

THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 87/NO. 43 NOVEMBER 20, 2023

Chicago union takes solidarity to Tennessee BCTGM strike

BY DAN FEIN

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Seven members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Local 1 from Chicago drove here Nov. 3 to reinforce fellow BCTGM Local 390G members on strike against International Flavors and Fragrances. Almost 200 union members walked out June 4 after working for a year under an expired contract.

Those making the trip included this *Militant* worker-correspondent, workers from several plants in the Chicago area and Hector Rosa, union business agent for Mondelez International.

Markey Pegues, Local 390G financial secretary, told the *Militant* that the company has refused to meet with the union to negotiate a new contract. Pegues has 23 years seniority and is a Phase 3 spray dry operator.

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'Kristallnacht' pogrom in 1938 began Hitler's 'final solution'

BY SETH GALINSKY

Nov. 9-10 is the 85th anniversary of Kristallnacht — the Night of the Broken Glass — the nationwide pogrom that marked a decisive turning point in Nazi Germany's war to exterminate the Jews.

Armed with axes and sledgehammers, with gasoline and pistols, Nazi thugs murdered at least 91 Jews across Germany and occupied Austria and Sudetenland — today part of the Czech Republic — raped hundreds of women; destroyed at least 267 synagogues and 7,000 Jewish businesses; vandalized cemeteries and schools; and destroyed an untold number of homes.

Some 30,000 Jews were seized and sent to concentration camps, where more than 1,000 perished.

The pretext Nazi leaders used
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Join fight against Jew-hatred Support Israel's right to defend itself



Militant/Eva Braiman

Thousands rallied in New York Nov. 6, backing Israel's right to exist and right to defend itself. National march called for Washington Nov. 14 against Jew-hatred, for Israel's right to exist.

Israel and Ukraine: Two fronts for the working class

BY ROY LANDERSEN

There have been two sharp and significant watershed moments in the class struggle that, one after the other, have changed the world. The first was Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, met by the determination of Ukrainian working people to defeat their attacker. The second was the Oct. 7 pogrom in Israel planned by Tehran, Hamas and Hezbollah, and the response everywhere of Jews and other defenders of the right of Israel to exist.

Working people around the world have a big stake in the outcome on these two war fronts, as Israel and Ukraine, and the workers within them, both face a fight for survival.

These historic confrontations have
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BY SETH GALINSKY

Since Teheran-backed Hamas death squads carried out a wave of pogroms, killing over 1,400 Jews and others at an outdoor dance party and at a se-

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

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ries of Kibbutzim Oct. 7, horrifying working people worldwide, Israeli forces have moved to decisively defeat Hamas and render it incapable of further murderous assaults.

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SWP: Join fight to end Jew-hatred, call for cease-fire is support for Hamas



Militant/Josefina Otero

At Fort Worth rally Nov. 5, Alyson Kennedy, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, talked to Margarite Woods, daughter Angel Odife. They subscribed to *Militant*, got two books.

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

The brutal slaughter of over 1,400 men, women and children in Israel Oct. 7 changed world politics forever, shocking millions of working people worldwide.

On doorsteps, union picket lines and at demonstrations against the Hamas pogrom, members and candi-

dates of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Canada, Australia and the U.K. have been joining discussions on the roots of Jew-hatred and the stakes in the fight against it for working people.

"So much hate!" said Rufino Tejada, a retired tailor originally from the Do-

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Overwhelming UN vote calls for an end to Washington's embargo on Cuba

BY TERRY EVANS

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an end to Washington's embargo of Cuba Nov. 2, as it has done each year since 1992.

The economic war waged by every U.S. administration — Democratic and Republican alike — is the "most lasting system of unilateral coercive measures ever applied against any country," Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, Cuba's minister of foreign affairs, told the assembly meeting. Carried out since 1961, it creates "a continuous shortage of food, medicines and other basic supplies."

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Working people face blows from today's unfolding crisis of capitalism

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The Biden administration and its boosters in the liberal capitalist media keep trying to puff up the U.S. economy as improving, thanks to "Bidenomics." They point to some official government statistics, claiming gross domestic product rose 4.9% in the third-quarter, unemployment was only 3.9% in October, and inflation was down to 3.7% in September. But workers know all too well

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SWP has long, proud history in fight against Jew-hatred 7
10,000 rally in NYC in support of Israel's right to defend itself 7
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Construction workers in Australia fight for safety

UN: End US embargo on Cuba

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He pointed to an April 6, 1960, memorandum by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Lester Mallory that proposed the embargo. Mallory called for measures that make “the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

“That is the nature and those are, from its origins until today, the purposes of the economic coercion and maximum pressure applied by the current U.S. government,” Rodríguez said.

Six decades after Democratic President John F. Kennedy imposed the embargo, the Cuban people still refuse to bow to Washington’s diktats. They successfully defeated a U.S.-orchestrated invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. They remained steadfast as the Kennedy administration brought the world to the brink of a nuclear war in 1962 in its drive to topple the Cuban government.

Washington is determined to end the example the leadership of Cuba’s socialist revolution sets for tens of millions in Latin America, the U.S. and worldwide.

Fidel Castro and the July 26th Movement led working people in their millions to conquer political power. They mobilized the toiling population of Cuba to take over the factories, fields and banks, and to run society to meet the needs of the vast majority. They eradicated illiteracy, uprooted racial segregation and organized an unparalleled expansion of women’s participation in all social and economic life. The conditions and lives of millions of working people were transformed, as was their understanding of their own capacities.

Since 2019, under former President

Donald Trump, “the U.S. government has escalated the siege against our country to an extreme dimension,” Rodríguez told the General Assembly. He pointed to “wartime measures to try to prevent fuel supplies to Cuba, stepped-up attacks against Cuban international medical cooperation, and increased harassment of commercial and financial transactions in third markets.”

He said President Joseph Biden has continued these policies.

U.S. Ambassador Paul Folmsbee tried to counter this stark picture, claiming, “U.S. sanctions include exemptions and authorizations relating to the exports of food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.”

“The U.S. government is lying,” Rodríguez said. He described how it blocked U.S. companies from supplying Cuba with medical oxygen when the island’s main oxygen-production plant broke down at the height of the pandemic. Washington also prevented companies in Europe from exporting ventilators to Cuba.

The embargo “curtails the freedom of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba,” Rodríguez said, “and form their own opinion.”

Governments from 187 countries voted for the motion to end the punishing sanctions, with the U.S. and Israel voting against the motion and Ukraine abstaining. Representatives of 44 governments made statements to the assembly condemning the embargo.

“The arbitrary and unjustifiable inclusion of Cuba on list of state sponsors of terror,” said Egriselda López, El Salvador’s ambassador to the U.N., “must cease.”

“Unselfish assistance from Cuba to Saint Lucia, the wider Caribbean and



One million Cubans demonstrated support for their socialist revolution as Fidel Castro read Second Declaration of Havana, February 1962. For more than six decades Washington has carried out an economic war against Cuba seeking to crush gains won by workers, farmers.

globally is legendary,” said Menissa Rambally, the representative from Saint Lucia. “Saint Lucia will always stand with Cuba.”

“Cuba was a steadfast ally of Namibia in our fight for independence,” said Namibia’s ambassador, Audrey Gantana.

Some 375,000 internationalist combatants from Cuba played a key role in defeating repeated invasions of Angola by South Africa’s apartheid rulers between 1975 and 1991. That victory paved the way for Namibia’s independence and the fall of apartheid in South Africa.

Help put SWP Party-Building Fund over the top!

The Socialist Workers Party’s annual Party-Building Fund has two weeks to go, with a goal of raising at least \$140,000 for the SWP to get out its program and activities to working people around the world.

The SWP and its candidates explain that as long as the capitalist rulers hold power, their system of plunder, exploitation and oppression will generate economic crises, increased military conflicts and more wars. Coming on top of Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine, the Oct. 7 pogrom against Jews organized by Tehran and Hamas marks a turning point in world politics.

