

Imperialism’s growing drive to war marks Davos debates

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Heated tensions between Washington and rival ruling class spokespeople in Europe were on show at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 21-22. The annual gathering exposed the reality of the cut-throat relations that increasingly mark the fraying imperialist world order and that are a sign of sharper conflicts and more wars to come.

President Donald Trump used his featured address to tout Washington’s military might, lauding his administration’s Jan. 3 murderous incursion into Venezuela, its bombing of boats in the Caribbean and its military assaults in the Middle East. He reiterated the U.S. rulers’ goal of taking Greenland from Denmark and lambasted “allied” governments that are part of what has been the U.S.-led NATO alliance.

“The problem with NATO,” Trump said, “is that, we’ll be there for them 100%, but I’m not sure they’ll be there for us.” Washington has pushed for European powers to take more responsibility for their defense, including in

Continued on page 9

Washington is deepening its domination in the Middle East

BY SETH GALINSKY

After imposing a ceasefire in Gaza, blocking Israel from defeating Hamas decisively, the Donald Trump administration is making further shifts to advance U.S. imperialist interests in the Middle East. This includes pursuing profits from its expanding presence as well as pressing capitalist regimes there to ally with Washington in pushing back inroads by Beijing, its main, but not only, rival.

Tehran-backed Hamas is taking advantage of the ceasefire to rebuild its battered forces and prepare future anti-Jewish pogroms. The Nazi-like group has no intention of backing off from its goal of the destruction of Israel and the elimination of the Jews there.

While Washington flexes its military and economic might, weaker capitalist powers, in the Middle East and beyond, are maneuvering to promote the interests of their own ruling classes in the new “great game” of who gets the most plunder from the natural resources and labor in the region.

All this is reflected in what the White

Continued on page 7

Join fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the US!

Unions need to lead to unify the working class



Militant/Paul Pederson

Thousands rallied in Minneapolis Jan. 23, protesting gov’t attacks, deportations of immigrant workers. Area unions built and organized to help ensure it was a disciplined, peaceful action.

BY HELEN MEYERS

MINNEAPOLIS — Recent protests and other events unfolding in Minneapolis over the last week show both the potential for building a powerful and disciplined union-led movement to fight and win amnesty for those in the working class without papers, as well as the deadly consequences of ultraleft tactics employed as an answer to the assaults and brutality of Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agents operating here.

Thousands marched and rallied in subzero temperatures in downtown Minneapolis Jan. 23, protesting ICE’s continuing attacks on workers, with and without papers, and their families. It reflected the determination of many working people to stand up in defense of immigrant workers — their co-workers, neighbors, fellow unionists, church members and more.

Continued on page 6

Moscow targets working people in Ukraine, bombs out power and heat



Ukrzaliznytsia

Rail and other maintenance workers came from across Ukraine to volunteer in Kyiv repairing heating and power facilities damaged by massive drone and missile assaults by Moscow.

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Ukrainian and U.S. officials met with Russian military representatives in Abu Dhabi Jan. 23-24 on terms to bring Moscow’s nearly four-year-long war on Ukraine to an end. At the same time, the Kremlin launched over 370 attack drones and 21 missiles at several Ukrainian cities, trying to cut off water and heat in an ongoing effort to conquer the country and its people.

The discussions began on a draft proposal by President Donald Trump and his envoys. It drew heavy criticism in Ukraine and from governments in Europe for echoing Moscow’s demands. Aspects of other drafts, with input from Ukrainian officials, were opposed by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One stumbling block was the proposed deployment of troops to Ukraine

Continued on page 9

SWP: Mass actions by immigrants in 2006, ‘We are workers, not criminals!’

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. are discussing with fellow workers what

our class and the unions can do in the face of the more and more violent conflicts among rival capitalist powers for markets, resources and labor to exploit. This discussion has sharpened since Washington’s Jan. 3 military operation in Venezuela and kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro.

And they’re explaining that the U.S. rulers predatory foreign policy is an extension of the brutal methods they

Continued on page 5

US rulers deepen control over oil in Venezuela, cut delivery to China

BY RÓGER CALERO

Following Washington’s assault on Venezuela, killing more than 100 Venezuelans and 32 Cubans there, and kidnapping President Nicolás Maduro, CIA Director John Ratcliffe traveled to Caracas Jan. 15 to meet with new Venezuelan President Delcy Rodríguez. The meeting focused on advancing intelligence cooperation, economic stability, and keeping the country from becoming “a safe haven

Continued on page 4

Inside

- Road to forging a fighting labor movement 9
- Court: Canada gov’t use of Emergencies Act was illegal 2
- California, Hawaii nurses strike over staffing, pay 3
- Why are the US rulers out to take over Greenland? 5
- Despite repression, Iran’s toilers find ways to renew protests 7

Canada court rules gov't use of Emergencies Act was illegal

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — In an important and hard-fought victory for working people and defenders of political rights, Canada's Federal Court of Appeal ruled Jan. 16 that the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's use of the draconian Emergencies Act to deploy 3,000 heavily armed police to crush the trucker-led Freedom Convoy in 2022 was illegal.

Hundreds of truckers, their families and supporters from across the country had set up camp, many with their big rigs, for three weeks in downtown Ottawa, Canada's capital. They were peacefully protesting job-threatening COVID mandates and other anti-democratic moves by the government.

The panel of three judges concluded unanimously that a federal court was correct two years ago in ruling the government's use of the Emergencies Act violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, freedom of expression and protection against unreasonable search or seizure.

It also upheld the ruling that the blockades may have been "disruptive," but "they fell well short of a threat to national security," as the government fraudulently claimed.

Trudeau had cited a "threat to the national security of Canada" to invoke the act, giving the government extraordinary powers, including to prohibit citizens from assembling in public and to freeze the bank accounts of a number of Freedom Convoy participants.

Current Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney had joined Trudeau in denounc-

ing the truckers before the Emergencies Act was invoked, telling the *Globe and Mail* that the Freedom Convoy was "seditious" and calling on Ottawa to take police action to end it.

Police arrested hundreds of the truckers and their supporters, with many, including central leaders of the convoy, charged with the crime of "mischief," which can carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison. It was the biggest act of police repression in modern Canadian history.

Convoy leaders trucker Chris Barber and Tamara Lich, who were targeted by Ottawa for their leadership roles, were convicted of "mischief" and sentenced to a year or more of house arrest, followed by months of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. stay-at-home curfews. The charges were based entirely on what they had said on social media and in emails, that is for their words and ideas, not anything they did. Lich and Barber are appealing both their convictions and sentences.

Hanging over Barber's head throughout the trial has been the prosecution's stated intention to seize his tractor-trailer, claiming it was "offense related property." This was quashed by an Ontario judge Dec. 19.

After the government invoked the Emergencies Act, the 180,000-member Ontario Public Service Employees Union spoke out, explaining such laws are a threat to working people and their unions. "Historically, the labor movement has often been the target of legislation aimed at suppressing anti-government dissent, including times when workers have demanded better living



Reuters/Blair Gable

Police use pepper spray as they assault truckers and other protesters in Ottawa Feb. 19, 2022. Federal government used the Emergencies Act to attack free speech, right to protest.

conditions through strike actions."

"The Federal Court of Appeal has delivered a historic victory for the rule of law," the Canadian Civil Liberties Association said in a Jan. 16 media release after the court decision.

Ottawa has until mid-March to appeal the court's ruling to the Supreme Court.

The fight continues

Since its attack on the truckers, Ottawa has introduced a series of proposed laws attacking a wide range of democratic freedoms, including an Online Harms Act and "hate speech" criminal code amendments. These laws have been widely condemned by civil libertarian organizations as attacks on the right to free speech and association.

"These court victories reflect the broad opposition among working people to Ottawa's use of the Emergencies Act against the truckers," Joe Young, the Communist League candidate in next October's Quebec provincial election, told the *Militant*. "After the assault on the truckers, the government has moved to block the right to strike of rail, port, postal and airline workers.

