

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Battle of Boston' 50 years ago helped change US class struggle — PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Israel fights for right to exist as a refuge from Jew-hatred

BY SETH GALINSKY

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas and the rulers in Iran announced they had won a huge victory. Thousands of Tehran-backed Hamas thugs crossed the Gaza border into Israel, killed 1,200 people — mostly civilians; wounded thousands; raped and mutilated dozens of women; and kidnapped 250 hostages to Gaza.

It was the largest anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust. The next day, Hezbollah — organized, financed and armed by Tehran — began daily missile and drone attacks on northern Israel “in solidarity” with Hamas. Other members of Tehran’s so-called axis of resistance, from the Houthis in Yemen to militias in Iraq, stepped up attacks on Israel.

Middle-class and student apologists for Hamas around the world rushed into the streets, calling the massacre “wonderful news.”

The Iranian rulers were convinced they had sabotaged the continuing normalization of diplomatic and trade relations between Israel and Muslim gov-
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Strike seeks to extend contract to all Las Vegas hotel workers



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Culinary Local 226 members picket Virgin Hotels Las Vegas Jan. 6. The bosses sent goons to tear down strikers’ banners and signs. “You losers!” pickets yelled. “No contract, no peace!”

BY MAGGIE TROWE

LAS VEGAS — “Give us the same as the other hotels,” pickets chanted in front of Virgin Hotels Las Vegas Jan. 6. Some 700 members of Culinary Workers Union Local 226 — guest-room attendants, cocktail and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks, bartenders and laundry and

kitchen workers — have been on strike since Nov. 15.

Through protest actions and negotiations, the union has won contracts covering its nearly 50,000 members except for the 700 currently on strike, Bethany Kahn, Local 226 communi-
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Ongoing high prices eat away at the lives of working people

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Despite claims by the outgoing Joseph Biden government and liberal big-business media that inflation is now at “acceptable” levels, working people continue to face the scourge of high prices for basic necessities, from food to energy to rent. Wealthy dabblers in Wall Street and their upper-middle-class hangers-on may be comfortable with the prices of their condos and winter homes and other symbols of their status under capitalism, but working-class families continue to be battered.

Grocery prices are 27% higher now than they were five years ago, and for some crucial items they’re much higher. Eggs have soared 81% in the past four years, beef is up 37% and breakfast juices up 32%, to name a few.

Government-calculated inflation numbers, which have ranged from 2.4% to 3.5% in 2024, are based on
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NY meeting celebrates Cuba’s socialist revolution, protests against US embargo



Fidel Castro, center waving, leads Rebel Army Liberty Caravan into Havana, Jan. 8, 1959, week after victory of popular insurrection. “Now the revolution begins,” Castro explained.

BY SARA LOBMAN

NEW YORK — “Under the leadership of Fidel Castro, the Cuban people carried out a successful socialist revolution by uniting working people on the basis of a program that championed their own independent class interests,” Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Róger Calero told some 60 people at a special meeting here Jan. 5. The gathering was a celebration of the 66th anniversary of the Jan. 1, 1959, Cuban Revolution and to demand an

immediate end to Washington’s decadeslong economic war aimed at crushing the Cuban people and overturning their revolution.

“The two most important intertwined accomplishments of the revolution are the transformation of the millions of workers and peasants who became agents of their own emancipation, and the building of a Marxist leadership,” Calero said.

The meeting was sponsored by the New York and Northern New Jersey
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What will Trump as the president mean for working people in the US?

BY TERRY EVANS

As Joseph Biden prepares to turn the presidency over to Donald Trump, his Democratic Party administration leaves working people facing crisis conditions — from sky-high prices for basic necessities to the growing threat of new imperialist wars.

Millions of workers have hopes that the Trump presidency will offer some change in their fortunes. But capital-

ist rule requires that the government, first and foremost, defends the profits and prerogatives of the exploiting class. Workers will continue to face attacks on wages, schedules, health care and job conditions, and bear the brunt of a social and moral crisis that has meant tens of millions struggle to raise a family.

Neither of the bosses’ parties — Democrats or Republicans, Trump or Biden — will take steps to alleviate the pressures capitalism loads on the backs of working people.

The rising number of strikes in recent years shows it’s possible to stand up to the bosses’ assaults. These battles have shone a spotlight on the key place of working-class solidarity in bringing greater union strength to bear. Workers’ class consciousness and confidence in our own capacities have grown. All workers’ struggles are also political bat-
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German gov’t falls as political crisis deepens in Europe

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The government in Germany led by Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s Social Democratic Party collapsed Dec. 16 after losing a confidence vote in parliament. Germany, with Europe’s largest economy, has a caretaker government until new elections Feb. 23.

Scholz’s fractious coalition, which included the Greens and the Free Democrats, came apart the month before. The issue was whether to put aside Berlin’s self-imposed “debt brake” on government spending to provide funds to try to alleviate the unfolding economic crisis there.

Germany’s rulers, and those in
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— On the picket line, p. 5 —

Dallas Black Dancers celebrate settlement victory

Pathfinder titles draw interest at African Studies conference

BY SCOTT BREEN

CHICAGO — The 67th annual meeting of the African Studies Association here brought together over 1,600 academics, authors and others Dec. 12-14. Many participants came from Africa.

Over 350 panel discussions covered politics, economic underdevelopment and other topics. An exhibition hall was set up with booths and displays from 32 publishers, bookstores and other vendors, including Pathfinder Press.

The attractive Pathfinder booth was visited by scores of participants. One, an associate professor of history from Syracuse, New York, had visited Pathfinder's booth at the association's conference two years ago and said she now uses Pathfinder's *Thomas Sankara Speaks* in her classes. She had come by to thank us for our books, as did many other professors.

Titles by Sankara were top sellers, as in past years. A participant from Mali told booth volunteers there is more interest in Sankara today than in the past. "We need a new Sankara today," he said.

Many of the 116 books sold at the booth reflected participants' interest in broad political questions. In addition to Sankara titles, best sellers included *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* and *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning under Capitalism*, both by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes; *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*; and *Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution*.

Some participants bought a stack of

books, like a student from Kenya who purchased *History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky, *Capitalism's World Disorder* by Barnes, *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* and three others.

"I knew you are raising up our honorable leaders like Nelson Mandela. But then I saw that you don't just put their pretty faces on the books to sell them," said Miranda Rivers, a Ph.D. student at Howard University, after looking at the spectrum of titles on the table. "You have books by Lenin and other revolutionaries."

She came back with a friend on the last day and they bought several books, including *In Defense of Marxism* by Trotsky and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. They each got a subscription to the *Militant*.

The booth ran out of several titles, prompting one participant from South Africa who came by on the last day of the conference to exclaim, "I wish I had come here earlier!" She ended up buying *New International no. 5* featuring "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" about Nelson Mandela and the revolutionary democratic struggle to overthrow apartheid rule, along with *How Far We Slaves Have Come* by Mandela and Fidel Castro, and Sankara's *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*. As the curator of a new museum being built at the home of Mandela's birth, she said she wants to order more Pathfinder titles to have available there.

Seven different titles in French were



Militant/Salm Kolis

Many participants visited Pathfinder booth at African Studies Association conference in Chicago Dec. 12-14. Pathfinder volunteer Lisa Rottach, left, introduces *Militant*, books.

sold, as well as one each in Chinese and Arabic. One librarian looked up various titles to see if her library had them, and was surprised to see that they didn't have many. She took a photo of five books, promising to order them.

Pathfinder books came up in several panel discussions. At one on the Congo, Pathfinder volunteer Lisa Rottach spoke briefly about the political legacy of Patrice Lumumba and San-

kara for workers worldwide, and to the internationalism of the Cuban Revolution and how it sent over 250 medical volunteers to join in fighting the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Africa. She encouraged people to come by the Pathfinder booth to get *Revolution in the Congo* and *Red Zone: Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in West Africa*.

Next year's conference will take place Nov. 20-22 in Atlanta.

