

SWP 2025 campaign Washington, rivals driving humanity to a 3rd world war

BY JOSEFINA OTERO

FORT WORTH, Texas — “The imperialist epoch we are living through today is characterized by deepening cutthroat competition between rival powers for resources, markets and labor to exploit,” Norton Sandler, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California, told participants at an Aug. 23 Militant Labor Forum here.

“The imperialist world order, dominated for 80 years by the U.S. ruling class, is marching humanity toward World War III. Only the working class taking political power through revolutionary struggle can end this,” Sandler said.

“The wealthiest ruling class in the world, backed by its vast military strength, is using tariffs as a battering ram against its competitors, especially China,” Sandler explained. “We should take seriously the Trump administration’s push to rebuild U.S. industry. This is part of its war preparations. Steel, aluminum, shipbuilding, auto, oil

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Slanders, lies of Israeli genocide in Gaza fall in face of the facts

BY SETH GALINSKY

Claims Israel is committing genocide and starving Palestinian children in Gaza are growing louder. It’s a theme of the liberal bourgeois media, U.N. agencies, Stalinist parties and Hamas apologists, and the chorus is being joined by growing numbers of capitalist politicians from both the Democrats and Republicans, and the governments of more imperialist powers.

If these forces all charge that Israel is committing “war crimes,” why does the *Militant* say it’s not true?

Working people and others who defend Israel’s right to exist as a refuge for Jews — in a capitalist world where acts of anti-Jewish violence are on the rise — need to start with the facts.

Israel’s defensive war is aimed at eradicating Hamas, not the Palestinian people, to prevent another Holocaust. The only genocidal forces operating in Gaza are Hamas and its allies. They’ve stated repeatedly their goal is to destroy Israel and eliminate the Jews.

That’s what they tried to do on Oct. 7, 2023 — financed, trained and armed

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Labor Day reflects growing working-class resistance



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

Banner at Labor Day parade in Toronto Sept. 1 explained class reality facing Air Canada flight attendants. Their Aug. 16-19 strike continued in defiance of a federal government back-to-work order. This is the fourth strike in past year where Ottawa intervened on side of the bosses.

BY JANET POST

Labor Day marches, rallies and other events across North America reflected the step up in union battles today and the thirst of union members for a working-class road forward.

Some 40 Air Canada flight attendants, part of the 10,000 Canadian Union of Public Employees union members who struck Aug. 16-19 in defiance of a federal government back-to-work order, marched in Toronto Sept.

1. Their strike, the first in 40 years, was a fight over higher wages and pay for all hours worked.

This was the fourth time in the last year that Ottawa has used anti-labor laws to declare a strike illegal. The flight attendants are voting Aug. 27-Sept. 6 on the company’s proposal.

“If there’s something to celebrate it’s that we stood up to the government, and workers across the country saw that it

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Back fight for asylum for Kilmar Abrego García! No to deportation



Militant/Samir Hazboun

Kilmar Abrego García speaks at Baltimore rally before reporting to ICE officials Aug. 25. At left is his wife, Jennifer Vásquez Sura; his brother, César, stands behind him. At right is his lawyer.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

BALTIMORE — After 170 days in prison in both the U.S. and El Salvador, Kilmar Abrego García won his fight to be released from prison on parole Aug. 22. The wrongfully detained 30-year-old apprentice sheet metal worker and member of SMART Local 100 from Beltsville, Maryland, was deported

March 15 and flown illegally to the CECOT prison in El Salvador where he was tortured. His union has been part of his defense from the beginning.

He was returned to the U.S. in June and thrown into a jail cell in Nashville, Tennessee, where he faces a frame-up charge of “human smuggling.” A

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US armada aimed at Venezuela is threat to the country’s sovereignty

BY TERRY EVANS

Washington is deploying a significant naval and military armada, the U.S. rulers’ latest move in its long-standing efforts to violate the sovereignty of Venezuela and overthrow its president, Nicolás Maduro. It is also a show of force aimed at intimi-

dating the U.S. rulers’ rivals, including Beijing.

President Donald Trump authorized the deployment of several guided-missile destroyers and the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, carrying 4,500 troops, including a 2,200-strong Marine unit equipped for landing and invasion.

It is the biggest movement of military assets to the U.S. Southern Mili-

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Ukraine battles to stop Moscow’s deadly invasion

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s regime has stepped up its murderous airstrikes on working people in Ukraine’s cities as it pursues its goal of conquering the country. It rebuffed attempts by President Donald Trump to broker an end to the conflict on terms that would advance both Moscow’s and Washington’s interests.

With no regard for Ukrainian sovereignty, the Trump administration wants to bring an end to the war to normal-

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2,000 bus workers in London strike 2 days over pay, schedules

Canadian rulers prepare for wars to come, seek allies across Europe

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Aug. 23-27 working trip to Europe — with stops in Poland, Germany, Latvia and Ukraine — demonstrated his Liberal government aims to advance its position as an imperialist world power. It goes alongside the Canadian rulers’ boost in military spending and other preparations for wars to come.

The importance the rulers attach to the trip was underscored by the fact that Defense Minister David McGuinty accompanied Carney. Except for annual NATO summits, the head of the Canadian Armed Forces rarely joins the prime minister on trips like this. Carney repeated his pledge to quadruple military spending in Canada over the next decade to 150 billion Canadian dollars (\$109 billion) a year. If carried out, Canada would reach NATO’s goal of military spending totaling 5% of the country’s gross domestic product.

Carney started his trip with an unannounced visit to Kyiv to join Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the country’s Independence Day Aug. 24. Carney said Canada will always stand with Ukraine “in the face of the Russian aggressor.”

He promised Ottawa will provide Ukraine with new drones, armored vehicles and munitions as part of a CA\$2 billion aid package. And he said he hasn’t ruled out deploying Canadian troops in Ukraine if an open-ended ceasefire is reached with Moscow.

In Poland, Carney signed a defense and energy partnership with Polish

Prime Minister Donald Tusk. Carney announced Canada looks to play a prominent role at the 2026 defense industry expo there. Ottawa hopes to profit from increased war spending by capitalist governments in Europe. Poland’s rulers, for example, raised their military budget 31% this year.

While in Germany, Europe’s largest economy, Carney toured the ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems shipyard. He has announced the German company is a finalist in bidding to build new submarines for Canada, as Ottawa expands its fleet.

As Moscow’s murderous war on Ukraine is in its third year, with no end in sight, leaders in the European Union are moving to massively rearm. And they’re pushing to strengthen their ability to compete with Washington as the Donald Trump administration continues to mount tariffs against them. The Canadian rulers and their government see openings for trade, military deals and profitable investment.

In Latvia, the final stop on this trip, Carney announced Ottawa will maintain troops stationed in Latvia until 2029, as part of the 14-nation NATO Reassurance mission. Canada, which commands this operation, has 2,000 troops in Latvia — Ottawa’s largest overseas deployment.

Canada rulers prepare for war

“The imperialist rulers in Canada are preparing for new wars to protect their class interests at home and abroad. Our campaign calls for the withdrawal of all Canadian forces

China conference rallies against Washington



Indian Prime Minister’s Office

From left, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin, China, Sept. 1. Xi and Putin claim their alliances are a “multipolar” alternative to Washington’s “hegemonism” and “economic bullying.” But even as they try to display a solid front against the Donald Trump administration’s efforts to drive a wedge between them, they couldn’t hide their competing national interests.

Putin used the conference to repeat his claims Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine was caused, not by his lust to conquer the Ukrainian people, but by NATO threats, and he denounced the militarization of imperialist Japan and Germany. Accelerated by Moscow’s aggression, every capitalist power is driving to rearm on the road to new wars on the horizon.

