

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
UK events discuss Cuba's response
to 1962 October 'missile' crisis
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 21, 2022

Two months in, support grows for Iran protests

BY SETH GALINSKY

In the face of the “nationwide protests and uprising of the people of Iran for almost two months,” the Teachers’ Union in Kurdistan province stated Nov. 7, the Iranian government’s “use of naked violence has so far resulted in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and numerous arrests.”

The government must recognize people’s rights to “assemble, protest” and “to express their political, economic and cultural demands,” the union said.

Despite violent attacks by police, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Basij thugs, many protest organizers say “this movement cannot be stopped.” Counterprotests organized by the regime have been anemic.

More oil workers, municipal and other workers, have been going on strike or joining protests demanding better wages and working conditions. Students have regrouped after attacks by Basij and attempts by university administrators to shut protests down. They continue to

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Democrats’ attacks on rights at heart of US class struggle

BY TERRY EVANS

Throughout the final days of the 2022 campaign, Democrats centered their fire on former President Donald Trump. They claim “democracy itself” is threatened if he ever holds office again. Before Trump was even elected in 2016, Democrats unleashed the FBI against him — and against constitutional freedoms working people have won in blood and sorely need. They’ve used congressional witch hunts and launched a cascade of legal cases against him, his family members and political allies.

Speeches by prominent Democrats make abundantly clear they will continue on this course whoever wins control of Congress. The real culprits responsible for Trump, they insist, are the millions of working people President Joseph Biden calls “semi-fascists” and believes can’t be trusted to make political decisions.

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Workers in US, Canada fight boss, gov’t attacks



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

Striking school workers at Hawkesbury, Ontario, Nov. 7. Gov’t. backed off anti-strike law.

School workers defeat Ontario gov’t attack on right to strike

BY VICKY MERCIER AND STEVE PENNER

TORONTO — In a major victory for working people and our unions, 55,000 education support workers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, ended their two-day walkout in Ontario, after forcing the Conservative provincial government to back down from one of the biggest attacks on union rights in years.

Premier Douglas Ford agreed to withdraw Bill 28, which took away the workers’ right to strike, imposed massive fines on individual workers and their unions who went on strike, suspended their right to challenge the law in court, and imposed what amounted to a massive wage cut over the next four years

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White House says Congress would prevent any rail strike

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — “We surprised Katie Farmer this morning, she did not expect us to greet her with our contract demands — safer working conditions and sick-days-time-off,” Jakob Forsgren, a welder and track repair worker and chair of local Lodge 1320 of the Brotherhood of Maintenance

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Defend Ukraine independence! Russian soldiers oppose Putin’s war



Thousands of Russian conscript soldiers confront Gen. Kirill Kulakov, in hat, at Kazan training base in southwest Russia. They protested treatment by the brass, refused to be deployed to front lines. Chants included, “Get out of here!” “Shame on you!” “Down with Putin’s regime!”

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Determined to defend their country’s sovereignty, working people in Ukraine have pushed back assaults by Russian President Vladimir Putin’s forces. The bloody consequences of the war are fueling the struggle between working people and Putin’s capitalist government, with resistance growing among soldiers, who the regime uses as cannon fodder.

An open letter condemning officers’ conduct of the war was sent by members of the 155th marine brigade of Russia’s Pacific Fleet to Oleg Kozhemyako, gov-

ernor of the Primorye region in Russia’s Far East on the Sea of Japan, where the troops are based.

“As a result of the ‘carefully’ planned offensive by the ‘great generals,’ we lost about 300 people killed, wounded and missing in the course of four days,” the marines wrote, describing the unit’s assault on the village of Pavlivka in the Donetsk region of Ukraine in early November. Officers sacrificed troops’ lives to get medals, they said.

The same brigade suffered heavy

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For 30th time, UN denounces US gov’t embargo on Cuba

BY SETH GALINSKY

UNITED NATIONS — For the 30th time since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly Nov. 3 voted overwhelmingly to call for “ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.” The resolution passed 185 in favor to 2 against — the governments of the U.S. and Israel. Brazil and Ukraine abstained.

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez told the General Assembly that the more than 60 years of U.S. sanctions against Cuba “are a deliberate act of economic warfare with the goal of blocking financial income for the country, destroying the govern-

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Expand the reach of Socialist Workers Party, the ‘Militant’

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Socialist Workers Party candidates and supporters used the final days before the Nov. 8 elections to discuss with fellow working people what we can do together to stand up to bosses’ moves to push the deepening capitalist crisis onto our backs.

In Lake Station, Indiana, SWP members Dan Fein and Leroy Watson spoke with Tyler McChristian and his stepmother, Nana McChristian, on their doorstep Oct. 30.

Tyler works at McDonald’s for \$12.65 an hour. “Our wages need to go up. Pric-

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Capitalist crisis fuels inflation as production, trade stagnate

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The worldwide capitalist crisis is hitting working people hard, with increasing indications that we face an extended period of stagflation — a combination of continued rising prices with falling capitalist production, trade and workers' jobs.

Soaring prices, especially on basic necessities like food, energy and housing, are lowering the real wages and standard of living of the working class. At the same time, bosses have been taking advantage of this situation to boost profits — and payouts to fellow capitalists who invest in their companies — to new heights.

“US Corporate Profits Soar With Margins at Widest Since 1950,” headlined a Bloomberg News article. U.S. oil bosses have raked in more than \$200 billion in profits since Moscow invaded Ukraine, with ExxonMobil's third-quarter profits alone hitting nearly \$20 billion. As they pay out obscene dividends, Darren Woods, chief executive at ExxonMobil, cynically claimed this should be considered their way of “returning some of our profits directly to the American people.” Their real “gift” to U.S. workers is that we're paying 18% more for gas than a year ago.

Many other bosses are profiting from raising prices well above the higher costs they face for raw materials. In mid-October, PepsiCo's third-quarter profit grew by over 20% as the company raised its prices for drinks and chips by 17% over the year before. Both their workers and those who buy their products take the hit.

In October average hourly wages were up 4.7% over the previous year, but the consumer price index is at 8.2%, with figures for many necessities much higher. Grocery prices have soared 13%, cereals and bakery goods are up 16.2% and dairy products have risen 15.9% from a year ago.

“We go to work, and we come home. We can't afford gas to do anything else,” Carrie Wildman, a dental hygienist who works 50 hours a week in Pikeville, North Carolina, told the *Wall Street Journal*. She said she voted twice for Barack Obama and twice for Donald Trump, but “at this point, I don't trust Democrats, and I don't trust Republicans.”

The Federal Reserve Board says 16.4% of the 164-plus million U.S. workers are holding down two or more jobs today. That's 26 million workers.

Cashe Lewis in Denver told the *Guardian* she's trying to get a third job to deal with her rent, which was jacked up by over \$200. “I'm exhausted all the time,” she said. “On the one day off I have a week, I donate plasma for extra money. I'm literally selling my blood to eat because I have no choice.”

Rents, mortgages soaring

Surging rents have forced many young workers to stay or move back in with their parents, with getting a home and starting a family out of reach. Rents have risen 25% over the past two years, forcing more and more people to move in with friends and family.

At the same time, rising home mortgage rates, which reached a 20-year



Senhan Bolelli/Anadolu Agency

Over 45,000 march in Madrid Nov. 3, called by Spain's two largest union federations, General Union of Workers and Workers' Commissions. They demanded wage raises to keep up with prices. Banner says, “Working people should not have to pay for the crisis: wages or conflict.”

high of over 7% in October — double what it was a year earlier — close the door to home ownership.

With a recession increasingly likely, the number of job openings is falling. Big retailers Walmart and Amazon announced a slowdown in hiring — two months before Christmas! In response to a declining demand for durable goods, U.S. appliance manufacturer Whirlpool Corp. said in October it had cut global production by 35%.