Los Angeles hotel, airport workers win increase in the minimum wage

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

LOS ANGELES — After many meetings in recent months, the Los Angeles City Council voted Dec. 11 to increase the minimum wage for more than 23,000 workers in the sizable tourism industry here to \$30 an hour by July 2028. These workers at hotels and at the airport, like other workers across the country, are struggling to keep up with rising prices for food, rent and other essentials.

The campaign for the Olympic Wage has been spearheaded by two unions — UNITE HERE Local 11 and Service Employees International Union's United Service Workers West division. Local 11 represents hotel and restaurant workers, including at concessions at the Los Angeles airport.

The SEIU workers also do a variety of jobs at the airport. Los Angeles is hosting the 2028 Olympics.

The joint actions by these unions are important examples of labor solidarity. "It's been a long fight but it's not over. We need more improvement with health care benefits," Lilianna Hernandez told the *Militant*. She works in hotel housekeeping and is a member of Local 11.

"When we work together with our co-workers, when you fight, you win. Last year we were on picket lines six days a week," Hernandez said. "With the circumstances we're living in now, everything is so expensive. If you don't fight, nobody is going to do it for you."

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Fight for rights of women, workers in Indonesia

Fighters for women's rights joined a mass labor rally in Jakarta, Indonesia, Oct. 24. New laws extending overtime hit women workers the hardest, cutting across personal, family time. Contract work in the garment industry, domestic jobs leave millions of women unorganized.



Militant/Baskaran Appu
Indonesian women's group Kalyanamitra hosts Nov. 11 meeting of women workers.

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Celebration of Cuban Revolution

Continued from front page

branches of the SWP. Similar celebrations were organized by SWP branches across the country.

“The example of what Cuba’s toilers accomplished is important today for the millions of workers around the world who are being drawn into politics as conditions of life deteriorate in the face of the worldwide capitalist crisis,” Calero said. “They are looking for ways to fight back. They are learning the importance of extending solidarity whenever fights break out and the need to build a revolutionary-minded leadership of the working class. They will discover through their own experiences the lessons provided by the Cuban Revolution.”

A highlight of the program was when Terry Evans, organizer of the Northern New Jersey branch of the SWP and the event’s chair, read greetings from the Sugarcane Workers Union of the Dominican Republic (see below).

One wall of the meeting hall was covered with an attractive display of photos, including one of the massive demonstration Dec. 20 in Havana protesting the U.S. rulers’ economic embargo. The demonstration, led by Army Gen. Raúl Castro and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, marched past the U.S. Embassy. Other photos highlighted recent labor battles.

Both Calero and Evans gave examples of workers using their unions to stand up to boss attacks. Through these struggles, they pointed out, workers will come to understand the need to break with the capitalist parties and build their own party of labor to lead workers in their millions to emulate the Cuban Revolution.

In addition to Calero, Erika Valencia, a community worker in the Bronx and graduate of the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba, spoke. She explained how as a young art student in Venezuela she had decided that “art can wait, I want to help people.” Against her mother’s advice, she organized to go to Cuba to study medicine. She described how she was won to the Cuban Revolution and how this led her to meet up with the SWP in the U.S.

‘Mobilize, educate, organize’

The program opened with a short video of the Freedom Caravan. One week after Cuban dictator Fulgencio

Batista fled on Jan. 1, 1959, leaders of the victorious Rebel Army crossed the island, from Santiago de Cuba to Havana. “At each stop Fidel described the revolution’s program and goals to hundreds of thousands of jubilant workers, peasants and youth,” Calero said. “Now the revolution *begins*,” Castro explained.

“The new revolutionary government acted to mobilize, educate and organize the people to transform social conditions and property relations,” Calero said. It carried out a massive land reform, organized tens of thousands of young people to eradicate illiteracy in less than a year, and expropriated the factories owned by U.S. and Cuban capitalists.

“Within these advances, women’s social, economic and political status was transformed and the legacy of Jim Crow-style racist discrimination was pushed back,” he said.

From the beginning, the revolution extended international solidarity to those fighting imperialist oppression and exploitation around the world, Calero pointed out. “Castro and the leadership educated working people that the advance of the socialist revolution in Cuba is interconnected with the struggles for national liberation and against imperialist domination worldwide.” And that the road to real independence Cuba had taken was open to working peoples everywhere.

“Six decades later, the U.S. rulers can still neither forgive nor forget the Cuban people and their leadership for making their revolution and for the example they set,” Calero said. “That’s why they continue to seek every opening to destroy the living example of Cuba’s workers and farmers.”

Fight for workers power in the U.S.

The Cuban Revolution had an enormous impact on working people throughout the Americas, especially in the U.S., where it transformed the communist movement, the SWP leader said. “In 1960, Jack Barnes, at the time a student at Carleton College in Minnesota, organized to go to Cuba.” Today Barnes is the national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

“When he returned home he met leaders of the SWP in Minneapolis and described to them how workers he met in Cuba had impressed on him



Militant/Mike Shur

Erika Valencia, a community worker in the Bronx, told Jan. 5 meeting in New York about how she was won to support the Cuban Revolution and met the SWP. Translator at right.

that the most important thing he could do to aid the defense of the revolution in Cuba was to build a workers’ party capable of making a victorious socialist revolution in the U.S.,” Calero said.

“In *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, Barnes explains how through their experiences defending the Cuban Revolution, he and others were won not primarily to ideas or even a moral stance, but to a course of political conduct and, most importantly, to the proletarian habits consistent with it.”

“With a sense of history,” Barnes wrote, “we signed on for the duration, recognizing that the revolutionary fight for power, while an international struggle, can only be waged country by country, and possibly the most satisfying victory of all will be in the United States.”

Today, Calero said, “the SWP continues to fulfill that pledge to build a working-class party here capable of organizing and leading the working class and its allies in a revolutionary struggle for power, opening the socialist revolution in the strongest bastion of world imperialism.”

The Cuban Five

In addition to being the 66th anniversary of the revolution, Calero said, this is the 10th anniversary of the victory in the battle to win the release of the Cuban Five. The five Cuban revolutionaries — Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guer-

rero, Fernando González and René González — had come to southern Florida to gather information on paramilitary forces there with a long history of organizing terrorist attacks on Cuba. The FBI framed up the five in 1998 on charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage.

After a 16-year international campaign to win their release, Hernández, Labañino and Guerrero returned home as heroes on Dec. 17, 2014. Fernando González and René González had returned home earlier after serving their sentences. The SWP played an important role in the yearslong fight to win their freedom, Calero said. The program ended with the video of their return to Havana.

Participants came to the meeting from New York City and Albany, New York; New Jersey; Philadelphia; and Boston. Mamadou Bah, a worker in New York originally from Africa, said he was struck by Valencia’s description of how what she found in Cuba was different than the lies she has been told about the revolution.

“It’s important that the SWP teach people the truth about Cuba,” he said, noting, “Many doctors in my country studied in Cuba also.”

People came early and stayed for well over an hour after the meeting to take advantage of a delicious buffet of food and drink, look at books by leaders of the SWP and the Cuban Revolution, and to discuss politics.

Greetings to NY meeting from Sugarcane Workers Union of Dominican Republic

The following greetings were sent by the Sugarcane Workers Union in the Dominican Republic to the New York meeting.

To the compañeros of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

The Sugarcane Workers Union in the Dominican Republic salutes the 66th anniversary of the 1959 triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

The workers in the sugarcane plantations, like the Socialist Workers Party, commemorate this anniversary and pay tribute to Commander Fidel Castro, who accomplished the establishment in our America of the first, and until now, only socialist state.

Compañeros of the Socialist Workers Party, the sugarcane workers feel that we are present in this event you are celebrating in New York, because

we value the theoretical and practical contributions you make through Pathfinder’s publications.

On the 66th anniversary of the Cuban Revolution we say:

A resounding No to the blockade against Cuba!

Long Live the Cuban Revolution!
Long Live Fidel!

Unión de Trabajadores Cañeros



Democrats move to restrict ballot access in New Jersey

In a serious assault on constitutional rights, the New Jersey state Assembly voted up a bill Dec. 19 that would more than double petitioning requirements for the Socialist Workers Party and others who aren’t candidates of the bosses’ two main parties, the Democrats and Republicans, to get on the ballot. The proposal will go to the state Senate when it resumes meeting Jan. 14.

