U.S.

Only when the capitalists see their rule threatened by a powerful, organized, and politically conscious working class do they increasingly finance and foster fascist gangs, with the aim first and foremost of smashing workers' organizations and the communist vanguard.

Israel as refuge for Jews

What happened during the last 90 years of imperialist history that made inevitable the creation of Israel as a refuge for Jews? I encourage you to read the book's introduction for a fuller explanation.

In imperialist Germany in the 1930s, the Nazi party was able to impose its fascist regime without firing a shot. The German Communist Party, under Stalinist leadership, was on an ultra-left course and rejected closing ranks with its Social Democratic rival and forming a workers united front to defeat fascism. As a result, the Nazis crushed the working-class movement and prospects for socialist revolution there.

By the end of that decade Hitler's regime unleashed what he called the "Final Solution," the Holocaust. Forty percent of the world's Jews, 6 million human beings, were slaughtered. That included 90% of the Jews in Poland.

Washington under the Roosevelt administration, London, and other imperialist powers slammed their doors on Jewish refugees between 1933 and 1948. Many Cubans know about the story of the St. Louis, the ship carrying more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany that was turned away from Cuba, the U.S., and Canada in 1939. The exclusion of Jews by the imperialist powers continued during and after World War II.

Revolutionary opportunities for the working class to take power in Greece, France, Italy, and other countries were blocked by the Communist Parties, which backed Moscow's line of subordinating the struggles of working people to the effort to extend the wartime alliance with imperialist governments in the name of "peaceful coexistence."

Under those conditions, Jewish survivors of the Nazi extermination looked to Palestine as a shelter from misery and persecution.

The class struggle takes unexpected

turns. The existence and necessity of the Israeli state as a refuge for Jews — established nearly 75 years ago — has been settled by history.

As Dave Prince explains in the book's introduction, working people and the oppressed everywhere need to recognize that fact and unconditionally support the right of Jews to seek refuge in Israel.

This necessity is underscored today as we see thousands of Jews fleeing Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and seeking sanctuary in Israel. And thousands fleeing Russia to Israel as well.

We also call for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state on contiguous territory.

The perspective presented in the introduction to this new edition of *The Jewish Question* is the road that will allow working people throughout the Mideast — Jews, Palestinians, Kurds, Druze, Muslims, Christians — to begin to break down the hate, prejudice, and divisions fostered by the imperialist and local ruling classes alike. To begin to fight together in defense of their common class interests.

On a display here that illustrates the book's main themes, you'll see a photo from Haifa, Israel, in May of last year. A group of health care workers is standing in front of the hospital where they work, with signs in Hebrew and Arabic that say, "Jews and Arabs refuse to be enemies." That action is still an exception today, but it shows the potential.

Calling for the unconditional recognition of Israel as a refuge for Jews does not mean supporting the Israeli government and its policies, domestic or foreign. Israel is a bourgeois state. It defends the interests of the capitalist ruling class, not of working people, whether Jewish, Arab or others. That class character of the Israeli state undermines even its ability to provide protection for Jews, as the crisis of the imperialist order today becomes more violent.

The revolutionary workers' movement gives no political support to the government of Israel or capitalist parties there, nor to those in any other country in the region, from Palestine to Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Iran.

There are two roads in today's world: bourgeois and proletarian. The only road *forward* is one of struggle by working people, independent of all capitalist parties, a road that can lead to growing confidence and con-

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"Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" campaign seeks to exclude Israeli musicians, athletes and professors from international events and targets businesses trading with Israel. Above, June 2010 action in Melbourne, Australia. Antisemitism, often under the cloak of "anti-Zionism," said Koppel, "is widespread among the left, including among Democratic Party politicians."

Gun violence result of capitalism

Continued from front page

attitude is “let them kill each other,” reflecting the capitalist rulers’ disdain for the “deplorable” working class.

After multiple signs of serious psychological problems — like self-mutilation and threats of rape — 18-year-old gunman Ramos went on a killing spree. He shot his grandmother before driving her truck to the school in Uvalde. There he shot at people at a funeral parlor across the street for 12 minutes. Then he walked past local cops while carrying his firearms, entered the school, barricaded himself into a classroom and started killing students and teachers. Cops waited outside for an hour while students called 911 begging for help until finally a Border Patrol tactical unit entered the school and shot Ramos dead.