On his first visit to China in seven years, Modi is trying to tamp down New Delhi’s rivalry with Beijing, including over a deadly 2020 border clash. Defying 50% tariffs levied on India days earlier by Washington — a response to his government being the largest buyer of discounted Russian oil — Modi spoke of India’s historic economic and military ties with Russia back in the days before the Soviet Union collapsed. This cuts across Washington’s efforts for a closer alignment with New Delhi as part of a wider Indo-Pacific alliance to counter Beijing.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a loose security grouping of mostly symbolic relations founded by China’s rulers in the 1990s after the end of the Soviet Union. It began with Russia and the former Soviet republics in Central Asia, but has expanded since.

— ROY LANDERSEN

from Europe, and no new deployment to Ukraine!” Katy LeRougetel, Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, told the *Militant*.

“The most important ally of the Ukrainian toilers’ fight for sovereignty are Russian working people, who hate the repression and war the Vladimir Putin regime is prosecuting,” she said.

“As the Canadian government steps up its preparation for wars abroad to protect the interests of Canadian capitalists, it is stepping up attacks on working people here in Canada for the same reason,” added Philippe Tessier, CL candidate for mayor of Saint

Leonard, a borough in Montreal. He is a rail worker and member of the Teamsters union. “The Liberal government used the Emergencies Act in 2022 against the truckers’ protest in Ottawa. It has used hated anti-labor laws four times in the last year to stop strikes by postal, port and rail workers, and Air Canada flight attendants, who defied the government, setting an example for workers everywhere.

“The CL is presenting a road forward for working people to build a leadership for our class to end capitalist rule and establish workers power — the only way to stop the march to a new world war,” Tessier said.

THE MILITANT

US gov’t escalates attacks on Cuba’s medical missions

In the latest step in its brutal economic war against Cuba, Washington has revoked the visas of officials in Brazil, where Cuban doctors and nurses have treated millions. Since 1963 Cuba’s revolutionary government answered all requests for medical aid, and vows to continue.



AP Photo/Eraldo Peres

Cuban doctors provide medical training at health clinic in Brasília, Brazil, in 2013.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

UAW on strike at GE Aerospace in Ohio and Kentucky

EVENDALE, Ohio — More than 600 members of United Auto Workers Local 647 went on strike Aug. 28 against GE Aerospace here and across the Ohio River in Erlanger, Kentucky. Workers at the Evendale plant assemble engines used in marine and industrial applications. The Erlanger facility is a parts warehouse.

On a visit to the union hall and one of the several picket lines surrounding the GE plant on Labor Day, this *Militant* correspondent found strikers in high spirits, determined to win. They have received solidarity from UAW members in other locals, other unionists and even pizza delivery drivers. Most crucially, members of the International Association of Machinists, who also work in the plant and have just settled their own contract, are honoring the picket lines. Production is shut down.

The major issue is health insurance costs, which have increased 36% since 2021. Other issues include job security and time off.

“Our members aren’t asking to be millionaires,” UAW Local 647 President Brian Strunk told the media. “We are simply demanding things that every worker deserves: decent health care and a secure future. We are going to stand together as a united membership until we win what we are owed.”

The company’s proposal includes an 18% increase in workers contributions for health care costs and a 12% wage increase over three years.

“We’re not going to take concessions, we’ve said that all along,” Donald Luknis, who has worked at GE Aerospace for 31 years, told WLWT News 5. “When they asked us for concessions, we gave it to them. When they were hurting for money, we gave it to them. We said, ‘Well, when you make money, we’ll square up.’ But now they’ve reneged on everything they’ve ever said with us. And we’re done.” The union members voted to authorize the strike by 84%.

GE Aerospace is a Fortune 500 company based in Evendale that makes and

services engines for commercial and military aircraft. It has more than 130 manufacturing and service facilities and employs 53,000 workers worldwide. Last year the company reported a \$6.7 billion profit.

— Ned Measel

2,000 bus workers in London strike 2 days over pay, schedules

LONDON — Carrying signs saying, “Don’t blame your drivers, blame our bosses,” striking bus drivers picketed the Westbourne Park Garage Sept. 1.

Some 2,000 drivers, engineers and controllers, members of Unite the Union, walked out for two days at seven London United depots and the Westbourne Park depot of London Transit. Both companies are owned by First Bus.

The dispute covers a range of issues. “We had a successful 11-day strike two years back to protect our wages against price rises,” Unite Branch Secretary Rob Higginson told the *Militant*. “But this year the company announced it intends to base inflation on the lower consumer price index rather than the more accurate retail price index.

“They’ve also announced changes to our schedules, meaning we can end up working eight days straight. Another issue is a two-tier arrangement. It takes newer drivers 36 months to get on the negotiated wages, terms and conditions.”

“They get 2 pounds an hour [\$2.70] less for doing exactly the same job,” picket supervisor Meli Angelo said. “We’re going out again Sept. 12-14.” The strike hit 71 bus routes here.

“We anticipate being joined by another 1,000 brothers and sisters who work for London Sovereign — also owned by First Bus — but have a different pay review date,” Higginson added.

— Jonathan Silberman

Albany nurses win two-year fight over pay and staffing

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York State Nurses Association finally won a new contract with Albany Medical Center this August. For the last year and a half, union nurses have been on a cam-

‘Independence for Puerto Rico from US colonial rule!’



Militant/Martín Koppel

NEW YORK — Supporters of independence for Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule demonstrated here and in several other cities Aug. 31. The actions coincided with a march of several thousand in San Juan, Puerto Rico, sponsored by a coalition of pro-independence organizations. Puerto Rico has been under the U.S. imperialist boot since 1898.

Some 200 people marched through Harlem’s El Barrio, a center of the Puerto Rican community. Demonstrators called attention to the economic and social crisis facing the Puerto Rican people, from blackouts and water shortages to a devastated health care system. They condemned the so-called fiscal control board imposed by the U.S. government since 2016. The widely hated junta, as the board is known, has enforced cuts in public employee jobs, retiree pensions and other social protections, as well as hikes in utility rates — all to ensure payments to wealthy bondholders on a multibillion-dollar debt.

“La junta is an example of the unbridled power the U.S. has over Puerto Ricans,” Davina Resto, from the Puerto Rican women’s group Adolfinia NYC, told marchers. “The occupation and colonization of our land is leading to more Boricuas being forced into the diaspora.” More Puerto Ricans live in the U.S. today than on the island.

Protesters also called for an end to stepped-up ICE deportations of Dominican, Haitian and other immigrant workers in Puerto Rico.

Participating organizations here ranged from Call to Action on Puerto Rico to the Frente Independentista Boricua, Puerto Rican Independence Party, Youth United for Independence (JUPI), and Las Lolitas, among others.

Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, and campaign supporters joined the march. Mailhot called on Washington to cancel the debt imposed on Puerto Rico. “Workers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. face the same enemy — the capitalist ruling families and their governments,” he told marchers. “A successful struggle to free Puerto Rico from U.S. colonial rule will also strengthen the hand of working people in this country.”

Marches were also held in Chicago; Cleveland; Philadelphia; Orlando, Florida.; Jersey City, New Jersey; and Worcester, Massachusetts.

— MARTÍN KOPPEL

paign here to improve working conditions and patient care at the only Level 1 trauma care hospital in the area.

Its emergency room had the longest average patient wait times in the state.

Nurses here have historically had the lowest wages in the region.

Nurses, especially new hires, have consistently had requests for vacation time denied. We routinely don’t get a 30-minute meal break. And the medical center has not been following new state guidelines for staffing, with staffing commonly below normal in the ER, neonatal intensive care unit and medical surgical floors. The state Department of Health found over 500 staffing violations at the hospital over the last 18 months, and fined it \$375,000.