The bill would raise petitioning requirements from 800 to 2,000 for statewide offices. It increases signatures from 100 to 250 for the U.S. House of Representatives and the state legislature. All “yes” votes came from Democrats; all “no” votes from Republicans.

Partisans of the bill smear the SWP and other parties affected by the proposal, as well as working people who vote for them. In a statement to the Senate they claim, “Too many unserious and frivolous candidates that lack support from their community complicates ballot design and provides an opportunity to confuse and misdirect voters.”

The bill follows moves by Democrats across the country in recent years to make ballot access more restrictive. This places an extra obstacle to unionists seeking to build a party of labor to contest for political power.

“The senate should reject this bill,” said Joanne Kuniandy, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from New Jersey in the 2024 elections. Kuniandy led the successful effort to win ballot status in the state, as well as ballot status for Rachele Fruit, the party’s candidate for president, and Lea Sherman, SWP candidate for Congress last year. Kuniandy was credited with 9,806 votes.

— TERRY EVANS

'Battle of Boston' 50 years ago helped change US class struggle

BY SUSAN LAMONT

This school year marks the 50th anniversary of the hard-fought struggle for school desegregation in Boston.

"Thousands of white students boycotted classes and white mobs took to the streets in an attempt to thwart court-ordered school desegregation. Black students arriving by bus at South Boston High School, where opposition to court-ordered busing has been strongest, were greeted by a threatening mob of 400 who screamed, 'Niggers go home!'" the *Militant* reported Sept. 27, 1974.

"As the buses carrying Black students left South Boston High at the end of the first day, bands of white youths heaved rocks, bottles, and pieces of pipe at the buses. Nine Black students and a bus monitor were injured by flying glass," the paper reported.

On June 21, 1974, a ruling had been issued in a lawsuit filed by the NAACP. Federal District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity ruled for the plaintiffs, holding "the entire school system is unconstitutionally segregated." The whole school setup had to be dismantled, and a new system, which included some busing, was to start in September.

Opponents of desegregation formed an organization called ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights), whose chief leader was Louise Day Hicks from South Boston. Hicks and other Democratic politicians had long controlled the Boston School Committee, City Council and mayor's office.

The struggle in Boston had its roots in the massive civil rights battles of the 1950s and '60s, which ended Jim Crow segregation in the South. Those victories transformed social relations and strengthened working-class unity ever since. They inspired struggles against de facto segregation in the North, including in Boston.

Boston's population in the mid-1970s was 17% Black and 7% Puerto Rican. Every member of the City Council and School Committee was Caucasian. South Boston was "occupied mainly by working-class Boston Irish, many of whom depend on connections with the Democratic Party machine for petty favors and generally unskilled jobs in city departments," veteran Socialist Workers Party leader Fred Halstead wrote in the *Militant*.

As the Boston desegregation fight

began, working people faced the consequences of the 1974-75 worldwide recession, the deepest since the 1930s. No capitalist politician presented any solutions to unemployment or other issues facing working people in Boston. Instead, they tried to whip up a campaign of racist hysteria against the small Black community as a diversion from the real problems working people confronted.

On Oct. 7, with the violent attacks against busing underway, South Boston was also the site of the savage beating and near-lynching of Andre Yvon Jean-Louis, a maintenance worker originally from Haiti.

Two days later, at a news conference in Washington, D.C., President Gerald Ford gave a green light to the racists by speaking out against Garrity's desegregation order, as did many other capitalist politicians.

As weeks passed and vicious attacks continued, Black students showed courage and cool-headedness. Speaking at one of the first demonstrations to defend school desegregation Oct. 13, 13-year-old South Boston student Tanya Poe told the crowd, "My cousins came home the first and second days all bloody. People don't want us to stay, but we're not going to run." No Black student had ever attended South Boston High before.

Desegregation fight grows

Defenders of Black rights and the interests of the entire working class decided a response had to be organized. A group of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergy called a march for Nov. 30 that gathered support from the NAACP, college students and others. Led by Coretta Scott King and her children, the march drew 2,500 people, a highly visible answer to ROAR and the racists.

On Dec. 14 some 12,000 people poured into the streets of Boston behind a huge banner reading, "Racists don't own the streets of Boston! Desegregate Boston's schools!" The Student Committee for the Dec. 14 National March Against Racism, organized with the help of the Socialist Workers Party, mobilized hundreds of marshals to defend marchers and assure it was peaceful.

The previous day the Student Committee organized a large and successful teach-in at Harvard University.



AP Photo/Frank C. Curtin

Over 12,000 people marched in Boston Dec. 14, 1974, part of fight to desegregate the schools and end racist attacks on Black students. Actions dealt a blow to anti-working-class forces.

Next they called a Feb. 14, 1975, conference, which voted to set up the National Student Coalition Against Racism, NSCAR. At the gathering, Boston NAACP President Thomas Atkins called for the next mass action for desegregation and to defend the courageous Black students being bused into South Boston and other schools to be held May 17.

An overwhelming majority of the 2,000 conference participants backed the NAACP proposal and mapped out a spring campaign to build the action. Working with the NAACP, veteran civil rights fighter Ruth Batson and other Black leaders, NSCAR mushroomed in Boston and many other cities.

Fifteen thousand people turned out in Boston May 17 for the NAACP march, showing the potential for expanding the fight. It was beginning to win more supporters and shifting social attitudes in the working class.

Desegregation struggle falters

After the May 17 march, however, the struggle was pushed back. Emboldened by government inaction, predominantly led by Democrats like those who controlled the city government in Boston, the anti-busing forces carried out an attack on Black families picnicking at Carson Beach, organized racist rallies, staged walkouts by many Caucasian students at South Boston and other high schools, called boycotts, firebombed the NAACP offices and more.

To answer the ongoing campaign of anti-Black terror, NSCAR and a number of Black community leaders called a much-needed demonstration for April 24, 1976, and worked to broaden support for the action.

But the mood of fear and hostility in the city, generated by the unrelenting racist assaults, continued to grow. As tensions mounted and April 24 neared, a number of figures in the Black community withdrew their support.

Taking responsibility for the safety of the Black community and other supporters of desegregation across the city, march coordinator and NSCAR leader Maceo Dixon and 10 Black community leaders held a press conference April 21 announcing the march was postponed. Responsibility for the decision, Dixon said, "rests with Mayor Kevin H. White, City Council President Louise Day Hicks, Gov. Michael Dukakis and President Gerald Ford."

Despite this setback, NSCAR and other desegregation fighters continued to be active in Boston, including organizing ongoing defense of the youth

being bused, and urged further mass actions. But middle-class-led organizations like the NAACP, Urban League, Operation PUSH and others who looked to the Democratic Party held sway in the Black community, preventing any new mass protests from being planned.

In spite of this, the racist opponents of desegregation were fought to a stand-off. On June 14, 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to take up a challenge to the Boston desegregation decision. Efforts by President Ford and others to get the Supreme Court or Congress to implement a national ban on school busing for desegregation also fizzled.

Working-class consciousness changes

The 1974-75 recession led employers to deepen their attacks on working people. Workers everywhere began to look to the unions to chart a road to defend their class interests. "This changing consciousness came on top of deep-going shifts in attitudes as a result of the civil rights and Black Power movements, the anti-Vietnam War protests, and the new wave of women's rights fights in the 1960s and 1970s," SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes said in a report to the party's 1979 convention.

These shifts, along with the impact of the desegregation fight, were reflected in changes for the better at South Boston High and other schools in Boston.

Ten years after Garrity's 1974 order, South Boston High was 40% Black, 30% Caucasian, 16% Hispanic and 13% Asian, overwhelmingly children of the city's working class.

The absentee rate had fallen to one of the lowest of any school in the city, the dropout rate fell and reading and math scores went up. "When I first came here" in 1976, "everyone hated me. I was the enemy," Headmaster Jerome Winegar told the press in 1985. Now, on the wall of my office is a certificate saying, "Thank you for making us proud of our school — The Graduating Class of 1980."