Long before the patrol arrived, parents tried to rescue their children and berated cops for their refusal to go into the school to stop the killings. U.S. Marshals instead handcuffed one parent to prevent her from trying to get into the school to rescue her child.

President Joseph Biden lost no time attempting to make the issue Republican opposition to new gun control measures. “When in God’s name are we going to stand up to the gun lobby?” he demanded.

For their part, Republicans largely respond with calls for sharply increasing police forces on all levels, including in schools, and for relaxing restrictions on their use of spies and weaponry. They blame liberal social laxity for killings like those in Texas.

“Check on the men in your life,” Democratic socialist Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez warned the day after the shooting, pointing to the fact the killer was male. She pinned blame for the deaths on “patriarchal values.” Like others in the middle-class left, she advances views that mask class divisions between the toiling majority and the exploiting capitalist class, which underlie all social and political questions. Instead, they insist conflicts based on race, skin color and what they call “gender” are the driving force of history.

To bolster support for tighter gun control, Biden slammed Republicans who

argue mass shootings are a product of a mental health crisis, as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said hypocritically days after the Uvalde killings. Only a month earlier Abbott had slashed \$211 million from state mental health programs.

People with mental illness are treated like all workers under capitalism — if you’re not working to make profits for bosses, they would rather you didn’t exist and you’re left to fend for yourself. Treatment facilities and programs for the mentally ill have been systematically shut down, leaving its victims homeless or bound for prison. Ramos was clearly a sick person.

But the abysmal lack of mental health care provisions under capitalism doesn’t alone explain the root cause of mass shootings and why violence is a perpetual feature of society today.

Violence built into capitalist rule

Senseless murder and other anti-social violence are a byproduct of a system based on the brutal exploitation of the toiling majority by the capitalist ruling families and the dog-eat-dog values it breeds. Saying this is not to excuse the inhuman rampage of Ramos, and others who have laid waste to innocent lives. It is where we have to start in charting a working-class course to deal with this reality.

All class societies based on private property have depended on oppression and state-organized violence to maintain the rule of the exploiting minority.

Capitalist rulers are different only in so far as they take that violence to savage new heights with their imperialist wars of the last century, their stockpiling of an arsenal of nuclear weapons, and the brutal violence they unleashed against colonial peoples fighting for their independence.

At home, the daily brutality of their drive to profit off our backs and their criminal “justice” system with its prisons and death penalty, all breed a system of “look out for number one” and violence.

Despite workers’ hard-fought efforts to unite, to form unions and fight for gains for all, the capitalist class continues to drive production with complete disregard for workers’ lives and limbs.



Harvey Georges

Col. Maurice Tawes fails to get civil rights leader Gloria Richardson to call off July 15, 1963, picket of segregated drug store in Cambridge, Maryland. Crime rate in the city plunged 75% during 1962-63 fight against Jim Crow segregation there. Richardson led the struggle, with union backing, in face of attacks from racist thugs and National Guard occupation of the city.

Every year more than 5,000 workers are killed on the job in the U.S. Many more die from work-related diseases. Other workers are sentenced to death by the capitalist rulers’ for-profit “health care” system and nursing homes.

Working class is bearer of solidarity

But the working class can overthrow capitalism and its inherent brutality. Since capitalism emerged, the working class has grown massively, and, since the Second World War has become a majority in every corner of the world. Along with it have grown habits of mutual trust, working-class solidarity and opposition to racism and other forms of prejudice that workers learn through our common struggles. When we join together to defend ourselves we begin to recognize our self-worth and collective capacities.

During mass struggles, violent crime within the working class begins to diminish. That was true during the Black-led working-class movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation, as millions discovered they had something worth uniting and fighting for. That victorious struggle was made possible by our determination to stand up to the state power of the

capitalist class. It involved both the power of our numbers and, when necessary, disciplined armed self-defense against state-sanctioned violence and the terror from those trying to uphold racial segregation.

In the course of coming class struggles, workers and farmers will face violent assaults from the cops and fascist thugs that the rulers unleash to try to crush our efforts to fight for the jobs, wages, conditions and rights we need.

