

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

In face of US economic war, Havana neighbors grow food, clean up the area
— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 89/NO. 10 MARCH 17, 2025

Israeli gov't says Hamas must be dismantled, all hostages freed

BY SETH GALINSKY

With the first phase of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas over, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear Israel will not accept any deal that leaves Hamas in power in Gaza or capable of carrying out future anti-Jewish pogroms, like it did on Oct. 7, 2023.

Israel also faces the challenge that the regime in Iran — Hamas' biggest backer — is accelerating its course to manufacture and launch nuclear weapons, which threatens the very existence of Israel.

Netanyahu announced March 2 that Israel has offered to extend the ceasefire until April 20, after the month-long Muslim holiday of Ramadan and the Jewish Passover. This, he said, depends on Hamas releasing half of the remaining hostages.

But Hamas has refused unless Israel agrees to withdraw all its troops from Gaza, including from the Philadelphi

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Wall Street: 'Life's good for the rich, that's good for you'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

If your bank accounts run into eight figures, your housing costs are in the millions and you have oodles of investments in bitcoin, stocks, hedge funds and other speculative endeavors, then you're one of the people the *Wall Street Journal* aims its reporting at. "The U.S. Economy Depends More Than Ever on Rich People," read a headline in the Feb. 23 *Journal*.

The fact of the matter is the rich are getting richer through extracting super-profits off the exploitation of the working class. That's how capitalism works. For working people, many of us face increasing difficulties making ends meet.

Households that rake in \$250,000 a year or more — those in the top 10% of income levels — account for nearly 50% of all spending, especially on luxury items. And this spending is what propels big-business media like the *Journal* to claim classless "consumers" are doing fine.

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SWP to get on New Jersey ballot for governor

'We run to build a party for workers to take power'



Militant/Janet Post

Joanne Kuniarsky, right, now Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, talks with striking nurses, members of USW Local 4-200, at hospital in New Brunswick, Aug. 6, 2023.

BY TERRY EVANS

"The world working people face today is marked by deepening capitalist crises, which drive sharpening conflicts between allies and rivals alike, more wars and the threat of nuclear conflagration. That's why the Socialist Workers Party campaign starts from the world," Joanne Kuniarsky, SWP candidate for New Jersey gover-

nor, told the *Militant* March 3.

Kuniarsky announced a bold campaign across the state to introduce the party and its working-class program and to win ballot status for the Nov. 4 election.

"It's necessary to change which class rules," she said. "As workers acquire class-struggle experience we begin to

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Capitalist crisis breeds conflict and wars. Support Ukraine sovereignty!



AP/Andrii Marienko

Parents accompany students on first day of school in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Sept. 2, 2024. Specially built "bunker schools" protect children against relentless Russian airstrikes on civilian targets.

The imperialist world order Washington has dominated since it emerged as the victor from World War II is being shaken by cutthroat competition be-

EDITORIAL

tween rival capitalist rulers for markets, raw materials and which of them will grab the biggest slice of the wealth produced by the world's working people.

These rivalries — built into the workings of capitalism — drive trade conflicts, national tensions, the rise of fascist outfits and the threat of a third world war, posing vital political questions for the working class.

For over three years, the largest ground war in Europe since World War II has been unleashed against Ukraine by Russian President Vladimir Putin. His regime's bloody attempt to crush

Continued on page 4

Join 'Militant' fight to overturn ban on issue in Florida prison

BY JANET POST

The *Militant* is asking for readers' help in fighting to overturn a ban on one of its issues in Florida prisons. In February two subscribers at the Santa Rosa Correctional Institution sent to the paper impoundment notices for issue no. 2, dated Jan. 20, 2025.

The notice says the issue is banned because it had been rejected at "an-

other institution," which it does not identify. When authorities at any prison in Florida impound a publication, the Florida Department of Corrections orders them impounded at all of its 134 state facilities.

Authorities cited a prison rule allowing them to impound any publication they consider "presents a threat to the security, order, or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person."

They said they found "inadmissible" two *Militant* articles in the issue, one on the front page, "Israel fights for right to exist as a refuge from Jew-hatred," and

Continued on page 9

US hits Venezuelan sovereignty, clamps down against their right to sell their oil

BY RÓGER CALERO

The administration of President Donald Trump stepped up Washington's pressure on the Venezuelan government of President Nicolás Maduro March 4. They revoked oil giant Chevron's license to operate there, leaving Venezuela with a big hole in its income.

The administration canceled the license granted more than two years

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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Teamsters on strike at 10 Roads Express win solidarity

Mass protests in Greece demand justice in train collision

Frame-ups of 'Freedom Convoy' leaders are blow to workers' rights

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — The basic right to free speech and assembly were at the heart of the defense in the frame-up criminal trials of Pat King, Tamara Lich and Chris Barber, the most prominent spokespersons for the three-week 2022 "Freedom Convoy" protest in Ottawa, Canada's capital. Truck drivers initiated the action, demanding the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau repeal job-threatening COVID-19 mandates.

The demonstration was broken up by thousands of heavily armed police after Trudeau invoked, for the first time ever, the draconian Emergencies Act. King was arrested four days later. He then spent nine months in jail without ever having been convicted of any charges. He was only released after a court imposed heavily repressive bail conditions designed to gag him and break his resistance.

Lich and Barber were arrested and charged as "co-accused," facing numer-

ous criminal charges, which could result in sentences of up to 10 years in prison. Their unprecedented judge-only year-long trial ended Sept. 13 last year.

On Feb. 19 King was sentenced by Justice Charles Hackland to three months house arrest, 12 months probation, and 100 hours of community service, factoring in the nine months King already spent behind bars. Last November Hackland had found King guilty of mischief, and "counseling" protesters to obstruct a police officer. He was acquitted on three other charges.

Government prosecutors had called for the maximum allowable sentence of 10 years.

Hackland rejected the state's urging, saying, "An overly severe sentence of imprisonment, in the context of legitimate constitutionally protected activity could have the effect of creating a chill of fear of participation in political expression."

This amounts to an admission that King's actions were nothing more than an exercise of free speech. It reflects the pressure of the broad working-class support for the truckers' protest and opposition to the Emergencies Act.

Following the hearing, King was unable to comment to the news media because his bail conditions bar him from speaking to the press.

Lich and Barber have faced similar government mistreatment since their arrest. At one bail hearing, the government had Lich brought into court in shackles to give the appearance she was a dangerous criminal. The judge angrily ordered them removed.

The verdict in their case is expect-



Reuters/Blair Gable; inset, Reuters/Patrick Doyle

Canadian police pepper-sprayed protesting truckers in Ottawa, February 2022. Pat King, inset, one of the spokespeople for the protest, was convicted, sentenced Feb. 19 to three months of house arrest. The judge admitted his only "crime" was exercising free speech.

ed to be handed down by an Ontario judge March 12.

Repeal the Emergencies Act!

The government's use of the Emergencies Act was challenged in court by the Canadian Constitution Foundation, backed by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and other organizations.

Federal Court Justice Richard Mosely ruled in favor of the challenge in January 2024, saying there was in fact no national public order emergency during the convoy protest. He held Trudeau's use of the Emergencies Act was unconstitutional, a violation of the right to free speech.

The government appealed the ruling and a three-judge federal appeals

court in Ottawa heard arguments in the case Feb. 4-5. No timetable has been set for a decision.