At the same time, the number of workers counted as part of the workforce continues to decline. The labor-force participation rate, which includes adults working or looking for work, decreased for the second straight month in October, to 62.2%. But there's been a much larger drop over the decades of workers between the ages of 25 and 54, from 97% in 1960 to 82.5% in October this year. The creation of jobs for these “prime-age” workers actually fell in October by the most in 2½ years.

This shows there are millions of workers without jobs despite the 3.7% “official” unemployment rate.

“What's needed is a fight led by the labor movement for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, to prevent layoffs and loss of wages,” Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from New Jersey, told the *Militant*, “and cost-of-living escalator clauses to ensure wages, Social Security and all other

benefits automatically rise to match inflation. The SWP will campaign for this before and after the election.”

This deepening capitalist crisis is biting working people worldwide. Just in the last week, protests and strikes demanding higher wages and government relief from inflation took place in Zimbabwe, Ecuador, South Korea, Tunisia, Burkina Faso and by rail workers in Britain. Health care workers in Zimbabwe rejected a government offer of a 100% raise. Inflation there is now at 130%.

Revolutionary Continuity

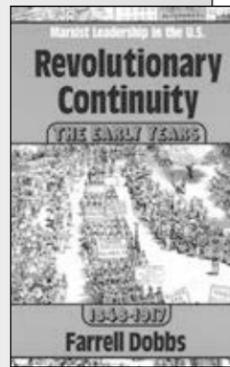
The Early Years 1848-1917

by Farrell Dobbs

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THE MILITANT

‘Militant’ backs protests against FBI harassment

After Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico rejected FBI agents' attempt to interrogate 62 members from brigade to Cuba, the ‘Militant’ sent a reporting team to the island to interview, bring solidarity to fighters for Puerto Rican independence, in defense of Cuban Revolution.



Manuel Meléndez Lavandero

Oct. 28 panel at People's Church in New York protests FBI harassment in Puerto Rico.

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

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

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Expand reach of SWP, 'Militant'

Continued from front page

es go up on everything," he said.

"That's right," Watson said, "the working class needs escalator clauses in union contracts, on Social Security and disability, so wages go up every time prices rise.

"We'll get nowhere if we depend on politicians," Tyler said. "Only workers can solve our problems."

"I've been working since I was 14 years old, much of that time as a nurse," Nana McChristian said. "Now I have cancer and my health insurance says they will not pay for my treatment."

After getting a subscription to the *Militant*, she asked Fein for a few subscription forms. "I've got friends who work in the steel mill who will be interested in getting the *Militant*. It sounds like it's just what we need."

On Nov. 6 Deborah Liatos, SWP candidate for Congress from California, campaigned at a farmers' market in Oxnard, northwest of Los Angeles. Several farmers told her that water restrictions are forcing farmers to limit what they plant. Xochiti and Charles Beckley were selling produce they grow on a quarter acre at their house. They told Liatos that Xochiti's parents worked as farmworkers all their lives. "The biggest challenges for farmworkers are benefits and resources," Xochiti Beckley said. "They are tough jobs and don't pay enough."

"Workers and farmers need to mobilize to fight for our rights, gain confidence in ourselves," Liatos said. "We need to take power into our hands and run society in the interests of the vast majority." The Beckleys got a subscription to the *Militant* to learn more.

The campaign of Gabrielle Prosser, SWP candidate for governor of Minnesota, who is on the ballot, continues to get press coverage, introducing the party's program broadly. "Gubernatorial candidate Gabrielle Prosser: DFL, GOP both spell 'boss.' I'll work for workers," was the headline of her opinion piece

printed in the *Star Tribune* Nov. 4.

"We live in a class-divided society," Prosser writes. "Both the Democratic and Republican parties defend the interests of the bosses. The program of the Socialist Workers Party says workers need our own party, a labor party, based on the unions."

SWP and Communist League members in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are in the final week of the fall campaign to sell 1,350 *Militant* subscriptions and 1,350 books by SWP leaders and others offering a revolutionary road forward.

There have been a series of demonstrations in the Louisville, Kentucky, area since the death of Mahsa Amini Sept. 16 after her arrest by the "morality" police in Iran. "Women are half the world," Niloofar Sabzevari told Betsy Farley, an SWP member from Cincinnati, at an action Oct. 29. "We deserve to be treated with respect. I don't understand why women are treated so badly."

"The bosses make profits off women's second-class status," Farley said. "They pay us less and push us out of the workforce when they don't need us. During the COVID pandemic many women had to leave the workforce to take care of children, the sick and the elderly."

Sabzevari said she has met many newly arrived refugees from Afghani-



Militant/Dan Fein

Nana and Tyler McChristian talk with SWP member Leroy Watson, right, in Lake Station, Indiana, Oct. 30. "The *Militant* sounds like just what we need," Nana said, and asked for extra subscription forms. "I've got friends who work in the steel mill who will be interested."

stan at the bank where she works. "I don't care how refugees got here," she said. "Once they are here, they should have equal rights."

"We're not for open borders, but our party fights for an amnesty for all immigrants who are in the country," Farley said, "It's part of the fight to unite the working class."

After looking over the *Militant*, Sabzevari decided to subscribe.

In the U.S. the SWP is reaching out to raise \$140,000 for its fall Party-Building Fund. The party is entirely funded by working people, who contribute whatever they can to help finance its work. An appeal at a Militant Labor Forum in Chicago raised \$300.

To join the campaign to get out the *Militant*, contact the SWP or Communist League branch nearest you, listed on page 8.

Liberals push to cancel book by Justice Amy Coney Barrett

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

In an unbridled attack on freedom of speech, hundreds of editors, writers, publishers, librarians and a wide variety of other individuals have signed an online petition demanding that Penguin Random House halt plans to publish a book by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

The letter says that Coney Barrett inflicted "her own religious and moral agenda" upon the American public with her vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. "With the midterms coming up and the 2024 election looming," they "decided it was time to make a statement."

"We care deeply about freedom of speech," the petition claims, arguing, "This is not just a book that we disagree with, and we are not calling for censorship. ... Rather, this is a case where a corporation has privately funded the destruction of human rights with obscene profits."

But that's nonsense. Censorship is exactly what they're calling for.

The online petition, which is updated with new signers every five minutes, had 723 signatures as of early Nov. 8, including editors and publishing figures from HarperCollins, Penguin Random House and university presses at Harvard, Michigan, Northwestern, Columbia and Oxford.

It registers the special hatred and contempt by liberals for Coney Barrett, who is Catholic and the mother to seven children.

Pro-abortion groups have demonstrated at her

home and church. One outfit, Ruth Sent Us, specifically noted in a Twitter posting the family's schedule and the school her children attend. Their website tells protesters to go to a "local extremist church or fake abortion clinic. Commit civil disobedience. Be ungovernable." Since the May 2 leak of the Supreme Court's draft opinion holding *Roe v. Wade* unconstitutional, there have been at least 70 violent attacks on crisis pregnancy centers and 32 Catholic churches.

Among the left there are rising calls for politically motivated censorship and speech control. After Ted Glasser, a Stanford journalism professor, called for journalism to "free itself from this notion of objectivity to develop a sense of social justice," other like-minded writers jumped in. Wesley Lowery, who has worked as a national correspondent for the *Washington Post*, called objectivity "a failed experiment" that must be replaced with "moral clarity."

The liberals and middle-class left believe the media should be reduced to political screeds to savage opinions they consider unacceptable on abortion rights, freedom to worship and other issues. They utterly ignore the fact Coney Barrett's vote for the

Dobbs decision was based on the U.S. Constitution, not her personal views.

