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Boston, Feb. 14, 2025.

WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

Thousands denounce 'billionaires' coup'

By Steve Gillis
Boston

Nearly 2,000 people braved -10F windchill weather in Boston on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, to denounce what organizers termed "the billionaires' coup" and to uphold "People Over Fascism!"

Gathering on an ice-covered Boston Common, protesters representing over 100 local and national organizations cheered immigrant

workers, trans activists, disability rights warriors, the Boston Area Brigade of Activist Musicians (BABAM) marching band and speakers whose V-Day message was "Love is Resistance."

After vowing—singing along with the Resistance Revival Chorus—that "All you fascists bound to lose!" the demonstration spilled into the Downtown Crossing shopping district. Protesters chanted, "No Trump, No Musk, No KKK, No fas-

cist USA!" and "When trans rights are under attack, what do we do? Act Up! Fight Back!"

The action concluded with a rally at the JFK Federal Building. Spokespeople for the North American Indian Center of Boston and the Palestinian Youth Movement urged people to march on the Israeli Consulate the next day to protest the ongoing U.S.-sponsored genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. □

An urgent necessity

Open up a struggle against the billionaires' dictatorship

WW COMMENTARY

By Larry Holmes

The writer is Workers World Party's First Secretary.

The plans that Trump and his inner circle of billionaires and extreme-right reactionaries have for saving U.S. imperialism's world domination and the capitalist system will not work. They will blow up in Trump's face and split the ruling

alliance that he has patched together, probably sooner rather than later.

Trump and his people seem to realize that U.S. imperialism can no longer maintain the global hegemony that it has held since the end of World War II—and more particularly—since the collapse of the Soviet Union nearly 35 years ago. So, for the moment, they have abandoned the alliances and norms that have been the rules and pillars of their world order for the last 80 years.

Trump's imperialism is, in a sense, a revival of 19th century "manifest destiny."

This is a throwback to a time when the U.S. ruling class maintained that its number one priority was to rule through invasions and occupations over everything between what is now Alaska to the southernmost tip of Chile, including the Caribbean, as well as a wide swath of the Pacific Ocean. Trump has abandoned all pretense of U.S. imperialism being motivated by spreading democracy in favor of an in-your-face "we will wage economic and military war to steal what we want" posture.

This new strategy is to counter what most of the U.S. ruling

class considers to be an existential threat. That's the coming into being of a multipolar world—as differentiated from a U.S.-dominated unipolar world—with China at the center of a rival world order in a complex alliance with much of the Global South, along with Russia.

Class war at home

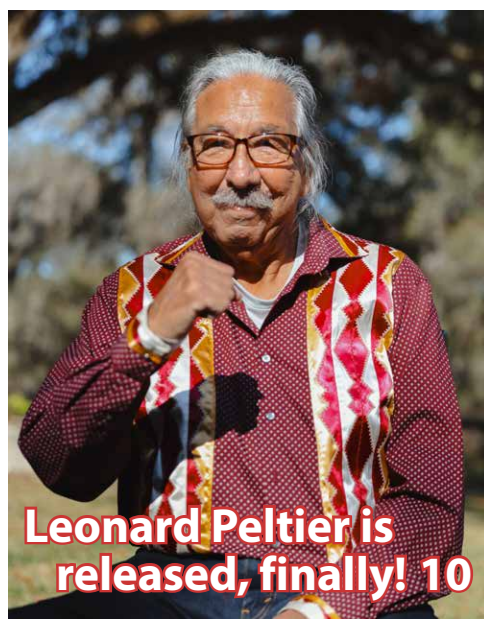
And then there's Trump's dramatic escalation of the war against the workers and oppressed in this country. Trump's