But most importantly, the imperialist epoch breeds working-class struggle and opportunities for socialist revolution. Workers will have our chance to take power into our own hands before the rulers plunge us into another Holocaust, or third imperialist world war. The SWP exists to build a leadership that can lead the working class to win.

Several SWP branches report big progress in meeting their goals. “We sent out a mailing explaining the deadly danger of Jew-hatred and the class-struggle road forward of uniting working people — Jewish, Arab, Palestinian or Persian — against the capitalist exploiters and their governments across the Middle East,” wrote Andrea Morell, the Oakland fund drive director. “And we got some immediate responses, including some large ones of \$500-\$800.”

“I am intensely proud of and keep learning from the position the party is taking on events in Gaza and Israel,” wrote party supporter Tony Thomas in Miami when he mailed in a fund contribution. “I wish it could be more.”

Now is the time to ask for generous contributions to the fund from supporters, *Militant* subscribers, on the picket lines, at protests against Jew-hatred and for the right of Israel to exist as a refuge for Jews, and on workers’ doorsteps.

Join in the final effort to go over the top by Nov. 21! Contact the SWP branch nearest you listed on page 8.

— ILONA GERSH

THE MILITANT

Working class needs to be able to sustain families

Central to union struggles today is the fight for wages and working conditions that make starting and sustaining a family possible. Only by replacing the profit-driven rule of the capitalist class can we realize the basic conditions of our humanity and women’s emancipation.



Protest against stifling BNSF railroad attendance policy in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2022.

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

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

SWP: Fight to end Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

minican Republic, about the massacre by Hamas in Israel. “There can’t be a cease-fire with a group like that.” He liked the headline in the last issue of the *Militant* saying, “Defend Israel’s right to exist! Call for cease-fire is support for Hamas.”

Tejada was speaking with Seth Galinsky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in New York, and party member Tamar Rosenfeld, when they knocked on his door Nov. 5.

Galinsky told Tejada that there has been a rise in acts of Jew-hatred. “Working people need to build working-class parties in Israel, the Palestinian territories, in the U.S. and around the world,” he said, “that can lead the fight to take power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers.”

Tejada subscribed to the *Militant* and bought three Pathfinder books on special, *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark; *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*; and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?*

“The *Militant*’s coverage of the pogrom against Jews, Israel’s response, rising worldwide Jew-hatred, and the ongoing labor resistance here are helping win individuals to subscribe to the paper,” SWP member Norton Sandler told the *Militant*. “Over the past three weeks, the Los Angeles branch has signed up 45 subscribers and sold many books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries, including *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon. A few subscriptions were renewals, but most were to new readers. Several were sold door to door in Los Angeles and in small towns in the Imperial Valley. Ten were sold to hotel workers fighting for a new contract, five to workers on strike trying to defend their Teamsters local from a union-busting attack, and to bakery and rail co-workers.”

Hollay Tanner, a member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in Canada, and daughter Rayne, met with SWP member Jacob Perasso and Communist League supporters Ned Dmytryshyn and Fred Nelson at a coffee shop in Vancouver, British Columbia, Nov. 5.

“I was worried because I thought the *Militant* might be against the Jews,” she said, “but now I’m very happy that you are not and that you defend the right of Israel to exist and its right to defend itself against attack.”

She said she wanted to learn more about the history of Jew-hatred so she could be more effective in explaining why the fight against it is so important for unions and all working people.

Tanner renewed her *Militant* subscription for six months and bought *The Jewish Question*, *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us*, and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*.

Gabrielle Prosser, SWP candidate for Minneapolis City Council in the 11th Ward, set the record straight after an Oct. 23 article in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* tried to paint the party as a champion of reforms.

“The SWP program is for socialist revolution,” she wrote in a letter the paper published Nov. 3. “Workers everywhere need to oppose Jew-hatred and defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews.” Opposing Jew-hatred “is an important question not just for Jews, but for the working class. Those who champion Hamas today will easily find themselves allied with future fascist forces, who target both Jews and the working class in times of sharp capitalist crisis.”

John Hawkins, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, and party member Jacquie Henderson spoke with Richard True about renewing his subscription to the *Militant* in Cincinnati Nov. 1. “You are back, good! It’s time. I’ve been missing that paper,” said the laid-off autoworker.

Looking at the *Militant* headlines, “Fight Jew-hatred! Support the right of Israel to exist!” True said, “I have been wondering about this, where does all this violence come from?”

Hawkins said, “Jew-hatred is a key part of capitalism. The capitalist rulers can’t solve the deepening crisis of their system. As



Militant/Norton Sandler

SWP campaign table at Nov. 4 rally for striking hotel workers in Los Angeles. The *Militant*’s coverage of the fight against Jew-hatred and support for ongoing labor resistance helped win 45 subscribers to the *Militant* there over last three weeks, including 10 to hotel workers.

their crisis deepens, they try to scapegoat Jews so we won’t organize to rid the world of the real source of our misery — their class rule.”

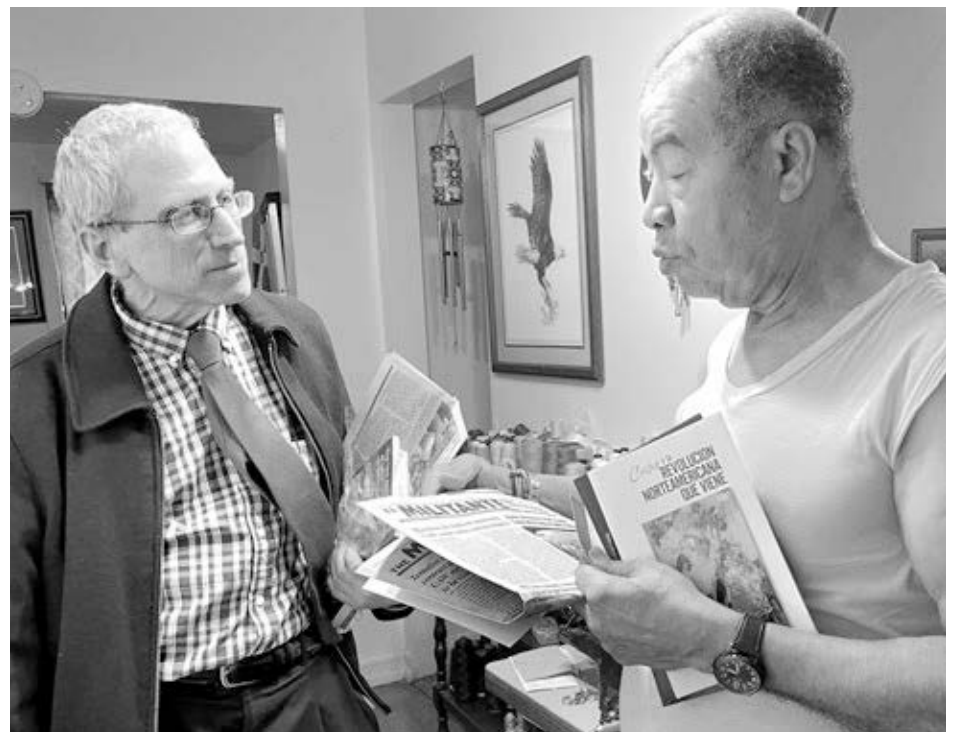
Hawkins added, “This oppression of the Jews is centuries old. Its roots go back to antiquity, as *The Jewish Question* by Leon explains.”

“I never knew any of this history before,” True said after looking through the book. Renewing his *Militant* subscription, he also got *The Jewish Question* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers*

Power by Barnes. “I look forward to our next discussion,” he said.

By the end of week six of the eight-week fall campaign to expand the reach of the *Militant*, we are on target with 1,034 subscriptions sold toward the goal of 1,350. The goal of selling the same number of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders has already been surpassed, with 1,370 sold and more to come by Nov. 21.