"Justice Mosely's ruling should be upheld," Katy LeRougetel, one of the Communist League's candidates in upcoming federal elections, told the *Militant* Feb. 28. "In fact, the Emergencies Act should be repealed. It's a threat to the union movement, as the Ontario Public Service Employees Union has said. The right to strike and to protest could be targeted by governments across Canada using the act.

"The use of the Emergencies Act by Ottawa set the stage for the use of federal labor laws to order striking port, rail and postal workers back to work over the last year," she said.

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THE MILITANT

For a moratorium on evictions, cut the rents!

In 2023 half of all U.S. renters spent 30% or more of their income on rent and utilities, while more than a quarter of renters spent 50% or more. Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Fort Worth, Texas, calls for a moratorium on evictions, cut the rents.



AP photo/Kirk Sides
Renters line up for judge hearing 759 eviction cases in Houston courthouse, Jan. 7.

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

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Telephone: (212) 244-4899

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'A party for workers to take political power'

Continued from front page

see more clearly our own capacities to run society.

"The SWP is a working-class party involved in today's struggles. It presents a realistic way forward, to lead millions to replace capitalist rule with a government of our own," she said.

"Growing numbers of workers are repelled by the Democrats and Republicans. But without a complete break from these bosses' parties, workers can make no progress. The SWP is the only party offering an independent working-class course," Kuniansky said. "It explains that workers need to build a party of labor, based on the unions, to fight for our own class interests on all political questions at home and abroad."

SWP campaigners in New Jersey are organizing to win 3,200 people to sign to put the SWP on the ballot before the June 10 filing deadline. That's more than 50% over the 2,000 requirement. Party branches in New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere will help in this effort.

Gov. Philip Murphy and his fellow Democrats in the state government passed a bill raising the signature requirement from 800 to 2,000 earlier this year, a brazen attempt to put obstacles in the way of working-class candidates getting on the ballot.

But among workers, Kuniansky's campaign is getting a serious hearing. Lamia Napil from Egypt was visiting her aunt who lives in Bayonne, New Jersey, when Kuniansky knocked on

the door March 2. They told her about the devastating impact of rising prices. Kuniansky said high prices and other attacks workers face are a result of the sharpening competition between capitalist powers for markets and resources.

Rising threat of more wars

"We have to face the fact there will be more wars," Napil said.

Kuniansky showed her the book, *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class*.

"I need to know how the war between Israel and Hamas happened, this book looks like it will help," Napil said after looking through the book and buying it.

"The SWP backs the fight of the Ukrainian people to defend the country's sovereignty," Kuniansky said. "The U.S. government acts everywhere to defend the interests of the capitalist rulers. The SWP calls for Washington to get its forces out of Europe."

The U.S. government "is not for working people, it only cares about making money," Napil noted.

Several of the workers who Kuniansky spoke with were interested in hearing about her visit to striking Teamsters at 10 Roads Express in Newark, to learn about their fight and offer solidarity.

At the same apartment building in Bayonne, Craig Honts, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor, spoke to Jesús Rocco who had just lost his job as a manager at discount retailer Big Lots.

The bosses announced the closure of several stores after filing for bankruptcy last year.

"They put us all out on the street and we hardly got any severance pay," Rocco said. "But the CEO walked away with plenty of money."

"The SWP says the unions should lead a fight for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around," Honts said.

"The next job I get, I'll probably be earning less," Rocco added.

"Unemployment and high prices are a product of the worldwide crisis of capitalism," Honts said. "Competition for jobs is built into this system. The SWP offers a way to unite working people so we can chart a course to take power into our own hands." Rocco got a copy of the *Militant* to learn more about the SWP campaign.

SWP campaigner Nancy Boyasko spoke to a school custodian, originally from Colombia, in the same building, who said she had witnessed Israel being bombed on a trip there and was reading a book about survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

"The SWP backs Israel's fight to defeat and dismantle Hamas in order to prevent them from carrying out another Holocaust," Boyasko said. "It is



Militant/Tom Baumann
Susan LaMont, SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta, speaks with Yuriy Soruka, a nurse who has served in Ukraine, at demonstration Feb. 23 in Atlanta for Ukrainian sovereignty.

in the interests of all workers to fight against Jew-hatred."

Boyasko showed her *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch*. She purchased the Spanish and English editions, as well as the Spanish edition of *Cosmetics, Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women*.

SWP defends Ukrainian sovereignty

In Atlanta, Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, joined more than 400 people at downtown Centennial Park Feb. 23 to demand an end to Russia's three-year-long invasion of Ukraine.

"It's important to answer the lies and propaganda of Russia," Yuriy Soruka told LaMont. Soruka is a critical care nurse who has served in Ukraine several times as a volunteer medic.

"The fight to defeat Moscow's invasion and Israel's struggle to defeat Hamas should be supported by working people everywhere. Both show why working people need our own foreign policy," LaMont said.

"Last year, when I went back to Ukraine with my family, we visited the Auschwitz museum in Poland," Soruka said. "We can't repeat the Holocaust, nor allow the destruction of Ukraine."

Participants at the protest stopped by the SWP literature table, getting two *Militant* subscriptions and *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward* by party leaders Jack Barnes, Mary-Alice Waters and Steve Clark.

To join in campaigning for SWP candidates, contact the party branch nearest you listed on page 8.

'Bosses' attacks today flow from crisis of capitalism'



Militant/Carole Lesnick
Eric Simpson, SWP mayoral candidate in Oakland, at candidates debate Feb. 26. The working class is "only class that has no interest in exploitation and can open new future for humanity."

BY MAGGIE TROWE

OAKLAND, Calif. — Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Eric Simpson presented a line of march for the working class to take political power in his remarks at a candidates debate organized by Oaklandside, a widely read news website Feb. 26.

"I am a lifelong member of the Socialist Workers Party — an industrial worker and a trade unionist," Simpson said in the one-minute introduction allowed each candidate.

"We need to understand the world to understand the bosses' attacks on workers today. Their attacks come out of increased rivalries between imperialist powers," he said. "The ruling-class solution to their economic crisis means social convulsions and a march toward expanding wars, toward World War III and a new Holocaust, the rise of Jew-hatred and fascism.

"What can stop that and open a new future for humanity? It is the working class. We are the only class that has no

interest in exploitation," Simpson said.

"A class break is needed to end the monopoly of politics by the billionaire families. We need a party of labor for all working people. The working class needs to take power, to create a new state built on solidarity and cooperation with struggles worldwide."

Six other mayoral candidates took part in the debate. Unlike Simpson, each defended capitalist rule. A special election will take place April 15 to replace former Mayor Sheng Thao, who was recalled in November and faces charges of corruption. Simpson was alone among the candidates in calling for amnesty for immigrant workers living in the U.S. to advance unity among working people.

"The number one priority is to stand up against Jew-hatred," he said. "My party protested the vandalizing and destruction of the big menorah at Lake Merritt a year and a half ago and stood in solidarity with the Chabad Jewish Center of Oakland when their windows were attacked last year."

The SWP candidate got media attention, with KTVU-2 Fox News showing Simpson's remarks.

San Francisco Chronicle senior political writer Joe Garofoli, however, wrote a scathing article criticizing Oaklandside for including all the candidates. He objected to Simpson, saying, "Every one of his answers Wednesday was a critique of the capitalist system."

"I know we like to be inclusive in Oakland, but let's cull the herd here," he wrote. "Everyone knows this is a two-person race between former Rep. Barbara Lee and former City Council Member Loren Taylor."