The idea that constitutional freedoms of speech and the press need to be tossed aside and suppressed by "social justice" warriors is an attack on rights working people need and will seek to use increasingly in the future.

PEN America spoke out against the call to cancel the book. "If editors have concluded that a book by Coney Barrett — who is by definition a highly influential figure as a justice of the nation's highest court — is of value to audiences, that decision should not be overturned at the behest of protesters who reject Coney Barrett's views," the group says in an Oct. 31 statement.

Penguin Random House says it is committed to publishing the book, now scheduled for 2024, despite the protests.

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Donate your California gas-tax rebate to the 'Militant'

Workers are being hard hit by soaring prices for food, gas, rents, medical expenses and more. The *Militant* newspaper — which fighting workers and trade unionists depend on for clarity on politics and as a guide to action — is also being hit with rising printing costs and postage expenses for getting the paper to its subscribers and distributors. That's why supporters of the paper in California launched a fund to contribute payouts from the state's so-called Gas Tax Relief rebate to the paper.

The governor and the Democrat-controlled legislature claim the payouts relieve the "pain" Californians have felt at the gas pump. But \$350 for an individual or \$700 for a couple is a drop in the bucket compared to what workers have paid for gas! There is no better way to use this payment than sending it to the *Militant*.

As of Nov. 8, \$2,820 has been received by the paper.

Mail checks to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at themilitant.com.

— NORTON SANDLER

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund

Sept. 17 - November 15 (week seven)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	75	53	75	50	\$9,600	\$5,838
Chicago	110	94	110	87	\$14,000	\$9,349
Cincinnati	70	41	70	36	\$6,000	\$1,783
Dallas-FortWorth	65	57	65	53	\$5,000	\$1,845
Lincoln	15	14	15	14	\$500	\$520
Los Angeles	90	77	90	92	\$15,250	\$8,757
Miami	45	33	45	43	\$5,750	\$4,563
Minneapolis	70	66	70	78	\$5,500	\$2,949
N. New Jersey	70	63	70	76	\$7,500	\$5,467
New York	115	99	115	138	\$21,000	\$11,514
Oakland	90	80	90	81	\$15,500	\$11,555
Philadelphia	50	41	50	47	\$6,000	\$1,850
Pittsburgh	65	49	65	35	\$6,000	\$2,902
Seattle	75	61	75	57	\$14,500	\$7,608
Washington	50	44	50	48	\$4,600	\$3,974
Other		11		89		\$1,740
Total U.S.	1055	883	1055	1,024	\$136,700	\$82,214
Prisoners	50	65				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	41	40	84		
Manchester	40	43	40	50		
Total U.K.	80	84	80	134		
Canada	80	76	80	106		
Australia	30	29	30	35		
Total	1,295	1,137	1,245	1,299	\$136,700	\$82,214
SHOULD BE	1,350	1,181	1,350	1,181	\$140,000	\$122,500

UN denounces embargo of Cuba

Continued from front page
 ment's capacity to meet the needs of the population, causing the collapse of the economy" in hopes of spurring the overthrow of the revolutionary government.

Rodríguez noted that the administration of Joseph Biden has "continued the inhumane policy of 'maximum pressure' established during the presidency of Donald Trump," which added 243 new sanctions.

Among the measures with the biggest impact have been the blocking of international financial transactions. From January 2021 to February 2022 alone, Rodríguez said, there were 642 actions by foreign banks that blocked transactions with Cuba.

"We don't say the blockade is the cause of all the difficulties we face," Rodríguez said, pointing to frequent electrical blackouts and shortages of basic necessities. "But anyone who denies its grave effects and does not recognize that it is the principal cause" of the economic problems Cuba faces "isn't telling the truth."

The Biden administration in the last few months "has alleviated some of the irrational restrictions on U.S. flights to Cuba, the sending of family remittances and consular services" that had been imposed by Trump. "Those are positive actions, but very limited in their reach and application," the Cuban foreign minister said. "They don't modify in any way" the U.S. economic, commercial and financial sanctions.

U.S. rulers' hostility to Cuba

In fact, he said, "the intensified blockade continues to be the central element that defines U.S. policy toward Cuba."

That's been true for every U.S. president for the last six decades, Democrat and Republican alike. The U.S. rulers have never forgiven the Cuban people for bringing down the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and replacing it with a government of workers and farmers. That revolutionary government initiated a deep-going land reform that guaranteed land for the peasants, led working people to nationalize U.S. corporations and put them under workers control, and opened the door to a socialist revolution that inspired people around the world.

Only eight days before leaving office, Trump signed an order to put Cuba on the U.S. State Department's list of "State Sponsors of Terrorism," which serves to strengthen the economic sanctions. Biden could change that "with just a signature," Rodríguez said.

The representatives of more than 50 countries took the floor during the two days of debate to support the resolution and to denounce various aspects of Washington's economic war on Cuba. Many representatives took note of the

"extraterritoriality" of the U.S. embargo, which is designed to force other governments around the world to submit to the U.S. sanctions.

Cuba's internationalism

Despite the U.S. sanctions "and in spite of our own limited resources," Rodríguez said, "we collaborated in the sending of 58 medical brigades to 42 countries and territories, who joined the more than 28,000 [Cuban] health care professionals" who were already aiding people in 59 countries. The impact of Cuba's selfless internationalist volunteers was noted by many of the speakers in the debate.

Nerys Nakia Dockery, the representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis, pointed to "Cuba's benevolence," by offering the vaccines against COVID-19 it had developed "to those nations unable to afford other, more expensive doses."

Dockery noted that she is one of the thousands who have been aided by Cuba. In May this year, Cuban doctors operated on her to save her eyesight, free of charge. "I owe my ability to deliver my speech from this platform to Cuba!" she said.

"In the face of such magnanimity, altruism and compassion that can be counted in the many lives saved," she

'Cuba needs no lessons from the US about democracy'

Below are major excerpts from the reply by Yuri Gala, Cuba's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, to the speech by U.S. representative John Kelley after the Nov. 3 U.N. vote condemning Washington's economic war on Cuba.

Mr. Chairman:

In his speech, the representative of the U.S. government stated they are concerned about the Cuban people. How can his government justify having used the COVID-19 pandemic to reinforce its inhumane blockade against Cuba and prevent us from access to treatments and the purchase of raw materials to produce our own vaccines, pulmonary ventilators and even medical oxygen?

If the U.S. government was really interested in the well-being, human rights and self-determination of Cubans, it would lift the blockade and join with us in international cooperation.

It's false to say that people who demonstrated peacefully on July 11, 2021, [when several thousand people across the island took to the streets to express frustration over the economic crisis — *editor*] were arrested, tried or repressed. Those who committed crimes as part of these disturbances were prosecuted, respecting all their legal rights, in a lawful and transparent manner. No one has been prosecuted for expressing their opinion.

It is unacceptable that they point a finger at us out for upholding our constitutional order, when in this very country more than 800 people have been arrested for the Jan. 6, 2021, disturbances in Congress. Is the United States the only country in the world with the right to defend its institutions?

Like any other country, we are not going to allow the law to be broken or subverted at the service of a foreign agenda of changing the regime, constitutional order and political system that we Cubans have freely chosen.



Protesters march from Times Square to United Nations building in New York Oct. 29 demanding an end to Washington's economic, financial and trade war against Cuba.

said, "how can Cuba justifiably continue to be designated by the United States as a State Sponsor of Terrorism?"

John Kelley, a low-ranking "political counselor" from the U.S. mission, took the floor for barely four minutes to "explain" why Washington voted against the resolution.

Kelley cynically proclaimed that Washington is "focused on the political and economic well-being of the Cuban people." He claimed that the Cuban government unleashed "repression" on

"peaceful protesters, journalists and human rights defenders" in the wake of demonstrations in Cuba in July 2021. And he asserted that exemptions to the U.S. sanctions on Cuba has made the U.S. "one of Cuba's principal trading partners," exporting \$295 million worth of agricultural goods in 2021.