"Canada's capitalist rulers are driving to restrict the political space we need to organize, fight back and chart a course through our unions to defend working people on a line of march toward replacing capitalist

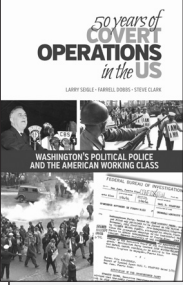
rule with a workers government.

"Defending Tamara Lich and Chris Barber, fighting for the repeal of the Emergencies Act, and opposing Ottawa's new attacks on democratic freedoms are important steps along this line of march," Young said.

50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class

Decades of spying by FBI targeting working-class organizations



and opponents of government policies. How expansion of "national security" state used to protect capitalist rule had bipartisan backing. **\$10**

FBI on Trial:

The victory in the Socialist Workers Party suit against gov't spying. **\$17**



pathfinderpress.com

THE MILITANT

Cuba will defend its socialist revolution!

As Washington's threats against Cuba have grown since the Jan. 3 attack on Venezuela, the Cubans have sent a powerful message that they are ready to defend the revolution with their lives. Read the 'Militant' for weekly coverage of the example of Cuba's socialist revolution.



Cuba Noticias 360

Cubans line streets Jan. 15 as remains of soldiers killed by U.S. in Venezuela return.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.
OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, A\$10 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 90/No. 5

Closing news date: January 28, 2026

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

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

Published weekly except for one week in January, three weeks in June, and one week in September.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

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

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

31,000 Kaiser nurses strike over staffing in California, Hawaii

LOS ANGELES — Nurses and other health care workers set up picket lines at over two dozen Kaiser Permanente hospitals and hundreds of its clinics across California and in Hawaii Jan. 26, launching a strike against the Kaiser chain.

The central question for the 31,000 hospital workers is management's refusal to ensure safe staffing levels and wages that keep up with inflation.

"When Kaiser says it doesn't have resources to fix staffing, what we hear is that a nonprofit health care organization would rather protect an enormous financial cushion than protect patients and the people who care for them," Charmaine Morales, president of the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals, told the press as the strike began.

"Kaiser says it's a nonprofit focused on people," she said in a union report entitled, "Profits over patients."

"Our patients and our members are living something else: not enough staff, too much work, delayed care, and preventable breakdowns."

Kaiser raked in \$7.9 billion in net income in the first three quarters of 2025, setting aside a \$66 billion surplus.

"The main problem is short staffing," Ebony Wallace told the *Militant* on the picket line at the Sunset Blvd. Kaiser Hospital Jan. 26. She's been a charge nurse for nine years in the only locked mental health facility Kaiser operates in Southern California and vice president

of the UNAC/UHCP there. "You want to come to work and say I'm giving quality care, but we don't have the staff so there's burnout."

"The big thing for me is impacting patient safety," David Verdiner, a nurse in gastrointestinal care at Sunset Kaiser for 10 years, said. "Patients have to wait three months to get into my department, and unfortunately every doctor has only a 20-minute window to see you. If it's just a checkup, OK. But if you have something going on, it's urgent. Attendance levels are suffering. They deny requests for days off you're entitled to."

As part of this ongoing fight, Kaiser workers held a five-day strike in California, Oregon and Hawaii last October.

Join their picket lines and show your support!

— Deborah Liatos

Tacoma nurses fight for safe staffing levels, a new contract

TACOMA, Wash. — Hundreds of nurses, members of the Washington State Nurses Association, and their supporters picketed Tacoma General Hospital and Mary Bridge Children's Hospital here Jan. 23, protesting management's refusal to include safe staffing ratios for neonatal intensive care unit nurses that had been won in the previous contract.

Their picket signs had slogans like, "Don't lie. We can spot A-Fib," "Union busting is disgusting!" and "How much profit does a 'nonprofit' need?"

"We need to protect the gains made in the past," nurse and Washington State Nurses Association Executive Director David Keepnews said. "The babies you care for need you."

Area unionists from United Food and Commercial Workers Locals 3000 and 367, as well as International Association of Machinists Local 751 members at Boeing walked the line in solidarity.

Edna Cortez, a well-known WSNA leader, said the 1,800 Seattle Children's Hospital nurses had just won a tentative agreement. Nurses there had voted to authorize their first strike in 118 years.

Several speakers at a rally during the picketing pointed to the importance of the historic New York City nurses strike taking place at the same time.

— Barry Fatland



Militant/Bernie Senter

Striking nurses picket Kaiser Hospital in Baldwin Park, near Los Angeles, Jan. 26. Some 31,000 hospital workers in California and Hawaii are fighting for safe staffing levels and a wage raise.

Kruger workers in Quebec strike for wages that offset inflation

MONTREAL — More than 150 workers at the Kruger plant in the LaSalle neighborhood here, members of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), are on strike for the first time in 51 years.

They walked out Jan. 12, after a 36-hour strike in November and weeklong strike in December failed to win a satisfactory new contract. Their previous agreement expired last April.

"Ninety-two percent of workers rejected the employer's last offer and 99% voted to go on strike," Christian Vimet, local union treasurer, told the *Militant*.

Their main demands are a 20% wage increase over four years and a seniority bonus. Their current base wage after probation is 30 Canadian dollars an hour (\$22). Strikers told the *Militant* their wages have not kept up with inflation.

"It's amazing how many people honk their horns in support when they drive past the picket line. There are truck drivers, garbage haulers, ambulance drivers, school bus drivers," said Vimet.

Solidarity has come from several other Kruger CSN locals, including workers at the Trois-Rivieres recycling plant and Montreal Place Turcot containerboard plant, as well as from strikers at the Beton Provincial concrete plant nearby. Ten unionists from the Rolls-Royce engine

plant, who fought a six-month strike in 2022, joined the picket line.

The strikers also demonstrated in front of the Kruger plant in Crabtree, winning support from colleagues there.

"The billionaire boss, Joseph Kruger II, should be able to pay his employees well," CSN President Caroline Senneville told the media. Several strikers pointed out that Kruger has received hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies from the Quebec government over the past 10 years.

Workers at the Brampton and Place Turcot plants will soon be in negotiations, and strikers here say Kruger is seeking to set an example. They've eliminated the weekend shift (26 hours work with 41.5 hours pay), and threatened to cut the weekly night shift.

Bring solidarity to the picket line at 7474 Cordner St., LaSalle! Union members picket 24 hours a day.

— François Bradette

Celebrate Dave Prince's 61 years building the Socialist Workers Party



Militant/Mike Shur

Dave Prince at NY Militant Labor Forum.

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK — Dave Prince, a central leader of the Socialist Workers Party and a member of its National Committee since 1977, died here Jan. 25 after a long struggle with cancer. He was 82 years old.

Prince joined the Young Socialist Alliance and the SWP in 1965 in Cleveland. Over the years he took on a broad range of leadership responsibilities for the SWP and the international communist movement.

A celebration of his life, political work and the party he built will be held in March and covered in the *Militant*. Details will be forthcoming.

Read about the battles that
forged the US labor movement



See distributors on page 8,
or order at www.pathfinderpress.com

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

February 5, 2001

LUTON, England — Ten thousand working people marched here Jan. 20 to protest the decision by General Motors to cut 10,000 jobs at plants across North America and Europe. Workers reported plans for plant-gate demonstrations in Portugal, Spain, Germany and Belgium.

Workers from GM-owned Opel plants in Bochum, Germany; Antwerp, Belgium; and Zaragoza, Spain, had a big impact on the demonstration. A worker at Opel Bochum, Steffen Reichelt, explained that the workforce there has been reduced from 20,000 workers in the early 1990s to 13,000 today.

Reichelt said a successful strike last June against bosses' plans to put part of the workforce under a separate management structure had boosted the confidence of union members. "The strike lasted 35 hours, and after 20 hours or so it caused other plants in Europe to stop work. We could see our power."