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Larry Holmes

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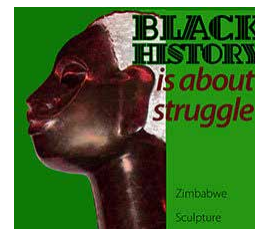
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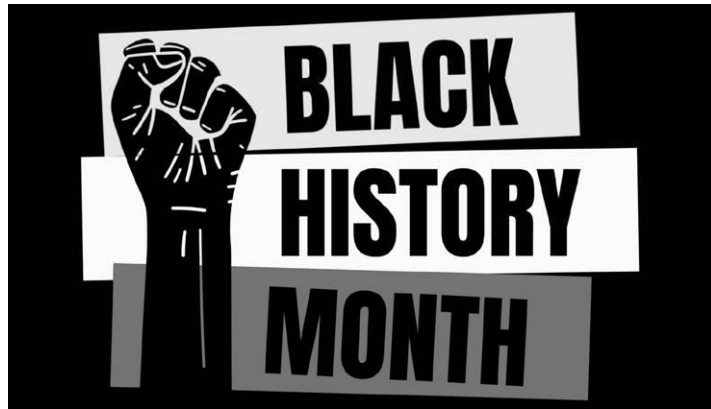


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Workers World honors Black History Month, every day!



Since its inception, Workers World newspaper has highlighted the Black Liberation struggle and Civil Rights Movement and has celebrated their heroes from Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner to Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

WW covers struggles to free political prisoners Mumia Au-Jamal and Imam Jamil Al-Amin. Our paper honors trailblazing Black women, including Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Marsha P. Johnson and Ida B. Wells.

This year we strongly condemn the Trump administration's directive to federal agencies to axe celebrations of holidays that commemorate important events in the history of the Black Liberation Movement — Black History Month, Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Underneath this decree is blatant racism, actually white supremacy, which has existed since August 1619 when the first group of kidnapped, enslaved African people arrived in the U.S.

The decree aims to erase the history of the role of enslaved Black people, deny Black People equal rights and the respect they deserve and obliterate the struggles they have waged to win every right and gain for their community. Trump's dictates are meant to denigrate and reverse the gains made by Black people both prior to and during the historic Civil Rights Movement and erase the holidays which this movement won and are celebrated countrywide.

The promises of the Reconstruction Era did not end racism, discrimination and anti-Black violence. The revolution to ensure democratic rights is still unfinished. As the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass said: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Join the WW Supporter Program

This pro-worker, anti-imperialist newspaper relies on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was founded 48 years ago to help produce this pro-socialist newspaper and since the early 1990s has supported workers.org, where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper's PDF is displayed.

The website contains timely news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles and posts bulletins from the Palestinian resistance and other national liberation movements, as well as articles translated by our staff. Mundo Obrero publishes articles in Spanish.

Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist, anti-war and anti-imperialist struggles and promote people's movements against racism — and for the rights of Black, Latine, Indigenous, Arab and Asian peoples and women, workers, migrants, disabled and LGBTQIA2S+ people. **Workers.org is a resource for political activists.**

While WW's staff members and writers are volunteers, the 12 issues printed and shipped each year and the website and social media sites incur expenses. Although many online publications require payment to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 per year? Contributing \$50 or more entitles you to receive 12 print issues a year, five emails per week with links to articles posted online and, upon request, a copy of the book "What road to socialism?"

Your donations help get class truth to more readers including prisoners — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to "Workers World," and put "Supporter Program" on the memo line." Include your name, address and email. Mail to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Rally at Stonewall National Monument against trans erasure

By Renée Andrea Imperato

On February 13, President Donald Trump issued an edict that all references to transgender people must be erased at the Stonewall National Monument in New York City. The monument is right next to the Stonewall Inn, which is where the Stonewall Rebellion occurred in June 1969.

This order is the ultimate insult, considering that the rebellion was led by transgender people of color, including Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, Miss Major, Stormé Delarverie and others in the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Within hours of hearing of Trump's order, around midnight, a rally was called for 12 noon on the next day, Feb. 14. In an astounding development, considering the short notice, an overflow crowd of over 500 people filled Sheridan Square Park near Stonewall.

There were many speakers, including this writer, who spoke as a Workers World Party representative and as the chairperson of the SAGE Advocacy and Services for LGBTQ+ Elders Advisory Council.

All of the speakers relayed their outrage

at this fascistic attack on the transgender community, which Trump, Musk and their junta seek to erase. The assembled speakers and crowd demonstrated forcefully that such erasure will never ever happen — that transgender people have been on this planet for millennia.