Nurses have been active in trying to win a fair contract. At both of the last two bargaining sessions over 100 nurses showed up. They have been speaking to local union meetings and public activities, as well as at protest actions against recent government budget cuts.

The new four-year contract was approved by 98%. It includes wage increases of \$7 an hour for new hires and \$7.50 an hour for the majority of current nurses, as well as yearly wage increases of 4.25% to 5% for most nurses. Improved availability of vacation time and improved staffing levels are already being implemented on most floors. ER wait times have fallen.

This is the union’s second contract at Albany Medical Center. Winning our first contract in 2021 took three years of negotiations and a one-day strike.

— Mike Fitzsimmons, nurse at Albany Medical Center

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

September 11, 2000

Through a militant strike against telecommunications giant Verizon, some 86,000 workers emerged victorious after two and a half weeks. Workers won a central demand—removing obstacles to the union’s ability to organize the fast-growing wireless division of the company.

The three-year pact provides for a 12 percent wage increase and 14 percent raise in pension benefits. It significantly limits Verizon’s ability to force workers to relocate to other jobs within its 12-state area.

The solid strike was an inspiration to some of the union’s newest members as well those with many years at the company. In Philadelphia, Charise Smith, a business consultant who had never before been in a union, commented, “When we went out together that first day, I realized it was for a good cause. I realized we did have power and that the union means something.”

THE MILITANT

September 12, 1975

LOS ANGELES—A new ruling by the recently established California Farm Labor Board provides the United Farm Workers with limited access to grower property for the purpose of talking with the workers. Earlier the Catholic Bishops Committee on the Spanish-Speaking renewed their backing of the UFW-called boycott of table grapes and head lettuce. There is substantial support among leading Catholic clergy for the UFW’s battle to regain its contracts this fall.

Until recently, UFW officials had called for the deportation of undocumented workers. Actions at the recent convention indicated that the union leadership has abandoned that dead-end approach.

It now appears that policy will be to defend the right of undocumented workers to hold a job in the U.S. and to be treated like any other workers and that includes having the right to join a union.

THE MILITANT

September 11, 1950

Everybody who belongs to any organization is a potential target of the Wood Bill (“Subversive Activities Control and Communist Registration Act”) passed by the House of Representatives.

For this bill would empower a five-member board to designate any organization as “communist” or “communist front” and order it to register as such. In at least one respect the Wood Bill is even worse than the notorious Mundt-Nixon Bill. The latter had a provision exempting labor unions, but that has been removed from the Wood Bill.

Groups designated as “communist” would have to register and list all of their members and file reports on all their activities. The adoption of the Wood Bill means that the police state in the U.S. has become a clear and present danger to the liberties of the American people, and only their independent mass action can repel it.

US armada aimed at Venezuela!

Continued from front page

tary Command jurisdiction in years and part of the government's moves to reassert Washington's dominance in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since February, Trump has designated nine Latin American cartels as "foreign terrorist organizations," laying the basis for U.S. intervention. Two of these are Venezuelan. Without presenting any evidence, Washington has accused Maduro of being the head of the Cartel de los Soles and linked him to the Tren de Aragua gang.

Behind the banner of fighting "narco-terrorism" and defending "national security," the U.S. government has also moved to extend its use of the military and National Guard forces for law enforcement operations at home. The administration has deployed hundreds of National Guard, first to Los Angeles, then Washington, D.C., saying they are needed to fight crime and get around local officials' interference with ICE arrests and deportations.

As part of these efforts, the CIA has stepped up surveillance flights along the U.S.-Mexico border, and inside Mexican air space, authorities say, to gather information on drug cartels. Current and former U.S. officials have hinted at the possibility of direct strikes against cartel leaders and drug labs in Mexico.

"Mexico is a free, independent, and sovereign country," countered Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum Aug. 22. "No foreign government would dare to violate our sovereignty."

At the same time, Sheinbaum's government has steadily increased U.S.-Mexico drug enforcement collaboration.

The Pentagon has established military zones along the border with Mexico where troops can apprehend and detain migrants attempting to cross over until they are transferred to immigration authorities. Military officials hope to intimidate other migrants from trying to cross.

U.S. seeks overthrow of Maduro

Media pundits have drawn parallels between the current U.S. military deployment off Venezuela and the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, which overthrew the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega and kidnapped him under the cover of U.S. federal indictments for racketeering and drug trafficking. The invasion by some 26,000 U.S. troops dealt a blow to the sovereignty of Panama, and to the country's control of the Panama Canal. The area where the canal now stands was seized by Washington in 1904 and returned to Panama in a 1977 treaty after a long and hard fight for

national dignity and self-determination.

"Maduro will not escape justice and he will be held accountable for his despicable crimes," Attorney General Pam Bondi said Aug. 7 as she announced the U.S. government was doubling the bounty for the arrest of Maduro to \$50 million. In 2020 the first Trump presidency offered a \$15 million reward, which was raised by the Joseph Biden administration to \$25 million.

The drive to violate the sovereignty of Venezuela and bring down the Maduro government is bipartisan policy in Washington.

No court hearing or legal proceeding is required for the U.S. government to designate a foreign government or official as a terrorist or drug trafficker. Such a designation allows it "to use other elements of American power, intelligence agencies, the Department of Defense, whatever ... to target these groups," said Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Washington is also moving to rally support from its allies in the region. "Just last week, Ecuador, Paraguay, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, today, Argentina," Rubio said Aug. 26, are "joining us to help move this forward."

Ukraine people battle to stop Moscow's deadly invasion

Continued from front page

ize relations with the Kremlin. It seeks to impose stability in the region for the U.S. capitalist rulers, who look to expand their access to resources and labor power in both Ukraine and Russia, bolster their military sway across Europe, and drive a wedge between Moscow and Beijing, Washington's main rival.

Last month, U.S. officials utilized talks with the Putin regime over a possible ceasefire to try to entice Moscow with profitable energy and technology deals. These included proposals to let U.S. oil giant ExxonMobil reenter Russia's Sakhalin-1 oil and gas project, sell U.S.-made equipment to Russian liquid natural gas projects, and purchase Russian-made icebreaking vessels.

When he met Trump at their Aug. 15 Alaska summit, Putin agreed to U.S. investments, provided Washington-led imperialist sanctions on Russia were lifted. But no deal was made, as Putin is determined to continue his drive against the Ukrainian people.

Washington's sanctions hit working people in Russia the hardest. They give Putin an opening to try to rally support for his government and cut across building an alliance between workers and farmers in Ukraine and Russia.

Since the summit Moscow's forces



U.S. Navy photo

Guided-missile warships, like destroyers in Arab-Persian Gulf in 2018, are being deployed off Venezuela as Washington threatens to topple government under guise of fighting drug cartels.

By designating Maduro as head of a terrorist entity, the U.S. president can use executive orders and military and intelligence resources to attack that organization.

For nearly three decades, the U.S. rulers have tried to overthrow the Venezuelan government and impose

one more subservient to Washington, and to take back control over the country's vast oil reserves.

By painting a target on President Maduro's back, Washington also seeks to magnify the effects of its crippling economic and financial sanctions against Venezuela.

have intensified their daily assaults. The 750-mile battlefield remains largely fixed. In the southeast they continue to occupy a fifth of Ukraine.

Moscow launched heavy drone and missile attacks on Kyiv and other cities Aug. 28. In Kyiv alone, 25 civilians were killed, including four children. More than 50 people were injured.

In the attack, the offices of the European Commission and the British Council were damaged. By deliberately striking these sites, Putin is firing warning shots to the U.S. rulers and other imperialist powers that provide Ukraine with air defenses and other military equipment.

A week earlier, Moscow's cruise missiles hit a U.S.-owned factory in western Ukraine.