Instead of 140 cops patrolling the school, security was now organized by six people recruited from the area's neighborhood watch. The senior class president elected in 1981 was Black.

The Battle of Boston played an important role in strengthening and advancing the unity of the U.S. working class. Further advances will require a challenge to the inequities of capitalist rule.

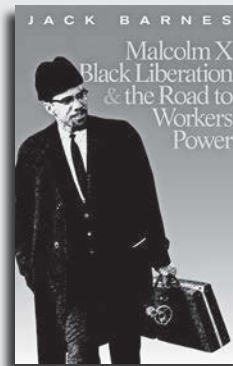
Susan LaMont was the organizer of the Socialist Workers Party's Boston branch during the height of the desegregation struggle.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes

Drawing lessons from a century and a half of struggle, this book explains why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom. — \$20

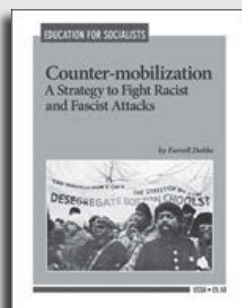
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Counter-mobilization: A Strategy to Fight Racist and Fascist Attacks

by Farrell Dobbs

Education for Socialists Bulletin — \$5



pathfinderpress.com

LA hotel, airport workers win

Continued from page 2

Lorena Mendez, who works at LSG Sky Chefs, had to move out of the city because housing costs have climbed so high. She and her three daughters now live in Bakersfield. She said she sleeps several nights each week at family members' homes here to avoid the over 100-mile commute each way.

UNITE HERE Local 11 members recently won improved contracts after hard-fought strikes at dozens of hotels. They will expire about six months before the 2028 Olympics.

Both unions have organized rallies and led marches of hundreds of workers at the airport and outside City Council meetings to press for a wage raise. They've waited patiently for hours to speak to the council, describing their struggle to pay for child care, housing and meals.

"We have been fighting for this. We're looking for a positive outcome," Rheema Sierra, an SEIU member who has worked for 14 years as a wheelchair attendant at the airport, told the *Militant* as she waited in line before the council voted on the new contract.

"I'm glad they came to their senses finally," Jovan Houston, a Los Angeles airport customer service agent, told the *Los Angeles Times* after the contract was adopted.

The minimum hourly wage for hotel and airport workers will go up in increments of \$2.50 per year, starting at \$22.50 in July 2025 and reaching \$30 in July 2028.

Housekeepers, desk clerks and other hotel employees will see a 48% hike over three and a half years, compared with the \$20.32 per hour currently set under the city's hotel minimum wage law. They will also receive a \$8.35 per hour payment to cover health care costs, up from \$5.95.

Those increases will apply to workers in hotels with at least 60 rooms.

Skycaps, cabin cleaners and many other workers at Los Angeles International Airport will see a nearly 56% increase in their minimum wage by July 2028, which currently is \$19.28 per hour.

Bosses at the hotels and companies

that organize workers at the airport claimed at the hearings that they can't afford the wage increases and threatened to scale back operations and eliminate jobs.

"We consider the vote by the City Council to raise the wage a big victory," Sonia Ceron, a member of UNITE HERE 11 who works at Flying Food Group, told the *Militant*.

"We have been fighting for more than a year for a contract. On the job we organize delegations of workers to go to the company to negotiate for workers and around conditions of work."

Deborah Liatos is a restaurant worker at Los Angeles airport and member of UNITE HERE Local 11.



Militant/Bill Arth
UNITE HERE Local 11 members at press conference at InterContinental Hotel in Los Angeles March 25 celebrate victory after contracts ratified with substantial wage increase at 34 hotels.

Strike aims to extend contract to all Las Vegas hotel workers

Continued from front page

cation director, told the *Militant*.

These new agreements include a 10% wage increase in the first year and 32% in raises overall over five years. Before the new contracts, wages for union hotel workers here were around \$20 an hour.

The owners of Virgin Hotels Las Vegas offered an insultingly low raise, provoking the strike. "They offered us 30 cents, when the pattern at other hotels is \$9 over five years," Rudy Royal, organizer of Bartenders Union Local 165, told the *Militant*. That local, another affiliate of UNITE HERE, is also on strike.

Virgin has brought in replacement workers and is paying them generously, workers say. "Some people are getting paid \$300 a day and yet the company refuses to pay us the raise we deserve," hotel worker Isabel Sanz told Channel 8 News Jan. 4 during a union-organized "Noche Cubana" fiesta. It celebrates the culture of some of UNITE HERE's Nevada membership, which includes workers from 178 countries who speak 40 languages.

Virgin owners have refused to negotiate, demanding instead that the union agree to binding arbitration. "We have never settled a strike or con-

tract dispute by arbitration in the history of Las Vegas," Ted Pappageorge, the secretary-treasurer of Local 226, said Dec. 29.

Virgin Hotels are owned by three Canadian groups — Fengate Asset Management, Juniper Capital and the \$8 billion LiUNA Pension Fund of Eastern and Central Canada, run for the Laborers Union. Strikers have appealed to LiUNA for support.

Two casino porters on the picket line, Maria Gómez, 50, and Martha Violante, 49, who both clean slot machines, bathrooms, restaurants and the swimming pool, told the *Militant* they were optimistic. "We hear the hotel is dirty, all the restaurants

are closed, and the union drummers' noise is bothering guests," Violante said. Gómez, who started six months ago, walked out on strike right after completing probation.

Union members from other hotels and restaurants volunteer on the picket line, which is up 24/7. They invite everyone to join in. Messages of solidarity and financial contributions can be sent to Culinary Workers Union Local 226, 1630 S. Commerce St., Las Vegas, NV 89102, or emailed to online@culinaryunion226.org. Online contributions can be made on the United Labor Agency of Nevada's "Support the Virgin Las Vegas Striker Solidarity Fund" website.

— ON THE PICKET LINE —

Dallas Black Dancers celebrate settlement victory

DALLAS — The Dallas Black Dancers, who were all fired for joining the American Guild of Musical Artists, have reached a \$560,000 settlement with Dallas Black Dance Theatre bosses. On Dec. 9 the union described the settlement, which included an apology by the theater's board of directors, as "historic in scope."

The 10 dancers, who joined the union in May, were fired Aug. 9. Throughout the fight, they and their supporters kept the pressure on the dance company, with picket lines outside the theater's performances using replacement dancers.

In early December the National Labor Relations Board charged theater owners with dozens of unfair labor practices.

The dancers had planned to host a performance to raise strike funds Dec. 18-19. They turned it into a celebration.

Reflecting the wide support the dancers won, both performances were sold out. Members of the dance and art community, members of area unions, community supporters and family members of the dancers filled the seats.

Terrell Rogers Jr. one of the fired dancers and choreographers, told the *Dallas Morning News* that this can open the door for a new era to emerge. "An era where dancers felt safe, where dancers felt heard, where dancers were compensated properly."

"What's happened at Dallas Black Dance Theatre has sent 'ripple effects' across the dance industry," New York-based costume designer Erica Johnston told the *Morning News*. "It does send a message to other artistic leadership that dancers are not disposable."

As part of the settlement, none of the fired dancers decided to return to the dance company. "While this settlement allows our lives to go on," the dancers said in a joint statement, "we recognize that the fight for accountability and justice at DBDT is far from over."

— Josefina Otero

— 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

January 17, 2000

Leading up to the new millennium, Washington issued a number of "worldwide terrorism warnings" as it beefed up the cops at its border. In the name of combating "Islamic terrorism," the U.S. rulers show utter contempt for established legal and civil rights. Slander, innuendo, paid informers — all have been used in the absence of evidence.

The rulers want us to assume that those rounded up are guilty who must prove their innocence. But you're innocent, innocent, innocent — unless they can prove you're guilty.

The labor movement needs to take a stand alongside these immigrant worker allies to help organize them in political action. This is the road forward toward overcoming the divisions fostered by the rulers that weaken our ranks. "We" is working people the world over who are exploited and oppressed by "them" — the billionaire ruling families.