The Stonewall Inn, which is not part of the national monument but is a historic landmark, issued a statement denouncing this disgusting, arrogant, reactionary regime and the efforts to intimidate the trans community, its supporters and members of the entire LGBTQIA2S+ community.

While there were some moderate Democratic Party politicians who spoke, many other speakers spoke militantly, saying that we have to do whatever is necessary — beyond what the Democrats have failed to do. The Democrats have, essentially, thrown transgender people under the bus.

The overflow crowd lingered for hours after the rally was over to continue our presence.

Many activities will be planned in response to Trump's fascist attacks on



At the Stonewall National Monument, New York City, Feb. 14, 2025.
Renée Andrea Imperato, wearing glasses.

WW PHOTO

so many communities. People of color, immigrants, women, seniors, government workers, people on Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security, veterans, people with disabilities, along with the LGBTQIA2S+

community, will answer these attacks with resounding militancy.

Black trans lives matter!

Protect trans youth!

Stonewall means fight back! □

Struggle against the billionaires' dictatorship

Continued from page 1

actions over the past month have created a political crisis in the U.S. that, even in its early stage, is without precedent. This much can be said: This crisis is going to get much bigger, and this crisis is symptomatic of a more severe phase of end-stage capitalism.

Trump's extreme and desperate measures mean that the magnitude of the crisis is such that it is impossible for the ruling class to rule in the old way. Nothing that is reported in the capitalist media about the fight over Trump's executive orders and his measures to take over and reshape the federal government will illuminate what this is all about. It is about the class struggle and how to open a big assault on the working class and prevent the working class from rebelling against it.

To the sections of the ruling class that remain tied to the Democratic Party, what the Trump regime is doing is either illegal, unconstitutional or an attack on democracy. The Democrats' opposition to Trump's actions is based on their view of self-serving bourgeois democracy. Their lawyers are taking Trump and his forces to court. Soon they will be having hearings and doing anything that they can out of fear of the loss of power — but also to

circumvent the working class and prevent it from turning this into a class struggle, an anti-capitalist struggle.

In sharp distinction, our view and response to the crisis should be exposing and opposing its class character.

Among the distinguishing features of Trump's program to save U.S. imperialism as well as the capitalist system itself is the launching of a white supremacist counterrevolution. This is the context of the war against migrant workers, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Black History Month, trans people, women, public education, federal workers, science and anything else remotely progressive.

Workers not billionaires!

Even compared to all of this, the most distinguishing feature of the Trump regime — and this speaks directly to what the fight-back strategy must be — is the role of billionaires, the superrich and most powerful people in the capitalist class who comprise such a tiny percentage of the population that they are statistically invisible.

It is customary in the norms of bourgeois rule to make some attempt, however shallow and transparent, to conceal the complete control that the superrich

capitalists have over the government. Trump has tossed this norm overboard.

Trump's government, including most cabinet members, is composed of billionaires, and the richest person in the world, Elon Musk, who has an open affinity to neofascists here and around the world. He is directly in charge of reorganizing the federal government.

We should not be dismissive of this crisis or act as though it does not affect the workers and the struggle. We would be wise to analyze it from a class perspective.

The Trump forces' goal is to centralize power in his hands and strengthen the state repressive apparatus. But most importantly, the goal is to cut social programs in order to pay for huge tax breaks for the superrich and to systematically eliminate any rules, regulations or checks and balances that get in the way of billionaires doing whatever they want.

These developments will only make the billionaires more hated by the people, and they are already very hated.

Fighting the billionaires is implicitly exposing and fighting the capitalist system. There is a palpable desire among many to open a fight against the superrich. The most astute forces in the anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist movement can play a crucial role in bringing this about. It would help to illuminate all of what is happening, what it is really about — and that's the class struggle. Ultimately, nothing can be a substitute for the working class awakening and entering the struggle against the capitalists and their system in a decisive way. Part of the preparation for that inevitability is the launching of a sharp struggle against the billionaires.