This round of Moscow's airstrikes also targeted workers' organizations. The Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Ukraine (KVPU) noted that the sites hit in Kyiv are next to the offices of the union and those of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine.

In Koziatyn, "the office of the Free Trade Union of Railway Workers of Ukraine was destroyed, and in Dobropillia in the Donetsk region, the office of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine at the 'Dobropil'ska' mine was ruined," in airstrikes, the KVPU reported.

Workers and their unions have been at the forefront of Ukraine's efforts to repel the invasion.

Moscow keeps targeting areas with large civilian populations, trying to break the determination of Ukraine's working people to defend their country's sovereignty. In sharp contrast, Kyiv has concentrated its strikes on Russian military and industrial sites.

In August, a wave of Ukrainian drone and missile attacks dealt one of the severest blows yet to Russia's oil sector. At least 10 refineries and fuel terminals were hit in various regions. The attacks disabled 17 refining units, stopping the operation of about 14% of Russia's total refining capacity.

Five plants were disabled from

huge fires, while production at Rosneft's Ryzan refinery was cut in half. Almost a quarter of Russian refinery capacity is now idled. These disruptions sent fuel prices soaring with a 40% to 50% increase since January. In parts of Russia, long lines form at many gas stations, adding to the worsening conditions workers face.

At the end of August, Ukrainian forces reversed two months of advances by Moscow's forces, recapturing several villages in western Donetsk.

Appeal to free war captives

Oleg Orlov, a former Russian political prisoner and a head of Memorial Human Rights Defense Center, which fights for victims of repression in Russia, was one of the co-signers of "Free people first!" an open letter issued on the eve of the Trump-Putin Alaska summit.

"The Russian Federation continues to hold tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war," the letter said. "More are missing as victims of enforced disappearances. Thousands of Russian political prisoners, deprived of their liberty because of their antiwar positions and actions, remain behind bars."

"Conditions in Russian-controlled facilities are inhuman: civilian detainees and POWs, men and women, are tortured, including by being beaten unconscious, forced to stand motionless for up to 16 hours a day, subject to electric shocks (including to the genitals), raped, and denied medical aid, even when they are seriously ill."

Vladimir Kara-Murza, a former political prisoner and co-signer of the appeal pointed to the "Ukrainian civilian hostages, Ukrainian children abducted to Russia and Russian political prisoners jailed for their antiwar position." The appeal calls for their release.

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Drive toward a third world war

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resources, rare earth reserves, chips and semiconductors are all necessary for military purposes.

“When SWP members talk to workers at their doorsteps, co-workers on the job, or strikers on picket lines, there is no optimism about the economy. There’s no enthusiasm about the offerings from the bosses’ two political parties and a foreboding that more wars are coming,” he said.

Sandler described the scope of the U.S. rulers’ military buildup around the world, from the Pacific, to the Middle East, to the naval armada being dispatched off the coast of Venezuela. He pointed to the Northern Command, established by the government in 2002, which gives Washington greater power to use military force domestically, as well as in Canada and Mexico.

“The government has recently deployed Marines and the National Guard in Los Angeles,” he said. “The guard is being used now to police Washington, D.C. Troops are stationed at the U.S. southern border to go after anyone who should try to cross, supposedly to target drug cartels in Mexico and elsewhere.

“The U.S. working class is the ultimate target of Washington’s deployment of military forces at home.”

Sandler said, “The heart of understanding what is taking place in the Middle East is understanding the Jewish question. The goal of Hamas and Tehran is another Holocaust, to wipe out the Jews in Israel, half of the world’s Jewish population.

“Jew-hatred is built into the imperialist epoch,” he pointed out. “There will be no refuge as long as capitalism exists. Jew-hatred will increase as the world capitalist system decays. The growing call for a ‘two-state solution’ today means a Hamas state in Gaza, pointing a dagger at Israel’s existence. Getting rid of Hamas is necessary to give space to workers in Gaza and in Israel to allow for the unfolding of the class struggle.

“The biggest ally of workers in Israel is the working class in Iran. They’re continuing to organize strikes, protest working and living conditions and oppose Tehran’s drive to destroy Israel,” he said.

Need for a revolutionary leadership

Sandler explained that Stalinist forces have been in the forefront of opposing Israel’s defensive war to defeat Hamas. Joined by many liberals, they call Israel’s war “genocide,” burying the depth of what was done to the world’s Jewish population during the Holocaust. But the Stalinists political course is nothing new. Their sabotage of real opportunities to unite the workers’ movement in Germany to fight to prevent Hitler from coming to power in 1933 is a prime example.

Sandler also cited their betrayal of revolutionary openings in 1936 in France, and in the 1936-39 Spanish Revolution. These defeats made the second imperi-

alist world war inevitable and opened the door to the Holocaust.

“So-called socialist organizations today defend Hamas and Vladimir Putin’s deadly war against the Ukrainian people. The heirs of Stalin and Mao are active on campuses and elsewhere,” he said. As they did in the past, the same Stalinist forces today promote a “Popular Front” against fascism, based on class collaboration with the two parties of the bosses and bankers.

Sandler described the scope of the government’s immigration raids, which are leading to the jailing and deportation of thousands of workers. “Socialist Workers Party candidates across the country are calling for amnesty for undocumented workers, as a step to prevent the bosses from dividing us. The labor movement must take the lead on this life-and-death question.” He cited the example of the SMART union’s backing of their fellow union member, Kilmar Abrego García, and his supporters in their fight against the government’s drive to deport him and intimidate other workers without papers.

“There is serious resistance growing in the working class as exhibited by the striking flight attendants at Air Canada who refused to buckle to government orders to return to work, and by Republic Services garbage workers on strike for equal pay, who are holding firm after more than 50 days on the picket lines,” Sandler said. Organizing solidarity with these fights is crucial.

“SWP candidates across the country are getting a serious hearing. What we raise makes more sense now to workers than in previous years,” he said. At the heart of what the SWP presents “is the necessity of the working class to take political power and begin to transform society top to bottom. Building revolutionary parties is decisive to advancing this perspective worldwide.

“We are urging working people to join the Socialist Workers Party.”

Labor Day reflects growing working-class resistance

Continued from front page

is possible,” Larry Roy, a former flight attendant and CUPE Local 4092 vice president, told the *Militant*. “But I’m incredibly disappointed with the company. It’s clear to me that they never intended to negotiate in good faith and were counting on the government to rule us back to work.”

The flight attendants “showed how you can stand up to the corporations,” said Kaveh Ali-Akbar-Khani, a Toronto letter carrier and member of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, one of the unions Ottawa ordered back to work. They are still in negotiations with Canada Post.

At a Labor Day rally at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, flight attendant Trina Johnson told Edwin Fruit, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minneapolis City Council, that she was inspired by their Canadian fellow workers defying the return-to-work order. Johnson is a member of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA at Endeavor, a Delta-owned regional airline.

At the Atlanta-North Georgia Labor Council event in Atlanta, Sharon Mason, a ramp agent at Delta, told Susan LaMont, SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta, that she is part of the International Association of Machinists campaign to win union recognition for all

SWP candidate wins support on Chicago Labor Day march



Militant/Naomi Craine

CHICAGO — “This is my first time on strike, and I’m learning a lot,” Linne Boyd, right, a member of Teamsters Local 705 at Mauser Packaging Solutions, told David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, and SWP member Lisa Rottach. Boyd was part of the Teamsters contingent at a Labor Day march here Sept. 1. The strikers are fighting for better wages, working conditions and livable schedules.

“Safety is a big issue. We want to leave work the same way we came, with all of our limbs, back to our families in one piece,” Boyd said.

“Safety is a big issue for workers on the railroad too, and in every other industry,” Rosenfeld, a SMART-TD union member and freight rail conductor, said. “All bosses push for profits at the cost of workers’ life and limb. We need to fight for the unions to have control over how work is done.”