THE MILITANT

February 6, 1976

BOSTON — The violent city-wide action of racist high school students, spearheading the antibusing movement here, has dealt court-ordered desegregation — and the very safety of Boston's Black students — the biggest blows since mob attacks met the start of busing in the fall of 1974.

Schools remain tense in the wake of a week of disruptions at Hyde Park High School. Bat- and pipe-wielding thugs roamed school corridors and grounds in search of Black students after two days of provocations that led to the explosion.

Under the guise of "retaliation" for the burning of an American flag by a Black student, the school's racist youth put out the word that "the n-----s are going to get it." As the disruptions spread, the city's antibusing leadership went on a hysterical media campaign to blame the violence on the Black community and the Black students.

THE MILITANT

February 5, 1951

Unless Nehru's government agrees to obey the orders of the U.S. State Department, the Indian people will be left to starve to death by the scores of millions — that was the ultimatum which Capitol Hill served last week on New Delhi when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee pigeonholed India's request to send two million tons of American grain to that country.

The American imperialists have always found it "reasonable" to use the plight of hungry peoples in order to bludgeon their governments into submission.

Hostility mounting to hatred of the U.S. is now sweeping over India. This "anti-American feeling" must not be permitted by American labor to rise to such a pitch as will make the Indian people think that our workers are no different from their masters. Sad to say, the official labor press has remained silent.

Fidel Castro: Why Cuba has no need for nuclear weapons

BY JANET POST

Aug. 13, 2026, marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Fidel Castro. Under his leadership the Rebel Army and July 26 Movement led Cuba's working people to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and opened the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Fidel Castro was the commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba and the central political leader of Cuba's government and of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. He died Nov. 25, 2016, at the age of 90.

"When we pay tribute to Fidel, we are, above all, paying tribute to the working people of Cuba, to the men and women of José Martí, of Antonio Maceo. Fidel was one with them," Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party and president of Pathfinder Press, told a 2023 conference in Havana.

"His greatest achievement was forging in struggle a revolutionary cadre, a communist cadre, capable of leading the workers and farmers of Cuba to establish the first free territory of the Americas and to successfully defend it for more than six decades," Waters said.

"If Fidel belongs first to the working people of Cuba, however, he also belongs to the oppressed and exploited peoples of the world over," she continued. "And under his leadership, from Latin America and the Caribbean, to Africa and Asia, to North America and Europe, working people of Cuba have shown us in action what proletarian internationalism means."

"In Fidel's memorable words, 'Those not willing to fight for the freedom of others will never be able to fight for their own.'"

Starting with this issue, and throughout the year, the *Militant* will join in paying tribute to Castro by reprinting excerpts from his speeches, writings and interviews.



Castro: 'No! to nuclear weapons'

"We have never considered the idea of fabricating nuclear weapons, because we don't need them," Castro said in a 2005 interview with journalist Ignacio Ramonet, printed in the book *My Life*. "What's the purpose of producing

a nuclear weapon when your enemy has thousands of them? It would be entering an arms race all over again.

"No one should have the right to produce nuclear weapons, much less the privileged right demanded by the imperialists."

He also said, "We are not going to be swept up in the madness or stupidity of starting to manufacture biological weapons. What we've taught people is to manufacture vaccines and to fight against illness, disease and death."

"We have educated those scientists in an ethics; we're not going to tell them now, 'Listen, start manufacturing smallpox,' or whatever. Besides, what on earth for? Against an adversary that has 100 times more of it?"

"Nor are we going to start manufacturing a chemical weapon. How are you going to transport it? Who are you going to use it against? Against the American people? No! That would be unfair and absurd!"

"Are you going to make a nuclear



"No one should have the right to produce nuclear weapons, much less the privileged right demanded by the imperialists," Fidel Castro said in 2005. Above, Castro places wreath at peace park in Hiroshima, Japan, March 3, 2003, in honor of victims of U.S. nuclear bombing in 1945.

weapon? You'll ruin yourself — a nuclear weapon is a good way to commit suicide at a certain point, all right: 'Gentlemen, the time has come, we're going to immolate ourselves, and this atomic bomb is just the thing.'"

"There is one weapon we haven't renounced, the only weapon we have, which is our people," Castro said.

"We will not renounce the 'war of the entire country,' as I call it."

"No one has ever presented a single shred of evidence that our homeland has conceived a program to develop nuclear, chemical or biological weapons," Castro had said earlier.

"The doors of our institutions are open. Cuba has absolutely nothing to hide."

US rulers deepen their control over Venezuelan oil

Continued from front page

for U.S. adversaries," a U.S. official said.

The U.S. rulers are pressing for unrestricted access for U.S. corporations to the country's vast oil and gas resources, and "indefinite" control of the production, refining and global distribution of its oil products.

As leverage, Washington has kept a naval blockade off the coast of Venezuela to seize oil that is not "coordinated properly and lawfully," and to threaten the current leadership in Caracas with a fate worse than Maduro's if they don't follow Washington's dictates.

Washington is using its intervention to push back the influence of Beijing, Moscow and Tehran in Venezuela. The White House announced China would now have to buy Venezuelan oil at global market prices Jan. 22, not at "undercut" prices set by Maduro's government. Following years of U.S. sanctions on Venezuela, China had become the country's top oil buyer. The sales helped Caracas pay down massive loans to Beijing in debt-for-oil deals.

Chinese representatives have sought

talks with Venezuelan and U.S. officials to seek assurances Beijing will get payment of its loans, which are estimated to be between \$10 billion and \$20 billion.

Hezbollah in Venezuela

"No more drug trafficking, no more Iran, Hezbollah presence there, and no more using the oil industry to enrich all our adversaries around the world," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Jan. 4.

Hezbollah and Caracas have kept links dating back to President Hugo Chávez, Maduro's predecessor, who welcomed the reactionary Islamist movement in the name of their shared anti-U.S., anti-Israel stance.

Hezbollah set up command structures in Venezuela, and Washington accuses Venezuelan government officials of facilitating them with passports and other legal cover to finance Hezbollah's activity through drug-trafficking, arms sales and money laundering across Latin America.

For decades the "Triple Frontier" shared by Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina was a sanctuary and center of operations for Hezbollah across the continent. It bombed a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in 1994, killing 85 people. Two years earlier it killed 29 people in an attack on the Israeli Embassy there.

Around the time the CIA director was in Caracas, Colombia's minister of defense was in Washington to prepare a visit by President Gustavo Petro in February. Since the U.S. rulers' assault on Venezuela, Petro has walked back his anti-imperialist rhetoric, and is seeking deeper collaboration with Washington.

Colombian Defense Minister Pedro Sánchez announced Jan. 14 plans for joint U.S./Colombian operations against the National Liberation Army (ELN) forces that have used Venezuelan territory for sanctuary. The ELN and remnants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and drug cartels are engaged in fierce fighting for control of land, river and air routes for drug trafficking along the Colombia-Venezuela border.

The Trump administration is us-

ing the "war on narcoterrorism" as a pretext for its moves to strengthen the U.S. rulers' economic, political and military posture in the region.