To join SWP or CL members in this effort, contact the nearest branch listed on page 8.



Militant/Tamar Rosenfeld

“There can’t be a cease-fire with a group like Hamas,” retired tailor Rufino Tejada, right, from the Dominican Republic, told SWP member Seth Galinsky in New York Nov. 5. Appalled by massacre of Jews in Israel, he subscribed to the *Militant*, bought three Pathfinder books.

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

Sept. 23 - November 21 (week six)

Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	50	44	50	54	\$9,500	\$4,950
Chicago	100	75	100	74	\$14,000	\$8,925
Cincinnati	70	53	70	44	\$6,000	\$3,085
Dallas-Ft. Worth	60	42	60	39	\$5,250	\$2,715
Lincoln	15	12	15	12	\$500	\$502
Los Angeles	110	85	110	83	\$15,000	\$6,188
Miami	45	23	45	25	\$5,500	\$2,530
Minneapolis	70	55	70	44	\$5,500	\$2,401
N. New Jersey	75	59	75	53	\$7,500	\$4,737
New York	100	64	125	84	\$20,500	\$14,158
Oakland	90	80	90	80	\$15,500	\$11,449
Philadelphia	55	34	55	44	\$6,000	\$3,450
Pittsburgh	50	34	50	18	\$6,250	\$2,205
Seattle	75	62	75	28	\$14,500	\$8,167
Washington	50	37	50	25	\$4,500	\$2,902
Other		40		454		\$620
Total U.S.	1015	799	1040	1,161	\$136,000	\$78,984
Prisoners		83				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	45	24	45	38		
Manchester	30	26	30	41		
Total U.K.	75	50	75	79		
Canada	95	82	120	109		
Australia	30	20	30	21		
Total	1,215	1,034	1,265	1,370	\$136,000	\$78,984
SHOULD BE	1,350	1,013	1,350	1,013	\$140,000	\$105,000

DC rally commemorates death of Zhina Amini in Iran

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN
WASHINGTON —

Over 75 people gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for a vigil Oct. 28 commemorating the death of Zhina Amini, the young Kurdish woman who died one year ago Sept. 16 after her arrest by the hated “morality police” in Tehran. She was detained for violating the Iranian regime’s reactionary dress code for women.

Organizers of the event, the National Solidarity Group of Iran, announced the death that evening of Armita Geravand, a 16-year-old

Iranian, also after being accosted by police on the Tehran subway Oct. 1. Her “crime” was also not heeding the dress code. Candles lined the vigil with names of some of those killed during the protests that swept Iran following Amini’s death.

“The Pasdaran, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, has a long history of brutality against the people of Iran,” Latifeh Namini, a participant in the vigil from Falls Church, Virginia, told this *Militant* reporter who joined the action along with other Socialist Workers Party members. “They were used against working people who made a historic revolution there in 1979,” I said, “to brutalize them as the rulers consolidated a counterrevolution.”

“Yes, that’s what happened, and today the government uses them

against the people,” Namini said. “We demand respect for our rights and an end to executions.”

SWP campaigners held signs saying “Solidarity with workers, women, and oppressed nationalities in Iran” and “No to Jew-hatred — For Israel’s right to exist,” and distributed copies of a campaign statement “Fight to win workers power and socialism to end Jew-hatred” by Rachele Fruit, the party’s candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida. Nineteen dollars was contributed to the SWP Party-Building Fund by participants at the action.

“Your point of view is welcomed here,” said Namini, who was promoting an upcoming meeting, “The Impact and Interconnection of the Hamas-Israel Conflict with the Uprising in Iran and the Role of the Islamic Republic.”

Protests demand Mexican gov't account for 43 missing students

BY RÓGER CALERO

Nine years after the 2014 kidnaping and disappearance of 43 protesting students from Ayotzinapa by powerful drug cartels acting in collusion with the Mexican military and police, their relatives and supporters continue to protest and demand answers from the government about the whereabouts of the students or their bodies.

"The army knows it," was a prominent slogan and banner at the Sept. 26 march to the Zocalo Plaza, in front of the National Palace. Thousands took part to condemn the complicity of Mexican authorities in an atrocity that has sparked broad outrage.

Last July the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), a panel invited by the Mexican government to conduct an investigation, presented a report concluding commanding officers of the Mexican army, navy, police and intelligence agencies were all complicit in the 2014 abduction, and had concealed information about where some of the youth had been taken.

The brutal act began Sept. 26, 2014, when municipal police opened fire on buses that the 43 students were riding in, killing three of them. Cops then handed over the survivors to a drug cartel. The trainee teachers were from a rural college in Ayotzinapa and had "commandeered" the buses, a traditional practice in student protests that is largely tolerated, and had never before been met with lethal force by authorities. The students intended to travel to Iguala, in the southern state of Guerrero, to protest against discriminatory hiring practices for teachers.

A trove of 23,000 text messages intercepted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in 2014 was published in the *New York Times* this September. The messages reveal the scope of collusion between drug bosses and government authorities at all levels, down to a city coroner.

Police commanders whose officers kidnapped the students had been taking direct orders from drug bosses who believed rival gangs were using the buses. The abduction happened while army commanders — also on the payroll of the cartels — and military intelligence officers were receiv-

ing constant updates from informants without making any attempt to rescue the students, reported the *Times*.

What followed their disappearance is a sweeping cover-up under the previous government of Enrique Peña Nieto and continued by current President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, known as AMLO. No one has been convicted of the crime.

Charges against dozens of suspects have been dismissed because their confessions were obtained under torture. The GIEI announced in July it was suspending its work after persistent stonewalling from the armed forces and government prosecutors. Late last year a prosecutor who led the case against soldiers' accused of the killings fled the country, saying he fears for his safety.

AMLO protects army brass

"We regret that AMLO's response was to stand for that institution [the army], and not to stand for truth and justice," Emiliano Navarrete, the father of one of the missing students, told the press Sept. 25. A group of parents met with the Mexican president five days earlier to demand that army commanders release all information they have about the case.

"As parents, we will continue in this struggle," said Joaquina García. He was interviewed at an encampment set up by the students' relatives and their supporters in front of Military Camp 1-A in Mexico City.

'Kristallnacht' pogrom in 1938 began Hitler's 'final solution'

Continued from front page

unleash this preplanned brutality was the death of German diplomat Ernst vom Rath. He was shot on Nov. 7, 1938, in Paris by Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old Polish Jew, and died two days later.

Grynszpan had discovered his family had been arrested, humiliated and mistreated, and sent by cattle car without food or water to the Polish border.

On his arrest the teenager said, "Being a Jew is not a crime. I am not a dog. I have a right to live and the Jewish people have a right to exist on earth."

Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party had come to power in 1933, after the Stalinized Communist Party of Germany betrayed the millions of working people who backed it by refusing to stand up to the Nazi thugs. Instead, the CP insisted, "After Hitler, then us."

Kristallnacht marked the beginning of what the Nazis called the "final solution" to the Jewish question — the extermination of all Jews. Jews were sent to concentration camps simply because they were Jews. By the time the Nazis were toppled on May 8, 1945, more than 6 million Jews had been slaughtered.

Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's chief of propaganda, claimed that Kristallnacht was a spontaneous outburst by the German people. That was a lie. Gestapo Chief Heinrich Muller had sent an order to all police offices Nov. 9 saying that "actions against Jews, especially against their synagogues, will take place throughout the Reich shortly. They are not to be interfered with."