Yuri Gala, Cuba's deputy ambassador to the U.N., answered Kelley. "Cuba does not need lessons on democracy and human rights, much less from the United States." (See accompanying article.)

We will continue to strengthen our legal and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right of association, while ensuring the strict application of, and respect for, our laws.

In a desperate attempt to justify its hostility to Cuba, the United States distorts the issue of the arrests, focusing on minors. Under no circumstances does Cuba charge minors under 16 years of age with criminal responsibility.

The only arbitrary arrests and long periods of prison confinement that occur on Cuban territory are those carried out by the United States government at the Guantánamo Naval Base.

The representative of a country whose electoral campaigns have no ethical limits and which promote hatred, division, selfishness, slander, racism, xenophobia and lies — and in which money and corporate interests define who will be elected or not — cannot speak of elections and democracy.

Cuba does not need lessons on democracy and human rights, much less from the United States ... especially when they are used to justify the longest and most comprehensive system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any state.

The U.S. government should be concerned about its population below the poverty level, its repressive policy against migrants, the repression of minorities and reproductive rights, lack of gender equality, the racism and discrimination against people of African descent, police brutality, more than 1,000 deaths a year from police shootings.

The United States is the only country that is not a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the only one where children under 18 years of age are sentenced to life in prison without parole.

The U.S. delegation is lying when it cites extremely high figures for U.S. exports and humanitarian aid

to our country. It cynically includes the multimillion-dollar funds that the United States Agency for International Development allocates to subversion in Cuba, as well as the packages that Cuban émigrés send to their families with great effort, or the modest donations that, overcoming numerous obstacles, are sent by non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Chairman, I conclude my remarks in exercise of the right of reply by reiterating a statement made just a few days ago by the Cuban president, Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, and I quote:

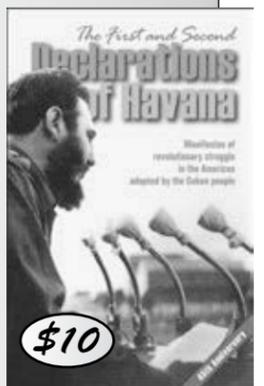
"We have firmly and creatively confronted the application of the criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade by the United States, intensified in an opportunistic manner during the time that we faced the pandemic.

"No obstacle will undermine our determination to resist, fight and win!"

The First and Second Declarations of Havana

Nowhere are questions of revolutionary strategy in the Americas addressed with greater truthfulness and clarity than in the First and Second Declarations of Havana,

adopted by million-strong assemblies of the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962.



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MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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The Working Class, the Capitalist Crisis and the 2022 Elections. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California. Fri., Nov. 18. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Tel.: (510) 686-1351.

Rail workers fight bosses, gov't

Continued from front page

nance of Way Employees, told the *Militant* at an information picket line here Nov. 2.

Farmer is the president and CEO of the BNSF Railway, the largest of the five Class 1 U.S.-owned railroads. She was boarding her private train in Red Oak, Iowa, two hours east of Lincoln.

Forsgren and his BMW co-workers then drove back to Lincoln and teamed up with more rail workers, members of the BMW and Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers — Transportation Division (SMART-TD), Nebraska AFL-CIO President Sue Martin and others to picket here where Farmer's train was scheduled to pass through.

The information picket was held on a walkway bridge over the BNSF main line, near the downtown business area and the city's entertainment and sports arena, which was hosting the state high school volleyball finals. This gave the rail workers an opportunity to explain what their unions were fighting for to people from all over the state.

Like other rail bosses, Farmer backs slashing operating craft "crews" to one person on the road, and, where possible, she said in May, to move to ground-based conductors, responsible for multiple trains. She claimed this is made possible by the introduction of Positive Train Control, a system which can stop a train and is designed to prevent train-to-train collisions.

As many conductors and engineers have explained to the *Militant* in recent years, workers are not against technology that can make train handling safer, but the bosses use these aids to slash jobs at the expense of safety.

"The rail bosses are trying to do more with less manpower," track worker Mat Tietz said. "They say they're hiring, but I don't see it. On the territory I'm on, there's just three workers per section, and now there's one less section covering the same amount of track."

This means each track crew is now responsible for maintaining five to six times more trackage, Forsgren said.

"And our wages aren't keeping up with the inflation rate. We're the lowest-paid rail worker craft. We've fallen further behind in every contract since I hired on in 2006," BMW member Nick Borges said. "We work 24/7, giving up weekends and holidays to keep up the track, and they show no appreciation for that."

"It's our own actions that are decisive," said Naomi Craine, a SMART-TD member who came from Chicago to join the picket. She is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Illinois. "Workers need to use their union to fight to have control over job conditions, to use the collective power of the union ranks to enforce safe conditions, including stopping work until any hazardous situation is resolved."

Unions fight for contract, respect

Over 115,000 rail workers across the country, organized by 12 different unions, have been seeking a new contract from a coalition of the five Class 1 railroads and a number of smaller carriers since November 2019. The bosses biggest help against the unions is the anti-labor Railway Labor Act that ensnarls workers in years of government-enforced mediation, "cooling off" periods and more before they can strike. This year the Joe Biden

White House convened a Presidential Emergency Board, which imposed a final round of mediation and issued its own proposed agreement.

Now each of the unions has been involved in a final round of negotiations with the bosses for a contract. Seven of the smaller rail unions have ratified their agreements and three, including the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, the third largest rail union with over 23,000 members, have voted it down. Those three will try again to get an acceptable deal. The two largest unions, SMART-TD and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, with some 60,000 members, are voting now, with the outcome to be announced Nov. 21. These are the unions whose members operate the trains.

If any one of the unions goes on strike, all 12 are pledged to honor their picket lines and shut down the country's railroads.

BMW President Tony Cardwell has told the union membership that as of now, there is no progress in negotiations. The rail bosses flat-out refused to grant paid sick days. If that doesn't change, he said, we will strike no later than Nov. 20, and will get the word out so all rail workers and others can join the picket lines.

The rail bosses have treated the big issues before the workers with disdain. To boost profits, they've cut the workforce in a dangerous industry where crew size, workers' cooperation and enough rest is crucial. They've imposed schedules that put workers on call 24/7 and adopted highly punitive attendance policies. They've denied paid sick time.

One result has been an uptick in derailments, injuries and deaths. A Norfolk Southern freight train, nearly 3 miles long with 237 rail cars, including a number of 89-foot auto racks, derailed Nov. 1, putting 22 of them on the ground in a Ravenna Township working-class neighborhood in Ohio. The derailed cars came close to plowing into people's homes and businesses.

One of the cars landed in Bert McEwen's boat in his backyard. "That one that was on the boat, it could've took out the garage and the camper and probably part of my house," he told the press.

On Nov. 2, a Canadian National freight train derailed and spilled dangerous hydrochloric acid in St. James Par-

Australia protests hit racist murder of Aboriginal boy



Above, Militant/Linda Harris

SYDNEY — Thousands across Australia joined vigils protesting the racist murder of 15-year-old Aboriginal boy Cassius Turvey, inset, in Perth in West Australia. Some 3,000 people rallied here Nov. 2, one of more than 40 actions in cities and regional towns nationwide.

Turvey was walking home from school with four friends Oct. 13 when they were attacked by a group of Caucasian males shouting racial slurs, telling the boys to run, brandishing a machete and a metal bar. Turvey died 10 days later. One of the attackers has been charged with his murder, and with assaulting another of the boys and stealing his crutches. No other charges have been laid.