Erosion of Venezuela's sovereignty

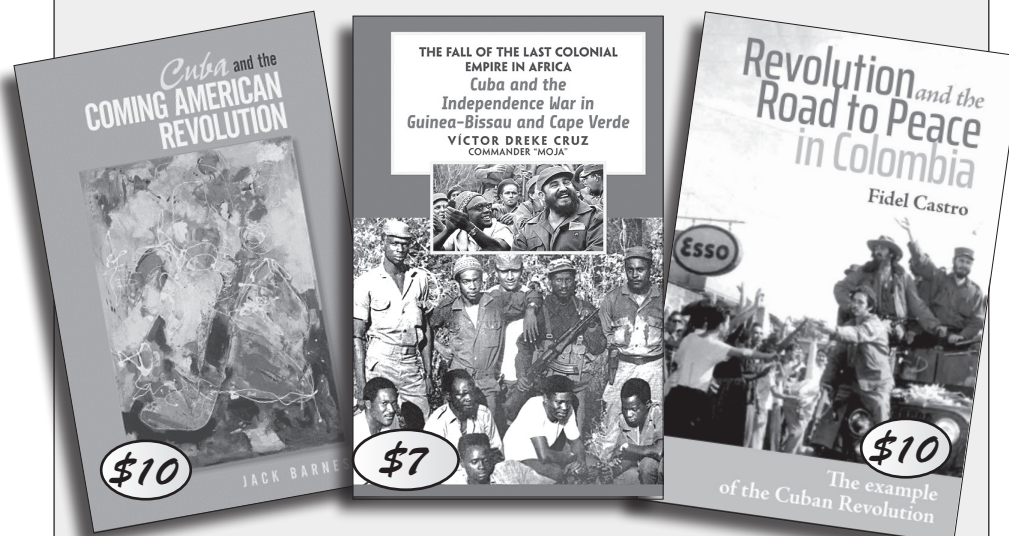
Ratcliffe's trip was a sign that Washington will continue to rely on Rodríguez and her close circle within the ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) to accommodate U.S. imperialism's interests.

Rodríguez took a further step in that direction Jan. 15 when she introduced a partial reform of the country's hydrocarbons law. Under former President Chávez, the PSUV government significantly raised royalties and taxes on extracted crude to fund social programs and mandated that state oil company PDVSA retain majority stakes in joint ventures. The changes, approved by the National Assembly Jan. 22, allow U.S. and local private companies to operate oil fields and lower the taxes they pay.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan government announced that \$300 million of the initial \$500 million from Washington's sale of Venezuelan crude had been received. Rodríguez said the funds will be used to try to cover the income of the country's workers and protect the purchasing power of Venezuelans from inflation.

The conditional and controlled oil transactions are presented by Washington as "concessions" to Rodríguez in return for her overall compliance, as the U.S. rulers continue to violate Venezuela's sovereignty.

Read more on the example of the Cuban Revolution



Visit pathfinderpress.com for full catalog

Discounted books for prisoners

Pathfinder offers books to prisoners at a 50% discount. Shipping is \$2.75 per order.

Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to Pathfinder Press
PO Box 162767

Atlanta GA 30321-2767
Friends and families can order for them or view the catalogue at:
pathfinderpress.com

‘We’re workers, not criminals’

Continued from front page

use against working people at home, including the government’s stepped-up assaults on immigrant workers. As they present a road forward for the working class, SWP members are selling more copies of the *Militant* and subscriptions, as well as books by party leaders and other revolutionaries.

Following fast-moving developments in world politics from the perspective of the working class is essential. Only the *Militant* provides such coverage.

Need for an amnesty for immigrants

After a march of thousands in sub-zero temperatures protesting Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrests and violence in Minneapolis Jan. 23, many protesters entering the heated Skyway stopped at the Socialist Workers Party campaign table. They were attracted by the party’s sign “Immigrant rights is union fight: Amnesty for undocumented workers.”

SWP members Helen Meyers and Joanne Murphy met Ace Getahum, a Target Center worker and member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 292.

“I was an immigrant 30 years ago from Ethiopia. I know these people ICE is deporting are just working, trying to do everything right,” he told the SWP members. He bought a subscription to the *Militant*.

Meyers and Murphy described how amnesty for millions of immigrants was won in 1986. “That would be great,” Getahum said. “We have to work together, all of us, for all humanity. Keep up what you’re doing.”

Sonja Denn from Mankato, some 80 miles southwest of Minneapolis, was one of the other protesters who subscribed to the *Militant*. Denn said she works with a woman “who has become a friend, but is now too afraid to come into work as ICE has been carrying out operations in the Mankato area.”

Eager to learn more about why the SWP says the fight for amnesty is crucial, protesters bought four copies of *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by SWP leader Mary-Alice Waters. The book describes powerful actions against raids and deportations that swept the U.S. leading up to and on May Day in 2006 and 2007. Led by immigrants, the actions strengthened the entire working class.

An array of books by SWP and other revolutionary leaders attracted at-

tention, especially those by Malcolm X. One man bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. A cleaning service worker purchased *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

In New York City, SWP member Seth Galinsky reports that more than 2,000 people joined a protest there against ICE violence Jan. 23. Laborers Local 1010, Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, the United Federation of Teachers and other unions, along with immigrant rights groups, had contingents.

Kevin Dozier, a member of SEIU Local 32BJ, which organizes building workers, spoke to the *Militant*. “I’ve traveled a lot,” he said. “No matter where you’re from, everybody wants to have a decent life, be happy, raise their family. I know we can do it if we stick together.”

SWP members got a good response, selling five *Militant* subscriptions, 22 single copies, and four books, including *The Fight Against Jew-Hatred and Pogroms in the Imperialist Epoch: Stakes for the International Working Class* to a woman who passed by the action after visiting the Anne Frank exhibit at the nearby Center for Jewish History.

In similar actions across the U.S. that day, SWP members found people wanting to learn more about the program and activity of the party. At a rally of a few hundred in Los Angeles where Laura Garza, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, campaigned, protesters bought five *Militant* subscriptions and five books on revolutionary politics.

Workers need to take political power

In Cincinnati, John Hawkins, the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Ohio, was interviewed by the University of Cincinnati *News Record*

Why are the US rulers out to take over Greenland?

BY TERRY EVANS

President Donald Trump is seeking to expand the military reach of the U.S. rulers in the Arctic by taking control of key locations in Greenland. Washington is preparing for more and deadlier wars to come, reasserting its domination across the Western Hemisphere and pushing to weaken its rivals — especially Beijing, as well as Moscow and capitalist “allies” in Europe.

Greenland is strategically located for both defensive and offensive military operations in the region. It’s a colony of Denmark’s capitalist rulers, with a population of 56,000, mostly Inuits.

After behind-the-scenes talks at the Davos conference, Trump announced Jan. 21, “We have formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland, and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region.” He cancelled tariffs he had intended to impose on Feb. 1 hitting a number of European countries whose governments had rejected his demand that Washington get decisive control over the large island.

“There’s not a thing that Denmark can do about it if Russia or China wants to occupy Green-



Militant/Pedro Vasquez

Laura Garza, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, center, discusses importance of fight for amnesty for all immigrants in the U.S. to unite the working class at Jan. 23 rally in Los Angeles.

at a Jan. 23 rally and march of some 400 people in solidarity with protests in Minneapolis.

“Amnesty is what we have to fight for,” Hawkins, a member of UNITE HERE Local 24, told reporters. “All workers who are here need the same legal rights, regardless of where they were born. That’s a necessity for workers and our unions to defend ourselves against the bosses’ attacks on our wages, pensions, safety and working conditions.”

Neither of the major capitalist parties, Democratic or Republican, “defend the interests of working people in this country,” the SWP candidate said. They exist to defend the interests of the ruling rich. “The trade unions and our allies need to forge a mass movement to take political power out of the hands of the profit-driven capitalist class. To be successful, such a movement needs a leadership, a revolutionary workers party,” Hawkins continued. “I’m running in this election to build that party, the Socialist

Workers Party.”

In the last two weeks, SWP members in Cincinnati have noticed an uptick in interest among both rail workers and passersby at CSX’s Queensgate Yard, where party members have campaigned regularly for the past three years, Anthony Dutrow reports.

A young woman drove by SWP members distributing literature there Jan. 15, but turned around and came back to discuss with them what was going on in Venezuela and Minneapolis, as well as the U.S. rulers’ moves to seize Greenland. She said she didn’t agree with everything in the *Militant* but decided to get a subscription.

“The next week on Jan. 22 a signalman stopped and said, ‘I’ve seen you guys out here for a while now,’” Dutrow said. After a brief discussion he got a copy of the paper, saying he’d let the SWP members know what he thinks the next time he sees them.

To join the effort to expand the *Militant*’s readership, contact the office nearest you listed on page 8.



Militant/Betsy Farley

John Hawkins, right, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Ohio, talks to reporters at Jan. 23 protest in Cincinnati.