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

January 17, 1975

One of the fastest growing, most profitable sections of the medical industry is the nursing-home racket. Since Medicare and Medicaid funds became available in 1966, the number of private, profit-motivated nursing homes has nearly doubled.

Susan Jacoby wrote an article for the *New York Times Magazine* in which she painted a chilling picture of the conditions found in 50 nursing homes she visited. She found patients lying in dark rooms, many of them in their own body wastes (one home charged \$11 a month extra for linen), and old people sitting in chilly corridors, staring off into space.

What then is the answer to this problem? There is only one answer, and that is to provide free, quality health care for all. Good health is the right of everyone. But that right will only be realized when all profit is taken out and care is put back in.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

January 16, 1950

Probing for a vital spot in the mine owners' solid front, the coal miners on Jan. 9 began striking at the "captive" pits of the major steel companies which have been the main hold-outs in the seven-month battle of the United Mine Workers for a new and improved contract. The struggle appears headed for a showdown. Since the first of the year, the offensive against the miners has been mounting in intensity.

Time and again the miners' militant methods have won gains that have spurred the rest of labor to action. Above all, the miners have relied on their own strength.

The miners are in great danger. If they suffer a defeat, the whole front of the labor movement will be exposed to attack. To turn the tide in the miners' favor requires massive intervention by the rest of organized labor. The impulse for this will come from the union ranks.

Crisis in Germany, EU deepens

Continued from front page

France, the European Union's second largest power, are both in political disarray with their economies mired in stagnation and debt. Berlin is wrestling with a foreign policy crisis as instability from Moscow's war against Ukraine wreaks havoc. Competition with their rivals, especially the rulers in the U.S. and China, is sharpening over markets and resources. And working people across Europe are resisting the rulers' efforts to saddle them with the burden of a crisis not of their making.

For decades the ruling families in Germany, and to a lesser extent in France, have used their domination of the EU to enrich themselves on the backs of working people, especially by squeezing their weaker rivals in Greece, Italy and elsewhere in southern Europe.

As the worldwide 2008 financial crisis unfolded, German and French finance capital demanded the rulers in Greece and elsewhere resolve their skyrocketing debt by deep social spending cuts, forcing working people to shoulder the burden. Now those economies are faring better than their northern neighbors.

France's fourth government in a year was sworn in Dec. 23. A political deadlock has deepened since President Emmanuel Macron called snap elections in June, which left no party with a majority.

Putin's war fuels Germany crisis

In the wake of the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin, capitalist powers across the globe, including Berlin, have pushed to strengthen their militaries. Their goal is to position themselves to defend their sources of raw materials, export markets and profits at the expense of their rivals.

The German rulers can no longer simply rely on the U.S. nuclear umbrella and the NATO alliance to defend their interests.

Berlin is the second-biggest supplier of arms to Ukraine after the U.S., but has resisted Kyiv's repeated requests for long-range missiles. Washington redeployed cruise missiles in Germany last year, a move that won cross-party support in Berlin. But one Social Democratic Party official noted, "We are entering a spiral in which the world is becoming increasingly dangerous."

Scholz and his main opponent, Friedrich Merz, leader of the Christian Democrats, are sharply divided on foreign policy. Merz said his rival justifies his half-hearted support to Kyiv by fanning "fears of war," while Scholz accuses Merz of "playing Russian roulette with Germany's security" by issuing ultimatums to Moscow.

Scholz calls Merz and former coalition partner Robert Habeck, leader of the Greens, "hotheads" who could drag Berlin into war with Moscow. At the same time, Scholz's defense minister, Boris Pistorius, is pushing to expand Germany's debt to pay for a more rapid military buildup. "If Putin attacks, we need to be able to wage war," he said Dec. 21.

Since Moscow invaded Ukraine, Washington has boosted its standing troops deployed in Germany to 50,000. And it stores nuclear weapons at one of its two air bases there. Thousands more U.S. forces now rotate through Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

Amid the capitalist crisis, which hits workers in eastern Germany especially hard, the Alternative for Germany, a more conservative bourgeois party, has gained popularity. Liberal commentators and the middle-class left see all politics as a left-right divide, bemoaning the growing strength of the "far right" across Europe. They are incapable of seeing the underlying class antagonisms deepening today.

Layoffs, union actions grow

For decades German industry was dependent on cheap gas imports from Russia. Putin's invasion of Ukraine brought this to an end. Berlin's transition to shiploads of liquefied natural gas caused a 40% jump in prices.

Electricity prices in Germany are now the highest in Europe. Power prices in the EU are almost double those in the U.S. and China, both of which rely on coal and gas. As part of the German rulers' drive for a "green" future, Berlin shut its last three nuclear power plants in 2023 and plans to phase out coal-generated power. Many Germans now use a new word to describe winter power shortages when the country's solar and wind power wanes — *Dunkelflaute* or dark doldrums.

Amid weakening global markets, falling profit rates and intensified competition, capitalist powers are looking to wield retaliatory tariffs. The EU is now raising protectionist barriers at the fastest rate in 15 years.

Since 2018, industrial production has



Philipp Schulze/German Press Agency

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, and Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, center, at Rheinmetall tank factory, Feb. 12, 2024. Moscow's war in Ukraine, military rearmament by rival capitalist powers preparing for more wars have deepened political crisis of German rulers.

shrunk by over 12% in Germany, the world's third-largest exporting nation. Bosses there responded by announcing plans to slash more than 60,000 jobs, which triggered strikes and protests by the unions. These cuts are centered in the auto industry.

Thyssenkrupp, Germany's largest steelmaker, says it will cut 40% of its workforce of 27,000 by 2030. Bosch, the huge car parts supplier, plans to lay off up to 10,000 workers. Germany's auto industry faces deepening competitive pressures, especially from China.

Thousands of German workers mounted nationwide strikes to press for higher wages Oct. 29. Unionists walked out at Porsche, BMW and Mercedes.

Over the past five years Volkswagen's sales dropped by 50% in China,

its most profitable market, and by about 500,000 cars in Europe. VW bosses recently announced plans to shutter several German plants in the name of "long-term competitiveness."

German autoworkers held walkouts and rallies twice in December, and their unions threatened a larger strike if the bosses carry through on the closures and layoffs. Scholz and other politicians said they oppose any factory closures, at least before the coming elections.

The VW bosses responded by reaching a deal. Union officials agreed to pay cuts for workers in exchange for "capacity reduction for the German factories but no closures." VW now says it will cut 35,000 jobs over the next five years through retirement and voluntary redundancies.

Daily Georgia protests: 'Down with pro-Moscow gov't'

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

There is overwhelming support inside Georgia for the weeks of large protests there demanding a new election — and for the unwavering determination by demonstrators not to back down. Under this pressure, the government has pulled back from its earlier brutal assaults on the daily actions in Tbilisi, the capital, and elsewhere.

Demonstrators have taken full advantage of this opening they've won, with thousands of Georgians from all walks of life filling the streets: workers, students, parents, immigrants, as well as nationally known artists who perform at the rallies in front of the country's parliament.

Some 200,000 people, about a sixth of the population of the city, took to the streets Dec. 1 after the unpopular pro-Moscow Georgian Dream party government announced plans to put off talks on joining the European Union until at least 2028. It was the largest demonstration in the modern history of this county of 3.7 million. The protests began after Georgian Dream claimed a narrow victory in the October parliamentary elections, which many viewed as rigged.

"Now the government police have backed down," Ruso, a demonstrator in Tbilisi, told the *Militant* Jan. 1. "They tried to scare us, but the violence drastically increased the anger and the number of people willing to protest."

Over 1,800 Georgia businesses, including leading supermarket chains and communications and transportation companies, have signed a petition calling for new elections. More are expected

to join as the political crisis fueled by Georgian Dream's foreign policy and police repression continues to disrupt the economy. The TBC Bank has been buying tickets for cultural events to support artists who have gone on strike.

Singers, dancers join protests

According to the Guild, a trade union that organizes theater professionals, 90% of its 550 members are on strike. Over 100 Georgian musicians released a joint manifesto saying, "We, musicians, protest against the illegitimate government. We go on strike and refuse to participate in any state event." They called for a new election and condemned the state violence.