Simpson got a very different response from fellow unionists at the Ghirardelli chocolate factory where he works. Several had seen him on the morning news and congratulated him the next day. He's finding serious interest in the SWP's program and course more widely, talking with rail workers at the BNSF yard in Richmond and with working people on their doorsteps around Oakland.

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Join in building the working-class alternative

California

Eric Simpson, mayor of Oakland

Florida

Laura Anderson, mayor of Miami

Georgia

Susan LaMont, mayor of Atlanta

Minnesota

Kevin Dwire, mayor of Minneapolis
Edwin Fruit, Minneapolis City Council

New Jersey

Joanne Kuniansky, governor
Craig Honts, lieutenant governor

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Ohio

John Hawkins, mayor of Cincinnati
Ned Measel, Cincinnati City Council

Pennsylvania

Tony Lane, mayor of Pittsburgh

Texas

Alyson Kennedy, mayor of Fort Worth
Hilda Cuzco, Fort Worth City Council

Protests across Russia oppose Moscow's war against Ukraine

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The third anniversary of Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine was marked in a careful but significant way in cities across Russia. Despite public opposition to the war being forbidden by law, with many protesters hit with significant sentences and rough treatment, there were numerous small demonstrations and flowers laid at memorials to Ukrainian writers and Russian dissidents, from the Ural Mountains to the biggest cities, the Moscow Times and other media reported.

In the Siberian city of Perm a group picket against the war was held. Elsewhere individual protests spoke for thousands of others, keeping the flame of resistance burning. Flowers were left at the memorial for Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in St. Petersburg.

Flowers and a sign reading "We mourn" were left at the monument to Ukrainian writer Lesya Ukrainka in Moscow. A girl there was filmed opening her coat to unveil an anti-war T-shirt that read, "24.02.2022. February is years long!" Also in Moscow, flowers were left near the Solovetsky

Stone, a monument to Soviet victims of political repression.

Lyudmila Vasilyeva, 83, a survivor of the World War II siege of Leningrad by the German imperialist army, staged a spirited solo anti-war protest in St. Petersburg, arguing with authorities, with a placard reading, "Stop the war!" Last June she ran for mayor of the city as an opponent of Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Thousands of supporters flocked to her campaign headquarters to volunteer before she was ruled off the ballot.

Moscow's attacks against civilians in Ukraine are also rife and deadly in Kursk, the one region of the Russian Federation that was conquered and has been held by Ukrainian forces for months. The *Washington Post* interviewed several Russian citizens, many elderly, as they received lifesaving treatment in a Ukrainian medical facility after being injured by Russian shelling in Kursk. They all expressed their gratitude to the Ukrainian troops and doctors.



In Siberian city of Perm, above, a group protests Moscow's war in Ukraine. Inset, Lyudmila Vasilyeva, 83-year-old survivor of the World War II siege of Leningrad by German army and former candidate against Putin, stages a solo protest in St. Petersburg with placard saying, "Stop the war."

One of them, named Ludmila, said she heard a Russian plane overhead Feb. 9, then "we were under the roof," which collapsed from a direct bomb blast. Her son ran to ask for help from Ukrainian soldiers stationed there,

who pulled her from the ruins and took her to Ukraine for medical care. Ludmila, who has pins and braces in her legs to help them set, said that without "the Ukrainian soldiers there, we do not know what would be with us."

New Washington attack on Venezuela's sovereignty

Continued from front page

ago by Trump's predecessor, Joseph Biden. It said Venezuela has not complied with Washington's demand to hold elections that meet the U.S. rulers' approval, and hasn't accepted deportations of "violent criminals" from the U.S. fast enough.

The Venezuelan government rejects Washington's unilateral sanctions, saying they amount to an economic war designed to cripple the country's economy. Chevron will now be prevented from exporting crude oil from Venezuela.

Chevron holds minority stakes in four joint projects with Venezuela's state oil company, PDVSA, ventures that currently produce between 20%

to 25% of the country's total output. Venezuela would lose an estimated \$4 billion in 2026 from the ban of Chevron's current operations, which would have a significant impact on the country's economy.

The sanction also affects some foreign firms with oil operations in Venezuela that were covered by licenses granted under Biden. Both Democratic and Republican administrations have imposed sanctions on Venezuela since 2017 and carried out multiple attempts to remove Maduro, and his predecessor, Hugo Chávez.

These moves are assaults on Venezuela's sovereignty.

Nearly 8 million Venezuelans have left the country since 2014. Many headed north to the U. S. in recent years, as the country's economy was battered with rampant inflation and widespread scarcity of basic goods, exacerbated by the effects of the punitive U.S. sanctions.

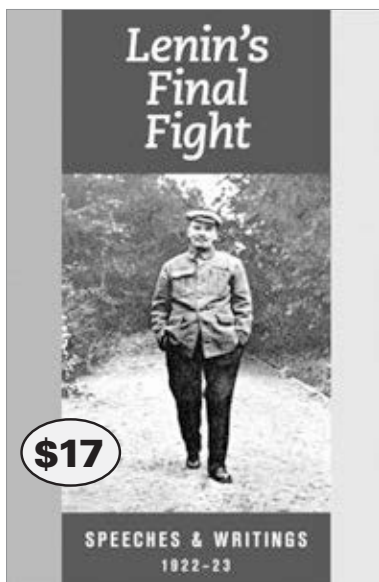
Washington is also threatening to levy tariffs to pressure governments in the region to restrict immigration to the U.S. and force them to concede to other demands. They also work to foster anti-immigrant sentiments among working people in the U.S.

In a flagrant intervention in Venezuela's affairs and a violation of its sovereignty, Washington has combined sanctions with giving backing to opposition capitalist political figures. Short of overthrowing the Maduro government, it also aims to pressure Caracas into closer relations with Washington and away from its rivals, especially Beijing.

The Chinese rulers have expanded their economic, political and military influence across Latin America in recent years, including strengthening their military ties to the Venezuelan government.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio oversaw the seizure of a Venezuelan government airplane by U.S. Department of Homeland Security officials in the Dominican Republic Feb. 26. Washington claims the plane was serviced using parts made in the U.S. in violation of the sanctions it imposes on Venezuela.

Meanwhile, two former presidents of Colombia, Álvaro Uribe and Iván Duque, added to the attacks on Venezuela's sovereignty by calling for foreign military intervention to oust the Maduro government.



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Eggs \$11 a dozen! It's not gouging, this is just how capitalism works

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Eggs have gotten so expensive in New York that some delis are selling them like "loosie cigarettes," in little bags of two or three. "People don't have enough money to buy a dozen eggs, so I have to sell them separately," Fernando Rodriguez, owner of Pamela's Green Deli in the Bronx, told the *New York Post*. Like many stores in the city, the deli charges \$10.99 for a dozen.

"I used to give everybody two eggs for breakfast," said Frankie Vasquez, a customer, as he picked up a bag of three eggs. "Now I'll scramble these for my two sons, me and my brother to share."

Across the country the price of eggs has doubled since August 2023, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts egg prices will continue to rise, going up another 41% in 2025.

But a close look at how this has played out against the epidemic of bird flu is instructive about the reality of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system. Some small farmers have been wiped

out when their hens tested for bird flu. But a monopoly of four giant companies that sell half of the eggs in the U.S. have raised prices far beyond what's needed to cover the loss of 15% of their birds hit by the disease.