Undoubtedly, the opening phase of the struggle will be defensive struggles, defending migrant workers, defending trans people, defending people of color and defending the Palestinian people, etc. The importance of these struggles cannot be overemphasized.

Still, we cannot confine our efforts exclusively to defensive struggles. The struggle against Trump — which is a struggle against the dictatorship of the

billionaire class as well as a struggle against the danger of fascism — must be forward looking, anticipating where the struggle is going, where it must go and where we want it to go. That is in the direction of a class struggle that is explicitly against the capitalist system and its rulers.

It is time to open up a struggle against billionaire rule, a struggle that is not merely esoteric or rhetorical but tied to the class struggle of the workers and the oppressed in this country and everywhere. We need to begin organizing protests and mass mobilizations in front of the offices and homes of billionaires, such as Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg, as well as others. Our efforts must be linked with the struggles of Amazon workers, Whole Foods workers, Tesla workers and government workers, etc.

There are approximately 800 billionaires in the U.S. with a combined wealth of nearly \$70 trillion. It's time to demand that their wealth be expropriated and made available for the needs of the working class, especially the poorest.

In our arsenal there should be signs with slogans like: "Deport billionaires, not migrant workers!" or "End U.S. billionaires, end genocide in Gaza!" or "Gaza belongs to Palestine, not billionaires!" Other slogans might be: "Abolish Trump, Musk and all the billionaires, not health care!" "No more wars for billionaires' profits!" "Bust billionaires, not unions!" and "\$25 minimum wage paid for by the billionaires!"

More possibilities could be "Target billionaires, not transgender people!" "Disabled people, not billionaires!" and "Workers, not Trump and the billionaires!" The simple "Workers not billionaires," which is already becoming popular, may be the most direct and politically clear slogan. It may very well be the theme of the struggle versus the billionaires.

Rising to the occasion is not in question; the questions are: Who? How? And when will we get started? □



Boston, Feb. 14, 2025.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN



Texas executes two people despite disabilities and innocence

By Gloria Rubac
Huntsville, Texas

Within eight days in February, Texas executed two men, one innocent and the other disabled with serious mental illnesses, which brings Texas's total state killings to 593 since the Supreme Court of the U.S. allowed executions to resume in 1976.

Steven Nelson had always proclaimed his innocence, saying he was the lookout driver and not the killer, but was convicted under Texas's Law of Parties. After the legal lynching of Nelson, an African American man, on Feb. 5, his spiritual adviser spoke to the crowd of activists protesting the execution.

Rev. Jeff Hood said Nelson told him to let it be known that he didn't go quietly: "He was on a gurney and wheeled to the transport van to the death house. He had bandages on his arms that he didn't have this morning when we visited. He said to tell everybody outside that they didn't fail, because their work gave him the will to fight."

Hood told the crowd: "The people who participated in this [execution] tonight will go home and think they have done something righteous. There is nothing righteous about killing people. There's nothing righteous about strapping someone to a gurney and making them defenseless and then killing them."

Hood said: "Sometimes we can't stop executions. Sometimes the state is too powerful. But Nelson said that because he knew you all were behind him, that gave him the will to fight. So, it is our job, when we go from this place tonight to continue to fight."

"In this time of Trump, we have to resist. They are demonizing people, trying to take away this and that right. The way that Steven resisted tonight showed

that he remains human. Steven Nelson matters. So often in difficult times ministers talk about peace. But God also gives us rage in the midst of executions, in the midst of injustice. Each of you go with your rage and fight back, speak out, stand up and change the world with your rage."

Texas execution of people with mental illness

Eight days later, Texas executed a man known for alternately giving up his appeals and asking to be executed to then reinstating his appeals and continuing to fight. Richard Tabler was abandoned by attor-

neys and then later represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). His mental illnesses began as a child. Tabler's prison record includes at least two instances of attempted suicide.

Groups which attend all execution protests are: the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, the Prison Show from Houston's Pacifica Radio; the Death Row Angels, reporters for Execution Watch, another Pacifica program that does a live program for each Texas execution; and the Houston Peace and Justice Center. Many independent activists were also present.