Glass shattered by Nazi SS and SA thug attacks on synagogues and other



Cody Copeland/Courthouse News

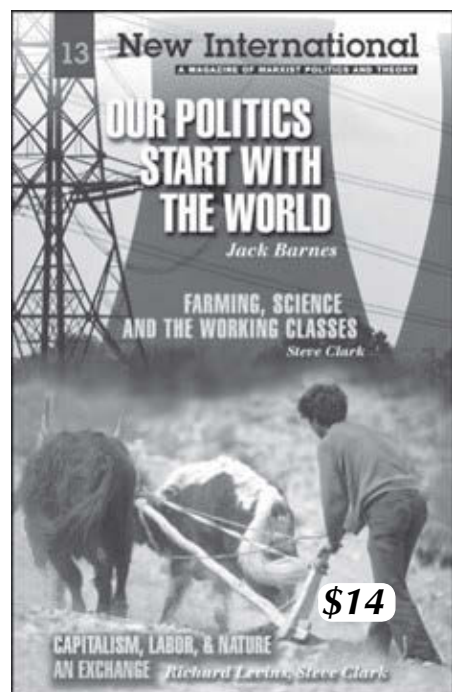
Thousands marched in Mexico City Sept. 26 on ninth anniversary of disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa, demanding answers from government about who is responsible.

López Obrador has defended the military command, claiming it is "incorruptible" and calls the army, "the people in uniform." He tries to cover up the real character and main function of the army under capitalism — to protect the ruling families and repress working people. The fact that the majority of the army's ranks are from the working class doesn't change that. That has been true under every administration.

The repressive record of Mexico's police and armed forces is impossible to hide, no matter how much the López Obrador government tries. This is true whether the issue is the shooting dead of unarmed students protesting state violence in Tlatelolco in 1968; to the "Dirty War" against

trade unionists, peasants and students in the following two decades; to the most recent daily atrocities committed as part of the drug war.

Last June, students from the Mactumactzá teachers rural college in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, and their supporters held a protest in Mexico City to demand authorities drop arrest orders issued against 95 students for blocking a road toll booth as part of protests in 2021. Demonstrators were demanding that placement tests to get into the school be done in person on campus and not online, because the majority of applicants come from rural and indigenous areas and do not have easy access to the internet. The arrests have provoked further protests by students, trade unionists and indigenous organizations.



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buildings and scattered throughout the streets of the country gave the massacre its name. The Hitler regime blamed the Jews for the damage and collectively fined them 6 million marks.

The Nazis banned all Jewish children from public schools. The driver's licenses of Jews were suspended. The Hitler regime imposed an evening curfew on Jews. Jews were prohibited from having firearms or knives.

The Socialist Workers Party responded to Kristallnacht with a statement on the front page of *Socialist Appeal*, "Let the Refugees into U.S.! Open the Doors to Victims of Hitler's Nazi Terror!" "The Brown-shirted monsters do not even bother to conceal their aim: the physical extermination of every Jew in Great-Germany," the SWP said.

"The workers of the United States must take the initiative in a mighty and effective protest against the Hitlerite pogroms."

"Solidarity with those who suffer at the hands of fascism is one of the best ways of establishing, in this country, an unbreakable wall against the advance of American Fascism," the SWP explained.

The party campaigned with the paper, using it to help organize united front demonstrations and educate workers on what was at stake.

Under pressure to open the U.S. border, President Franklin D. Roosevelt denounced the Nazi pogrom, saying, "I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a 20th-century civilization."

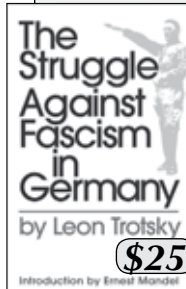
But those were just crocodile tears. Washington kept its border shut to the

Jews, then, throughout the imperialist war, and after.

Fascism is not around the corner in the U.S. today. But a mighty outcry against the pogrom carried out by Hamas Oct. 7 and a strong show of support for Israel's right to exist is decisive in preparing for inevitable battles in the future.

The Struggle Against Fascism in Germany

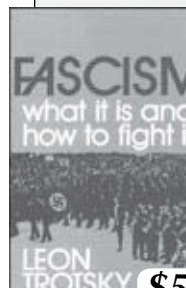
by Leon Trotsky



Writing in the heat of struggle against the rising Nazi movement, a central leader of the Russian Revolution draws lessons from that first successful proletarian revolution.

Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It

by Leon Trotsky



"The historic function of fascism is to smash the working class, destroy its organizations, and stifle political liberties. The advanced workers must know that they will have to fight and win a struggle to the death."

pathfinderpress.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Construction workers in Australia fight for safety

SYDNEY — Chanting “Killer stone — Ban it now!” thousands of construction workers, members of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, marched here Oct. 26 and rallied outside the New South Wales state Parliament.

The protest was called by the union to demand the end of the use of engineered stone, popularly used for kitchen and bathroom countertops. Dust from cutting the stone causes silicosis, a deadly lung disease.

More than half a million workers in Australia are currently exposed to silica dust on the job. The union estimates 103,000 people will contract silicosis in their lifetime, and 10,000 will develop lung cancer, unless production of engineered stone is banned now.

Safe Work Australia released a report Oct. 27 backing the union’s call for a complete ban. The Australian Council of Trade Unions has backed a ban on all stone entering worksites beginning in July 2024.

But state governments refuse to take any action until they meet with the federal government to decide on a “national” response later this year.

The union’s Victorian state secretary, John Setka, called on members to “keep up the fight until the death stone is banned.”

— Linda Harris

UK refuse workers reject wages below inflation, strike for more

WARRINGTON, England — Some 65 refuse workers employed by the Labour Party-led Warrington Borough Council and organized by the Unite union have voted for a third wave of strike action.

Their first set of strike days began Oct. 3, part of a broader fight involving local council workers across the U.K.

The current one was due to end on Nov. 6, but will now resume two days later and run through Nov. 20. The workers on the picket line are determined to win a pay raise higher than

the below-inflation, flat-rate increase of 1,925 pounds a year (\$2,387) offered by the council.

“It comes to a point where we just said, ‘Enough!’ It’s been like this for 13 years,” picket Andy Gudgin told the *Militant*. “We need to be able to sustain our families.”

Gudgin said he recently joined the union, as did some 40 of his co-workers, when the union made it clear it was going to put up a fight.

“Solidarity with the pickets is crucial,” union steward and safety representative Kevin Jolley said. “We’ve been getting support from rail workers organized by the RMT, aerospace workers in Chester organized by Unite and many Unite members and other working people in the area,” Branch Secretary Stefan Thorpe said. The union is handing out a leaflet explaining to area residents why they’re on strike, and many drivers stopped by the picket to get them.

So far 23 Unite union branches in the U.K. have rejected the 1,925-pound increase offered by local council authorities across the country and have voted for strike action.

“Many council workers, from Tower Hamlets to Wrexham [Wales] have balloted to reject the pay offer made to them and fight to win a better deal,” said Thorpe.

In the Tower Hamlets Borough of

Chicago union takes solidarity to Tennessee BCTGM strike

Continued from front page

Phase 3 is one of the highly profitable lines in the plant, producing protein powder that goes into baby food sold by Abbott Industries.

IFF also makes other soy protein products that are used by Nestle, Nestle Purina, Kind Bars and other companies to manufacture pet foods, soy-based nutritional powders and other goods.

Pegues said there are three things the union is fighting for. “One, we want to preserve time and a half for more than eight hours work. Two, we

Hotel workers in Los Angeles area strike, rally for contract



Militant/Deborah Liatos

LOS ANGELES — Chanting “Se ve, se siente, la unión esta presente” and “Unete, unete, a la lucha unete” (“You can see it, you can feel it, the union is here” and “Join, join, join the fight”), hundreds of hotel workers held a spirited rally in front of Le Méridien Delfina Hotel and marched through the streets of Santa Monica Nov. 4 as part of rolling strikes by UNITE HERE Local 11 against 60 area hotels.

“One person now does the job of what three people did before the pandemic. There are less workers and more work,” Arturo Huelzo, who has worked at Fairmount Miramar for 30 years and is in housekeeping, told the *Militant*. “Many people get injured and are sent home without pay.”

— DEBORAH LIATOS

London, striking refuse workers have already secured a higher pay deal as well as an agreement that all refuse workers hired by agencies will be

brought in-house by the end of the year.