Responding to a police statement that the attack may have been a case of "mistaken identity," Aboriginal leaders in Perth issued a statement saying, "Cassius was not 'in the wrong place at the wrong time.' He was in his school uniform with his friends in broad daylight." We "are outraged by this mindless, inhumane, cowardly racist act against an innocent child."

Mechelle Turvey, Cassius' mother, told the Perth rally that she was "overwhelmed and eternally grateful" for the "outpouring of tributes across the nation." Her statement was read at the other rallies nationwide.

"I am angry. Cassius' friends and family are angry," she said. "But I don't want any form of violence at any of these rallies in the name of my child."

— BOB AIKEN

ish, Louisiana. One tank car broke open, forcing the evacuation of 200 homes.

From 1990, the first year the Bureau of Transportation Statistics began tracking derailments and injuries on a yearly basis, to 2021 there have been 54,539 accidents in which a train derailed. That's an average of 1,704 a year. Those derailments led to 5,547 people being injured.

Will there be a strike?

With the threat of a rail strike looming, bosses nationwide are screaming for government intervention.

Biden's Labor Secretary, Marty Walsh, who touts himself as a friend of the workers and served as the former head of the Boston Building and Construction Trades Council, told rail work-

ers, "Congress will have to take action to avert a strike in our country."

The Railway Labor Act also mandates that labor action can only take place when Congress is in session and able to intervene swiftly.

Regardless of what happens — a contract agreement is reached, rail workers decide to strike, or Congress intervenes — rail workers will have to continue to fight to defend themselves from the ongoing assault of the rail bosses. Key to that is organizing our unions to build, extend and strengthen the labor movement, and use that union power to advance the interests of all working people.

Naomi Craine, a SMART-TD conductor in Chicago, contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 24, 1997

HAVANA — "In the present international conditions, we reaffirm that socialism is a necessity," said Cuban leader José Ramón Balaguer to the Oct. 21-23 international workshop here on "Socialism as the 21st Century Approaches."

"The contradiction between capital and labor is increasingly internationalized," he said, "making imperative an in-depth study of socialism, beyond national borders and contradictions, and confirming the relevance of that slogan of classic Marxism: 'Workers of all countries, unite!' — which, far from being outdated, could be extended, drawing in other social sectors that are also subjected to the barbarity of capital."

Balaguer underlined the critical need for the revolutionary workers movement to take the moral high ground.



November 24, 1972

SAN DIEGO — The Navy is making extensive use of duplicity and intimidation to defuse the courageous antiracist protest by Black seamen from the warship USS Constellation. They are being individually processed for "counseling" and administrative hearings. At these hearings a variety of penalties have been imposed and an undetermined number of the men have been given discharges.

The Constellation protest by the Black seamen began while the ship was at sea. It had recently returned from the Vietnam coastal areas, where it had participated in the bombing of Vietnam. The Constellation had been in the news a year ago when antiwar crew members refused to report for the sailing to Vietnam.



November 24, 1947

A wave of militant demonstrations has broken out in both Italy and France. They occur on the eve of the Foreign Ministers Conference in London. The response of the masses arises from the acuteness of the economic situation. The cost of living continues to skyrocket. Hunger and misery are rampant.

In addition the mounting strength of reaction and the danger of a fascist seizure of power, particularly in France, deeply disturbs the masses.

In order to really frighten Wall Street, the demonstrations must reach such size that they are clearly beyond the capacity of Wall Street's own reactionary forces in France and Italy to roll back. The masses will continually seek decisive preventive action while there is still time.

Democrats' attack on rights

Continued from front page

The entirety of Biden's prime-time Nov. 2 speech — his main address prior to the election — was to attack so-called MAGA Republicans as a “threat to democracy.”

Biden opened his remarks claiming that David DePape's break-in to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's home Oct. 28 and assault on her husband Paul was somehow tied to Trump. When DePape asked Paul Pelosi, “Where's Nancy?” Biden said, he spoke “the very same words used by the mob when they stormed the United States Capitol on January the 6th,” after they were “whipped up into a frenzy” by Trump.

Numerous Republicans spoke out against the attack. “Disgusted to hear about the horrific assault on Speaker Pelosi's husband Paul,” Republican Congressman Steve Scalise said. “Violence has no place in this country.” Scalise was one of five people shot in 2017 when a Bernie Sanders supporter opened fire on Republican elected officials during a Washington baseball practice. Paul Pelosi was released from the hospital Nov. 4.

But Biden wasn't looking for solidarity. “You can't condemn the violence unless you condemn those people who continue to argue the election was not real, that it's being stolen,” Biden said Oct. 29.

Then in the Nov. 2 speech, Biden said Trump supporters threaten the rule of law, not because of what they do, but because of what they think and say. This is an attack on freedom of speech itself.

The Biden administration's record has little to win support for his party, as inflation soars and the capitalist economy stagnates. Liberal commentators blame working people for the political challenges Democrats face in the elections. “Democracy is on the ballot,” Bill Maher said on Real Time, but saying so is “a waste of breath.” Hours of televised Jan. 6 hearings “changed nobody's mind,” he complained bitterly, referring to the monthlong congressional show trial.

The only other issue Democrats campaigned around is abortion, built on false claims that the U.S. Supreme Court's Dobbs ruling this summer outlawed it. But that isn't true. It held abortion had no basis in the Constitution and returned the debate over the issue to the people and their elected representatives.

Smear opponents as ‘foreign agents’

From the beginning, one key theme of the Democrats' assault on Trump and his administration was the utterly dis-

proven charge that they were hooked up with Russian President Vladimir Putin. They got the FBI to put forward the Steele Dossier, a collection of gossip and smears paid for by the Hillary Clinton campaign, to try and impeach Trump.

One part of these efforts involved use of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, a witch hunt law passed on the eve of the second imperialist world war to gut constitutional freedoms and deal blows to the labor movement.

The FBI began investigating Socialist Workers Party members under this act and others before charging party leaders and leaders of the Teamsters union with “conspiracy to overthrow the government.” The frame-up and conviction of 18 SWP and Teamsters leaders in 1941 was central to the government's entry into the war. In the U.S. rulers' eyes, their real “crime” was organizing opposition in the unions to Washington's drive to win support for sending working people to fight and die in the carnage.

The same law was used to target and convict former Trump advisers Paul Manafort, Michael Flynn and Rick Gates.

But Thomas Barrack, chairman of Trump's inaugural committee, was acquitted of charges of being a “foreign agent” of Russia Nov. 4. “Not a single witness came into this courtroom” who showed they “had any



Former FBI directors Robert Mueller, left, and his replacement James Comey, June 21, 2013. Both served as lead special prosecutors in Democrats' witch hunt against President Donald Trump. Democratic officials are considering new prosecutor to try to stop him if he runs again.

personal knowledge of any relevant facts to the case,” Barrack's attorney, Randall Jackson, said. But that didn't stop the Justice Department from bringing the prosecution.

The Justice Department is now adding more prosecutors to its sprawling crew probing the Jan. 6 melee. It continues to scour through material seized by the FBI in its armed raid at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. Department officials are looking to appoint yet another special counsel to go after the former president, should he decide to run in 2024.

Like ex-FBI boss Robert Mueller, who was appointed special counsel

to target Trump over five years ago, a new prosecutor wouldn't start with actual evidence of a crime, but with a person to bring down.

Both Democrats and Republicans for their own reasons are looking for ways to refurbish the capitalist rulers' political police — with its history of spying, black-bag jobs, frame-ups and disruption — to use against their political opponents. Their key target, however, is the working class and its political vanguard.

The fight to defend constitutional liberties is at the center of the class struggle today.