Continued on page 6

Amnesty for all immigrants

Continued from front page

The Minnesota AFL-CIO Executive Board endorsed the action and urged its members to attend. Many did.

The union's role in the march ensured its disciplined, peaceful character.

In contrast, a day later, U.S. Border Patrol officers were surrounded and confronted by some 50 people provocatively blowing whistles and shouting and filming them. Alex Pretti, a nurse and U.S. citizen who was part of the provocation, was shot and killed by federal agents.

Video shows Border Patrol agents try to push Pretti away. Then he moved to get between the agent and a woman they had pepper sprayed, and he was thrown to the ground and pummeled. As one agent appears to find and take a gun from Pretti, another shouts "gun," and others start shooting. Pretti was shot 10 times and died at the scene.

The liberal media paints Pretti as a saint, and Trump officials immediately stuck a "domestic terrorist" label on him and accused him of being there to "massacre law enforcement." Both sides prevent working people from drawing the necessary lessons in order to build an effective response. First, Pretti was not at a protest, but a confrontation organized to interfere with the Border Patrol agents.

Much has been said about Pretti's Second Amendment right to bring a gun into a protest. But experienced, conscious working-class leaderships go out of their way to avoid giving the capitalist state and its agencies an excuse to victimize fighters in struggle. There is a perfect example that working people could draw from. That is, the example of the Minneapolis Teamsters struggles in the 1930s, where the leadership took away weapons from trade unionists going into combat with the cops.

These frequent confrontations, as well as peaceful vigils at makeshift memorials, are taking place in neighborhoods across the Twin Cities.

The same day the shooting occurred the Minnesota National guard was ac-

tivated and is now on the streets.

And true to form, the following night antifa thugs, who have a continuity here dating back to the violent actions that ended up destroying the protest movement around the death of George Floyd in 2020, smashed up the front glass windows of a hotel where ICE agents are said to be housed, painting "F--k ICE" graffiti on the walls. This is a blow to efforts to build the kind of mass movement needed.

The ICE arrests and brutality are an attack on workers' rights — documented and undocumented. But how workers and our unions can make progress needs to be debated out.

"We're going to de-escalate a little bit," President Donald Trump said Jan. 27. He ordered pugnacious Border Patrol chief Gregory Bovino out of Minneapolis, replacing him with Border Czar Tom Homan. Homan met with Democratic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, and they say they agreed on steps to improve the situation.

Trump promised a "very honorable and honest investigation" into the killing of Pretti. He called Pretti's death "a very unfortunate incident." And he noted, "You can't walk in with guns" to a protest, "you can't do that."

Large protest, important discussion

Socialist Workers Party members set up a table at the Target Center where the Jan. 23 rally was held, featuring banners with party slogans and books by party leaders. They called for building a working-class movement to fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers in this country.

They explained to those they met that it is crucial to unite the working class against the divisive anti-immigrant propaganda of the bosses and their politicians. To boost their profits, the employers try to play native-born workers off against those without papers. In this way their goal is to weaken the labor movement, the better to lower the pay and working conditions of all workers.

Another key topic was the main slogan of the march, "ICE Out." This slogan — backed by the governor and other Democratic politicians, the liberal press and antifa — fails to point a needed road forward. It's similar to the slogan of Black Lives Matter agitating for "Abolish the police." But neither is possible under capitalism, nor explains the source of the challenge confronting the working class.

Many who stopped at the party table were happy to learn about the demonstrations of millions that took place in 2006 and 2007, led by immigrants behind banners saying, "We are workers, not criminals." These powerful actions succeeded in preventing passage of the Sensenbrenner bill, which would have made it a felony for an immigrant without papers simply to be in the country and a crime for anyone who extended "aid" to them in any way.

This powerful movement is in sharp contrast to the approach of many in Minneapolis today.

Layla, a fast-food worker who feared giving her last name because it could lead to victimization, picked up the book *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* which describes the mass marches in 2006 and 2007.



Militant photos: Above, Dave Welters; inset, Gabby Prosser

Powerful protest against assaults on immigrant workers in Minneapolis Jan. 23 shows potential for building a movement for amnesty to advance unity and striking power of the working class.

She responded to the SWP's call for amnesty, noting a fight over this led by the AFL-CIO in 1986 forced Ronald Reagan to grant an amnesty to nearly 3 million immigrants. "That's how my father got to stay in the U.S.," she said. "That's what we need." A second amnesty was won under the George H.W. Bush administration in 1990.

Labor backs Minneapolis protest

Brian Bryant, president of the International Association of Machinists union, issued a statement calling on all IAM members to support the Jan. 23 action. "The IAM stands in solidarity with the people of Minnesota," he said, "including union members and working families who are demanding accountability and an end to actions that violate basic civil and constitutional rights."

The state AFL-CIO said, "As Minnesotans we stand together against ICE's occupation of our communities and the unconstitutional detention of countless innocent Minnesotans, including a significant number of union members."

Protest organizers had urged workers not to go to work Jan. 23 and for shop owners to close down. Hundreds of shops, museums and

entertainment venues closed. Several restaurants stayed open, serving free food and hot chocolate.

The Karmel Mall, the largest Somali mall in the U.S., has been hard hit economically by the ICE actions, called "Operation Metro Surge" by the federal government. And there's widespread fear by immigrant workers to go out in the absence of a strong enough popular movement to provide safety. Many of the more than 100 small shops in the mall have shuttered their doors.

The *Minnesota Star Tribune* reports, "Roughly 80% of immigrant-owned businesses along key corridors in Minneapolis and St. Paul have closed in the past week as employees and customers stay home."

When this reporter returned to work Monday after the march, I learned that out of a workforce of some 100, 26 workers had called off work on Jan. 23. Production was cancelled in several departments. But most said they stayed at home, and didn't attend the march. A widespread and ongoing discussion on what to do next continues to unfold.

Joanne Murphy and Mary Martin contributed to this article.

Why do US rulers want Greenland?

Continued from page 5

treaty in 1951 granting the U.S. military three areas on the island where they could operate unimpeded.

In 1995 it was revealed that the Danish government had allowed Washington to station nuclear weapons on Greenland between 1958 and 1965, with Copenhagen insisting the agreement be kept top secret.

After a U.S. B-52 crashed in Greenland in 1968, spreading radioactive plutonium across wide areas, the two governments agreed the U.S. would no longer base nuclear weapons there. Washington demanded the right to deploy nuclear weapons in case of an "emergency," but the Danish government refused.

Today Trump is seeking outright title to areas of Greenland. "Who the hell wants to defend a license agreement or a lease," he said Jan. 21. "You need ownership to defend it."

The dispute between the capitalist

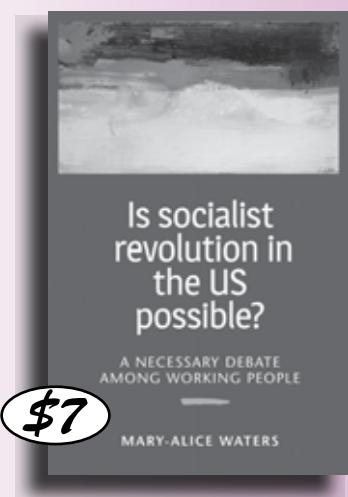
rulers in Denmark and the U.S. ignores the growing aspirations of the Inuit population of Greenland for independence.

"If Denmark really believed Greenland belongs to Greenlanders, they would let us decide our own future," Amarok Petersen, a well-known advocate of self-determination for the Inuit, told the *New York Post* Jan. 14. Petersen was one of thousands of Greenlandic women fitted with contraceptive coils to prevent them having children, done without their knowledge or consent between 1960 and 1991. After a historic legal fight, the Danish government finally agreed Dec. 11 to pay compensation to 4,500 of the women.

"I've had enough of Denmark and how they've governed us," Nikolannnguaq Heilmann, a retired shrimp-boat engineer in Greenland, told the *Post*. He went on to say he didn't want Greenland to become part of the U.S. either.

Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters



"The battle to win the labor movement and the big majority of working people to defend the rights of immigrants is inseparable from the battle to organize the working class as a whole and rebuild the trade unions."

pathfinderpress.com

Despite brutal repression, Iran's toilers find ways to renew protests

BY SETH GALINSKY

More information is coming out about the number of protesters slaughtered by the bourgeois-clerical regime in Iran Jan. 8-9. The Human Rights Activists News Agency has confirmed 5,459 deaths and is investigating 17,000 more. Two Iranian health ministry officials told *Time* magazine it could be as many as 30,000. Tens of thousands have been arrested over recent weeks.

But the reactionary regime is weaker than ever. Opposition to its rule continues from workers, unions, student groups, oppressed nationalities and political prisoners, who are speaking out and organizing new protests.

Even as the sound of bullets had barely quieted, family members turned some funerals into demonstrations. One of the largest took place Jan. 11 for teenager Alireza Seydi in Abadan, a mostly Kurdish city, where 1,000 mourners chanted “Death to [Supreme Leader Ali] Khamenei.”

Hundreds of students at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences held a sit-in Jan. 26 to protest the administration's cancellation of a memorial ceremony for fellow student Aida Heydari, killed during the protests. Then they marched through the campus.

“These days were not easy for us; days of hardship, anxiety, waiting and silence,” the Association of Truckers and Drivers Unions of Iran posted on its internet site Jan. 22, its first statement since the massacres and government-imposed internet blackout. “What was never cut off was our solidarity, and what was never silenced was our voice in defense of our rights.”

“Today we return with hope, with greater experience, and with a deeper faith that our strength lies in standing together.” Last year the association led an 11-day nationwide strike of independent owner-operators and other drivers.

Unionists: ‘We will not be silent’

“We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all innocent detainees — those whose only ‘crime’ was calling for a dignified life and exercising their right to protest,” the Coordinating Committee of Teachers Trade Unions said Jan. 22. “We will not remain silent until justice is won.”

The protests began Dec. 28 when small merchants and capitalist companies in Tehran's bazaar shut their doors to demand an end to the devastating impact of the plummeting value of Iran's national currency and rising prices. The protests rapidly spread to towns, small and large, and to oppressed nationalities, including the Kurds in the northwest and Baluchis in the southeast.

Fearing the growing movement, the regime unleashed its murderous assault. The police, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps operatives, snipers and paramilitary thugs fired semiautomatic weapons and shot guns — at times machine guns — into unarmed crowds across the country chanting “Death to the dictator,” “Free-

dom, freedom, freedom,” and “Not for Gaza, not for Lebanon; I give my life for Iran.” Some were shot at close range, stabbed or beaten to death.

These protests did not drop out of the sky. At the end of 2017 and into 2018, and again at the end of 2019, working people took to the streets and were met by the regime's repression. A new protest wave began in September 2022, when Zhina Amini died after her arrest by the “morality” police for violating the regime's dress code for women.

These protests are fueled by opposition to the anti-working-class actions of the regime, its trampling on democratic rights and the deadly consequences of its attempts to expand its reactionary military and political influence throughout the region, along with its goal of destroying Israel.

Since the early 1980s — when it consolidated its counterrevolution, stifling the 1979 popular revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah of Iran — the regime has promoted Jew-hatred and hatred of Israel to try to maintain itself in power.

To justify its latest slaughter, it claims that the protests were “riots” organized by Israeli's intelligence agency, the

Washington deepens its domination in the Middle East

Continued from front page

House is trying to put together with the so-called Board of Peace, which ostensibly will oversee the next stages of “development” in Gaza and, if Washington has its way, well beyond. All those who accepted membership on the board are awarded with a three-year term, which becomes permanent with a \$1 billion contribution to the workings of the board.

Trump also invited the Turkish and Qatari governments — key supporters of Hamas — to serve. Despite disagreements with Washington's concessions to Hamas and its allies, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to serve.

“We did not tell Netanyahu in advance about the composition of the executive committee,” U.S. officials told Israel's N12 TV-news Jan. 17. “He did not expect there to be representatives from Turkey and Qatar, but Gaza is now our show, not his show.”

Hamas keeps its AK-47s?

Trump has repeatedly said that Hamas must disarm or “there will be hell to pay.” In today's world, Israel is the only force willing and capable of disarming Hamas. But the Trump administration — like the Joseph Biden administration before it — continues to demand Israel refrain from completely defeating the Jew-hating group.

Hamas is of little concern to the U.S. government, except to the extent it interferes with the stability Washington needs to maximize its economic and political interests.

U.S. officials told the Times of Israel that Hamas can keep its AK-47s, because “Gaza needs to have basic policing.” The editors call this “a novel stance



More than 1,000 people attend Jan. 11 funeral for teenager Alireza Seydi in Abadan in Iran's Ilam province, one of thousands massacred by the regime just days before. Unions, oppressed nationalities refuse to be cowed. They are demanding regime release all political prisoners.

Mossad, and other “foreign terrorists.”

The thousands of women, men, children and teenagers killed have “left the people of Iran and the entire world astonished and stunned,” Sheik Abdul-Hamid told the Jan. 23 Friday prayer meeting at the mosque in Zahedan in Sistan-Baluchistan. “Those killed in the recent uprising are the people of Iran. They are not foreigners.”

Abdul-Hamid, a Sunni cleric and prominent leader of the oppressed Baluchi people, has spoken out frequently against Iran's death penalty and for freeing all its political prisoners.

Some opponents of the regime — especially among Iranians in exile

— hope Washington will intervene to overthrow Khamenei, and install in power Reza Pahlavi, son of the shah overthrown in 1979.

But a different course is presented by the Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company. In a Jan. 27 statement condemning the massacres it said it “continues to emphasize this fundamental and inviolable principle: That the true liberation of the people of Iran is possible only through collective leadership and the conscious, organized and independent participation of the working class as a whole and other oppressed strata within the country.”

indeed,” given that those weapons are used to crush opposition from Palestinians in Gaza who dare criticize Hamas. Not to mention their use by Hamas death squads in the Oct. 7, 2023, pogrom that slaughtered 1,200 people in Israel.

The Biden administration had a policy of freezing weapons deliveries to Israel when it disagreed with its war moves, and it is likely future U.S. administrations will do the same. Netanyahu told the *Economist* Jan. 16 that over the next 10 years he plans to build up Israel's weapons industry to cover all their needs, reducing their reliance on U.S. military aid from \$3.8 billion a year to zero.

U.S. challenges to Beijing's influence

Since at least 2013, when it launched its Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing has steadily increased its “footprint” in the Middle East and northern Africa. While U.S. oil production has expanded, Washington's purchase of oil there has fallen substantially. By 2023 China was the largest export market for six countries in the region — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

In 2024 alone, state-owned Chinese companies and banks committed \$39 billion to infrastructure projects, mainly in Saudi Arabia, Iran and United Arab Emirates.

In July 2025 Tehran and Beijing announced plans to electrify and modernize much of the 600-mile-long Sarakhs-Razi railroad, which connects Turkmenistan with Turkey via Iran. This would lessen Beijing's dependence on its maritime trade routes through which it imports the vast majority of its oil.

Four months later, Washington countered this move by announcing an agreement with Armenia and Azer-

baijan to construct a transit corridor to Turkey, tongue-in-cheek dubbed the Trump Route for International Peace and Tranquility, which will bypass both Iran and Russia.

Washington reaches out to Ankara

As part of advancing U.S. relations with the new regime of Ahmad al-Sharaa in Syria, as well as its ally in Ankara, Washington has turned a blind eye to the regime's massacre of Druze, Alawites and Kurds there. Washington gave a green light to the Syrian Arab Army's offensive that has pushed the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces out of areas they controlled for over a decade.

This was only possible because Washington abruptly ended its close collaboration with Kurdish forces in battling against Islamic State during the civil war in Syria, a collaboration always opposed by the Turkish rulers.