Ultimately it will take a fight to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers to end the violence inherent in their system. That’s what workers and farmers in Cuba showed can be done.

Through a revolutionary war led by Fidel Castro and the July 26 Movement, working people took power, and did so with as little bloodshed as possible. They refused to mistreat or demean regime troops they captured. Their victory and the course charted by their communist leadership laid the foundations for workers and farmers to take the factories, land and banks from U.S. companies and native capitalists alike and for millions to begin transforming their conditions and themselves.

Fighting Jew-hatred is indispensable

Continued from page 10

consciousness of the need to take power, establish a workers and farmers government, and open the road to socialist revolution.

Fidel Castro’s leadership

Let me conclude by underlining Fidel Castro’s leadership in opposing Jew-hatred.

“I don’t think anyone has been slandered more than the Jews,” Fidel said in a 2010 interview he gave U.S. journalist Jeffrey Goldberg published in the *Atlantic* magazine. “They are blamed and slandered for everything.”

“There is nothing that compares to the Holocaust,” the Cuban leader said. He was responding to antisemitic statements by the then-president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, denying that the Holocaust ever happened.

Iran’s government, Fidel emphasized, “would better serve the cause of peace by acknowledging the unique history of anti-Semitism and trying to understand why Israelis fear for their existence.”

When Goldberg asked him if the

State of Israel has a right to exist, Fidel replied: “Yes, without any doubt.”

Today, Cuba is the only country in the world where Jews do not face discrimination or the threat of violence. That is because working people here, with a revolutionary internationalist leadership, overturned capitalist rule and made a socialist revolution. As the world crisis of capitalism deepens, the rise of fascist movements is inevitable. It’s a deadly illusion to think we can rely on liberal “democracy” and capitalist parties to protect Jews in the U.S., Europe, the Mideast or anywhere else.

The way forward is to emulate the example of Cuba’s socialist revolution. That is, to build proletarian parties, in the U.S. and other countries, that can lead working people in struggles toward taking state power and joining the fight for a socialist world. That’s the only way to stop the catastrophe for humanity that imperialism is leading us toward.

That’s the battle Abram Leon was part of. I think you’ll find this book a valuable weapon in that fight today.

For further reading ...

Capitalism’s World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

“Better sex offenders programs, better substance abuse programs, better job training programs for prisoners — these reforms are all designed to do the same thing. Everything is organized to reinforce the worst, dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to differentiate the incarcerated. The fight of the working class is the opposite.”



In *New International* no. 10

Imperialism’s March Towards Fascism and War

by Jack Barnes

“How the working class responds in the years ahead ... will determine whether or not imperialism’s march toward fascism and war can be stopped.”

Order from www.pathfinderpress.com or a distributor listed on page 12



From prison, Cannon proposed SWP expand reach of 'Militant'

Letters from Prison: A Revolutionary Party Prepares for Post-WWII Labor Battles by James P. Cannon, a founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party, is one of June's Books of the Month. Cannon, with 17 other cadres of the SWP and the Minneapolis Teamsters union, was framed up under the thought-control Smith Act. They were convicted in 1941 and sent to prison three years later for opposing Washington's imperialist aims and entry into the Second World War. Cannon's letters take up questions of program and perspectives key to preparing a communist party for explosive labor struggles after the war. The excerpts on expanding use of the Militant are from letters written from federal prison in Sandstone, Minnesota, in December 1944. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Workers picket General Motors plant in Michigan, part of 1945-46 nationwide 113-day strike by 320,000 United Auto Workers members. Socialist Workers Party leader James P. Cannon, jailed for SWP's revolutionary program, wrote to help prepare party for bold campaign with *Militant* as rising labor battles began as World War II ended.

Viewing *The Militant* as a tool, I should like to refine the definition by saying that, in the next period, it must serve us as a combination tool which can be used on several different jobs. I believe this qualification is very important.

The paper, for the first time, is getting a good reception from masses of workers without previous political education or interest. The majority of its readers at the present moment are new people, and it is to be expected that this majority will become larger. *The Militant* must serve this new audience, adapt itself to the stage of their

ing the weekly into a daily. ...