School workers in Ontario defeat provincial government attack on the right to strike

Continued from front page

when inflation is taken into account. Thousands of education support workers across the province walked off the job Nov. 4 to protest the draconian law and to advance their fight for “a living wage,” determined to stay on the picket lines for “as long as it takes.”

They were joined by supporters from many other unions, parents and students, who took part in over 100 protest actions across the province, together with the Ontario Federation of Labour.

In an impressive demonstration of union solidarity against this attack, some 15,000 people joined a picket line on the first day of the strike in downtown Toronto at Queen's Park, site of the Ontario provincial legislature. They were joined by union members from the United Steelworkers, Catholic Teachers Federation, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Unifor, United Food and Commercial Workers, the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and many others. The 8,000 education workers from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union walked out as well.

Fighting for a livable wage and more hiring to better support the 2 million students they serve, the workers — educational assistants, custodians, early childhood educators, librarians, office administrators and many others who keep the schools running — campaigned for weeks before the strike, explaining 39,000 Canadian dollars a year (\$29,055) is not a livable wage, especially in face of rising prices.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees members voted by 96.5% for a strike mandate in October. They demanded an across-the-board CA\$3.25 per-hour wage increase to keep up with inflation, currently around 7%.

The government claimed the union demands were “outrageous,” and in their bill they imposed a yearly 2.5% wage “increase” for workers who earn under CA\$43,000 a year and 1.5% for those who earn more.

CUPE officials pointed out this amounted to a 20% wage cut. The union also said its members' wages have been declining for years, after a 1% raise imposed by the government in 2019 and the bite of inflation. As a result, education support workers, 70% of whom are women, are among the lowest paid workers in the schools.

In an unprecedented action in relation to a union battle, the government also included in the legislation the “notwithstanding clause” of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. By doing this, the Ford government blocked CUPE from challenging Bill 28 in court for the next five years.

Bill 28 also imposed fines on each worker up to CA\$4,000 per day on strike and up to CA\$500,000 per day on the union. This would have meant a total of over CA\$220 million for each day the workers went out.

Dangerous precedent for all workers

The construction laborers' union — LiUNA — called the strikebreaking law “a dangerous precedent that aims to erode respect for collective bargaining rights and unionized labour.” Its members were among the 43,000 construction workers who went on strike in May.

Brian Hill, head caretaker at Forest Hill school in Toronto, told the *Militant* that the government “is making our union rights illegal. They claw at us, break down our unions and divide us. This is the time we need to fight.”

“What good is a union if you can't use

it?” Kim Fallis, educational assistant at General Crerar Public School, said. “Everyone wants the kids in school, but we have not had a substantial increase in years. If they can do this to us, this will spread to other unions.”

In a cynical attempt to influence parents, students, and other working people, the law was misnamed “Keeping Students in School Act.” But workers know they are the ones fighting for better conditions in the schools.

“Taking away the right to strike from education workers was a terrible

UK events discuss Cuba's response to 1962 October ‘missile’ crisis

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN AND ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON — In October 1962, Washington pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war as it drove to overturn the Cuban Revolution. Meetings in Manchester and London marked the 60th anniversary of what has become known as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

“The Missile Crisis is the most dangerous incident that has occurred in the relationship between Cuba and the United States,” Cuban Ambassador Bárbara Montalvo told the events. “We knew through its long history of attacks that the U.S. was considering a full-scale invasion.” The U.S. government used Moscow's decision to deploy nuclear missiles to Cuba to impose a naval blockade of the island.

Accepting missiles from the Soviet Union was an act of solidarity by the Cuban government, Montalvo said. At the time, Washington had stationed nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy. Cuba “considered it a sovereign right to have the type of weapons it deemed appropriate, but never considered the missiles necessary to our defense.”

The meetings drew a total of 120 people. Speakers also included: Antoni Kapcia, emeritus professor at University of Nottingham; Miriam Palacios, a leader of the group Cubans in the U.K.; and Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books, which sponsored the



London meeting Oct. 30 marks 60th anniversary of Cuban Missile Crisis. From left, Cuban Ambassador Bárbara Montalvo; translator Beatriz Muñoz; Jonathan Silberman, director of Pathfinder Books and leader of Communist League; Miriam Palacios, Cubans in the U.K.

meetings. He is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist League.

Two books published by Pathfinder Press were featured at the meetings: *October 1962: The ‘Missile’ Crisis as Seen From Cuba* by Tomás Díez, a member of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces at the time, and *Making History: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces*. Díez sent greetings from Havana, encouraging participants to “learn the causes of the

crisis” and “draw the lessons.”

“That means starting with the conquest of political power by Cuba's toilers,” Silberman said. “Through their socialist revolution Cuba's workers and farmers became actors in history, transformed themselves and set a powerful example for working people around the world.”

Cuban leader Fidel Castro noted that Washington “began preparing their war on us five months after the triumph of the revolution following the agrarian reform,” Silberman said.

“The new government gave land titles to 100,000 peasants,” he said. “It embarked upon electrification of the whole country. It strove to raise the cultural and educational level of the toilers; to draw women into productive work and into the revolution's leadership; and to uproot racism. It led working people to expropriate the entire capitalist class.”

“It strengthened the worker-peasant alliance, raising their political consciousness and drawing them into running the country. The Cuban Revolution marked the renewal of communist leadership in the Americas and internationally,” Silberman said.

In response, Washington engaged in attacks and sabotage, Montalvo said, including the April 1961 mercenary invasion at Cuba's Playa Girón. The invasion was defeated in 72 hours as millions backed action by Cuba's armed forces and militias.

The October Crisis the next year was a product of the U.S. government's defeat, Antoni Kapcia told the Manchester meeting. The John F. Kennedy administration made overthrowing the revolution its top priority. “All else is secondary — no time, money, effort or manpower is to be spared,” U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy said.

The U.K. government “backed Washington's course,” Silberman said. “Prime Minister Harold Macmillan described Fidel Castro as ‘the very devil’ who ‘has to be got rid of.’ He agreed to a secret deal with Washington that the British-controlled Bahamas could be used to launch airstrikes on Cuba. His government publicly endorsed the naval blockade imposed by Kennedy.”

‘War of the entire people’

“The whole country mobilized in defense” said Montalvo, who was 13 at the time. “A great sense of danger, and yet

a lot of calm. A lot of determination in ordinary people.” Montalvo and Palacios recounted what that meant for their families. “My father and brother joined the militias. They went to the Escambray mountains to fight counterrevolutionary bandits,” Montalvo said.

“My mother put on the green uniform of the Ministry of the Interior, a gun at her hip,” Palacios said, “and my father went to a special school. Everybody was involved — each to their post. We were not afraid, we just carried on with everything — the literacy campaign, the vaccination campaign.”

In the face of this “war of the entire people,” as it is known in Cuba, Kennedy halted well-advanced invasion plans. Pentagon officials told him to expect 18,500 U.S. casualties in the first 10 days, more than in the first five years of fighting in the Vietnam War.

Lively discussion followed presentations at both meetings. Eight students of U.S. foreign policy from Manchester University came with their teacher. One of them said he was shocked to hear the Cuban government learned of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's decision to withdraw the missiles over a news broadcast. The student asked about Cuba's exclusion from talks between Moscow and Washington. “Kennedy gave a commitment to Khrushchev not to invade Cuba,” Kapcia noted.

“We do not believe in mere promises of nonaggression. We need deeds,” the Cuban government had responded at the time. Montalvo explained that Havana presented demands that remain unresolved to this day: end the economic blockade, all subversive activities, pirate attacks, and violations of Cuba's air and naval space; and withdraw U.S. forces stationed at Cuba's Guantánamo Bay.

“I had always thought that Cuba asked for the missiles, as a client of the Soviets,” said a participant at the London meeting.