One of the first to sign the manifesto was nationally renowned jazz singer Nino Katamadze, who performed for protesters Dec. 4. A staunch defender of the sovereignty of both Georgia and Ukraine, she was given an award by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for her support.

At a demonstration of tens of thousands Dec. 21, hundreds of protesters joined a performance of the Khorumi military dance led by the Sukshishvili National Ballet. The dance symbolizes national unity and resistance against common threats.

Polyphonic Georgia, a large group of musicians, performed for demonstrators Dec. 27, as did Georgian opera star Anita Rachvelishvili.

"Unlike earlier, when we worried about our parents joining in," Ruso told the *Militant*, "there are protests every day now and sometimes it's a parents' march, or a grandparents' march. Uni-

versity students and professors join in. Every evening, as people leave work, the crowds get larger."

On Dec. 25 a large group of Armenians, Azerbaijanis and other national minorities living in Georgia joined the protests in what was called the Unity March. "Ukrainians, even though they struggle to make a living here, are always participants," Ruso said. "There are always Ukrainian flags. It's a common struggle for sovereignty both peoples are waging."

President Mikheil Kavelashvili's government passed new repressive laws Dec. 30, increasing fines and making it a criminal offense to block streets, set off firecrackers or violate other government rules on demonstrations. On Jan. 4 it announced plans to deport 25 foreigners for participating in the protests, after 91 were ordered out of the country in November and December.

"We hope the government will realize that we won't stop," Ruso told the *Militant*. "They want to charge protesters with criminal charges, but no one thinks they are legitimate. They won't stop us. We fight for anyone arrested; we won't leave anyone behind."

"The New Year's Eve march had two rallies, one at the parliament building and one at the prison where 51 protesters are being held, charged with 'group violence.' Hundreds of those arrested were released with just fines," she said. "We are more confident now. We know some of us will be arrested or beaten up, but we can't give up. We have a common goal, to demand what we deserve. We will fight for each other and for our future."

Israel fights for the right to exist as a refuge from Jew-hatred

Continued from front page

ernments — known as the “Abraham Accords” — and that this had paved the way for more pogroms until they destroyed Israel and expelled or killed all the Jews.

That is what the slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” means. Free from Jews.

But Tehran and Hamas underestimated the Israeli government and people. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a capitalist politician who relies on U.S. imperialism’s aid. But he understood that there could be a world without Israel, including if he went along with the Biden administration’s demands to end the war with Hamas and Hezbollah still intact and Tehran continuing its drive to get nuclear weapons.

Now, 15 months later, the reactionary bourgeois regime in Iran is weaker than ever; Hezbollah, the most powerful of Tehran’s proxy forces, is in shambles; Hamas is on life support, as Israeli forces drive against its remaining hideouts; and the brutal Assad dictatorship in Syria, which provided Tehran with the main land route for its arm shipments to Hezbollah, is no more.

High morale of workers in Israel

Tehran and Hamas didn’t take into account the fighting spirit and morale of Israeli working people, Jews and Arabs alike, who know they are fighting for their very existence. The fact that Hamas killed not only Jews, but dozens of Arab citizens of Israel as well as immigrant workers had a big impact. As did its horrendous crimes of rape and mutilation. It punctured illusions that Hamas in some distorted way represents the national aspirations of the Palestinian people instead of being the biggest obstacle to those aspirations.

Although still a relatively small number, more Arab citizens of Israel have joined the Israel Defense Forces since Oct. 7. “A lot of Israeli-Arabs, young people, saw what I did and decided to follow through,” IDF soldier Yahya Mahamid, a Muslim Arab, told the media in December. “As an Israeli soldier, I wait for the proud Palestinian leader that loves their people more than they hate Israel to come. I still have yet to see another leader like that.”

Tehran did not take into account the growing opposition by working people inside Iran — Persian, Azerbaijani, Arab, Baluch, Kurds — to the regime’s military adventures abroad. That’s the biggest brake on the Iranian rulers’ drive to extend their reactionary influence in the region.

Hamas expanded its building of tunnels in Gaza in 2007, after narrowly winning elections there and then smashing its main rival in bloody fighting. By 2023 more than 350 miles of tunnels rivaled the length of the New York City subways. But with utter disdain for the lives of working people in Gaza, the group did not build a single bomb shelter for civilians.

Hamas put its command posts, weapons storage and factories underneath hospitals, schools, U.N. buildings, mosques and people’s homes.

Hamas considered this a “win-win” situation. It afforded protection from Israeli attacks, since Israeli policy is to try to avoid killing civilians. If Israel does attack, the more civilians that die

the better, Hamas believes. That provides more martyrs to win public sympathy from capitalist regimes around the world and increase pressure on Israel.

Oct. 7 could have been an even worse massacre. Some IDF, Shin Bet and Mossad officials are part of the “never Netanyahu” current in Israeli bourgeois politics. They see the only way forward as reliance on U.S. imperialism and ignored growing evidence over more than a year that Hamas was planning a big operation.

They kept that information from Netanyahu, worried he would organize a full-blown response that Washington would view as a threat to the stability it demands for its own economic and political interests in the region. “Democratic” imperialism is concerned about the profits of the U.S. ruling class, not the lives of Jews.

Even on Oct. 7, as reports came in that Hamas was moving to breach the border, officials decided not to wake up Netanyahu. He only learned about it after the attack had begun.

In the absence of immediate action by the Israel Defense Forces, ordinary Israelis headed to the front lines to rescue people and keep Hamas from advancing further. Volunteers included reservists, former soldiers and some civilians, both Jews and Bedouins.

International anti-Israel propaganda

Tehran and Hamas have created an international propaganda machine, especially on college campuses — composed of Stalinists, anarchists and other middle-class leftists, along with fellow



Courtesy of Yahya Mahamid

Yahya Mahamid, center, Arab Muslim serving in Israel’s army. In Oct. 7, 2023, anti-Jewish pogrom, Hamas also killed Arabs, immigrants. Since then more Arab-Israelis joined IDF. “They saw what I did,” he said.

Islamists. Since 2005 they have been calling for “boycott, divestment, sanctions” on Israel — spreading the lie that Israel is a “white supremacist” and “apartheid state.” It kicked into overdrive Oct. 7, organizing actions across the globe.

“You have now formed a branch of the Resistance Front and have begun an honorable struggle,” Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a May 2024 message to students in the U.S. who had joined anti-Israel protests. This from the head of a regime notorious for its use of the death penalty against political opponents, and its oppression of women, national minorities and union fighters.

The liberal bourgeois press in the U.S. and worldwide help spread Hamas propaganda. A study by the U.K.-based Henry Jackson Society of 1,378 articles by major media found that 98% of the press cite fatality figures provided by the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry

as fact, even though those figures have been shown to be manipulated, such as listing men as women, and adults as children. A mere 5% cited figures provided by Israel, and half the time they questioned Israeli figures.

Stopping Tehran from getting nukes

Meanwhile, in the face of its growing setbacks from Syria to Lebanon, Tehran has been stepping up its production of material necessary to build a nuclear weapon. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, Tehran is “closer than ever to having enough highly enriched uranium” to make several bombs.

With Tehran’s allies in disarray and its air defense system largely destroyed, Israeli forces have an opportunity to prevent Tehran from possessing nuclear weapons. But time is of the essence.

Working people need to defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews without giving any political support to the capitalist government there. The workings of capitalist property relations in Israel weaken the fight against Jew-hatred, from Netanyahu’s portrayal of U.S. imperialism as a defender of “civilization,” despite its history of bloody wars of conquest, to discrimination faced by Arab citizens of Israel, as well as the Israeli rulers’ treatment of immigrant workers.

Israeli blows to Tehran, Hamas and other proxy forces open a window for working people in the region and around the world whatever their religion or national origins to come together to defend their common class interests on the road to taking political power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

Jew-hatred, ‘racial purity’ at heart of Hamas program

The Jew-hatred at the heart of Hamas’ drive to destroy Israel is no secret. Its 1988 founding covenant says, “Our struggle against the Jews is very great and very serious.”