Messages of solidarity can be sent to stefan.thorpe@unitetheunion.org.

— Hugo Wils

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 23, 1998

MONTREAL — During the first week of their speaking tour in Canada that started November 1, two young Cubans, Juan Carlos Frómeta and Raiza Rodríguez, met with more than 200 students on campuses here, and 50 delegates at a meeting of the Montreal council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN).

Frómeta and Rodríguez explained the crisis that was provoked in Cuba by the loss of trade on favorable terms with Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union. One impact has been to expand tourism, “which has some very serious consequences,” Frómeta said.

Mass organizations are leading campaigns to politically counter these effects. “The majority of workers in tourism give a part of their tips for social activities,” he said. “In this way we raised more than a million dollars for the fight against cancer.”



November 23, 1973

Across the country the heat is being turned down. And that is in keeping with the spirit of the “energy crisis.” For the energy crisis is a profit-gouging fraud from top to bottom. The main aim of the oil majors is to drive smaller gas retailers out of business. Drive up the wholesale prices and bankrupt the retailers.

Business Week reports that oil industry profits for the third quarter of 1973 were up 63 percent on a 36 percent gain in sales. Exxon’s profits were up 81 percent and Gulf’s up 91 percent. To get at the truth about the “energy crisis,” consumer groups and the union movement should demand that the oil companies’ books be opened for inspection.

It’s time to tear away the mask of secrecy in the oil business. The trusts should be taken out of the hands of the Rockefellers and the others and nationalized under workers’ control.



November 22, 1948

America’s imperialist policy-makers are acutely alarmed over the staggering military reverses suffered by the Chiang Kai-shek regime. The impending downfall of the Chinese Franco is viewed by American Big Business as nothing less than a calamity.

At the end of World War II, American imperialism decided to underwrite Chiang’s regime. With this despot in power, American Big Business saw China, the richest prize of the war, converted into an American colony. But their calculations went awry. Not even American gold and bullets could save Chiang from the disastrous consequences of his rule.

The popular rebellion has grown in scope and intensity. The difficulties faced by Chiang’s armies are immeasurably heightened by the hostility of the population. Washington’s support of Chiang has aroused bitter hatred of America among the Chinese people.

or after work, Pegues said.

Cometris Morgan, vice president of BCTGM Local 390G, joined us on the picket line. He gave an update on the strike.

“IFF is out to break the union. They hope to starve us out,” he said. “This strike is bigger than just us. The outcome will affect all unions. They want takebacks to help line their pockets, while they’re making big profits.”

IFF bosses reported they raked in \$11.7 billion in profits in 2021.

“We don’t have Martin Luther King Day as a holiday, nor Juneteenth,” Morgan said. “Management here takes MLK as a holiday. Where is the respect for us?”

Memphis was an important battlefield in the fight to overthrow Jim Crow segregation and advance the rights of Black workers. It was here where King was killed as he brought solidarity to overwhelmingly Black sanitation workers on strike in 1968. The IFF strikers have won support from the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other civil rights groups.

Pickets carry signs saying, “I am a man,” the slogan of the 1968 sanitation workers strike.

Gubrina Green, a member of the delegation who has worked at the big Tootsie Roll Industries plant in southwest Chicago for 31 years, explained why she made the trip. “I came here with a purpose — to walk the picket line after driving 10 hours,” she said. “I will help anyone who helps themselves.”

IFF strikers need support! Walk the picket line at 4272 S. Mendenhall Road. Organize your co-workers and union to send contributions. Go to www.go-fundme.com/f/bctgm-local-390g-iff-memphis-workers-on-strike.

Join fight against Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

Israeli soldiers are making significant advances against Hamas strongholds in northern Gaza, while supporters of the Jew-hating group worldwide are stepping up their calls for a cease-fire. This would only give Hamas room to strike again and again.

After surrounding Gaza City, the Israel Defense Forces opened up another “humanitarian” corridor Nov. 7. This allowed thousands more Palestinian civilians to get out of harm’s way and head to the southern part of Gaza, as hundreds of thousands did earlier. Hamas has demanded civilians stay put, and fired on and killed some trying to flee.

The Oct. 7 pogrom is the largest massacre of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust. In addition to killing over 1,400 people, thousands were injured, women were brutalized and raped, and more than 240 taken hostage. Hamas took them to deep underground tunnels in Gaza, many underneath mosques, hospitals and apartment buildings.

The pogrom and the response to it by Israelis and working people worldwide marks a watershed in world politics. Jew-hatred is more and more a part of what imperialism has in store for working people as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

Demonstrations backing Hamas around the world have exposed the growth of Jew-hatred among middle-class layers and the “left.” At the same time, the conflict is drawing millions of workers and youth into politics, posing the question, “Which side are you on?”

Hamas: ‘Everything is justified’

Oct. 7 is just the first time, “there will be a second, a third, a fourth. We are the victims of the occupation. Period,” Ghazi Hamad, a member of the Hamas political bureau, told Lebanese TV channel LBC Oct. 24. “Everything we do is justified.”

When Hamad said Israel must be

removed from all “Palestinian lands,” the interviewer asked does this mean the complete annihilation of Israel? “Yes, of course,” he replied.

On Oct. 27, Russia Today asked Qatar-based Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzouk why the group dug over 300 miles of tunnels to hide their combatants and munitions, but not a single bomb shelter for Gaza residents. He took no responsibility for Palestinians there, saying, “Seventy-five percent of the population of Gaza are refugees, and it is the U.N.’s responsibility to protect them.”

Hamas’ strategy has always been to maximize the number of Palestinian civilian casualties so that it can vilify Israel and the Jews and claim “martyrs.” Its goal is to get sympathy and funds from the United Nations and bourgeois regimes worldwide.

Hamas’ central leaders — who are safely ensconced in Qatar and other countries where they live a life of luxury — claim their operation is a huge accomplishment, despite the destruction and thousands of deaths in Gaza.

“We succeeded in putting the Palestinian issue back on the table, and now no one in the region is experiencing calm,” Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya told the *New York Times* in a Nov. 8 article.

Despite claims that Hamas conceived and carried out the pogrom on its own, Tehran and Lebanon-based Hezbollah were essential to the planning and carrying out of the assault.

While the reactionary capitalist rulers in Tehran and their Hezbollah allies in Lebanon helped plan, finance and arm Hamas for the Oct. 7 massacre, they have pulled back for now and seem content to make demagogic statements, while avoiding an expanded war that could devastate them.

Most Arabs in Israel oppose Hamas

Some 20% of Israel’s population are Arab citizens. According to *Yedioth Ahront*, a poll after Oct. 7 showed



AP Photo/Hatem Mousa
Palestinians flee south from Gaza City Nov. 8. To minimize casualties, Israeli forces opened a corridor and encouraged Gazans to evacuate before conducting further military operations against Hamas, which uses civilians as human shields to protect its fighters and weaponry.

that 77% opposed the Hamas assault and just 5% backed it. Some 66% said they support Israel’s right to defend itself, with fewer than 10% opposed.

“The massacre is against everything we believe in, our religion, our Islam, our nationality, our humanity,” United Arab List leader Mansour Abbas, a member of Israel’s parliament, told Arab language Radio Al-Nas Nov. 7.

While the overwhelming majority of the those killed by Hamas were Jews, several dozen Arab citizens of Israel, and Thai, Nepalese and Filipino immigrant workers were also killed and some taken hostage.

Some 20,000 people, including 1,000 Jews, attended the funeral of Awad Darawshe, a 23-year-old Palestinian paramedic from northern Israel, who was murdered by Hamas while treating people at the dance concert that Hamas attacked.

“This is not a religious war. Only the terrorists of Hamas and Hezbollah want to destroy the state of Israel,” Mazen Abu Siam, a Bedouin in Hura, Israel, told France 24.