The ACLU released a statement Feb. 13, lamenting Tabler's execution, claiming he had reformed in the years since the murders to be a "mentor and source of support for those around him." Tabler also reportedly led a ministry for death row inmates. "Today, Texas plans to execute a man who spent the last two decades proving his capacity for growth, remorse and redemption," said Claudia Van Wyk, senior counsel at the ACLU's Capital Punishment Project.

Many people were familiar with Tabler, because in 2008 when contraband cell phones were very common in Texas prisons, including on death row, he used a contraband phone to call then-Senator John Whitmire, who chaired the Texas Senate's Criminal Justice Committee, to ask for his help in getting his mother in to visit. Whitmire was so enraged that he had every one of the over 120 prisons put on lockdown in an attempt to find all contraband phones.

SCOTUS refused to halt execution

Since 1984, the United Nations has said countries should not impose or execute people with mental illness, intellectual

disability or "any form of mental disorder."

Both executions were of men with several disabilities. Because every person on Texas death row lives in solitary confinement, mental illness and suicide are common. For those who arrive on the row without mental illness, it can soon develop due to the extreme isolation.

According to the ACLU, people placed in solitary exhibit a variety of negative psychological reactions, including severe and chronic depression; self-mutilation; decreased brain function; hallucinations; and revenge fantasies. The ACLU appeal argued that Tabler's attorneys ignored a psychological exam that determined he had a "deep and severe constellation of mental illnesses" that had been ignored since childhood. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to halt his execution.

Tabler made a moving last statement, addressing the family of his victims who were witnessing, by offering his regrets, while thanking his family and supporters for "allowing me the opportunity to show you that I can change and become a better man."

The one bright spot for Nelson and his spouse, Uno Dubois, who visited him and witnessed his execution, was that her service dog was allowed to accompany her into the visitation room and was also with her as she witnessed Texas murder Nelson. Many were surprised at Texas making this accommodation, but others realized if she had been denied this right and she had sued the state, it would have delayed the execution. If there's one truism about Texas, the state does not want to stop any executions!

Statistics vary depending on which organization is asked, but people with physical and psychological disabilities are present in prisons in large numbers — over 40%. No person, regardless of ability, should ever be executed by any state or any country. The injustices in prisons and on death rows are much bigger crimes than those allegedly committed by the incarcerated! □



Demonstration against the execution of Richard Tabler, Huntsville, Texas, Feb. 13, 2025. WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Gov. Shapiro: Shut down SCI Fayette!

By Cindy Lou
Philadelphia

Participants in a rally and march held in downtown Philadelphia on Feb. 8 demanded that Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro declare SCI Fayette as one of two of the state's 23 prisons he said should be shut down this year. He declared this in his annual State Budget Address. Shapiro is not motivated by any moral or altruistic ideals but by the prospect of saving \$110 million.

Around 50 people joined the protest despite the cold winter chill. Following a rally at Love Plaza, the protesters marched to the governor's Philadelphia office at 8th and Arch streets for a closing rally.

The Toxic Prisons Committee, a branch of the Human Rights Coalition (HRC), has been working to have SCI Fayette shut down since

2014. The facility was built in Luzerne Township, Pennsylvania, in 2003 on part of a Coal Refuse Deposit Superfund site next to a 506-acre coal ash dump.

The land was declared contaminated and could not be easily sold; however, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections bought it and erected a prison there. The Superfund site was contaminated by 50

tons of coal ash waste, with more being trucked in every day by Matt Canestrone Contracting, which owns the site.

The incarcerated people in this jail arrived fairly healthy, but within months many were ailing from abnormally high rates of heart and respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal disease, thyroid disorders, eye infections, chronic skin rashes, migraines and more. SCI Fayette has the largest cancer cluster of the state's prisons with high rates of premature deaths. Many prisoners have developed cancer and other diseases. One incarcerated person has a tumor in his mouth and must be tube-fed.

Like most state prisons, Fayette is also marked by asbestos, mold, inedible food, roaches, rodents, broken heating systems and poor health care. The water in the showers

comes out brown and has caused at least one person to lose consciousness.