SWP candidates across the country joined fellow unionists at Labor Day events to discuss what we face today and chart a course forward.

After seeing the *Militant* headline supporting Ukraine’s fight to defend its national sovereignty, Boyd said he also opposes Moscow’s war. “We are lucky that kind of thing isn’t happening over here.”

“Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine is a reflection of the deepening worldwide economic and political crisis tearing at the bosses and their governments, which drives them toward World War III,” Rottach said. “It’s in the interests of all workers to support the fight to get Moscow’s forces out of Ukraine.” Boyd subscribed to the *Militant* to learn more.

Another Mauser striker, Guadalupe Ruíz, told Rottach about conditions in their plant.

“Your fight is part of the increasing labor resistance taking place today,” Rottach said. “The SWP says all workers, immigrant and native-born, must unite to wage a struggle to take political power.” Ruíz subscribed to the *Militant* and bought a copy of *The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us: The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward*.

— NAOMI CRAINE

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Fight against Jew-hatred crucial for Bolshevik victory in civil war

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

In the Russian Revolution and its defense against imperialist attack and capitalist-led civil war afterward, the V.I. Lenin-led Bolshevik Party put the fight against Jew-hatred at the center of its proletarian internationalist course.

Today, reactionary leaders in the Ukraine government's "decommunization" drive and other opponents of the Russian Revolution contest this, claiming "Bolshevik pogroms" were widespread during the civil war that raged after working people took political power in October 1917.

Pogroms were the stock-in-trade of the "White" army and other allied counterrevolutionary forces in Ukraine and elsewhere, as they drove to overturn soviet power. They massacred Jews on a scale surpassed only in the Nazi Holocaust itself. More than 100,000 Jews were slaughtered. Complicit were the U.K., French, U.S. and 13 other capitalist governments that intervened, backing the Whites with 180,000 troops, war materiel and funds.

Lenin wrote in 1918 that the weapon of Jew-hatred had "slipped from the hands of the tsar" to those of the bourgeois counterrevolution. He called for "uncompromising measures to tear the antisemitic movement out by the roots. Pogromists and pogrom-agitators are to be placed outside the law."

"When the accursed tsarist monarchy was living its last days it tried to incite ignorant workers and peasants against the Jews. The tsarist police, in alliance with the landowners and the capitalists ... tried to divert the hatred of the workers and peasants who were tortured by want against the Jews," Lenin said in a gramophone recording he made in March 1919, shortly after the revolution conquered. It was played all across the country.

"It is not the Jews who are the enemies of the working people. The enemies of the workers are the capitalists of all countries," he explained. "Shame on accursed tsarism which tortured and persecuted the Jews. Shame on those who foment hatred toward the Jews, who foment hatred toward other nations."

The Bolsheviks pursued this course so vigorously that their enemies referred to communists as the "Yid Party." They circulated vile posters depicting Red Army leader Leon

Trotsky as a Jewish devil. Thousands of Jews flocked to the party and joined the Red Army.

The "Bolshevik pogrom" slander gets traction because some attacks on Jews were carried out under what Trotsky called a "fraudulent red flag" — as White army spies and warlords took advantage of civil war chaos to enter the Red Army for military or personal advantage. Some penetrated the party itself. Revolutionary warriors must face such "cruel truth," Trotsky wrote.

The Bolshevik leadership took measures to expose and crush the offenders militarily. "Not a single crime committed in the army is to be left unpunished," Trotsky insisted.

Working-class political course

More broadly, the Bolsheviks moved to implement their program. They explained pogroms are a *class* question in the imperialist epoch, for which the kulaks — wealthy capitalist farmers — were principally responsible in rural Ukraine and the North Caucasus. "There are a large number of corrupt kulak elements" who seek to "incite the Red Army men to engage in pogroms and banditry," Trotsky said.

Kulaks grouped around White army leader Gen. Anton Denikin and his Anglo-French backers and reactionary bourgeois nationalists of various stripes, like Symon Petlyura. Others flocked to self-seeking warlords, who set out, Trotsky said, to "plunder the peasants, commit pogroms in the towns ... slaughter hundreds of thousands of absolutely innocent people."

Petlyura, who claimed to be the leader of the fight for Ukrainian independence, allied with reactionary Polish army forces to assault the Red Army. He was notorious for leading his troops in pogroms against Jews. He was assassinated in 1926 by Shalom Schwartzbard, a Jew and former Red Army combatant who had lost 14 relatives to Petlyura's murderers.

Bolshevik leaders also paid special attention to Nikifor Grigoriev, aligned with the Social Revolutionary Party, and anarchist Nestor Makhno, each of whom built private armies numbering thousands after being exposed and purged from the Red Army.



Workers turn out to greet Red Army soldiers who liberated Odesa, Ukraine — which had the largest Jewish population in czarist Russia — from counterrevolutionary forces in 1919. By the end of the civil war in 1921, the Red Army had put an end to anti-Jewish pogroms.

Such elements found fertile ground for their antisemitic poison among the thousands of former officers of the czarist army who the Bolsheviks recruited into the Red Army to take advantage of their military experience. The Bolsheviks countered the threat of Jew-hatred by assigning communist commissars to give political supervision and leadership while working alongside them.

'War communism'

As the civil war and imperialist attacks ground on, the Bolsheviks were compelled to organize "war communism," a regime of austerity, including requisitions of grain from the peasants. This put great strain on the bedrock of the revolution — the worker-peasant alliance.

Richer capitalist-minded kulaks sowed peasant disaffection by denouncing the Bolsheviks, especially in western Ukraine. Though forced into "war communism" by the necessity to feed workers in the towns and Red Army forces during the long and draining war, these measures were never what the Bolsheviks had intended, Lenin said.

The Bolshevik leaders sought to win peasants away from the kulaks. They divided the estates and encouraged land seizures; provided seeds, machinery and training; aided the formation of peasant soviets; and boosted the weight of workers and poor peasants in Red Army regiments. They organized specially equipped trains

loaded with books and communist literature to go out into the countryside in an effort to raise the educational and cultural level.

They insisted on the humane treatment of prisoners taken in battle, many of whom were peasants who had misguidedly fallen under the clutches of the kulaks. And they defended the national rights of the Ukrainians against "Great Russian chauvinism."

Under these conditions, Lenin and Trotsky collaborated closely with fellow Bolshevik Christian Rakovsky, head of the Ukrainian soviet government and Communist Party. Rakovsky led a political campaign of public meetings and articles in the party and soviet press echoing Lenin's writing and speeches against Jew-hatred, explaining the stakes for the Russian toilers.

This was part of a broader Bolshevik-led nationwide propaganda and educational campaign in which countless numbers of leaflets and pamphlets were distributed, including by the Evseksiia (Jewish section of the Bolshevik Party) and nonparty Jewish fighters.

Under Bolshevik leadership, workers and peasants prevailed, defeating the White Army, Petlyura's forces allied with the reactionary Polish army, and other opponents of the revolution. Pogroms became a thing of the past — until Stalin's murderous counter-revolution revived antisemitism as a weapon against the legacy of Lenin.

The Bolshevik's course is an example to be emulated.

Labor Day reflects growing resistance

Continued from page 5

union introduced Flor, a farmworker, who told the crowd, "It's not right that we are working, scared to leave our houses, not knowing if we'll return home or not."

Many workers said at first they had skipped work fearing raids, but had to return to pay their bills. Several people took pictures of the SWP banner calling for amnesty.

Thousands of unionists and their families turned out for the AFL-CIO Labor Day parade in Philadelphia. The UNITE HERE Local 274 contingent, representing 4,000 hotel, restaurant and food service workers at eight city hotels, got out the word about their fight for a new contract.