It was also assumed that, as the paper became a "mass" paper, it would be obliged to adapt itself to the political understanding of the average, if not to the lowest common denominator, among its new readers; leaving the more complicated political and theoretical explanations to the monthly magazine. ...

But what we have to do next is to reach more and more new people, catch their attention at the moment when they are just awakening from political indifference, and try to reach them with our message regularly. A big national weekly is ideally suited to this task. And this is a project within our means and potential resources, financial and physical. The whole situation cries out for concentration on the task of developing *The Militant* into an eight-page national paper, published at the cheapest price possible so as to facilitate not merely the expansion but the multiplication of its present circulation; a weekly which is not just another radical paper but the national paper, dominating the radical labor field.

This is our central task. It is within our means and resources. And its successful execution will help, not hinder, the symmetrical development of all other departments of party work — organization, publishing house and educational system. ...

The decision to reduce the subscription price to \$1 per year was an important and necessary step at the present time. The objection that this is "too cheap" would be well grounded only if it could be shown that we can't afford to

cut the price. In any case the experiment will be a useful experience.

The principle that readers must pay for the paper is a sound one; people are inclined to put a higher value on things they pay for, even if it is a very small amount, than on throwaway sheets which they get for nothing. I believe all experienced organizers recognize that throwaway leaflets are the most expensive and least productive of all propaganda methods. That, however, does not prevent some people, who have not yet formed the habit of thinking and weighing experience, from periodically making excited proposals for free leaflet distribution as a panacea. But, nevertheless, experience has also shown that it is the principle of paying, not the amount paid, that is most important. The two should not be confused and lumped together. ...

The [*New York Times*] circulation is subsidized by advertising revenue. We must do the same thing, on a more modest scale, from voluntary contributions. At present, this subsidy permits us to sell the paper for \$1 per year. If later we can make it cheaper yet, we will do so. We want circulation! ...

I anticipate a great increase of fifty-cent, six-month subs when the new rate goes into effect. The difference in price does not mean so much and is not necessary for old *Militant* patriots and radicals who want to keep track of us. But for new people who are just beginning to be interested — and these are precisely the ones we are most anxious to reach — the cheaper price can easily be decisive in three cases out of four. ...

political development, under penalty of losing their interest. ...

For the benefit of the new reader we must tell the history of the movement over and over again, dramatizing the great events and personalities of the past, in order to build up one of the most powerful supporting ideas any movement can have — the idea of tradition. ...

The Militant must strive to be a combination paper; a paper which interests and serves the needs of the new reader who picks it up for the first time, the reader who is beginning to think ... without yet thinking about the party, and the educated party militant — all at the same time. If we get this conception clearly in our heads we will be able to avoid some of the most costly errors of the past and close big gaps through which many thousands of potential socialists slipped away from the movement in the past.

We can only afford to publish one paper. And we must address ourselves to the politically educated as well as to the uninitiated. And we must also remember that between the best posted party member of years of study and experience and the new reader there are numerous strata in different degrees of development. And we must publish a paper for all of them. Most important of all, we must bear in mind that the new reader does not remain a new reader all his life. The average intelligent worker quickly absorbs the few simple ideas which attracted him to the paper in the first place. Then he begins to feel the need of more substantial food.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

What kind of a paper will best serve the needs of the new party in the next period which lies immediately before us? We used to think, or rather take for granted, that as we broke out of the narrow propaganda circle and began to get a hearing from the workers, we should aim at chang-

June

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Workers need our own party, a labor party!

Without a political party of our own, working people lack an essential instrument we need to defend our class interests on all the questions we face — from our struggles with the bosses to solidarity with Ukrainian toilers against Moscow’s invasion. We need to use our unions to break from the Democrats and Republicans and build our own labor party.

Strikes by workers at Warrior Met Coal, Chevron and elsewhere are taking on efforts by the bosses to make us pay amid a deep crisis of their capitalist system. Workers feel this crisis in today’s soaring prices that slash our real wages. More young workers are forced to put off forming families and pressures intensify on those trying to hold one together. Organizing to use our unions to stand up to the bosses is crucial, as is building solidarity with fellow workers.