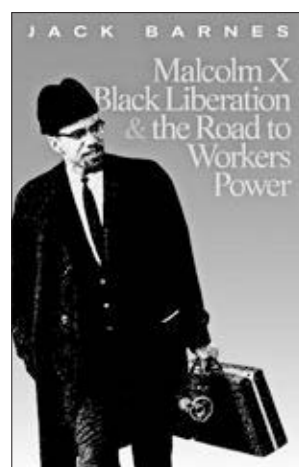
Cal-Maine Foods, run by the four daughters who inherited the company from Fred "Big Chicken" Adams, is the country's largest egg producer. It reported \$356 million in gross quarterly profits last month, a fourfold increase over the previous year.

These companies were found liable for price fixing in 2023 and ordered to pay \$53 million in damages to the likes of Kraft Heinz, General Mills, and Nestle, which use eggs in their products. They are some of the monopolistic companies that control the vast majority of food found on grocery store shelves in the U.S.

What's involved isn't "price gouging," as the liberal press claims. This is simply the character of the capitalist system, where the drive for profit, not the quality of their product or the interests of working people, is permanent.

Washington uses tariffs as weapon

The Trump administration has also increased pressure on Venezuela by advancing the end-date of the Temporary Protective Status of 350,000 Venezuelans in the U.S., from October 2026 to April 2025. This will mean losing their work permits. The White House also moved up the end-date for TPS status for Haitians from February 2026 to August 2025.



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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

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Teamsters on strike at 10 Roads Express gain solidarity

NEWARK, N.J. — On the 10 Roads Express picket line here March 1, two truckers and their Teamsters Local 641 representative discussed their strike with Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey governor, who came to offer solidarity.

The strike at 10 Roads Express, one of the largest U.S. Postal Service contractors, has expanded since it began Feb. 18. Union truckers in Alabama, Florida and Georgia walked off the job and joined strikers in Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah and here. They are fighting to win a contract and convince more of their fellow truck drivers to join the union. A handful of the 19 truck drivers at this terminal have joined the Teamsters so far.

The truckers haven't had a raise in four years, while inflation has driven up the cost of everything, they said.

Higher wages isn't all they need. They have no sick days. Medical insurance costs are high, for the employee its \$500 a month, add your spouse and it goes up to \$1,000, add children and it's \$1,600. And there are no retirement benefits.

These truckers work long shifts six days a week, sometimes Saturday and Sunday. While they wait for their load at the mail depot, they have to stay in their trucks, often for up to three hours. Even though there is a building on the lot, it is locked so there is nowhere drivers can go to warm up or use the bathroom.

Rafi Peña, who has worked for the company for two years, told Kuniansky why he joined the union and is picketing every day. "If we just worked for ourselves individually, independently, we could not get anything done." He gave an example from Dominican Republic where working people came together to fight to get electricity and running water. "We need to get together to benefit us all."

"This is a fight for workers' dignity and respect," said Gary Kane, Teamsters Local 641 vice president.

This strike deserves widespread support. Picket lines are up Tuesday to Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. The address is 295 Doremus Ave. in Newark. For information, go to the Teamsters Union Facebook page.

— Lea Sherman

Athens publishing workers protest against firings

ATHENS, Greece — Thirty-five workers, family and supporters picketed the main buildings at MM Publications in the Athens suburb of Alimos Feb. 20. MM Publications is one of the major publishing houses in the country, producing schoolbooks used here and exported abroad.

"Since the end of October the company has fired 40 workers out of 350. Many of those are members of our union," Ioannis Louskas, a member of the executive board of The Workers Union in Publications, Bookstores, Photocopy Centers and Stationery, told pickets. "In the meantime, the bosses have forced those still working to double up on the amount of work. We demand that the firings stop and that those dismissed be rehired.

"We have been demanding a meeting with the employers since the end of October and once again today they have refused to meet with us," he said.

Natasha Terlexi, a member of the union and of the Employed and Dismissed Workers Committee at MM, also spoke. "The bosses aim to speed up the work even more. They aim to dismiss even more of our co-workers. They aim to further replace workers with Artificial Intelligence platforms," she said. "Our strength as workers is in joining together, in building our union, and using our collective strength to push back

Mass protests in Greece demand justice in train collision



Militant/Natasha Terlexi

ATHENS, Greece — Hundreds of thousands of working people and youth filled the streets of central Athens Feb. 28, above, in an outpouring of outrage on the second anniversary of a train collision in Tembe in northern Greece. Fifty-seven people were killed, including 11 rail workers and many young people going home for a three-day weekend. Protesters demanded the government and rail bosses responsible be brought to justice, that there be transparency in the investigation and concrete steps be taken for a safe rail system.

The passenger train was heading to Thessaloniki when it collided with a freight train coming in the opposite direction, causing a massive explosion and fire. One passenger was heard saying on her phone, "I don't have oxygen!" as she suffocated. Chants included, "This crime won't be forgotten!" Protests took place in 346 cities across Greece and in other countries.

The Hellenic Air and Rail Accident Investigation Authority released a report on the disaster Feb. 27. "What happened — with the evidence being destroyed in three days — must never happen again," lead investigator Kostas Kapetanidis told the press. The report describes systematic failings and "poor oversight, chaotic procedures, lack of coordination and an almost complete absence of foresight," Athens daily *Kathimerini* reported.

The protest was initiated by families of the victims. The General Confederation of Greek Workers and other unions called for a general strike and for the unions to join in the protests across the country. Schools were largely closed in Athens as students joined the rally. Many businesses shut down. The metro system stayed open only for the time necessary for people to get to the protest. Tens of thousands walked for miles to participate.

"Two years after the crime at Tembe, matters have worsened," Vasilis Zavogiannis, president of the Panhellenic Trainose Workers Union, told the rally. "We are striking so that both the workers and the passengers can count on making it home." He described the unions' long fight for safety on the rails. Parents of the victims and students vowed to continue the fight.

— GEORGES MEHRABIAN AND NATASHA TERLEXI

the bosses' attacks. Join now!"

Artemis Papadaki, another member of the union and of the workers committee, said, "They're trying to divide us, those still employed against those that have been fired, immigrants against native Greeks, young and old."

Terlexi and Papadaki were among

the first fired, in October and November respectively. The Workers Union in Publications and Bookstores has been attempting to organize there, but has not yet won representation.

Panagiotis Katsaros, president of the Union of Workers at DHL at Athens airport, expressed his solidarity. "Whatever you need, financial or organizational, you can count on us."

The bosses tried to keep those workers still employed from talking with the demonstrators, telling them they "were anarchist troublemakers." Nonetheless, over a dozen workers coming out at the end of their shift gave thumbs up or hugs to protesters as the bosses watched. Three workers joined the picket.

Messages of support can be sent to mm.employeeforum@gmail.com.

— Georges Mehrabian

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

March 13, 2000

HAVANA — *The following appeared in the Cuban newspaper Granma Internacional. It reports on a press conference by six farmers from the U.S. who conducted a fact-finding trip to Cuba.*

"I have discovered a big difference between the way small farmers are treated here and in the U.S. Here they received the title to the land, and there they took it away from me because I am black," remarked Georgia farmer Lee Dobbins.

Small-scale farming in the U.S. survives through high-interest loans obtained on the financial markets to enable us to buy what we need, explained Willie Head. Production costs increase every year, he added. "Here in Cuba farmers not only receive low-interest financial assistance, but are guaranteed the sale of their crops before they plant, and they are protected by bank insurance against natural disasters."