But those days are now over. “The original purpose of the SDF as the primary anti-ISIS force on the ground has largely expired,” Thomas Barrack, the U.S. ambassador to Turkey, said Jan. 19.

Meanwhile, a U.S. naval combat group led by the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln carrying thousands of troops arrived in Middle East waters near the Arabian Sea, the Pentagon reported Jan. 25.

During the bloody slaughter of protesters by the reactionary rulers in Iran, President Trump had threatened military action against Tehran if it carried out mass executions. But the U.S. show of military might is not aimed at aiding working people in Iran or in overthrowing the hated Islamic Republic. Its goal is a deal with Tehran to promote “security and stability” for U.S. imperialism's operations in the region.

The SWP and the fight to defend rights the working class needs

One of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for January is 50 Years of Covert Operations in the US: Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class by Larry Seigle, Farrell Dobbs and Steve Clark. It explains how the U.S. rulers use the FBI, their political police, to target fighting workers and communists to defend capitalist rule. As Washington today increases its war moves in Latin America and around the world, it is also stepping up deportations and demagoguery against immigrant workers to try to divide and weaken the working class. This is part of the rulers' assault on constitutional freedoms. The excerpt is from the introduction by Clark. Copyright © 2014 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Mass arrests, deportations are used by bosses to weaken, divide working class, trampling on constitutional freedoms. Above, roundup during notorious "Palmer Raids" in 1920 under Democratic President Woodrow Wilson. Thousands of political immigrant workers were arrested and deported.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY STEVE CLARK

In August 1987 a federal district judge in New York City issued an injunction ordering that all documents obtained by the government in ways that violate the US Constitution and Bill of Rights cannot be "used, released, or disclosed" by the FBI or other federal police agencies.

The injunction came in connection with Judge Thomas Griesa's decision a year earlier, in August 1986, on a suit

filed by the Socialist Workers Party in 1973. The party's aim was to bring into the open decades of covert spying and disruption against the SWP by the federal political police, and to mobilize opposition to these violations of the constitutional rights not only of members and supporters of the party and Young Socialist Alliance, but of other organizations and individuals targeted by covert government operations as well. ...

The fifteen-year-long battle by the Socialist Workers Party, backed by thousands, resulting in that federal court ruling marked a victory for the working class. Moreover, that victory stands and has a direct effect to this day, more than four decades after the suit was filed. ...

It was an unprecedented political initiative. A communist organization was filing a *suit* against the capitalist government, as opposed to being forced to defend itself and its members against a *case* trumped up by cops and prosecutors. Communist workers — along with fellow unionists, farmers, and supporters of civil rights — were *plaintiffs*, and government agencies and officials *defendants*. Not the other way around.

The broadly supported political campaign organized and led by the Socialist Workers Party provided an additional weapon that unionists, Black rights fighters, and others among the exploited and oppressed could use to better defend their own constitutional rights. Above all, it helped keep open political space for working people to speak, or-

ganize, and act outside the electoral and judicial arenas — to fight on our own terrain, in the factories, on the picket lines, and in the streets. ...

[T]he SWP's central leaders, from those in the oldest to newer generations, were convinced that attitudes were changing among workers and farmers in the United States as a result of the political conquests of the Black

SWP's 1973-86 political, legal battle against government spying won a court victory for working class, bolstered constitutional protections

rights movement, anti-Vietnam War mobilizations, and other social struggles. The capitalist rulers and their government were on the defensive politically as a result of what was becoming known about cop spying, harassment, and disruption of working people and youth engaged in these fights. All this was compounded for the rulers in 1973 by the widely publicized "Watergate" revelations of rampant wiretapping and burglary by the Richard Nixon administration against its domestic rivals in capitalist politics.

All in all, the communist leaders concluded, conditions were unusually good for such a political campaign. The Socialist Workers Party never lies to working people, in the US or anywhere

else in the world. Its history and political record are an open book. It has nothing to hide. As these conclusions were confirmed in life over the next fifteen years, initial doubts and hesitations were transformed into respect and support for the SWP's political course in this fight. ...

The court's sweeping 1986 decision in favor of the SWP's suit found no evidence "that any FBI informant ever reported an instance of planned or actual espionage, violence, [or] terrorism" by the party or its members. ...

Among the federal agencies who were defendants in the party's suit was the US rulers' immigration police. At the time it was called the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Today it's known as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Changing names notwithstanding, it is known and despised as *la migra* by working people who are its targets and by millions of others who know how the capitalists use it to divide and weaken the solidarity and fighting power of the working class, unions, and protests against discrimination of all kinds. ...

Deportations, in fact, were among the first and most brutal clubs wielded by bosses and their government in the repressive drive against the workers movement in the aftermath of World War I. In what became notorious as the Palmer Raids, named after the US attorney general at the time, more than 3,000 anarchists, communists, and other working-class militants were arrested and 750 deported in 1919 and 1920. ...

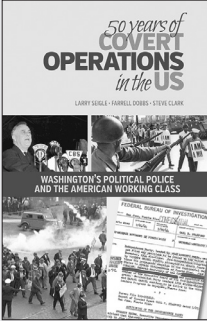
For communist workers, defending ourselves is not primarily a question of legal arguments and courtroom tactics, although revolutionary-minded workers approach these matters with the utmost proletarian discipline and attention to detail.

Like everything else in the class struggle, how working people defend ourselves in face of frame-ups and other government assaults is above all a *political* question. It is part of the working class advancing along the revolutionary course toward replacing the state power of a tiny minority of propertied families — the dictatorship of capital — with that of the great majority, workers and farmers.

January
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder
Readers Club
Specials

30%
DISCOUNT



50 Years of Covert Operations in the US
Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class
FARRELL DOBBS, LARRY SEIGLE, STEVE CLARK
Traces U.S. rulers' efforts to expand political police powers of their "national security" state to guarantee capitalist rule.
\$10. Special price \$7

Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain
FELIX MORROW
\$17. Special price \$12

Maurice Bishop Speaks
The Grenada Revolution and Its Overthrow, 1979-83
\$20. Special price \$14

America's Revolutionary Heritage
GEORGE NOVACK
\$23. Special price \$16

Woman's Evolution
EVELYN REED
\$25. Special price \$17.50

Cuba y la revolución norteamericana que viene
(Cuba and the Coming American Revolution)
JACK BARNES
\$10. Special price \$7
Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL February 10

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: P.O. Box 6012. Zip: 94603. 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: oaklandswp@gmail.com. **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 5711 NW 7th Ave. Unit B. Zip: 33127. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 4750 S. Pulaski Road. Zip: 60632. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis: 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612) 271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: Lincoln: P.O. Box 6811.

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

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 201C Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfwswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 508 Kennedy St., NW #314 Zip: 20011. Tel.: (202) 248-0306. 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: clysydney@outlook.com

CANADA

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

Road to forging a fighting labor movement

The defense of the millions of workers without papers is a front-line battle for all workers, which must be taken up and led by the unions. Because of the bosses' insatiable need for labor, immigration has grown, and native-born and foreign-born workers have worked together side by side for decades. They live in the same neighborhoods, their children go to the same schools, they attend the same churches. And, as the crisis of capitalism deepens today, they increasingly face the same struggles to provide housing, food and other necessities for their families.

Immigrants and native-born workers have stood together on picket lines, as we turn to the unions to resist the employers' moves to drive our wages down, cut benefits we depend on, and impose speedup and conditions that threaten life and limb.

We're all part of the same class, the working class, for whom solidarity and unity is decisive.

On behalf of the U.S. capitalist rulers, the Democrats and Republicans are preparing for new and more horrific wars to come. To try and whip up enthusiasm among workers, they are stepping up U.S. chauvinism, which goes hand and hand with vilification of foreign-born workers.

Some workers initially supported Donald Trump's 2024 campaign and then his administration when it claimed it only intended to deport "the worst of the worst criminals." But these same workers are outraged when they see the reality — wide-ranging immigration raids and brutality that target their neighbors, friends and co-workers.