Actions of the capitalist government often undercut Israel’s own defense. That includes attacks on free speech rights, discrimination against Arab citizens and assaults on Palestinian residents on the West Bank.

Dozens of Arabs have been fired from their jobs or suspended from school since Oct. 7, accused not of carrying out any illegal action, but of expressing sympathy with Hamas or Palestinian rights. Palestinian-Israeli singer Dalal Abu Amneh spent two days in jail and is now under house arrest after posting a Palestinian flag with a Quran verse that said, “There is no victor but Allah.” She was charged with “behavior that could harm public order.”

While the bourgeois-clerical rulers in Tehran and its Hamas and Islamic Jihad proxies would like to establish their authority in the Palestinian West Bank and turn it into another Gaza, most Palestinians there are opposed to inciting a war.

President Joseph Biden says he supports Israel’s right to crush Hamas. But

the U.S. rulers’ expanded military in the region is deployed to defend their own economic and political interests, not to fight Jew-hatred.

Other capitalist powers are looking to do the same.

U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said on Nov. 3 the U.S. is for a “pause.” Others want a more lasting cease-fire.

Cease-fire = support for Hamas

Middle-class radicals and other apologists for Hamas and Tehran are also campaigning for a cease-fire, trying to pose as advocates of “peace.” But for Jews and working people there can be no peace with Hamas.

At a Nov. 4 “peace” march in Washington, marchers chanted “From the river to the sea, Palestine must be free.” This Hamas slogan means — free of Jews.

The veiled and open Jew-hatred that is at the heart of the organizers’ pro-peace and pro-Hamas actions has helped spark a marked increase in physical assaults and threats against Jews on university campuses, against synagogues and elsewhere.

Stop AntiSemitism, a group that publicizes acts of Jew-hatred, says that since Oct. 7 it is getting 500 reports daily, a big increase.

Jewish student groups and other opponents of Jew-hatred are responding. They have organized rallies on campuses and elsewhere against Jew-hatred and in defense of Israel’s right to exist.

This fight is a key question for the working class and the unions as the crisis of capitalism deepens. A Nov. 14 national rally in Washington, D.C., under the theme “Americans March for Israel, March to Free Hostages, March Against Antisemitism” will be an important opportunity for working people and others to take action.

Communist League protests firebombing of synagogue, Jewish Federation in Montreal

“The firebombing of a Montreal synagogue and a Jewish community organization during the night of Nov. 6 is a violent act of Jew-hatred which must be condemned and protested by the unions, civil rights organizations and all supporters of democratic rights,” Steve Penner, organizer of the Communist League in Canada, said in a statement released to the press the day after the arson attack.

Carried out exactly one month since the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre of over 1,400 people in Israel, largely Jews — the deadliest pogrom since the Holocaust — the arsonists attacked the Congregation Beth Tikvah synagogue and nearby Federation CJA office in the Montreal suburb of Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

Penner called for a public outcry to “demand that the police arrest and charge the perpetrators of this terrorist act.”

10,000 rally in New York in support of Israel’s right to defend itself

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — Deborah Kaufmann expressed the sentiments of many here at the Nov. 6 rally marking 30 days since Hamas carried out its murderous pogrom against Jews in Israel. “I came to support Israel’s fight to survive, to demand the hostages be released and to oppose antisemitism everywhere,” she told the *Militant*. More than 10,000 people attended the protest, which was sponsored by major Jewish organizations throughout the city.

“Israel has the duty, the absolute obligation to protect its citizens and its country,” Eric Goldstein, head of the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York, said from the podium. “At the same time, we grieve for the suffering of innocent Palestinian civilians who are also victims of Hamas’ brutality.”

Family members of some of the 240 hostages taken by Hamas were featured speakers. Others who addressed the rally included Gilad Erdan, Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, and U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer. A national rally is being called for Washington, D.C., Nov. 14 around the theme “Americans March for Israel, March to Free Hostages, March Against Antisemitism.”

Brian Zlotnikov, a student at Brooklyn College who works at the Edith and Carl Marks Jewish Community



Gabriele Holtermann
New York rally Nov. 6 protests Hamas massacre, kidnapping of Jews in Israel 30 days earlier. SWP campaigned for unions to lead fight against Jew-hatred, chart course to workers power.

House of Bensonhurst, came to the Nov. 6 action with a large contingent of young people from the center. “The root of the problem is Hamas,” he said. “If Israel puts down its arms, it will no longer exist.”

Zlotnikov said that over the past year he had participated in demonstrations in defense of Ukraine’s fight against the Russian invasion and that the center has organized support for

Ukrainian refugees in Brooklyn.

Beejhy, who is an Ethiopian Jew, attended the rally. She grew up on one of the kibbutzim Hamas ravaged. She asked that her last name not be used. Some 140,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel. “Israel’s not perfect, there is racism,” Beejhy said. “But it’s important to note the diversity of the Jewish population.” She said 20% of the Israeli population is Arab.

Socialist Workers Party has long, proud history in fight against Jew-hatred

BY JANET POST

The Socialist Workers Party has a long history in the fight against Jew-hatred, explaining the stakes for the working class and calling on the unions to take up the battle.

The party traces its continuity in this fight to the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led by V.I. Lenin. Fellow Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky fought to continue the revolutionary course Lenin championed against Jew-hatred and pogroms, against a counterrevolutionary assault by Joseph Stalin.

“Now more than ever, the fate of the Jewish people — not only their political but also their physical fate — is indissolubly linked with the emancipating struggle of the international proletariat,” Trotsky wrote in December 1938. “Only audacious mobilization of the workers against reaction, creation of workers’ militia, direct physical resistance to the fascist gangs, increasing self-confidence, activity and audacity on the part of all the oppressed can provoke a change in the relation of forces, stop the world wave of fascism, and open a new chapter in the history of mankind.”

The SWP adopted a Thesis on the Jewish Question in April 1938, saying

ing that the revolutionary party has a “double duty” in combating Jew-hatred. One, to expose the “real aims of the capitalists,” and two, “mobilizing the real defense of the persecuted Jews, a defense of necessity based on the might of the organized working class.”

On Nov. 10, 1938, the second day of the Nazis’ murderous Kristallnacht pogroms in Germany, the SWP National Committee issued a call: “Let refugees into the U.S.! Open the doors to victims of Hitler’s Nazi terror!”

“The first step of solidarity with the German Jews and the German workers must be a vast outpouring of the workers from every shop and factory and office into a mighty protest demonstration at which labor will give voice to its resounding indignation,” the party said.

Nine days later the SWP joined unionists and others in a demonstration of hundreds in front of the German Consulate in New York, shouting, “Open the doors to the refugees!” and “Only working-class actions can smash fascism!”

“Members and sympathizers of the party have already begun introducing into their unions and other mass organizations” resolutions demanding President Franklin Roosevelt and Congress open the doors to persecuted Jews, the *Socialist Appeal* — the name of the *Militant* at that time — said the same day.

SWP goes on campaign footing

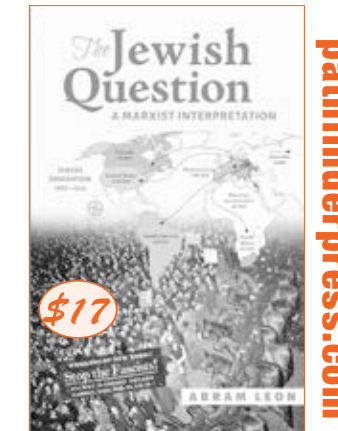
The SWP joined a nationwide campaign by the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees to repeal all laws restricting Jewish immigration. SWP and Minneapolis Teamsters leader Vincent R. Dunne served on the fund’s national committee.

The party campaigned door to door, at union halls, and on campuses, organizing mass meetings coast to coast.

“I’m not Jewish,” Luvita Rosa, a school worker originally from Mexico, said. “I came today because the whole world is affected by what happened in Israel. I want the hostages to come home. Their families are suffering.”