We face a broader social crisis bred by dog-eat-dog capitalism. Years of mounting drug addiction is feeding a staggering rise in deaths from overdoses. The coarsening of human relations and breakdowns in solidarity are evident in mounting homelessness, mental illness and rising violent crime. The capitalist class has no interest in eradicating these deadly social ills. Any attempt to do so would eat into their profits.

When the Democrats and Republicans say they aim to protect “all Americans,” it’s a lie. Like all capitalist countries, the U.S. is class divided, and the capitalist rulers are out to defend their class interests against

those of workers and farmers, both at home and abroad.

The capitalist rulers are driven today to cutthroat competition with rivals abroad to prevent going under. Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine has further fractured the imperialist “world order” that issued from Washington’s emergence as top dog from the carnage of the Second World War. All capitalist regimes worldwide are building up their military and seeking space to defend their rulers’ property and power. This growing world disorder is feeding new wars — like Ankara’s announcement June 1 of plans to invade northern Syria to deal blows to Kurds there fighting for independence. Capitalism is marching towards bloodier national conflicts and a third world war.

Only the working class is capable of leading millions of the exploited and oppressed in revolutionary struggle. To do that we need to build a labor party, a party with a class-against-class road forward. Through our struggles, workers discover our own capacities for courageous, united and disciplined action and can forge an alliance with small farmers. We learn to rely on fellow toilers and unlearn what the rulers never cease telling us we’re incapable of doing.

Forging a tried and trusted revolutionary leadership from the ranks of our own struggles is crucial to advancing along a road to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government. That is what the Socialist Workers Party exists for.

After a year, Warrior Met miners stand strong

Continued from front page
back to work if the strike is to be settled.”

This is the latest effort by the company to violence-bait the union for alleged incidents on the picket lines. Similar trumped-up charges resulted in a court injunction last October that barred all picketing for several months, a serious attack on union members’ constitutional rights to free speech and assembly. That injunction has been lifted and the union now organizes picketing at the two mines, the coal preparation plant and other sites of Warrior Met’s Brookwood operations.

The company’s war of attrition against the union also includes hiring scab contract workers to work alongside company people and some union members who have crossed the picket line, ramping up production at both the No. 4 and No. 7 mines.

Warrior Met Coal took over the mines from Jim Walter Resources in 2015 when that company declared bankruptcy. Formed by BlackRock, a multi-trillion-dollar hedge fund, and other creditors, Warrior Met bosses said the miners had to accept steep concessions in wages and working conditions or they would shutter the mining complex.

The contract slashed gains that miners had fought for and won over decades in wages, benefits, working conditions, union rights and dignity on the job.

Since then, Warrior Met has been making big profits from international sales of the metallurgical coal produced at the mines, which is used in making steel. Its price has risen 220% over last year, in part due to the war in Ukraine. But in talks over a new contract, bosses have refused union demands that they make good on earlier promises to restore the cuts that had been forced on the miners.

Meanwhile, solidarity for the strike continues to grow as more unions and other working people learn about the strike and what the miners are fighting for. A spirited rally April 6 on its one-year anniversary held at Tannehill State Park near Brookwood drew 1,500 United Mine Workers members, retirees and family members, and members of other unions. The action registered the miners’ determination to continue their fight. Union speakers brought messages of solidarity and contributions from around the country.

The list of contributors to the UMWA strike fund for the Warrior Met miners lists hundreds of individuals; UMWA locals; AFL-CIO national, state, and local bodies; unions representing workers in a wide range of occupations; and others.

“At last week’s rally they also announced that there have been so many contributions to the strike fund that every miner is going to receive a special \$2,000

payment in addition to the weekly strike benefits,” Sims said. Most strikers have gotten other jobs to help keep their families going, he added, while maintaining their picket duty.

Meanwhile, BlackRock management, at their shareholders’ meeting in April, called for Warrior Met to “reach a resolution” to the strike. UMWA members from Alabama, West Virginia, Kentucky and other states have carried out informational protests at BlackRock’s offices in New York and other locations over the past year. Warrior Met’s owners announced recently that they will develop a new longwall mine as part of their Brookwood operations, planning to spend \$650 million to \$700 million over the next five years.