Over the last few years hotel workers across the country have fought for and

won union recognition and substantial contract gains.

After the parade, lunch was served at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19 union hall. At one lunch table, SWP member and rail worker Chris Hoepfner spoke with six young sheet metal workers, all of whom knew about fellow union member Kilmar Abrego García's fight for asylum, which they support.

They discussed common experiences with boss attacks on working conditions, safety and crew sizes. They agreed the unions should demand more workers be hired.

One told Hoepfner they only get one paid holiday every four years, to vote for president. "But they lay us off the week before and the week after so they don't have to pay us even that one day!"

Books workers need to read today



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Protests grow in Iran despite attacks by weakened regime

BY SETH GALINSKY

Opposition to the firing, forced retirement or suspension by the government of at least 17 teachers in Iran’s Kurdish region is winning broad support among toilers in Iran and strengthening the fight against the regime’s crackdown on political rights.

The regime arrested more than 21,000 people during and in the wake of Israel’s 12-day defensive war aimed at preventing Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons. The charges range from criminal offenses to opposing the government. Tehran has executed at least 841 people since the start of the year. It’s on course to go well over the 975 in all of 2024, already one of the highest in the world.

But the regime’s attempt to push back widespread opposition to its rule is failing as protests continue to spread. The teachers’ battle is just one example.

Hundreds of people joined an Aug. 29 walk to the slopes of Abidar Mountain outside Sanandaj to protest the firings and suspensions.

Many of the teachers punished by the Education Department’s Administrative Violations Board had been elected to the leadership of the Kurdistan-Sanandaj Teachers Union or had been candidates in the most recent union election.

The charges against them include organizing “unlawful sit-ins to foment unrest and disrupt the education process,” “participating in illegal teachers’ union channels” and “spreading false information against the Islamic Republic.”

Hundreds of teachers have been suspended or fired since 2022 when “Women, Life, Freedom” protests began after the death of Zhina Amini, a young Kurdish woman who was arrested in Tehran by the hated “morality” police for allegedly violating the women’s dress code.

Oppressed nationalities in Iran include some 10 million to 12 million Kurds — as much as 17% of the population — and 5 million Baluchis, along with millions of Azerbaijanis, Arabs and others who are treated as second-class citizens by the regime. Some of the largest protests against the regime over the last several years have taken place in Kurdistan and Baluchistan. They set an example for working people across the country.

“What has taken place in Kurdistan is not an exception, but a clear mirror of a widespread policy, from north to south and from east to west, that has targeted independent teachers and union activists,” said the Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Unions.

A joint statement by the secretary generals of the Islamic Association of Iranian Teachers, the Islamic Educators’ Assembly and the Iranian Teachers’ Organization also condemned the repressive moves. The victimized teachers only crime, they said, “has been pursuing union demands, striving to improve the quality of education, and defending the rights of teachers and students.”

They noted that President Masoud Pezeshkian won the election last year “with the slogan of change,” but instead the crackdown on “teachers and trade union activists” has “intensified.”

The Truckers and Drivers Association of Iran, which led a widely sup-

ported 11-day strike at the end of May for higher pay and better conditions, issued a statement Aug. 25 demanding “the immediate annulment of these oppressive verdicts and the reinstatement of the honorable teachers of Kurdistan.”

“Just as truckers and drivers fight on the roads for the right to a decent livelihood and a fair life, teachers too strive in classrooms for the future of this land’s children,” the union said. “Our pain and the teachers’ pain are one — injustice, discrimination and disregard for labor rights.”

Along with repression, the reactionary regime in Tehran is appealing to patriotism and “national unity” after the war with Israel to try and tamp down the protests. But those calls more and more are falling on deaf ears.

More than a year of weekly protests by retirees and oil workers that were interrupted by the war have resumed and are picking up steam.

Frequent power outages as well as water shortages have provoked large protests. Hundreds joined protests in



Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Unions
Fight to overturn firing, suspension of teachers in Kurdish region of Iran is winning support from Truckers union, Islamist teachers groups, many others. Above, Aug. 29 protest in Sanandaj.

Shiraz Aug. 21, chanting “People are thirsty and in darkness, officials are in comfort and light” and “freedom, freedom, freedom.” They also chanted “Not Gaza, not Lebanon. My life for Iran,” a reflection of the mounting opposition among working people to being used as cannon fodder for the regime’s expansionist course centered on destroying Israel.

The Tehran and Suburbs Bus Driv-

ers union sent a message of solidarity to 4,000 workers at the Arak Aluminum Company in Markazi province who have been holding protests, including hunger strikes, since the beginning of August. “Your struggle is the struggle of all of us workers,” it said.

“We thank you, and we believe that the joining of workers’ hands across the country will, sooner or later, bear fruit,” responded a group of Arak workers.

Slanders about Israeli genocide in Gaza fall in face of facts

Continued from front page
by the reactionary regime in Tehran — murdering 1,200 people in Israel, mostly civilians. It was the worst anti-Jewish pogrom since the Holocaust.

The Hamas death squads deliberately murdered entire families, tortured and killed immigrant workers, raped women and mutilated their bodies, took hostages and proudly posted photos and videos of their atrocities.

Within weeks U.N. agencies and other Hamas apologists began claiming Gaza was on the verge of mass starvation and that Israel’s defensive war was genocide.

The truth about 1948

The middle-class left, Stalinists and Hamas supporters allege that Israel has been carrying out genocide since 1948, when it won its independence and defeated armies from five reactionary Arab regimes that sought to crush it at birth.

Genocide is the systematic attempt to exterminate an entire people. That’s what the Nazis tried to do leading up to and during World War II. They murdered 6 million Jews, two out of every three Jews in Europe, 40% of the Jews in the world.

The imperialist powers from Washington to Ottawa and beyond closed the doors to Jews fleeing the slaughter and its aftermath. That’s why Jews went to Palestine. Where else could they go?

A look at population figures refutes the claim that a decadeslong “genocide” is being inflicted on the Palestinians. In 1948 there were some 1.3 million Arabs living in Palestine, including what is now Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Today there are some 7.4 million there. And another 7.8 million or so living in other countries. That’s more than 10 times *more* Palestinians than in 1948!

In contrast, as a result of the Nazi’s attempt at genocide, the Jewish population of the world today has just barely reached

the size it was before World War II.

In October 2023, 2.2 million Palestinians lived in Gaza. The Gaza Ministry of Health — which is an arm of Hamas — claims that 63,000 people have been killed there since Israel launched its war to destroy Hamas. Israel says it has killed 20,000 Hamas fighters, but the Gaza health ministry makes no distinction between the deaths of civilians and combatants.

Even accepting the Hamas-run ministry’s figures, that’s less than 3% of the population during an intense urban war.

Hamas — with the indispensable aid of Tehran — built the largest military tunnel system in modern history, yet not one bomb shelter for civilians. It places its command posts and ammunition stores in and underneath schools, hospitals, mosques, homes and U.N. offices.

The deaths in Gaza are the result of Hamas’ refusal to end its war, return the hostages it seized and its deliberate strategy of maximizing civilian deaths, which it blames on Israel in the hopes of generating sympathy for its aims.

The Israeli government and Israel Defense Forces are capitalist institutions. But they take measures to move civilians out of harms way, despite Hamas’ efforts to prevent evacuations and the fact this gives Hamas more time to prepare before battle.

Famine? Or Hamas manipulation?

“Starvation as weapon of war being used against Gaza civilians.” This was the headline in Oxfam International on Oct. 25, 2023. For nearly two years, the U.N., so-called humanitarian aid organizations, the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* have repeated the same libel.