Socialist Workers Party candidates from New York and Northern New Jersey joined the action. “We spoke to people about why the fight against Jew-hatred is a working-class question,” Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for State Assembly in New Jersey, said. “Many at the rally wanted to discuss why we point to the fight for workers power and socialism as the only way to put an end to antisemitism.”

Roy Landersen contributed to this article.



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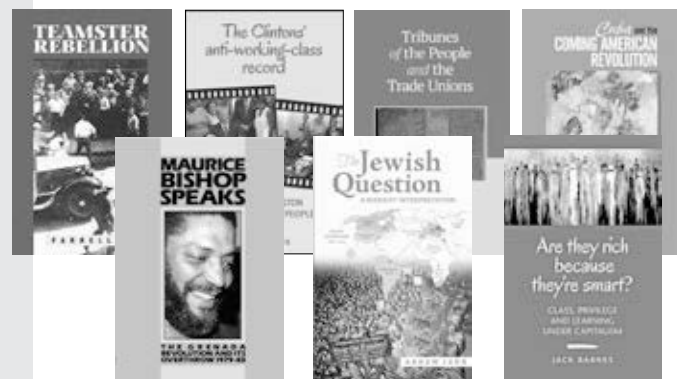
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Nov. 19, 1938, issue of *Socialist Appeal*, as *Militant* was called then. SWP demanded U.S. rulers admit refugees from Nazi terror against Jews in Germany days after Kristallnacht pogrom.

Bolsheviks set example in building a revolutionary workers party

The French edition of *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes is one of the November Books of the Month from Pathfinder Press. It explains that working people will only truly discover our worth as we come together to use our collective power to change society, leading all those exploited and oppressed by capital to challenge the capitalist rulers. It traces the kind of working-class program, composition and course of conduct needed by any party seriously fighting to be revolutionary in the imperialist epoch. That is especially so in the United States as the fight for workers power and socialism faces the wealthiest and most ruthless ruling class in history. The excerpt is from Barnes' introduction to the book. Copyright © 2020 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Petrograd Soviet meets in September 1917 as working-class support for Bolshevik Party expands, culminating in Russian Revolution. Socialist Workers Party is being built along the same course, forging a revolutionary working-class party in program and composition to take power.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JACK BARNES

The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party is about the working-class program, composition, and course of conduct of the only kind of party worthy of the name "revolutionary" in the imperialist epoch. The only kind of party that can recognize the most revolutionary fact of this epoch

— the worth of working people, and our power to change society when we organize and act against the capitalists and all the economic, social, and political forms of their class rule.

This book is about building such a party in the United States and in other capitalist countries around the world. It is about the course the Socialist Workers Party and its predecessors have followed for one hundred years and counting.

"We will not succeed in rooting the party in the working class, much less in defending the revolutionary proletarian principles of the party from being undermined, unless the party is an overwhelmingly proletarian party, composed in its decisive majority of workers in the factories, mines, and mills," emphasized resolutions adopted by the SWP convention in 1938. The party must become "an inseparable part of the trade unions and their struggles." It must be an inseparable part of daily battles waged by the working class and other exploited producers to defend ourselves and our families against the brutal consequences of capitalist oppression.

That orientation — the course of the Bolsheviks under V.I. Lenin in leading the workers and peasants to power in October 1917 — has been our strategic course since a communist party was founded in the United States two years later, along with others affiliating to the

new Communist International. The new party had one sole aim — emulating the Bolsheviks' example. The SWP is the direct descendant of that party.

With the rise of industrial capitalism some two hundred fifty years ago, conflicts between workers and employers increasingly took on "the character of collisions between two classes," explained Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the Communist Manifesto, the founding program of the revolutionary workers movement. In face of the capitalists' cutthroat drive for profits, workers have no choice but to "club together in order to keep up the rate of wages" and resist employers' push to extend the workday and speed up production, with cold disregard for our health and safety. Inevitably, workers "begin to form combinations (trade unions)" against the employing class.

Some two centuries of class-struggle experience have confirmed that such "combinations" take many initial forms — from acts of resistance on the job; to battles against company lockouts; to strikes, organizing drives, and campaigns to expand union power. ...

Over the years since the SWP made what has become known as the turn to industry, the imperialist order has sunk into deeper and deeper crisis: declining profit rates; intensifying global capitalist competition; stagnation in capital investment to expand

plant, equipment, and industrial employment; mounting pressures toward currency wars; and unending military conflicts. Workers and our families face attacks by the capitalist class, its government, and its Democratic and Republican parties, with their "socialist" wings, on our living and job conditions — on our very life and limb. ...

The necessity — and opportunities — for working people, nonunion and union alike, to be bold, to organize ourselves, and to mobilize mutual solidarity have seldom been greater. And necessity is pushing us in that direction. The measure of our success will often not initially be the formation of new and powerful unions fighting for the interests of our class.

It will be the experience and confidence workers gain as we act together.

It will be our increasing political knowledge and consciousness of the employers — and of ourselves.

It will be our pride and our readiness to stand up and be counted as we act together as part of a common class.

And it will be our deeper understanding, explained by Engels as far back as 1847, that "communism is not a doctrine but a movement; it proceeds not from principles but from facts." It is the line of march of a class — the working class — toward political power. ...

In the two great socialist revolutions of the twentieth century — in Russia in 1917, and then some four decades later in Cuba — the centrality of trade unions and the fight to transform them came largely after, not before, the struggle for workers power. But revolutionary-minded workers can't bank on that pattern being repeated in today's world, in which both the level of industrialization and the size and weight of the working class are much larger, not only in imperialist countries but also many others.

One thing we know for sure, however, is that a socialist revolution in the United States is inconceivable *without organizing our class to fight to build unions and to use union power* to advance the interests of working people here and around the world. And the forging of a proletarian party — a revolutionary *political* instrument of the working class, aimed above all at changing which class is exercising state power — is impossible without participating in that struggle.

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NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincoln@gmail.com

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OHIO: Cincinnati: 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038. Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: Dallas-Fort Worth: 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 108 Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfswp@gmail.com

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

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 650 S. Orcas St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 2, First floor, 275 George St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

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

FRANCE

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

UNITED KINGDOM

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

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

Working class must lead fight to end Jew-hatred

Statement by Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, Nov. 8.

In the imperialist era Jew-hatred, which has existed for millennia, becomes an essential tool for the ruling capitalist class to maintain power as working-class struggles grow amid deepening crisis conditions.

Class relations under capitalist rule are based on the exploitation of the vast majority of working people by the propertied few. This breeds working-class resistance. The social catastrophes and wars endemic to this dog-eat-dog system draw workers into politics and, over time, will lead to revolutionary struggle.

Ukrainian resistance to Moscow's genocidal war against both their country and people and Israel's efforts to destroy the capacity of Tehran and Hamas to launch further bloody pogroms are drawing workers there and elsewhere into politics.

In crisis conditions the capitalist rulers must have someone to scapegoat. Jew-hatred is the banner of the reactionary thugs they turn to. The cost for humanity was laid bare by the Holocaust systematically carried out by the Nazi regime in Germany. Its aim was to annihilate the Jewish people across Europe. The rulers in Tehran and their allies in Hamas openly say their goal is to wipe out all Jews in Israel, to repeat the pogrom Hamas carried out Oct. 7 until they succeed.

Fighting to prevent this from happening again is crucial for the working class. The horrors of the 20th century do not have to be repeated, but only if the working class succeeds in building parties of its own

with a leadership capable of mobilizing millions to take political power. Defending Israel's right to exist as a refuge for Jews is a key part of that struggle.

Israel's existence became inevitable as a result of three pivotal developments:

- Counterrevolutionary Stalinist parties in Moscow and across Europe betrayed promising developing revolutionary opportunities in Germany, France and Spain in the 1930s, as well as in Greece and Italy after the defeat of the Nazis. Had workers been led to take power, Jews would have found refuge and opportunities everywhere.