The Cuban government “was nothing of the kind,” Silberman replied. It valued its relations with the Soviet Union but that implied no political agreement. From the earliest days, Cuba's communist leadership “led working people to see their future bound together with toiling humanity around the world. That stood in sharp contrast to the ‘socialism in one country’ theory used by Moscow to justify its foreign policy. Castro's insistence that the missile deployment be made public was part of the Cuban government's internationalism.” His demand was refused by Khrushchev, who preferred secrecy and deception.

Sue Piper of Manchester Cuba Solidarity Campaign urged participants to join a Nov. 12 protest against Washington's economic war against Cuba.

Participants thronged literature tables set up at both meetings, including by Manchester branches of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, the North and South London Cuba Solidarity Campaigns and the Communist League. They purchased 44 books by communist leaders and seven *Militant* subscriptions. “The speeches and exchange were an education,” student Safia Ouabaid, 23, told the *Militant*. She traveled to the London meeting, along with Roman Laniel from Amiens, France. “I loved hearing from the Cubans who lived through these events. It was great!” Ouabaid said.

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The Jewish question can only be resolved by the working class

The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation by Abram Leon is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for November. Leon was won from Zionism to Marxism by supporters of Leon Trotsky. He wrote the book while a leader of the communist movement in Belgium as the second imperialist world war opened. In 1944, he was arrested and sent to Auschwitz where he died in the gas chambers at age 26, along with over a million others. The excerpt is from the introduction to the book by Dave Prince. Copyright © 2020 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY DAVE PRINCE

The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation was completed by Abram Leon in 1942 in Belgium during the war-time occupation by Germany. As the twin slaughters of World War II and the Nazis' "Final Solution" were unfolding, Leon wrote the book to explain the foundations of Jew-hatred in the imperialist epoch, as well as the road to its eradication.

"There is no solution to the Jewish question under capitalism," he said, "just as there is no solution to 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." ...



Socialist Appeal

After "Kristallnacht," a deadly Nazi assault on Jews in Germany, the SWP, others protest at German Consulate in New York, November 1938, demand Washington admit Jewish refugees.

In the imperialist epoch, Jew-hatred fulfills a special function for the ruling classes. It is not simply one among other forms of bigotry and discrimination, nor another variety of racism, "white nationalism," or xenophobia. Anti-Semitic words and deeds can't be dismissed, much less "understood," as unfortunate "tropes," "political correctness" in defense of the Palestinian people, or inadvertent lapses in respecting the right to worship.

It is a deadly illusion that bourgeois democracy and its competing capitalist parties can be counted on to protect Jews in times of severe social and political crisis, as growing sections of the propertied classes become convinced their rule itself is under threat. It is a deadly illusion for the Jewish people, and for the working class and its allies, to believe that Jew-hatred will somehow just disappear.

Such misconceptions defy the history of the place of Jew-hatred — its particular place — in the defense of capitalist wealth and state power under severe crisis conditions. Its persistence, Leon says, is not based in the working class. Under the Nazis, "The ghettos and the yellow badges [did] not prevent the workers from feeling a growing solidarity with those who suffer most from the afflictions all humanity is suffering."

Jew-hatred is not a division within the working class, promoted by the rulers to pit one group of workers against

another. It is not aimed at exacerbating competition for jobs among workers, in order to minimize resistance to exploitation. Under capitalism, such divisions fomented by the ruling class do form the material basis for racist discrimination and bigotry based on skin color, sex, immigration status, language, and more.

Virulent anti-Semitism is different both in its origins and in its purpose.

At times of sharp capitalist dislocation, insecure layers of the middle classes in town and country — facing loss of income, jobs, homes, farms, small businesses, and careers — look for someone to blame. They fear the abyss. They fear being thrown into the proletariat, down among the "deplorables," who have nothing to sell or live on in a crisis but their less-and-less-often-purchased labor power.

With class-struggle leadership pointing the way in action, the working class and its organizations — by fighting decisively and winning victories that also benefit broad sections of small producers and proprietors — can divide such petty-bourgeois layers whose future proletarian condition looms before them. Many can be won to the revolutionary workers movement and its vanguard party, but only through the example of working-class struggle.

If class-collaborationist misleaders of the working class succeed in blocking such a revolutionary alternative, however, it is not only the labor move-

ment that will be thrown back. Seeing the brutal reality that the current social order offers them nothing but more misery, millions in the petty bourgeoisie become open to an anticapitalism fueled by bitterness, resentment, prejudice, and hatred. So do some desperate and demoralized working people, especially those for whom the crush of debt slavery has become the main source of their exploitation by capital.

It is incorrect "to accuse big business of having brought about anti-Semitism," Leon points out. Amid the turbulent economic and social crises of the 1920s and 1930s, as the capitalist rulers in Germany felt threatened by the prospect of proletarian revolution, "Big business only proceeded to make use of the elementary anti-Semitism of the petty-bourgeois masses," Leon says. ...

What is the root of the petty bourgeoisie's "elementary anti-Semitism"? Where does the myth of "Jewish capitalism" come from?

Leon answers these questions by tracing the origins of modern Jew-hatred through the sweep of recorded history and class society. He takes us from antiquity, through feudalism, to the rise of capitalism with its creation of the modern working class, and then the opening of the death agony of capitalism and the imperialist world order it dominates. ...

[U]sing extensive historical sources, Leon makes the case that for two millennia, from antiquity through the rise of industrial capitalism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Jews are "historically a social group with a specific economic function. They are a class, or more precisely, a people-class." ...

In the imperialist epoch, it is for these reasons that Jew-hatred originates in the petty bourgeoisie and both the ultraright and the radical left wings of bourgeois and middle-class anticapitalist politics. It is only when growing numbers among the ruling families no longer see another way to maintain their rule, however, that sections of them begin encouraging and financing initially small but violent fascist parties and their fighting units to attack workers' picket lines, meetings, and social struggles. These layers of big business do so with the aim of smashing the trade unions and working-class political parties, in order to drown in blood every act of resistance to the disaster imposed on the toilers by capital.

November
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Defeat of Ontario law is victory for all workers

The victory won by 55,000 school workers in Ontario, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, is an important victory for all working people and our unions. Defying the provincial government's imposition of a new anti-strike law, they went out anyway and forced the government to rescind their attack on labor. Solidarity with their refusal to buckle to the government, and their fight for better pay and conditions, was won across the labor movement.

The government's drive to cripple the strike shows it is not neutral, but a tool in the hands of the bosses. As long as they hold power, state intervention is *always* aimed at fortifying their class interests, and denying workers the right to wield the power of our numbers and decisive place in production and commerce.

Workers *can* use our unions to fight for what we need. Our labor produces all wealth and we can win. Bosses get their own way only if we don't join together, reach out for solidarity and fight for what we need.

Ontario Premier Douglas Ford is not alone wielding government authority to ban union action. President Joseph Biden has invoked the Railway Labor Act to force rail unions into years of enforced mediation, "cooling-off" periods, a Presidential Emergency Act of more mediation, barring them from going on strike.

Biden's Labor Secretary, Marty Walsh, now threatens to get Congress to outlaw any strike and impose a settlement. They intend to prevent rail workers from having access to the strike weapon as they look for ways to resist bosses' attacks that worsen conditions, making work more dangerous. They fear the power

rail workers have to shut down the movement of goods.

For decades U.S. bosses have relied on the Democratic and Republican parties to pass laws and impose injunctions impeding workers' right to strike. To fight, workers have had to use their own power. This requires a sober judgment of the relationship of class forces. Throughout the sit-down strikes that forged industrial unions in the 1930s, and since, workers had to overcome company thugs, government intervention, cop assaults, court injunctions, the National Guard, even U.S. troops.