THE MILITANT

March 14, 1975

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 5 — Terrorists exploded a lethal pipe bomb at the Central-East Los Angeles headquarters of the SWP and the Young Socialist Alliance last night. The intent of the attack, carried out with a high-explosive bomb at a time when the building was filled with people, was obviously to kill. [A Nazi group, the National Socialist Liberation Front, took credit for the bombing.]

Damage was extensive, but by a fortunate circumstance there were no injuries or deaths.

The SWP was the victim of six bombing and shooting attacks in a two-year period from 1968 to 1970. During the same period the Haymarket was burned to the ground. A similar arson attack was made on the Ash Grove. The Long March was bombed several times. *The Los Angeles Free Press* has also been the target of several bomb attacks.

THE MILITANT

March 13, 1950

A trip to West Virginia, seat of some of the most militant mass picketing of the just concluded mine strike, reveals that the miners' wives played an important role. Here are but a few incidents.

The union had permitted pumpers and a few other maintenance men to work for the Pursglove Coal Co. during the strike. The women took a different attitude. They threw up two picket lines, one blocking the road and the other the bridge to the tippel. This action quickly led the company to "reconsider."

The women took an active role on miners' relief. The wives went door to door in their own and surrounding communities and aided in the distribution of food to the most needy families. In Beckley, the women decided to back up the fight by organizing a Women's Auxiliary.

These actions will be sure to leave their mark on the community as a whole.

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In face of US economic war, Havana neighbors organize to grow food, clean up the area

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — Residents of the Atabey neighborhood here are taking initiatives to grow food and, in the process, remove and recycle garbage that has been piling up in their community. The challenges they are addressing, faced by Cubans nationwide, are largely the result of Washington's unrelenting drive, for more than six decades, to strangle Cuba's working people and their socialist revolution.

During a recent trip to Cuba, several socialist workers from the U.S. and United Kingdom were invited to learn about the experience in Atabey, located in western Havana.

"We began this work more than a year ago," Jover Araújo Gutiérrez told us. "Neighbors lent some land they weren't using and we started producing compost there. On another plot nearby that was unused, we're using the fertilizer for an 'organopónico,' an organic urban garden.

Residents see this as their contribution to confronting the shortage of imported fertilizer caused by U.S. economic sanctions on Cuba.

"We're just in the initial stages, but over the past few months we've gotten good results growing vegetables — cucumber, lettuce, broccoli, garlic and parsley," said Araújo, the director of the project. "We deliver the vegetables without charge to schools, elderly people and economically vulnerable households."

Araújo, a self-employed carpenter, formerly a longtime factory worker, volunteers his time together with other residents when he's not working his regular job.

On a Sunday afternoon we found a dozen residents working there. Some were filling small bags with enriched soil that will be used to plant "gandules" — pigeon peas, a good source of protein. José Jerónimo Estevez, a retired schoolteacher, pointed out a seedbed where they will soon be growing medicinal plants. Estevez is an elected representative of one of the local Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs), a nationwide organization that involves people on a neighborhood level.

Roxana Hernández Quintana, a 24-year-old employee of Havana's technical college, told us she is part of a group of some 20 young people, called "Future of Atabey," who regularly volunteer Sundays to work on the project.

Ana Morales Valera, the elected delegate in Atabey to the local government, known as the People's Power municipal assembly, has been a driving force in this initiative. The project is the product of many discussions and work by residents, including leaders of the Cuban Communist Party, the CDRs and other mass organizations.

The effort is backed by the IRIS Climate Foundation, a Cuban non-profit group, and receives some funding from Cuba's ministry of science, technology and environment.

Araújo explained that volunteers prepare the compost by putting twigs, leaves and small branches through a small pulping machine and combining the mush with manure, soil and water, to which they add earthworms.

Tackling trash buildup

As they involve the community to grow vegetables, Araújo and Morales said, they have also begun to tackle another challenge — the piles of uncollected trash that have mounted over the past couple of years.

This problem has afflicted residential neighborhoods across the city. The majority of Havana's garbage trucks have been paralyzed by the lack of imported fuel and spare parts caused by Washington's economic war on Cuba. Despite these shortages, the Cuban government has marshaled resources to improve



Militant/Martín Koppel

Volunteers at community project in Atabey, Havana. Recycling trash, they produce compost and grow vegetables. Ana Morales, speaking, talks to group and visitors. Jover Araújo, project director, center. Longtime revolutionary combatant Víctor Dreke, right, member of the group.

trash collection, and in parts of Havana such as Vedado and Miramar, some of the unofficial refuse dumps that had mushroomed on residential blocks have been eliminated.

Atabey's residents decided to salvage as much of the garbage as possible. "A large part of it is not garbage — we call it raw materials," Araújo said. The organic debris is separated for use in making compost. Larger branches and tree trunks are taken to small industrial workshops to be used as fuel.

They also separate and sort nonorganic items to be sold to different recycling factories in Havana. "These plastic items can be turned into gasoline containers. Those are good for water and juice bottles," Araújo said, pointing to two stacks. A neighbor has volunteered a shed in his front yard as temporary storage for these materials. "Members of the CDRs help collect raw materials like aluminum, glass, and plastic," said Estevez, the CDR representative.

This recycling has greatly eased the

work of the state employees who regularly come to trim tree branches, cut weeds and collect garbage. The unsightly, unhygienic piles of refuse in Atabey are largely gone. And residents feel a sense of pride in contributing to the cleanliness of their community. "We call our project 'Atabey: Un Jardín sin Vertederos'" — A Garden Without Garbage Dumps, said Morales.

"If you see that your neighborhood isn't being kept clean and there's no solution in sight, it can have a demoralizing effect," Araújo said. "But when we work together, we can find solutions. It shows that 'Sí, se puede' — yes, we can make a difference. And we also feel motivated because we have the full backing of our government."

Morales, as a municipal People's Power delegate, has been sharing the experiences of Atabey with delegates and residents of other nearby areas. "What we're doing here shows what's possible," she said. "It's what the Cuban Revolution is about."

50,000 Cubans rally, say: 'US out of Guantánamo!'

BY JANET POST

One day after Washington announced measures imposing new visa restrictions on Cubans Feb. 25, more than 50,000 Cubans demonstrated in the city of Guantánamo, the capital of Guantánamo province, in an action called by the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC).

Holding an "Anti-Imperialist Tribune" in Mariana Grajales Revolution Square, many workers, union members and students from Guantánamo, Caimanera, El Salvador and Manuel Tames joined in the protest chaired by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Demonstrators demanded "an end to United States interference in Cuba's internal affairs, an end to unilateral policies against the island, and to repudiate the imperial presence in the illegal naval base in this territory," the Guantánamo online provincial newspaper Venceremos reported.

Washington built a naval base and prisoner detention center in Guantánamo Bay after it seized land there in 1903 as part of the spoils of its victory in the 1898 Spanish-American War. For 122 years since, under every administration, Democratic and Republican alike, it has occupied the territory in viola-

tion of Cuba's sovereignty — part of Washington's decadeslong economic, trade and political war aimed at crushing the Cuban people and overturning their socialist revolution.

"The naval base in Guantánamo is a symbol of foreign interference and a constant reminder of the struggles that still lie ahead," Juana Eglis Fernández Louit, general secretary of the local CTC, told the crowd.

"These policies have not succeeded in subduing the Cuban people," she said, "but rather have strengthened our determination to defend sovereignty and peace."

The day before, Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that U.S. visa restrictions on Cubans traveling to the U.S. would be expanded, taking particular aim at Cuban internationalist medical volunteers. Thousands of Cuban health care workers have gone on medical missions abroad, often working in the most remote rural areas or worst-off working-class neighborhoods. Revolutionary leader Fidel Castro called them Cuba's "army of white coats."