The guards would not drink the water or eat the food prepared there. They were brought in food and were given bottled spring water. The residents of the surrounding town of LaBelle, Pennsylvania, were also being sickened, and the vegetation around their houses affected by a fine oily ash that covered everything.

Eventually, a lawsuit was filed by the Abolitionist Law Center, and Matt Canestrone Contracting was ordered to stop trucking in new waste and to pay remediations to clean up the mess. The company declared bankruptcy, and the ash still remains.

When the Committee found out about Shapiro's intentions to close two prisons they sprang into action and organized a march with banners, signs, a sound system, legal observers, photographic documentation, marshalls, speakers and chants — in four days! Participants included members of the HRC, Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration, Philly Muslim Freedom Fund, Workers World Party, Put People First and Fayette Health Justice Committee. □



Demonstrators call for schools not jails. Philadelphia, Feb. 8, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

49 Years in hell

By Cindy Lou

Kali Hickman is a long-time friend, serving time in James T. Vaughn Correctional Center. He will be coming up for pardon soon, and as a faithful reader of Workers World newspaper for years, asked me to publish his plea for support letters. If you write a character reference, please keep it positive.

We know how horribly corrupt and brutal the carceral system is — this is a way to contribute to and assist him!

Kali writes:

Coming up in the 1960s and 1970s, I too — like so many youth — had my life uprooted and restricted, as I landed in juvenile courts, juvenile detention (for truancy) and eventually Adult Court and

Prison. At the age of 17, I went before the judge in a juvenile court for an amenability hearing and was found non-amenable. It appeared that Juvenile Corrections was not working. As a result, the decision was to send me to an adult prison in Smyrna, Delaware, in 1975 — on my 18th birthday!

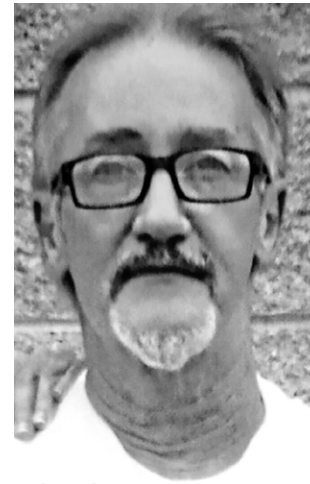
I was adjudicated to an adult court hearing for an assault I committed while AWOL from the Delaware youth center. This assault had occurred in 1974 when a fellow was verbally assaulting a female friend of mine. I was released on bail pending trial, and at this trial I received a three-year sentence. This three-year sentence turned into the homicide of another incarcerated person, and I was sentenced to Life Without the Possibility of Parole. I was 20.

I am now 67 and have been incarcerated

since I was 17 — over 49 years. I will come up for a Commutation hearing this year in either June or July.

Shortly after my sentencing, I made major changes in my life about my old ideas and concepts. I've since studied language arts, social studies and basic science and math. I've also spent a lot of my time studying civil and human rights from activists, scholars and professors. I became politically enlightened in prison.

Consider the conditions — the mental,



Kali Hickman

emotional and physical conditions that you are subjected to every day, the lack of decent health care. These are conditions that throw up obstacles to learning and changing. So it was with difficulty that I rose above and became a civil and human rights activist. Also, I am now working in the furniture department.

Any letters of support to the Board of Pardons can be sent to:

Paul-Kali-Hickman
Delaware DOC, 1101
PO Box 96777
Las Vegas, NV 89193

I am making up a packet to submit to the Board of Pardons. □

Hamas on the release of Palestinian prisoners, no displacement

The two following statements from Hamas were released by the Resistance News Network on Feb. 15, 2025.

We congratulate our free prisoners and their families and our great Palestinian people on this great national achievement on the path to liberation and return.

These moments, in which we witness our heroic prisoners embracing freedom, are a new step in our long journey towards Jerusalem. The issue of liberating the prisoners will remain at the top of the priorities of our people and our heroic resistance, and victory will not be complete unless all of them are liberated.