Imperialist rulers, including those in Canada, Britain and Australia, echo the charges against Israel, accusing it of deliberately starving Gazans. In pressing Israel to lay down its arms, they seek to position themselves to join in the plun-

der of the labor, oil and other resources in the Middle East, which is still dominated by U.S. imperialism.

“Debunking the Genocide Allegations: A Reexamination of the Israel-Hamas War from October 7, 2023 to June 1, 2025,” a report just released by the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, is well worth reading.

The report found that *more* food aid has been sent to Gaza since the war began than before. From Oct. 7, 2023, until January 2025, trucks entering Gaza provided enough food to meet the needs of the entire population along with a six-month reserve.

There is hunger in Gaza. But that’s largely because Hamas systematically loots and profits off the aid and uses it to maintain the loyalty of its dwindling network of supporters. And since Gaza, like Israel, is class-divided, better off middle-class layers are able to buy food diverted from humanitarian groups at high-priced markets, while poorer families struggle to survive.

The road forward

The cries of “genocide” and “famine” are increasing as Israeli troops surround Hamas’ last stronghold, Gaza City, preparing to end its rule.

Defeating and dismantling Hamas is a necessity to prevent a new Holocaust in Israel, home to half the world’s Jews. It would free Palestinians in Gaza from Hamas’ tyranny.

Defeating Hamas cannot put an end to Jew-hatred. But it would remove a key obstacle to working people in Israel, the Palestinian territories and the region — Jews, Arabs, Muslims, Druze, Christians, immigrants and more — finding ways to come together in defense of their common interests today and, out of those struggles, to fight to take political power.

The protests unfolding in Iran — including toilers of all nationalities — show what is possible.

In struggle, truckers learned the power of their strength as a class

Teamster Power by Farrell Dobbs is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. Dobbs tells the story of how members of Teamsters Local 574 in Minneapolis wielded the union power they forged through three victorious 1934 strikes. With class-struggle leadership, the Teamsters extended their union throughout the Midwest, helped organize other unions and the unemployed and advance independent working-class political action. The book is the second of four volumes by Dobbs, a central strike leader who emerged from the ranks to become organizer of the Teamsters' campaign that unionized a quarter of a million over-the-road truckers. He served as national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1953 to 1972. The excerpt is from the chapter, "A transformed International." Copyright © 2008 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY FARRELL DOBBS

I would be assigned the special task of supervising over-the-road organizing in the central states. Agreement was also reached that I should set up my headquarters in Omaha, so as to help the relatively new local unions in that region and to let the bosses know that they would be kept under surveillance. ...

Numerous contract violations had



Omaha World Herald

Omaha, Nebraska, June 1937. Strikers celebrate as first truck leaves with a union driver after they won a contract at Arrow Motors Freight. Victory was result of a drive, led by Minneapolis Teamsters, that in a few years organized a quarter million over-the-road truckers in 11 states.

been occurring in that region. The operators involved seemed to bank on the union losing the fight in the west, which would have weakened our position. Even if we won, they had come to expect that the agreement would not be tightly enforced. That assumption had arisen due to laxness exhibited by local union officials at a few terminals. ... The time had now come, however, for these bosses to learn that they were gravely mistaken. ...

[W]e put forward a class-struggle outlook. [Dave] Beck [of Seattle] adhered to the class-collaborationist norms of business unionism. We advocated the industrial form of organization; Beck was essentially a craft unionist. We defended and sought to advance trade union democracy; Beck used bureaucratic methods, ruling those he led with an iron hand.

There was yet another difference, related directly to over-the-road contract policy. We bargained on an area-wide basis to establish uniform wages and conditions for all the workers involved. Beck allowed considerable variation in contract terms, according to each operator's so-called "ability to pay."

Despite these conflicting outlooks, we were able to establish practical cooperation in organizing and strike activities. ...

So great had the union power be-

come that all this was accomplished without having to take major strike action. Nothing more was required than a few minor skirmishes with random bosses.

An instructive balance sheet could now be drawn.

With Trotskyist militants playing a key leadership role, the policies needed to build a potent International had been demonstrated in living terms. The necessary course had first been put into practice during the 1934 Minneapolis strikes. A means of projecting effective union-building measures onto a larger arena had then been exemplified through the North Central District Drivers Council, as it was initially conceived. Its successes proved the value of broad union cooperation developed with unfettered aims and limitless forms of action.

Examples had also been provided of ways to overcome obstacles created by the [Daniel] Tobin machine. The IBT head had been defeated in his attempt to read the Minneapolis Teamster militants out of the union movement. After that his objections to the NCDDC were sufficiently overcome to enable us to launch the over-the-road campaign.

Still another gain was made later through our perception of changing reality, combined with use of flexible

tactics and the ability to maintain the necessary patience. Tobin himself was drawn into support of the eleven-state project.

The latter development had significant effects. Former IBT concepts of maintaining a loose federation of insular baronies were definitively fractured. As a corollary, the old-line craft structure began to crack wide open. The movement was no longer rooted primarily among relatively privileged driving crafts in exclusive sections of the industry. It was beginning to embrace workers in a much broader range of occupations. A modified social composition resulted that implied new class-struggle potential.

Advances in organizational structure were also occurring. New patterns had been set for broader, more sophisticated methods of area-wide cooperation between local unions in pursuit of uniform goals. New examples of leadership guidance had been introduced in shaping the necessary strategy, tactics, and functional norms to achieve union objectives.

In the course of their struggles the workers had acquired increased awareness of their strength as a class. They had grasped the importance of bringing their collective weight to bear against the bosses on the necessary scale. And they had come more and more to identify themselves with militant union policies.

Full use of the Teamster power along the foregoing lines had brought the workers victory in the over-the-road conflict. The dramatic gains registered in that struggle had, in turn, inspired truck drivers generally. As a result the way had been opened for unprecedented union growth in all quarters of the industry.

In fact, new members were already pouring into the International Brotherhood of Teamsters at an accelerated rate. In both 1938 and 1939 it reported the biggest recruitment gains of any national organization in the AFL. By the fall of 1939 this added up to a total membership nearing 500,000, which represented quite a jump for the International from the 1933 figure of about 80,000. The IBT was well on the way to attaining its later standing as the largest single union in the country.

September BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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All working-class battles are political fights

More workers today are speaking up, using unions and organizing solidarity. Opportunities to build and strengthen the labor movement continue to open up, which were reflected at Labor Day actions nationwide.

Strikes by members of the United Auto Workers at GE Aerospace, which just began in Kentucky and Ohio, and by Teamsters at Republic Services in Massachusetts, who have been on strike since July 1, deserve support. Get out the word, join their picket lines!

These and other strikes are the result of attacks by the bosses and their governments, driven by the deepening crisis of capitalism. Bosses are fighting against wage increases and demands for safe working conditions, highlighted by the multiple explosions that rocked the U.S. Steel coking plant in Clairton, Pennsylvania, last month.

Political questions come to the fore in all union battles. Flight attendants at Air Canada, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, defied a government back-to-work order aimed at breaking their strike. Other unions have faced similar government attacks.

Today's union struggles take place as President Donald Trump steps up the U.S. rulers' bipartisan assault on immigrant workers, sharply posing a life-and-death question for the labor movement. The goal of the government's raids and deportations is to

instill fear among immigrants and deepen divisions among workers of all nationalities.

There is only one answer to this assault — a fight for an amnesty for workers without papers in the U.S. Such a struggle would unify all working people and put our unions on a stronger footing for today's union battles and those that lie ahead.

Union struggles are taking place in the wake of big shifts in world politics, intensified by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom. These changes set off new trade conflicts and an arms race, as capitalist rulers see that wars are inevitable.

Violent Jew-hating assaults, alongside attempts to drive Jews out of public life, are on the rise in the U.S. and worldwide. Fighting Jew-hatred wherever it occurs is a question for the unions and all the oppressed.