Since 1963 more than 600,000 Cuban medical workers have volunteered.

During the Ebola crisis in 2014 the Cuban government selected 461 doctors

and nurses, out of more than 15,000 volunteers, to serve in West Africa. Even before that Cuba had more than 4,000 health workers in 32 African countries.

To try and undercut these revolutionary missions, and as part of imperialism's campaign against Cuba's socialist revolution, Washington slanders them as part of a forced "labor export program" aimed at "enriching" the Cuban government while "depriving ordinary Cubans" of medical care.

Visas will now be barred to "current or former government officials, and other individuals, including foreign government officials, who are believed to be responsible for, or involved in, the Cuban labor export program, particularly Cuba's overseas medical missions," Rubio said in a State Department statement. He added the visa denials would also apply to their families.

Since the 1990s Washington has operated a new jail at Guantánamo to imprison immigrant workers before deporting them. Recently President Donald Trump dispatched U.S. Marines to rebuild the facility to hold up to 30,000 immigrants, and began sending some there.

Rally participants also protested Washington's inclusion of Cuba on its "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes



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' Hamas must be dismantled'

Continued from front page corridor along the Egyptian border, and accepts a permanent ceasefire. Only then, it said, will it free the remaining 59 hostages. At most 24 remain alive, held captive in abysmal conditions.

The Egyptian government won backing from an Arab League summit March 4 for its alternative to President Donald Trump's proposal that residents of Gaza be evacuated and the territory turned over to U.S. companies to develop, a move aimed at extending the U.S. rulers' reach in the region.

Cairo says it wants to rebuild the territory with a "technocratic" committee in charge. Hamas welcomed the plan. But Israel is not willing to accept any arrangement where Hamas remains able to function.

Hamas lauded a Druze man, whose family says was mentally ill, after he stabbed four people in Haifa, Israel, March 3, killing 70-year-old Hassan Karim Dhamshah. Like two of the other victims, Dhamshah is an Arab citizen of Israel.

Within the Arab League's 91-page Gaza plan "there isn't even a condemnation of this murderous terrorist entity," Israel's foreign ministry noted.

Hamas is a deadly obstacle to all working people. Not only is Hamas' goal to destroy Israel and rid it of Jews, it supports murdering Arabs who live or work with Jews and anyone who opposes Hamas' reactionary bourgeois rule, no matter what their religious beliefs or nationality.

Dismantling Hamas would not solve the problems facing working people in Gaza or guarantee the existence of Israel. But it would open up space and buy time in the Middle East for working people of all nationalities to find ways to come together to defend their class interests.

Restart of Gaza war?

Hamas and Israel are both preparing for the possible restart of the war.

Despite taking big blows from Israeli forces over the last 17 months, the reactionary group has been taking advantage of the ceasefire to regroup. They've begun repairing some of their under-

ground tunnels and using unexploded bombs to manufacture new devices.

Five divisions of the Israel Defense Forces — some 50,000 soldiers — are positioned around Gaza, ready to return to combat. "If Hamas does not release the hostages soon," Israel Defense Minister Israel Katz said, "we will resume fighting, and Hamas will face the IDF with an intensity and in ways they have never seen before."

The weakening of Hamas, the destruction of much of ally Hezbollah's forces in Lebanon, and the fall of the Tehran-backed Assad dictatorship in Syria have set back the Iranian rulers' expansionist aims, including their goal of destroying Israel. But the Iranian regime continues to try to find ways to rebuild Hamas and Hezbollah, and to produce nuclear weapons.

The U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency has warned that Tehran has enough near weapons-grade uranium for six nuclear weapons. Tehran is believed to have built a uranium enrichment facility hundreds of feet underground in the Zagros Mountains.

IDF report shows its political bias allowed Hamas pogrom

BY SETH GALINSKY

On Feb. 27 the Israel Defense Forces made public a summary of its self-investigation of its failings leading to the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas pogrom. It gives a glimpse of the scope of the massacre that day and exposes the damaging negligence of high-ranking officials in the Israel Defense Forces and Shin Bet secret-police agency.

But its main purpose is self-serving — to whitewash their actions and insinuate that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is really to blame.

"No one anywhere in Israel was able to say on 6:39 a.m. on Oct. 7 that Hamas is about to perform a major attack on Israel," the IDF report claimed. But their report shows the opposite.

The capitalist class and its political parties in Israel are sharply divided, with factions for and against Netanyahu. Despite the pretense of being "above" politics, much of the high command in the Israeli army and Shin Bet agree with those who loathe Netanyahu and want him ousted.

According to the Times of Israel, the report states that military leaders' "flawed culture" and "deep systematic problems" led them to ignore years of signs of Hamas' plans to attack.

In 2018, for example, the IDF's Military Intelligence Directorate obtained a Hamas document outlining its plans to destroy Israeli army posts near Gaza, attack kibbutzim "in order to take hostages," and to "livestream" the pogrom. In May of 2022, the directorate got hold of another Hamas document, "Jericho's Walls," with even more details. These and other signs were all kept hidden from Netanyahu.

The IDF report claims



Associated Press

Armed Hamas thugs "protecting" aid truck in Rafah January 2024. Hamas steals much of the aid sent to Gaza, uses it to reassert its dictatorial rule, finance its plans to carry out new anti-Jewish pogroms. Israel insists Hamas must be destroyed and all hostages released.

According to the Jewish News Service, Tehran could build a missile capable of launching a crude nuclear weapon in a year and a half or less. That would give Tehran the capability to target Israel cities for another Holocaust.

"We don't have much time," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar told *Politico* in an interview published Feb. 26. Not stopping Iran's nuclear program would be a "catastrophe for the security of Israel."

that high-ranking officials were "duped" by Hamas into believing it had become more "pragmatic." They believed that a high-tech border fence was enough to deter attacks.

Starting at 9 p.m. Oct. 6, 2023, and into Oct. 7, Shin Bet and IDF high officials ignored at least five clear signs Hamas was getting ready to launch its pogrom.

Not only did they not send additional troops to the border, they made the decision not to wake Netanyahu or then Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. They feared Netanyahu would order an attack on Hamas they considered would be provocative.

US goal: 'stability' for imperialism

The high-ranking military officials shared — and bent to — the perspective of the U.S. imperialist rulers, who under the Obama and Biden presidencies sought better relations with Tehran. They sought to avoid a war with Hamas, and once it was underway, their goal was to contain Hamas, not defeat it.

Speaking anonymously, one Israeli official told *Israel Hayom* that "throughout the conflict, the U.S.'s primary concern" was to prevent a conflict with the Iranian rulers "spiraling into a full-scale war. Their watchword was 'stability.'" What the U.S. rulers care about are their own interests in the region, not the well-being of Jews.

According to *Hayom*, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi "was viewed by the White House as a moderate and judicious figure," that is, someone who shares their views.

Showing its political factionalism has not changed, the IDF command did not even give Netanyahu a copy of its investigation until ordered to by Defense Minister Israel Katz.

Netanyahu is a capitalist politician who also looks to U.S. imperialism to defend Israel as a refuge for Jews, but he understands that Israel must be prepared to go it alone or there will be no Israel. He has resisted all

U.S. attempts to end the war short of Hamas' decisive defeat.

The people of Israel paid a high price for the treachery of the top officials of the IDF and Shin Bet.