- The Nazi Holocaust, the systematic slaughter of 6 million Jews — 40% of the world's entire Jewish population.

- The criminal actions of the democratic imperialist powers, by the governments in Washington and London, who slammed shut their doors to Jews before, during and after World War II. More Jews saw no alternative but to look to what would become Israel.

In sharp contrast to the defeats led by the Stalinists, working people in Cuba, led by Fidel Castro and the Rebel Army, showed it is possible to make a socialist revolution and to defend it against all odds. Emulating what Castro and the cadre he led did is needed more than ever, in the U.S. and across the globe. It requires building proletarian parties immersed in the class struggle today, forged with the discipline and audacity to lead the fight to overturn capitalist rule, to defend workers' conquest of power with all our might and to join the struggle for a socialist future.

Israel and Ukraine: two fronts for working class

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accelerated tensions and conflicts between working people on the one side and reactionary forces on both the left and right of bourgeois politics on the other. Most importantly, they pose the need for a decisive working-class road forward.

In its attempt to crush the country and people of Ukraine, Moscow has deepened its alignment with Tehran. Many of the Russian drones striking Ukrainian cities in its genocidal bombardment are supplied by Iran's reactionary rulers. The capitalist clerical regime there proclaims it will wipe Jews in Israel from the face of the earth and is accelerating its development of nuclear weapons. And nuclear-armed Moscow has increased its technical help to Tehran.

The Kremlin's hosting of top Hamas officials after Oct. 7 laid the tinder for an attempted pogrom three weeks later against Jews in the majority-Muslim Russian republic of Dagestan. The Kremlin had the nerve to try to frame Kyiv and Washington for this explosion of Jew-hatred.

The Vladimir Putin government's reactionary policies spur the wave of antisemitic threats and violence today. Its repressive response to protests against its war in Ukraine is especially brutal against oppressed nationalities and oppressed regions such as Dagestan.

The Putin regime's course has sharpened tensions with the Israeli government, which until now has been reluctant to support Kyiv or criticize the Kremlin. Israel's rulers have relied on cooperation from Moscow to allow its airstrikes on Tehran's militias and arms shipments across Syria.

"Ukraine and Israel are fighting the same existential war," Olga Frayman, a Jewish member of Minnesota's Ukrainian community, told the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* at a Nov. 2 press conference expressing solidarity with the two struggles. Her parents had moved with her from Ukraine, then an oppressed part of the Soviet Union, after the 1986 nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl.

"Ukraine and Israel are connected because Hamas and Russia are connected," she said. But "the celebrations of the [Hamas] atrocities right here in the U.S., the antisemitic genocidal chants" by campus protesters, she said, mean "they just don't get it. But you know who gets it? The Ukrainians do."

A particular target of Moscow's nightly bombardments of civilians in urban areas is Kherson, hit with 87 guided aerial bombs Nov. 5. Residential buildings were heavily damaged.

The city was captured by Russian forces early in the war. Months of spirited resistance by residents, much of it captured on video, demoralized Russian forces and weakened their occupation. Kherson was liberated by Ukrainian troops a year ago, but it's still in range of Moscow's artillery, missiles and drones.

The unending shelling and bombing has caused a stream of civilian casualties among the less than 20% of Kherson's population still remaining in the city. Moscow's war on the Ukrainian people hasn't forced their submission, so Putin is punishing the population for their resistance. Ukrainian forces have now established a beachhead across the Dnipro River near Kherson, a new foothold on the Russian-held east bank.

Heavy Russian losses

In Avdiivka, in eastern Ukraine, a fierce battle is raging over the bombed-out town just a few miles from the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk.

The Kremlin's high command is sending "meat waves" of poorly armed and trained soldiers against fortified Ukrainian positions. These forces have suffered 5,000 casualties and lost 400 armored vehicles since Oct. 10. There have been mutinies in some units. To try and stem flight, some Russian commanders have ordered retreating soldiers to be shot.

From the north Russian city of Kirov, a recent video appeal to Putin from wives and mothers of soldiers thrown into combat in the Donbas region protests their treatment. "Local commanders used violence and the threat of violence to force the Kirov reservists to conduct bloody attacks across open ground," they say, leaving many killed or wounded.

The Kremlin is trying to keep a lid on growing sentiment among working people against the carnage. Repressive measures have been steadily tightened by imprisoning hundreds of political prisoners.

People across the country opposed to the Kremlin's war in Ukraine and the political repression at home held demonstrations and laid flowers Oct. 30, calling it Political Prisoner Day.

'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

Unfolding capitalist crisis

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this story doesn't describe the real world they face.

"The Economy Is Great. Why Are Americans in Such a Rotten Mood?" asks the Nov. 1 *Wall Street Journal*. Similarly, the news website Vox grappled with "Why a supposedly good economy is making so many people miserable."

In fact, workers face declining real wages, as prices on many family necessities, from groceries to rents to electric and gas bills, continue to rise. While overall price increases have slowed, they still keep going up, with the biggest increases on things we need most.

Over the last year, frozen fruits and vegetables are up 8.1%; sugar, 7.7%; beef and veal, 7%; and bread, 6.1%, to name a few food items.

In the second half of 2022, real wages were about 3% lower than two years earlier, which for the average worker amounts to a loss of nearly \$1,800 a year.

For October, the government reported the labor force shrank by 201,000 — meaning many workers' jobs disappeared. Those still employed who are forced to work more than one job to try to make ends meet climbed to 5.2%, the highest since 2019.

At the same time, the number of workers employed part time who want full-time jobs rose to over 4.2 million, 7.2% of the workforce, the highest in 20 months.

The deepening capitalist crisis is eating away at so-called consumer spending, at least for the working class. A huge container shipping company, A.P. Moller-Maersk, announced Nov. 3 it's eliminating at least 10,000 jobs, because of the drop in production.

Rising house prices combined with high mortgage rates — many at nearly 8% — put getting a home out of the reach of many working people. And rents have gone up by 22% over the past three years, especially forcing young workers either to move in with relatives or friends, or live in their car or on the street.

Capitalist crisis bears down

Tens of thousands of children, many members of recent migrant families, are attending public schools while they're homeless. In New York City this figure reached an all-time high of 119,320 last year. An additional 12,000 students who enrolled in city schools in the last five months live in temporary housing.

Some 1 in 9 New York City students are homeless, more than the entire enrollment in Philadelphia public schools. In parts of the Bronx, the figure is over 22%.

While migrant children can attend public schools, their parents face a myriad of bureaucratic obstacles applying for work permits. Without being able to provide authorities with a stable address, their children are barred from the city's free preschool programs.

Another indication of the depth of the capitalist social crisis is the rise in infant mortality in the U.S., for the first time in two decades. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate rose 3% from 2021 to 2022 — over 20,500 kids. The U.S. rate is double that of many other imperialist countries.

The death rate for women who give birth has also been rising, pushed up by the profit-driven closure of maternity wards and rural hospitals, putting needed and affordable health care out of reach for millions. The two leading causes of infant deaths today are complications during birth and bacterial sepsis, caused by the body's reaction to an infection.

Meanwhile, government officials are promoting the lie that wage raises, many won through union struggles for pay increases to keep up with inflation, are the reason prices keep going up. Average hourly wages rose 4.1% in October over a year ago, reported the Department of Labor, far less than rising prices. And these wage increases have been slowing down since March 2022, when they were near 6%.

This issue was taken up by Karl Marx, a founder of the modern working-class movement in *Value, Price and Profit*, available from Pathfinder Press.

"The general tendency of capitalistic production is not to raise, but to sink the average standard of wages, or to push the *value of labor* more or less to its *minimum limit*," Marx pointed out.

"If wages fall, profits will rise; and if wages rise, profits will fall," he says, "but all these variations will not affect the value of the commodity," which is the bottom-line basis for prices.

So, those who tell us we need to hold down wage increases to prevent higher prices are really trying to justify higher profits for the bosses.