During World War II, Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the bosses' chief strike-breaker, enforcing a no-strike pledge and freezing wages. In defiance of the government, coal miners struck in 1943. When Roosevelt threatened to use the army to force them back to work, miners were not intimidated. They refused to go back, pointing out, "You can't dig coal with bayonets." Their victory opened a new wave of labor struggles.

The example set by the Ontario school workers shows that laws aimed at preventing workers from striking can be defeated. Government intervention to hamstring unions also shows the class reality under capitalism. It shows that workers need to act in our own interests on political questions as well as on the picket line. The U.S. rulers have two major parties to advance their assaults on workers. We need a party of our own, a labor party based on our unions, that can act as a tribune for all the exploited and chart a road to replace capitalist rule with a government of workers and farmers.

Defend Ukraine independence! Oppose Putin's war

Continued from front page

losses during Moscow's failed offensive to take Kyiv earlier in the war. In an unusual step, Russia's defense ministry issued a statement denying the allegations.

Aleksei Agafonov was called up, one of 570 men from Voronezh, in southwestern Russia Oct. 16. On Nov. 1 he was part of a battalion under Ukrainian fire in Luhansk. "I saw men being ripped apart in front of me. Most of our unit is gone, destroyed. It was hell," he told the press. "And many who survived are losing their minds."

"On the very first day they put the draftees on the front line," says Inna Voronina, in a video made by soldiers' wives from Voronezh to protest the treatment of their husbands. "The command left the battlefield and fled."

In the republic of Chuvashia, more than 100 soldiers have gone on strike after Putin's security forces broke up a protest they held over the nonpayment of wages. Live-fire practice at the center has been canceled and the armory locked.

In another video shot at a training center in Kazan, the nearby capital of Russia's Tartarstan region, a crowd of recently drafted men is seen berating Maj. Gen. Kirill Kulakov. Soldiers had told commanders they would not fight because they'd endured weeks of water shortages and scarce rations, and are supplied with rusty old guns. Kulakov called the police and then retreated as soldiers chanted "Shame on you!" and "Let's go home!" Chants of "Down with Putin's regime!" can also be heard.

Putin attacks urban centers

Putin is hoping his bombardment of Ukraine will increase pressure on Kyiv for talks and to cede territory. By Nov. 4 Moscow's airstrikes left 4.5 million people without heat or power.

But the blackouts have strengthened the resolve of working people. "We will be standing until the end," child care center owner Hanna Andriyenko in Kremenchuk told the BBC. Despite difficulties providing care during power outages she keeps the center open. Under lighting provided by cellphone flashlights, Yana Petrova continues to lead salsa classes. Putin's war "is stressful for people," she said, but "I'm not going to stop dancing, because it really saves us."

As Ukrainian forces battle closer to Kherson in the south, Moscow's occupation administration has been

moved to Skadovsk on the Black Sea coast. A local nurse, Tetiana Mudryenko, 56, was publicly hanged by occupying forces after she denounced police collaborators and called out, "Skadovsk is Ukraine!"

Putin hopes for 'war fatigue'

The largest war between two state powers in Europe since the second world imperialist slaughter is causing realignments among capitalist powers across the world and deepening conflicts between bourgeois parties, including in Eastern Europe.

In Prague on Oct. 28 tens of thousands of people joined an anti-government rally under the nationalist banner "Czech Republic First." Speakers blamed soaring prices on the government's backing for Ukraine and called for talks with Moscow over fuel supplies. A similar number joined a pro-government demonstration two days later.

President Joseph Biden warned Kyiv not to rule out talks with Putin. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Nov. 7 that conditions for opening talks with Moscow must include returning all territory seized by Putin's invasions.

Some 30 liberal Democrats in Congress wrote to Biden Oct. 24 urging him to explore "all possible avenues" for direct talks with Moscow to seek a "rapid end to the conflict." Cosigners included Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib, from the socialist wing of the Democratic Party. They withdrew the letter after criticism from fellow Democrats.

Along similar lines, the ANSWER Coalition and the People's Forum are holding a public meeting, "The Real Path to Peace in Ukraine," Nov. 19 in New York. Demanding that Washington impose "peace" talks on Kyiv, this current is lending backhanded support to Putin's invasion.

"The Socialist Workers Party calls for Russian forces to get out of Ukraine, *all* of Ukraine, immediately," Joel Britton, SWP candidate for governor of California, told the *Militant* Nov. 7. "The SWP also opposes the sanctions imposed by the U.S. government on Russia, which fall heaviest on working people.

"Behind their facade of caring for Ukrainian sovereignty, the only real concern of Washington and its allies is their profits and strategic interests in the region," the SWP candidate said. "We call for U.S. forces and their nuclear weapons to get out of Europe."

Support for Iran protests

Continued from front page

hold sit-ins and other activities. Popular sports figures and musicians have expressed their support.

Daily protests began after the Sept. 16 death of Mahsa Amini. The young Kurdish woman died three days after she collapsed following her arrest by the "morality" police in Tehran for violating the reactionary regime's dress code.

Her death unleashed pent-up anger at discrimination against oppressed nationalities and religious minorities, lack of political freedoms, the oppression of women, attacks on unions and the impact of the economic crisis. The protests, like those in 2017-18 and 2018-19, reflect opposition to the regime's use of working people as cannon fodder in its reactionary military adventures throughout the Middle East.

The repression has been fiercest in Kurdistan, Baluchistan, Azerbaijan and other regions populated by oppressed nationalities who face discrimination in jobs, housing, the use of their language and in their religious beliefs, which differ from those of the Shiite-based regime.

Sept. 30 is now known as "Bloody Friday," when government forces slaughtered more than 40 people in Zahedan, in the Sunni Muslim Baluchistan region. The government fired the police chief and promised an investigation. But on Nov. 4, its repressive forces attacked Khash, another city in Baluchistan, killing 10. The next day working people and shopkeepers shut down the city in protest. Brutal attacks in the Kurdish region have only fueled more protests there as well.

As a result of the regime's repression, almost every day there are funerals and traditional Muslim mourning ceremonies that take place 40 days after the death of a loved one. The services have become protest actions, often with thousands of people chanting "freedom" and "down with the dictatorship."

Oil workers say free jailed protesters

The Organizing Council of Oil Contract Workers said Nov. 7 that many of more than 250 union members arrested during protests at oil complexes in Bushahr and Khuzestan provinces on Oct. 10 and 11 have been released. The union is demanding "the immediate and unconditional release" of remaining detainees, as well as all those arrested at recent protests.

On Nov. 7 workers on the offshore platforms at the government-owned Pars Oil and Gas Company began a hunger strike and refused to send production reports to management. Parliament has increased pay of the regimes armed forces by 20%, the workers said, but the oil workers have not had a raise in 10 years.

In the last week there have been new protests by municipal landscape workers and by workers at a combine factory over nonpayment of wages.

Worried at the depth of the protests, 227 out of 290 members of the Iranian parliament, called on the government to crack down harder Nov. 6.

But *Shargh* daily, which supports the "reformist" wing of the regime, quoted parliament member Rashidi Kouchi as saying that many demands of protesters about "livelihood, welfare and basic necessities are right." Reform is needed, he said, but can't begin until the atmosphere is "calmed down" — a not so veiled call to end the demonstrations.

Protesters have little trust in any wing of the regime and no intention of stopping their actions.

At Sharif University in Tehran, where Basij thugs attacked students Oct. 2 and administrators banned some students from campus, the Islamic Student Association forced officials to give permission for an indoor protest meeting that drew a crowd of nearly 1,000 students. Participants demanded the removal of plainclothes security agents from campus, the release of imprisoned students — including two jailed more than three years ago — and the end of a ban on others.

Tehran University students put out a flyer to advertise a reading of the play "Enemy of the People" by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. It is about the hypocrisy of government officials and the media.

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