Worst pogrom since the Holocaust

Hamas used drones to knock out military communications and cameras all along the Gaza border. There were only 767 IDF soldiers along the border at the time — and not all of them armed — confronting some 5,600 Hamas combatants.

These death squads were able to breach the border at more than 114 locations in three waves, aiming to overrun unprepared military bases and kibbutzim. For hours the IDF command didn't even realize the depth of the blows to its commanders and units in the south. It took three days before the Israeli military regained full control.

The death squads killed 1,200 people — two thirds civilians — wounded thousands, raped and mutilated dozens of women and took 251 hostages, the worse anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust. And Hamas had planned to go further, targeting airbases and towns much further from the border.

They might have made it if not for the initiative and courage of individual soldiers; kibbutz self-defense members; and off-duty soldiers, former soldiers, and civilians, Jewish and Arab alike, who headed to the front lines to keep the Hamas death squads from advancing further.

Hamas underestimated the people of Israel — Jews, Druze and Arabs — who understood that what was at stake was the existence of Israel, home to half the world's Jews, and the possibilities for Jewish and Arab workers to live together and to defend their common interests.

And it misjudged its own support among Palestinian working people in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, who overwhelmingly ignored Hamas' call to join in.

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The class divisions in society are the root of women's oppression

To mark International Women's Day March 8, *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month. Reed was a member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party from 1940 until her death in 1979. She wrote and spoke about the social roots of women's oppression, from the origins of class society to modern capitalism. The fight for women's emancipation is an essential part of the working-class struggle for a socialist revolution, she explained. The excerpt is from a 1970 article, "Women: caste, class or oppressed sex?" Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Striking hotel workers, largely women, members of UNITE HERE, marched in Los Angeles July 4, 2023, for \$5 hourly wage raise. Over decades women have entered the workforce, strengthening the fight for women's emancipation and the class-struggle battle for power.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY EVELYN REED

The new stage in the struggle for women's liberation already stands on a higher ideological level than did the feminist movement of the last century. Many of the participants today respect the Marxist analysis of capitalism and subscribe to Engels's classic explanation of the origins of women's oppression. It came about through the development of class society, founded upon the family, private property, and the state.

But there still remain considerable misunderstandings and misinterpretations of Marxist positions, which have led some women who consider

themselves radicals or socialists to go off course and become theoretically disoriented. Influenced by the myth that women have always been handicapped by their childbearing functions, they tend to attribute the roots of women's oppression, at least in part, to biological sexual differences. In actuality its causes are exclusively historical and social in character.

Some of these theorists maintain that women constitute a special class or caste. Such definitions are not only alien to the views of Marxism but lead to the false conclusion that it is not the capitalist system but men who are the prime enemy of women. I propose to challenge this contention.

The findings of the Marxist method, which have laid the groundwork for explaining the genesis of woman's degradation, can be summed up in the following propositions:

First, women were not always the oppressed or "second" sex. Anthropology, or the study of prehistory, tells us the contrary. Throughout primitive society, which was the epoch of tribal collectivism, women were the equals of men and recognized by man as such.

Second, the downfall of women coincided with the breakup of the matriarchal clan commune and its replacement by class-divided society with its institutions of the patriarchal family, private property, and state power.

The key factors which brought about this reversal in woman's social status came out of the transition from a hunting and food-gathering economy to a far higher mode of production based upon agriculture, stock raising, and urban crafts. The primitive division of labor between the sexes was replaced by a more complex social division of labor. The greater efficiency of labor gave rise to a sizable surplus product, which led first to differentiations and then to deep-going divisions among the various segments of society.

By virtue of the directing roles played by men in large-scale agriculture, irrigation, and construction projects, as well as in stock raising, this surplus wealth was gradually appropriated by a hierarchy of men as their private property. This, in turn, required the institution of marriage and the family to fix the legal ownership and inheritance of a man's property. Through monogamous marriage the wife was brought under the complete control of her husband who was thereby assured of legitimate sons to inherit his wealth.

As men took over most of the activities of social production, and with the rise of the family institution, women became relegated to the home to serve their husbands and families. The state apparatus came into existence to fortify and legalize the institutions of private property, male dominion, and the

father-family, which later were sanctified by religion.

This, briefly, is the Marxist approach to the origins of woman's oppression. Her subordination did not come about through any biological deficiency as a sex. It was the result of the revolutionary social changes which destroyed the equalitarian society of the matriarchal gens or clan and replaced it with a patriarchal class society which, from its birth, was stamped with discriminations and inequalities of many kinds, including the inequality of the sexes. The growth of this inherently oppressive type of socioeconomic organization was responsible for the historic downfall of women.

But the downfall of women cannot be fully understood, nor can a correct social and political solution be worked out for their liberation, without seeing what happened at the same time to men. It is too often overlooked that the patriarchal class system which crushed the matriarchy and its communal social relations also shattered its male counterpart, the fratricide — or tribal brotherhood of men. Woman's overthrow went hand in hand with the subjugation of the mass of toiling men to the master class of men. ...

What is the most instructive lesson to be drawn from this highly condensed survey of the long imprisonment of womankind in the home and family of class society — which stands in such marked contrast to their stronger, more independent position in preclass society? It shows that the inferior status of the female sex is not the result of their biological makeup or the fact that they are the childbearers. Childbearing was no handicap in the primitive commune; it became a handicap, above all, in the nuclear family of our times. Poor women are torn apart by the conflicting obligations of taking care of their children at home while at the same time working outside to help sustain the family.

Women, then, have been condemned to their oppressed status by the same social forces and relations which have brought about the oppression of one class by another, one race by another, and one nation by another. It is the capitalist system — the ultimate stage in the development of class society — which is the fundamental source of the degradation and oppression of women.

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NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: New York: 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

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: clydsydney@outlook.com

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: 07545 526351. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

Capitalism breeds war. Back Ukraine sovereignty!

Continued from front page

the Ukrainian people and seize their resources for the ruling class in Russia has been met with courageous resistance by working people.

Workers in the U.S. and worldwide have big stakes in unconditionally backing the struggle of the Ukrainian people to defend the country's sovereignty.

An opposite class standpoint is being advanced by the U.S. rulers and other "democratic" imperialist powers. Each is utilizing the prospect of talks aimed at ending the war to assert their own profit-driven economic and political interests, and to make advances against their rivals. Ukrainian sovereignty does not concern them one bit.

President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance used their Feb. 28 meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to further their shift toward a bloc with Moscow to better defend U.S. interests. A dressing down normally hidden behind closed doors was seen around the world.

The sharp differences are one reflection of the broader national tensions wracking the world order, accelerated by the watershed events of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and then the Tehran-backed Hamas pogrom in Israel, Oct. 7, 2023.

"I'm aligned with the United States of America," not with Kyiv or Moscow, Trump told Zelensky. His predecessor, Joseph Biden, had the same exact perspective.

Trump seeks to rekindle relations with Moscow by brokering "peace" in Ukraine on terms acceptable to Putin's expansionist regime. Such a resolution contains the seeds of future conflicts.

After their clash, government heads in Europe showered Zelensky with hugs and kisses at a summit in London March 2. They did so for the exact same reasons that Trump upbraided him, to try to advance their own imperialist interests.

Weaker capitalist powers, like the rulers in France and the U.K., depend on Washington's military might to provide stability across the continent. They hope to convince the U.S. rulers to guarantee Ukraine's defense against further incursions from Moscow. More importantly, they hope to defend their own interests, against Washington, Moscow and each other.