Help spread the word about the strike, one of the longest and most important taking place in the country! Visit Brookwood and walk the picket lines with the miners! All donation checks should be made out to UMWA 2021 Strike Fund and sent to UMWA Strike Fund, P.O. Box 513, Dumfries, VA 22026.

Messages of support can also be sent to District 20, 21922 Hwy. 216, McCalla, AL 35111 or emailed to umwadistrict20@bellsouth.net.

Oberlin College tries again to overturn Gibsons’ victory

BY JANET POST

Oberlin College officials filed an appeal with the Ohio Supreme Court May 13 following two consecutive losses both in a jury trial and in the state Court of Appeals in the case brought by the Gibson family, owners of the bakery store in the campus town. The Gibsons’ case is part of a fight they have been waging against a defamatory assault and race-baiting smears by college administrators and staff that has crippled their business since 2016.

Ohio’s Ninth District Court of Appeals unanimously upheld on March 31 a 2019 Lorain County trial court jury verdict awarding the Gibson family \$31 million including \$6.5 million in attorney’s fees. Daily interest accrued during the college’s appeal has added \$4.5 million to the judgment.

The district court’s ruling was a victory both for the

‘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

Mideast tensions grow

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month,” reports *Foreign Policy*.

The Israeli government estimates, however, that it would still take another one to two years for the regime to be able to produce a functioning nuclear weapon.

The Israeli daily *Haaretz* notes that “assassinations and sabotage are only slightly delaying Iran’s nuclear program, and that Tehran very quickly recruits new scientists and repairs and even improves the damaged installations.”

Israel’s capitalist government has made progress in breaking out of diplomatic and political isolation in the Middle East. The governments of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kosova, Sudan and Morocco — which also feel threatened by the Iranian regime’s military and political interference abroad — have established diplomatic and economic relations with Israel since 2020. Known as the “Abraham Accords,” the agreements were brokered by the administration of President Donald Trump.

In a further advance, the governments of Israel signed a free-trade agreement May 31 with the United Arab Emirates, its first ever with an Arab country, eliminating customs duties on 96% of products.

These moves create openings for working people in these Middle East countries and in Israel and the Palestinian territories to establish closer ties and widen possibilities to join together in struggles against the impact of the capitalist crisis.

Tehran is trying to combat these growing relations with Israel. It won a symbolic victory May 26 when Iraq’s parliament passed legislation that bans visiting or promoting normalization with Israel, punishable by death. “No antisemitic law this draconian exists anywhere else in the Arab world,” an Iraqi American journalist told the *New York Sun*.

Iran’s revolution, counterrevolution

Iranian workers and farmers overthrew the U.S.-backed regime of the shah in 1979. “Shoras” — workers committees — were set up in factories, oil refineries and other workplaces. Women joined in the struggle demanding equal rights, and oppressed nationalities, including Kurds and Arabs, fought for greater freedom. The clerical rulers succeeded over years in carrying out a counterrevolution but have not been able to crush the fighting capacity of the working class.

Large protests have swept the country over the past several years. Workers and farmers have demonstrated against water shortages and rising gas and food prices, as well as raising political demands against the regime’s war moves abroad. Economic sanctions imposed by Washington and other imperialist powers since 2018 have also taken their toll, hitting working people the hardest.

Gibson family and for the rights of working people. “It is now time to honor the jury’s verdict. It is time to execute on the judgment awarded by them,” said a statement by the Gibsons’ lawyers addressing the wealthy college’s Supreme Court appeal.

Due to a state limit on civil damages, the original jury award of \$41 million was reduced by \$10 million by the trial judge. After Oberlin College appealed to the state Supreme Court, the Gibsons filed their own appeal, seeking to have the cap declared unconstitutional as applied to their case.

As a condition of granting a stay on Oberlin having to pay the judgment, the county court ordered the college to procure a \$36 million bond, with interest, to guarantee the family would be paid if college officials lost the appeal. The bond is held by the Zurich American Insurance Company. Oberlin College’s appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court isn’t mandatory. The court will decide if the questions involved are unresolved and the issues at stake are weighty enough to require further review. It could refuse to hear an appeal.

The Gibsons filed a motion May 27 to make Zurich pay the judgment now, pointing out the college had failed to file any motion to extend the stay pending the appeal to the state Supreme Court.