Hamas, which operates primarily in Gaza and the West Bank, comes out of the Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood, which together with Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, collaborated with the Nazis during World War II. Their common goal failed, an attempt to extend the Nazi Holocaust in Europe to North Africa and the Middle East. In the 1920s and ‘30s Husseini led pogroms against Jews in then-British-ruled Palestine. In 1941 he met with Adolf Hitler in Berlin, collaborating to recruit Muslim troops to the Nazi SS storm troopers in Yugoslavia.

The Nazis tasked Field Marshal Erwin Rommel to sweep through Egypt to impose Nazi rule and the slaughter of Jews across the Middle East.

Speaking for the Mufti-led Arab Higher Committee for Palestine, his cousin, Jamal al-Husseini, testified before the United Nations Sept. 29, 1947, opposing the U.N. plan to partition Palestine into two states — one Jewish, the other Palestinian. “The Arab world is a racial homogeneity,” he said, echoing Nazi racial purity rhetoric. “The people of that vast territory speak one language and have the same history, traditions, and aspirations.”

The U.N. should not break up the “existing natural old homogeneity as that of the Arab world by the introduction in its midst of an alien body as is now being contemplated by the sponsors of the Jewish state in Palestine,” he said, calling the proposal a “monstrosity.”

His alternative to partition was to create “an Arab state in the whole of Palestine,” which he claimed would protect the “legitimate rights and interests of all minorities” — a fraudulent promise belied by his own record and that of the Grand Mufti in leading pogroms against Jews.

While apologists for Hamas chant in English “From the river to the sea, Palestine must be free,” they often use a variant common in the Arab east, “Palestine must be Arab.” What about the Palestinians of African descent? Circassians? Immigrants?

In 2021 after Hamas had unleashed a barrage of missiles at civilian areas in Israel, Ismail Haniyeh, then-head of the Hamas Political Bureau, boasted that “the theory of coexistence between the two peoples [Jews and Arabs] within the 1948 borders — a theory they have been cultivating for 70 years — is being trampled underfoot.”

— S.G.

Recommended reading

The fight against Jew-hatred and pogroms in the imperialist epoch

Stakes for the international working class

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'Impact of Cuba's socialist revolution like the Russian Revolution'

Dynamics of the Cuban Revolution: A Marxist Appreciation by Joseph Hansen is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January. Hansen, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, traveled to Cuba in 1960 with SWP presidential candidate Farrell Dobbs. He recounts the historic role of the leadership forged by Fidel Castro that led workers and peasants to carry out the first socialist revolution in the Americas. The proletarian and internationalist course led by Castro transformed the lives, conditions, and political consciousness of toilers in Cuba, and opened a renewal of communist leadership in the Americas, in the U.S. and beyond. The excerpt is from the Jan. 14, 1961, "Cuban Question: Report for the Political Committee." Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Fidel Castro's Rebel Army is welcomed in Havana, Jan. 8, 1959. "The Cuban Revolution is a great revolution," Hansen said, and will lead to a new generation of revolutionaries.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JOSEPH HANSEN

[T]he Cuban revolution is a great revolution. It's a revolution that can prove decisive for the development of our party and our cothinkers in Latin America for years to come. We already see how the Cuban revolution has become a pole of attraction in the radical movement in the United States, separating the various tendencies, cutting through them, beginning a new combination of forces in the United States.

This is much more so in Latin America itself. The Cuban revolution has now become a key issue in all political discussions in South America, forcing every party from the extreme right wing of the bourgeoisie over the whole spectrum into the working class, forcing them to take a position on Cuba. The Cuban revolution is having the same effect in Latin America, as a key issue, as the Russian revolution had in its day. The Cuban question now is comparable in Latin America to the Russian question some decades ago.

In the United States, besides becoming a question differentiating the different tendencies in the radical movement, it has also become a key issue in foreign policy. There's no party now that takes a stand on foreign policy in the United States that can avoid the question of Cuba. So this is a very, very important question for us.

Now how did we begin our approach to the Cuban revolution? We did not begin it from a theoretical level. We began it from a political level. The first thing we did was to determine what our attitude would be toward the Cuban revolution as a whole, what our policy would be toward it. This was reflected immediately in our press, in the *Militant*.

Now we had no difficulty whatsoever reaching a political position on Cuba. Because no matter what the specific characteristics of the revolution might be, as a whole it obviously was a part of the whole colonial revolution

that had been sweeping the Far East, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. Therefore, we supported it, as an automatic reflex. We supported it with all the more energy because it involved American imperialism, our own enemy right here at home. That's the approach on a political level.

Now similarly, as this revolution developed, in each of its crucial stages, we had no difficulty in finding what our attitude would be, determining our policy toward each of these turns, and expressing it in the *Militant*. For example, in January of 1959, when the people of Cuba moved in and took power in all the cities of the country and in Havana and they held the tribunals, citizens' tribunals where they put these criminals, these butchers of the Batista regime, on trial, we had no difficulty in stating where we stood on those tribunals. On the opposite side, the Democrats and Republicans and all the spokesmen of the bourgeoisie also had no difficulty in stating where they stood, and we were on opposite sides of class lines. We had no difficulty there.

We had no difficulty taking a stand on the agrarian reform, which began very early but which became codified in the law of May 17, 1959. We were all for that agrarian reform, the bigger the better, and it turned out to be a pretty big one.

We had no difficulty in determining our attitude toward the bourgeois ministers who were in the Cuban government. Fresquet, Pazos, Urrutia, and the others.

We were glad to see them dismissed and kicked out. ... [E]very one of these are now part of the counterrevolution; they are in one or another of the groupings that are located in Florida.

Well, we had no difficulty in determining our political attitude toward the July 26 Movement taking full responsibility in Cuba as the government. That was easy to determine. We said, "Yes, we're all for that, because this is something quite different from the bourgeois ministers, from those who seemed to be a facade for the revolution for a time." And we were all for them replacing the ministers in the various posts.

We had no difficulty at all regarding the nationalizations in Cuba. ... [W]hen they occurred we did not have the slightest difficulty in stating exactly where we stood: "We're for those nationalizations, every bit of them, and the bigger the better." And they were plenty big.

We had no difficulty on such key questions as the monopoly of foreign trade when it was done, first in the form of controls by the government over foreign trade. It became established, and we were for that because it was part and parcel of our whole traditional program as to what a country of that character should do as it moves forward — to establish a monopoly of foreign trade.

We had no difficulty taking a position on the planned economy that began in Cuba in an early stage in very tentative forms and which is now rolling ahead. We had no difficulty saying, "Yes, we're for a planned economy. We have been for a long time. We think planned economies are a good thing."

And we had no difficulty taking a position on the relations with the Soviet bloc. We said, "That's very good. Cuba has found a possibility here for saving its revolution from being crushed by American imperialism and we're all for that." ...

And we had no difficulty taking a position on the extension of the Cuban revolution into South America. ... [T]he Castro forces, the July 26 Movement ... went to the various countries in South America, to Mexico and all the Latin American countries, and appealed to them for aid and for help, and suggested to these countries that they should imitate the Cuban revolution. "That's wonderful, that's a good way to defend the Cuban revolution."

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Imperialism's march to fascism and war

Millions of working people are being drawn into world politics today amid the deepening crisis shaking the imperialist system. It has led to trade and military conflicts between rival ruling classes and their governments; Moscow's drive to subjugate the Ukrainian people; economic breakdowns and sharper boss assaults on workers and our unions; Jew-hating attacks and bloody pogroms like the one Hamas engineered in Israel Oct. 7, 2023; and the drumbeats toward fascism and a third world war.

The growing difficulties the rulers face in solving their crises lie behind the recent fall of governments in France, Germany and Canada.

President Joseph Biden's promise that he would ensure global "stability" for the U.S. rulers at the top of the imperialist world order lies in tatters. President-elect Donald Trump threatens to use Washington's immense economic and military power to impose the stability they need, to strengthen their sway against rivals and to acquire or seize territory from them.