Zelensky had gone to the White House looking to

U.S. imperialism to provide a military force to guarantee Ukraine's defense in return for granting Washington a lucrative mining deal. This would allow the U.S. rulers to grab a large part of Ukraine's critical mineral resources. Trump calls this "compensation" for past U.S. military and financial aid. He suspended military aid to Ukraine March 3 to try to force Zelensky to concede to his demands, which he claims are made in the name of securing "peace."

Washington's pivot toward Moscow is aimed at slowing down growing ties between Moscow and Beijing. The U.S. rulers see Beijing's rising economic and military clout as a threat to their interests in the Pacific, South America and worldwide. Closer ties with Moscow open the door to Washington drawing the Russian rulers into cooperation with its intervention elsewhere in the world, including imposing stability for its imperialist interests in the Middle East.

Trump claimed Zelensky's objections to any compromise deal with Moscow was the obstacle to peace. He said the Ukrainian president was "gambling with World War III."

But it's the U.S. rulers and rival capitalist powers that have accelerated preparations for more wars since Moscow's invasion began, including extending the U.S.-led NATO alliance in Europe. The Socialist Workers Party demands that Washington get all U.S. forces and nuclear weapons out of Europe.

The most important ally of working people in Ukraine are fellow workers in Russia who also confront the Putin regime, which uses them as cannon fodder and attacks their political freedoms. U.S. sanctions on Russia hit working people there the hardest and should be lifted immediately.

The working class, in alliance with other exploited producers, is the one force capable of stopping another imperialist world war by taking power from the capitalist warmakers. It will take a party, organized like the Bolsheviks under V.I. Lenin during the 1917 Russian Revolution, to make that possible, and to organize workers in our millions to end capitalist exploitation and join the fight for a socialist world, changing the course of history.

This is the course being pursued by the Socialist Workers Party.

Join fight against 'Militant' ban in Florida prison

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a box on page 7, "Jew-hatred, 'racial purity' at heart of Hamas program."

The first article reports on political developments in the Middle East, explaining the importance of Israel's fight to defend its existence as a refuge from Jew-hatred and pogroms, like the one carried out against Jews in Israel by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023. The box reports on how Hamas' origins are rooted in reactionary Arab forces that collaborated with Adolf Hitler's drive for a "Final Solution" in the Nazi Holocaust.

"The justifications offered for the ban are unsupported by the articles' content," wrote Samuel Morley, general counsel for the Florida Press Association, urging the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee to overturn the impoundment.

Morley explained, "The Florida Press Association, established in 1879, represents all the daily and most of the weekly newspapers in Florida." These include the *Miami Herald*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Gainesville Sun* and *Orlando Sentinel*. "Its mission includes working to defend First Amendment rights and press access to information of concern to citizens."

"The news articles simply report the facts about what is happening in Israel and Gaza and the publication's views regarding that situation," he says. "Noth-

ing in the articles pose a 'threat to the security' of the prison or safety of anyone.

"We, therefore, request that you reverse the ban by Florida prison authorities," Morley said, "and that all impounded copies of *The Militant* Vol. 89, Issue No. 2, be delivered to *The Militant*'s subscribers at the applicable facility."

In fact, the *Militant* has never received a notice of impoundment from the prison that originally impounded it, as required by Florida's prison regulations.

'It infringes on prisoners' rights'

Amnesty International USA also wrote to the Literature Review Committee asking them to reverse the impoundment. It "infringes on prisoners' rights to freedom of expression and violates the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, otherwise known as the Mandela rules," wrote Justin Mazzola, the group's deputy director of research.

Under those rules, he said, "Prisoners shall be kept informed regularly of the more important items of news by the reading of newspapers, periodicals" and other methods.

In response to an inquiry about the status of the ban from David Goldstein, the *Militant*'s attorney, Saritza Legault, from the Florida Department of Corrections, informed him in writing that the impoundment of the *Militant* "is awaiting review." She said its Literature Review Committee "will review the impoundment on March 6."

Letters urging the ban be reversed should be sent to: Saritza.Legault@fdc.myflorida.com and Melvin.Herring@fdc.myflorida.com with a copy to themilitant@mac.com.

'Life's good for the rich'

Continued from front page

Between September 2023 and September 2024 these high rollers increased their spending by 12%, while spending by the working class over this same period dropped. The net worth of those in the top 20% has risen more than \$35 trillion, or 45%, since the end of 2019, the Federal Reserve reports.

While working people have had to use up most of the funds they scrounged to put aside for the future to cover high prices for food, energy, housing, health care and more today, the top 10% put away \$1.3 trillion more in savings over the past five years.

Tech 'superbillionaires'

There are more billionaires today, and there's a new category — "superbillionaires." There are 24 of them, each of whom is worth \$50 billion and up. Among them are 16 who are so-called centi-billionaires, with a net worth over \$100 billion. Many rapidly accumulated this wealth from advances in computers, chips, social media, AI and the like. Most of their products are used by the bosses to extract more surplus labor from the working class, not to make actual products we need.

Among those included in this list are X (formerly Twitter) owner Elon Musk, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Oracle co-founder Lawrence Ellison, Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and Bill Gates and Steven Ballmer from Microsoft.

"The great American fortunes of today are new money, not old," noted a 2024 report by the Heritage Foundation. While capitalists in their own right, these newly arrived billionaires are not yet part of the historic U.S. ruling class, who were born out of the rise of industrial and banking capital, owning the giant steel, auto, railroad and oil companies, and more.

Things can go sour quickly, as shown by the example of Sam Bankman-Fried, who racked up \$26 billion with his cryptocurrency exchange FTX, until he was convicted of fraud and imprisoned.

The gap keeps growing between the huge wealth being accumulated by the capitalist ruling families and the squeeze they put on the toilers to generate it. Last year the top 1% of U.S. households held \$49.2 trillion in wealth, or about 30% of the country's total wealth. To put this in perspective, this is more than the 2024 gross national product of the four largest capitalist economies — U.S., \$25.43 trillion; China, \$14.72 trillion; Japan, \$4.25 trillion; and Germany, \$3.85 trillion.

Crisis of working people in New York

In New York City, where billionaires own high-rise apartments overlooking Central Park and other cozy neighborhoods, a quarter of the city's residents don't have enough money to afford food, housing or to see a doctor, reports Columbia University and Robin Hood, an anti-poverty group.

The number of people living below official government poverty levels in the city was nearly double the national average in 2023 and increased by 7% in just two years.

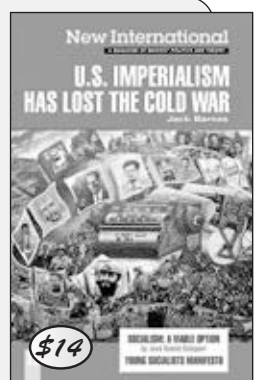
About a quarter of children in the city live in households that can't make ends meet. More than 146,000 New York City students — about one in every eight enrolled in public schools — were homeless for at least part of the 2023-24 school year. And the crushing cost of decent child care is out of reach for most working-class families.

"The Economy Is Still Fine. Americans Are Still Gloomy," headlined another *Journal* article Feb. 26, describing plummeting "consumer confidence." What more and more working people sense is that as the capitalist economic crisis deepens there's less prospects to improve their lives and those of their children.

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

The Bolsheviks' policy on national self-determination and voluntary federation began to be reversed from the early 1920s by the emerging bureaucratic caste led by Joseph Stalin. The USSR reemerged as a prison house of nations inherited from the tsarist empire.

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'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