In cities and small towns working people have rallied to defend fellow workers picked up by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. They've stood shoulder to shoulder and won broad support. In some cases these struggles have led to the release of those arrested, like the fight to free SMART union member Kilmar Abrego García in Maryland and restaurant owner Anou Vongbandith in Philadelphia.

What's needed is an effective, disciplined movement of working people that fights for an amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S. A movement that draws in the unions and reaches out to rally all

the exploited and oppressed to its side, one that immigrant workers can join and help lead. The banner they carried in their millions in protests in 2006 and 2007 said, "We are workers, not criminals!"

Fighting to check the competition for jobs workers always face under capitalism has been at the center of the unions' course since they first emerged with the rise of modern industry. Karl Marx, a founder of the revolutionary workers movement, explained in 1866 that unions must "learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interests of its *complete emancipation*."

They must "enlist the nonsociety [unorganized] men into their ranks," Marx wrote. "They must look carefully after the interests of the worst-paid trades, such as agricultural laborers, rendered powerless by exceptional circumstances. They must convince the world at large that their efforts, far from being narrow and selfish, aim at the emancipation of the downtrodden millions."

Advancing this perspective requires rallying around the call for amnesty for workers without papers, essential to unify and strengthen the labor movement for the deeper class struggles that lie ahead, and to open the door for the working class to take political power into our own hands.

The low point of labor resistance is behind us

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY LOOKS FORWARD

JACK BARNES
MARY-ALICE WATERS
STEVE CLARK

The Low Point of Labor Resistance Is Behind Us

The Socialist Workers Party Looks Forward

The global order imposed by victors of the imperialist slaughter of World War II is shattering with explosive ramifications for workers worldwide.

pathfinderpress.com

Moscow targets Ukraine

Continued from front page

from France and the U.K. after the war ends.

Putin insists any settlement must mean Ukraine giving up remaining territory in the Donbas mining and industrial region that Ukrainian forces are fighting hard to defend.

The barrier to a deal is "all about the land," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told the press.

Ukrainian forces control about a quarter of Donetsk, a heavily fortified western area that forms a bulwark of defense against Moscow's invasion. Tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers have sacrificed their lives or limbs defending this territory over the past four years. Handing it over to Putin would be unacceptable to working people in Ukraine.

Putin has said that if he doesn't get what he wants through talks, his regime's forces will achieve his goals on the battlefield. But Moscow's offensive has been slow to make serious advances over the past couple of years, while Russian soldiers have faced staggering losses. Some 30,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in December alone — with Ukrainian forces losing just one soldier for every 25 Russian troops.

The disproportion is a result of Putin's disregard for the lives of Russia's workers in uniform, as well as the increasing military skills acquired by Ukrainian forces and advances made in their drone warfare.

The Kremlin's aerial strikes are systematically targeting civilian areas and power infrastructure across Ukraine. More than 1,300 attack drones, over a thousand guided glide bombs, and 29 missiles were launched in one week in January, leaving hundreds of thousands without power and freezing in their homes.

Vitali Klitschko, the mayor of Kyiv, says 600,000 people left the capital in January.

In an act of solidarity, neighboring Poland is taking a collection aiming to raise 2 million zloty (\$500,000) to provide heaters and generators to Ukraine.

Energy and maintenance workers, some from as far away as Odesa and Lviv, have come to Kyiv, moving from building to building to repair damaged heating pipes. Teams have also come from the state train system, while other rail workers volunteer at the front.

"Many skilled workers are fighting. Well, we'll just help as much as we can," rail worker volunteer Andrii Karataiev told the Euromaidan Press.

Imperialist rulers' growing drive to war marks the debates at Davos

Continued from front page

Ukraine. The U.S. rulers are concentrating on shoring up their own military in the Western Hemisphere. This is tied to Trump's insistence that his NATO allies yield to his demand for U.S. control over Greenland.

In contrast, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, chief representative of the strongest European power, told the gathering, "NATO became the strongest alliance in history" because it was "based on mutual trust and respect" and "anchored in international law." But today, a "new world of great powers is being built," he said, one that "we do not have to accept."

In fact, the NATO transatlantic military alliance was put together by Washington after its bloody victory in World War II in order to consolidate and extend its domination, tamp down rivals, including the defeated rulers of Germany, and prepare the way for the overturn of the Soviet Union.

But U.S. imperialism did not win the Cold War that followed. In the decades after the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, Washington's illusion it could do as it pleased for the U.S. capitalist class turned to ashes. World capitalism was plagued by sharp financial crises and U.S.-led wars, from Iraq to Afghanistan to Yugoslavia, turned into quagmires. The march toward another world war is accelerating today.

Moscow's 2022 invasion of Ukraine widened fissures between the NATO allies, exposing the vulnerability of imperialist powers in Europe and their military reliance on Washington. It came at a time when the U.S. rulers are pushing to assert their own interests more forcefully.

Washington is adjusting to defend its domination in a changing world, especially against the rising economic clout of Beijing and its efforts to establish itself as a competing military power. The U.S. rulers are trying to bolster their weakened world

dominance, working outwards from what they consider "their" hemisphere, the Americas.

Trump's secretary of war, Pete Hegseth, issued a 2026 National Defense Strategy document Jan. 23. He declared the U.S. rulers' first goal is to use "the most powerful military that this world has ever seen" to make sure "our interests in the Western Hemisphere are protected. We will deter China in the Indo-Pacific through strength, not confrontation."

And he emphasized the need to "rebuild the U.S. defense industrial base as part of the President's once-in-a-century revival of American industry." This is essential for the U.S. rulers in their wars to come.

Illusory world order is 'ruptured'

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney used Davos to describe the crisis facing "middle powers" caught between the "great powers." He pointed to "a rupture" in what he called "the international rules-based order."

Carney "wasn't so grateful," Trump said the next day. "Canada lives because of the United States," he said, pointing to Washington's military dominance. "Remember that Mark, the next time you make your statements."

French President Emmanuel Macron likewise warned of "a time of instability, of unbalances," both military and economic.

In his address, Trump pointed to his response to Macron's initial refusal to concede more favorable trade terms to Washington. He told world dignitaries at the gathering that he forced the French president to submit, saying, "Emmanuel, the answer is you're going to do it. You're going to do it fast. Then if you don't, I'm putting a 25% tariff on everything you sell."

"Instead of becoming a truly global power, Europe remains a beautiful but fragmented kaleidoscope of small and middle powers," Ukrainian Presi-

dent Volodymyr Zelensky said at Davos Jan. 22. His blunt assessment came even as his government plans to join the European Union, a bloc of 27 competing ruling classes, itself increasingly divided in the face of today's growing trade and military conflicts. As Washington turns away from Ukraine, Zelensky's government is hoping European NATO powers will provide more arms and funding for Ukraine's battle against Moscow's invasion.

"If you send 30 or 40 soldiers to Greenland — what is that for?" Zelensky said, about the recent deployment of a handful of troops by the rulers in France, Germany, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the U.K.. "What message does it send? What's the message to Putin? To China?" He contrasted this to Ukraine's battle-tested million-strong army. "Without this, you won't manage" to withstand Moscow's expansion in Europe, he warned.

Every national ruling class is rearming in preparation for global conflicts ahead.

Berlin is rebuilding its military forces. Chancellor Merz has said the Bundeswehr "needs to become Europe's strongest conventional army," with a troop increase to 260,000 by 2035.

The rulers of Poland are undertaking the biggest buildup of their navy since the Cold War in the face of Moscow's growing assertiveness in the Baltic Sea. Warsaw is building three modern frigates and buying three new Swedish-built submarines.

The stakes for millions of working people across the world are rising. Sharpening conflicts between the world's "great" capitalist powers threaten to drag humanity into another, even more horrific world war, with the growing number of nuclear-armed powers.

Only the working class, which desires peace, can prevent another global slaughter by taking political power into its own hands.