Working people are joining the debate on a road forward. On one side are middle-class Stalinist forces who say workers need a "peoples front against fascism" and unity with the Democrats. On the other side are the Socialist Workers Party and militant workers who see the need for a break with the bosses and their parties. Workers need a party of our own that acts on the capacities of working people, and the fact that socialist revolution is not only necessary but possible in the U.S. and worldwide.

Join the SWP!

Back fight for asylum for Kilmar Abrego García!

Continued from front page

Homeland Security agent testified that authorities didn't begin considering these charges until this April, when the government faced pressure to return Abrego García to the U.S.

Nashville Judge Waverly Crenshaw Jr. ruled Abrego García must be released from jail while awaiting trial, because the government had failed to show he is a danger or a flight risk. And, the judge said, the government's case was a "poor attempt to tie Abrego to MS-13," the Salvadoran gang Immigration and Customs Enforcement claims he was smuggling for.

With virtually no evidence, the U.S. government repeats its smears that Abrego García is a MS-13 member. In fact he came to the U.S. when he was 16, fleeing gang threats against his family in El Salvador.

On Aug. 25 President Donald Trump doubled down on slandering Abrego García, saying he "beat the hell out of his wife; his wife is afraid to even talk about him." But she's been at the forefront of his defense, saying they love each other. ICE has now given Abrego García two choices, either plead guilty to the "human smuggling" charge and be deported to Costa Rica, or refuse and be deported to Uganda.

The fight to defend Abrego García, is helping win broader support in the labor movement for the fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S., crucial to unify the working class.

Reunited with family and supporters

After Judge Crenshaw ordered his release Aug. 22, Abrego García's lawyers organized his travel to Maryland, where he was reunited with his family — his wife, Jennifer Vásquez Sura, three children, his mother, his brother César — and supporters from CASA, the immigrant rights group that defends him.

Three days later, he addressed 200 supporters here before reporting to an 8 a.m. mandatory check-in at the ICE office. "I say with pride today, remember that I was free and reunited with my family. This was a miracle, thanks to God and to the community. Thank you to each of you who marched, who lifted your voices, and continue to fight in my name." He was interrupted with chants of "Sí, se puede," "Todos somos Kilmar."

"Regardless of what happens here today with ICE, promise me this — you will keep believing in dignity and freedom, not just for me," he said, "for everyone."

With his wife and César by his side, as well as his lawyer, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, he went in. The protest continued, as supporters chanted and picketed outside. Postal workers, teachers, hotel workers, sheet metal workers and others carried handmade signs such as, "Kilmar belongs with his family, not in Uganda."

"This is not about immigrants. It is about the plight of the working class. People are angry. David Huerta, a member of my union, was picked up in Los Angeles for doing what we are doing here — protesting. He still faces charges," Jaime Contreras, executive vice president of the 20,000-strong Service Employees International Union 32BJ in the D.C. metropolitan region, told the crowd.

Barely 45 minutes later Sandoval-Moshenberg came out and told the crowd a masked ICE agent had shackled Abrego García and took him into custody. "Abrego García is being punished for exercising his constitutional rights, for refusing to enter a guilty plea when he is innocent, for demanding a trial by a jury of his peers, with the right to an appeal."

Sandoval-Moshenberg told the crowd how important their actions are. Abrego García told him, he said, that when he was in CECOT in El Salvador he didn't know he had any support.

"At SMART, we fight for the principle of due process every single day. We stand for the fundamental American value that all our members, and everyone in this country, are innocent until proven guilty," SMART National President Michael Coleman said in a union statement. "Let's be very clear: Kilmar deserves his day in court."

Shortly after being detained again, Abrego García filed an application for asylum in the U.S. His attorneys notified the U.S. government that he fears deportation to Uganda, where he believes he could be tortured. He said he worries that Uganda will send him back to El Salvador, where he was threatened and tortured.

"They're holding Costa Rica as a carrot and using Uganda as a stick," Sandoval-Moshenberg said.

For now, Abrego García is in ICE detention in Virginia. The only visits he's permitted are from his wife and his attorneys. On Aug. 27, Judge Paula Xinis in Maryland ruled that the U.S. government is prohibited from deporting Abrego García while she handles his case. She set a hearing for Oct. 6.

"The Trump administration's decision to detain Kilmar again is retaliation against this family for daring to demand justice," Ama Frimpong, CASA's legal director, told the *Militant*. "We will show up for him on Oct. 6, loudly proclaiming that we are all Kilmar!"

'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

Workers bear brunt of today's capitalist crisis

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The capitalist economic crisis unfolding today is bearing down hardest on working-class families. High prices for basic necessities, including groceries, rent, electricity, medical care, child care, care for the elderly and more make it difficult to make ends meet.

Under this class-divided system, huge wealth flows into the pockets of the ruling capitalist families and upper-middle-class layers that advance and rationalize the ruling class's dog-eat-dog profit system.

"\$1 Trillion of Wealth Was Created for the 19 Richest U.S. Households Last Year," a recent *Wall Street Journal* headline boasted, noting the wealthiest 1% of households now own 31% of the wealth produced by the labor of working people.

The fact of the matter is the rich are getting richer. That's how capitalism works, with working people having to confront a much different reality. Real wages continue to fall behind the rising cost of living. In response, workers are increasingly turning to the unions to fight back, organizing strikes and other protests, like those today at Boeing, Republic Services and by airline flight attendants both in the U.S. and Canada.

"Inflation-adjusted average hourly earnings rose 0.1% in July after zero in June," the Aug. 15 *Journal* said, reflecting the squeeze workers face. Real average hourly earnings rose by just 1.2% over the last year.

One place that hits working-class families the most is the astronomical cost of raising children. "We are dealing with a broken system where minimum wage does not come close to covering living expenses for a family," Christie Finch, deputy director of Mothers & Babies, a group that provides diapers and other supplies to families, told the *Journal*. "Many families are choosing between paying the rent and buying groceries or paying for heat." In many cases, women are choosing to put off having children, or not have them.

Declining U.S. birthrate

Births in the U.S. have been declining for decades. In 2024 the fertility rate dropped to the lowest level since the government began tracking it in the 1930s, with less than 1.6 births per woman, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports. For the population to at least hold steady would require a birth rate of 2.1 children per woman, a rate that was last achieved in 2007. In fact, the rate has seldom been that high since the early 1970s.

This is in sharp contrast to the "baby boom" years following World War II. Women in the U.S. averaged more than three births each from the late 1940s through early 1960s.

And one thing to remember in considering this crisis is the shift over decades — in the imperialist countries, especially in the U.S. — in the transformation of the family. Up until the 1950s most families were sustained by one parent working. Both because of advances won by women fighting for equal rights and the growing crisis of the capitalist system, large numbers of women poured into the labor market and industrial jobs. And today both parents have to work.

It costs hundreds of thousands of dollars for working-class families to raise a child today. The median annual cost of bringing up a child in the U.S., reports MarketWatch, is now \$22,850.

The cost for providing child care is sky-high. According to the Department of Labor, parents spend over 25% of their income paying for child care. It costs more to send a child full-time to day care than it does to pay for in-state tuition at a public college.

To send one child to day care for five years — infant care, two years of toddler care and two years of preschool — costs an average of \$44,000 across the U.S. But in some areas, like San Francisco and Washington, D.C., it's way more, above \$125,000.

This money doesn't go to child care workers. Their average pay last year was just \$15.41 per hour, the Labor Department says, not enough to cover the most basic standard of living. And they face difficult working conditions from the shortage of workers to provide adequate attention to the children. Working women whose children are in day care face special challenges in keeping a job. "Every month, at least 1.2 million workers have to miss work or are working only part time because of child care issues," the *Journal* notes.