Socialist Workers Party members talk with thousands of workers as they take the *Militant* on the job and on their doorsteps and join in solidarity with strikes taking place today. They find more and more workers sense no capitalist government or party has any solution to the exploitation, wars and breakdowns that threaten humanity. Moreover, what capitalist regimes do to defend their profit-driven interests intensifies, rather than patches up, the crisis of their system.

What working people face today was first outlined by V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917. In the imperialist epoch, he said, rival national ruling classes no longer offer any road forward. They're driven to wars to redivide the world and seize command of resources, markets and cheap labor.

For decades, the SWP has pointed to the conse-

quences for workers of the crisis of the capitalist world order put together by the U.S. rulers out of their victory in the imperialist slaughter in World War II.

Far from strengthening Washington's domination, the downfall of the Stalinist apparatuses in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe exacerbated its difficulties. The U.S. rulers lost an irreplaceable partner they had relied on for decades to stifle fights for national independence and revolutionary openings in exchange for "peaceful coexistence."

Mistakenly believing they'd won the Cold War, Washington stepped up efforts to use military might to impose peace and stability in the Middle East and elsewhere. The U.S. rulers' disaster in their first Gulf War in 1991 announced sharper national conflicts and the opening guns of a third world war.

"The future of humanity depends on the independent political organization of the world's toilers to resist the devastation the rulers seek to impose on us," Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary, said in "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," available in *New Internationalist* no. 7.

"It depends on our capacity to fight, to win revolutionary battles, and to take war-making powers out of the hands of the exploiters and oppressors by establishing governments of the workers and farmers. Whether or not the unthinkable horrors of a third imperialist world slaughter are unleashed will be decided by mighty class battles and their outcome."

Today there is a noticeable increase in workers meeting boss attacks with strike action and widespread interest in strengthening the unions. Out of these struggles will come the opportunity to build proletarian parties with tested leaderships capable of mobilizing our class to take political power.

High prices eat away at the lives of working people

Continued from front page

the consumer price index's "basket" of items, which includes furniture and new cars. But most workers aren't buying new sofas or cars, but every week have to cover necessities like food, housing and medical care, prices of which continue to rise at rates much higher than the CPI's average. For households with the lowest incomes, this hits especially hard, forcing workers to shell out 71% of their wages on basic necessities, the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics admits.

The cost-of-living adjustment for workers on Social Security went up a measly 2.5% for 2025. This is below even the government's understated inflation figures, meaning a cut in the real income millions depend upon each month. On top of that, in 2025 the government now automatically deducts an even higher amount out of your Social Security check for Medicare premiums.

Rising credit-card debt

In response to price hikes, most working people have no choice but to put more of their purchases on credit cards. But the annual interest rate banks charge is now over 20%, sinking many more of us deeper into debt.

U.S. credit-card delinquencies last year jumped to the highest level since 2010. Amounts owed on these cards rose a combined \$270 billion in 2022 and 2023. This pushed overall credit-card debt above \$1 trillion in mid-2023. It's a profit bonanza for the banks. Unpaid credit-card balances meant they took in \$170 billion in interest over the last year.

"High-income households are fine, but the bottom third of U.S. consumers are tapped out," Mark Zandi, head of Moody's Analytics, told the *Financial Times*. "Their savings rate right now is zero."

These statistics underscore the fact that the U.S. is sharply class-divided.

Another symptom of the deepening capitalist

crisis that is painfully obvious in the country's major cities is the huge rise in homelessness. The number of workers pushed into the streets rose by 18% last year, on top of a 12% increase in 2023. And rents continue to go up.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated a year ago that more than 770,000 people were homeless across the country. But this severely undercounts the reality.

The government report admits there is a nearly 40% increase in the number of entire families who are "unhoused," as politically correct liberals like to call it. Over 146,000 of the students in the New York City public schools — one out of eight — didn't have a regular place to live in the last year.

Meanwhile, U.S. industry ended 2024 with a slump in production. In fact, over the past 12 months durable-goods orders declined by 5.2%.

This has fueled moves by the bosses to defend their profits by squeezing workers on the job, seeking to boost their productivity. This means speedup and increasingly unsafe working conditions. For the fifth quarter in a row, productivity has increased by 2% or more, a *Wall Street Journal* article gloated Jan. 2.

These conditions are behind the increase in strike actions and union protests today — from flight attendants to hotel workers and Starbucks baristas. Workers are turning to their unions, laying the groundwork for a broader fight on behalf of all workers as we face the brutal effects of the crisis of the capitalist system.

Correction

In *Militant* issue no. 1, the article, "Culture flourishes in Ukraine while artists, actors are jailed in Russia," should have said that "Three Comrades," a play by Yevhen Nyschchuk, was adapted from Erich Maria Remarque's post-World War I novel of that same name.

Trump presidency

Continued from front page

ties, and the problems working people face won't fundamentally change until we organize independently from the bosses' Democratic and Republican parties and set out to build our own party, a party of labor.

On his way out of office, Biden has unilaterally proclaimed a series of presidential orders to impose part of his "woke" program while bypassing Congress. These diktats are aimed at putting more and more obstacles in front of the incoming Trump administration. Biden used a 1953 statute to ban drilling for sorely needed oil and gas in large parts of the Atlantic and Pacific off U.S. shores Jan. 6.

As part of cementing his "legacy," Biden bestowed presidential medals on Hillary Clinton, infamous for calling workers who back Trump "deplorables"; woke billionaire George Soros; and former Republican Elizabeth Cheney, who joined the Democrat-led House committee's Jan. 6 "investigation." It was actually a show trial, a failed attempt to prevent Trump from getting elected.

Biden also rammed through the appointment of 235 hand-picked judges at a ceremony Jan. 2, hoping to tilt the courts to Democrats' partisan liking. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer told the gathering that the new judges "will be a barrier against attacks on our democratic institutions." The "attacks" are a code words for Trump and the workers who elected him.

Most of the Democrats' attempts to use the capitalist "justice" system to cripple Trump and his 2024 campaign are now coming apart. But New York City Judge Juan Merchan set Jan. 10 — 10 days before the inauguration — for a hearing to pass sentence on the incoming president. Merchan presided over the biased prosecution of Trump on charges he recorded a hush money payment to a porn star as a legal cost.

While Merchan admits it would be wrong to imprison or even put Trump on probation, he says passing sentence will brand Trump as a felon.

Partisan commentators in the liberal media delight in the fact Trump will be the only president to ever take office as a "convicted felon."

But even this isn't enough for *Washington Post* commentator Jennifer Rubin. She says Trump should be thrown in jail. The fact this isn't going to happen, she says, "is largely the fault of voters. They knew he was a felon. They still voted him into office," she wrote Jan. 6. Rubin echoes the visceral contempt that the upper-middle-class meritocrats who lead the Democratic Party have toward working people.

Democrats outcry over an 'insurrection'

With only two weeks left in office, Biden's Justice Department announced plans to prosecute 200 more people for their involvement in the Jan. 6, 2021, melee at the Capitol, despite Trump's pledge to pardon many of them.

Nearly 1,100 people have been sentenced so far, but only 170 of those cases actually went to trial. Prosecutors threatened felony charges with long sentences, forcing hundreds to agree to a plea bargain.

For four years Democrats have raised a furor over what they call an "insurrection," which shows they have no idea what an actual insurrection looks like.

The Justice Department has insisted they had not one single FBI agent at the break-in at the Capitol Jan. 6, or at the rally on the Ellipse before it. But last month federal officials admitted they had at least 26 FBI informants in Washington, D.C., that day. They say 23 of them went "on their own," but three were tasked with spying on "potential domestic terrorism subjects."

In reporting this, the *Washington Post's* only complaint was that "the FBI should have done more."

The rulers have turned to their political police, the FBI, as a central weapon in their attacks on constitutional protections.

Free speech and assembly, the right to bear arms, to worship freely, and other basic rights won in blood by working people will be crucial in coming battles by the labor movement and all those oppressed by capital.

In the next few weeks the Socialist Workers Party will be announcing a slate of candidates across the country in 2025. These campaigns will give voice and champion workers' struggles worldwide. Backing these campaigns is the best way working people can show support for organizing independently of the bosses' parties, a necessary step in fighting to establish a government of our own.