The resistance's release of three enemy prisoners places the enemy before the responsibility of adhering to the [ceasefire] agreement and the humanitarian protocol and starting the second phase of negotiations without procrastination. We affirm that the unity and resistance of our people are sufficient to thwart all displacement plans, just as they thwarted all previous occupation projects.

We condemn the occupation's crime of placing racist slogans on the backs of our heroic prisoners and treating

them with cruelty and violence, in a blatant violation of humanitarian laws and norms, in contrast to the resistance's steadfast commitment to moral values in treating the enemy's prisoners.

No to the displacement of Palestinians!

Hamas values the positions of Jordan and Egypt for rejecting the displacement of the Palestinian people and affirms that there is an Arab plan for rebuilding Gaza without forcing its people to leave. The movement considers Jordan's stance as an extension of its opposition to resettlement and the "alternative homeland" plans, which aim to erase Palestinian identity and end the Palestinian cause.

Hamas further appreciates the positions of Arab nations and countries worldwide that have expressed their rejection of any plans to displace Palestinians or undermine their national rights. They emphasized that the Palestinian people will remain steadfast in their land and will not accept any solutions that diminish their legitimate right to freedom and independence.

Additionally, Hamas announced that a delegation



Palestinians reunite with their families and friends in Ramallah following their release from Israeli prisons on Feb. 15, 2025.

led by Dr. Khalil al-Hayya, head of Hamas in Gaza, has arrived in Cairo to begin meetings with Egyptian officials. These discussions are focused on monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and facilitating the prisoner exchange process through technical committees and mediators. □

Trump's 'peace' is a lie!

Interview with Ukrainian political prisoner

By Steve Gillis

The following are excerpts from an interview in Russian by Workers World newspaper reporter Steve Gillis of Mikhail Kononovich, a political prisoner in Ukraine since March 2022 for opposing war with Russia. He and his brother Alexander — arrested for their many years of "Komsomol [Communist Youth League] for Peace" actions — are currently living under house arrest. See workers.org/?p=82775 for more background and workers.org/?p=83852 for the full interview. Translation: Steve Gillis.



Alexander and Mikhail Kononovich

Workers World: How have the workers of Ukraine experienced the first weeks of the Trump administration?

Mikhail Kononovich: Trump's "peace" is a lie! There will be no peace in Ukraine, not in a day, not in a month, not in a year. The slaughter will continue. Trump is an oligarch, capitalist, Nazi and butcher!

War is the engine of the capitalist economy! The war in Ukraine is a "Drang nach Osten" [Drive to the East]. Trump openly says he will fight for the minerals in Ukraine!

What's going on in the Gaza Strip right now? Is there peace there? No! And despite the signed "ceasefire" between Israel and Hamas, Palestinians continue to die there every day. Trump's "peace" in Palestine is to clear Gaza of Palestinians, just like Hitler's "General Plan East" to clear the territories of Eastern Europe by exterminating all Slavs, which by the way continues now in Ukraine.

Today's war in Ukraine is just a continuation of Hitler's policy on the part of the collective imperialist West's "onslaught on

the East." Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus have long been considered as western colonies, so they want to drag them into NATO knowing that Russia will not allow it, and there will be war.

According to the classics of Marxism regarding empire development, an empire should constantly expand or die, so the "Western empire" of the so-called collective West is expanding by means of the same Nazis-era "Drang nach Osten."

WW: As the U.S.-NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine enters its fourth year, what is the condition of the anti-war forces inside Ukraine?

MK: The most important indicator of the society, how Ukrainians experience the war, is the forced mobilization into the army. People are caught like animals and sent to the front. The whole internet is full of thousands of videos of forced mobilization by kidnapping on the street.

All those who consistently advocated for peace even before the outbreak of full-scale war in Ukraine in 2022 are, as Ukrainian communists and anti-fascists, either in jail, under arrest or in exile. The anti-war forces in Ukraine are repressed

but not defeated; we continue to fight no matter what.

WW: What are the most important demands that the anti-war movement in the U.S. should raise with the Trump administration?

MK: We — as Ukrainian communist anti-fascists, as people who have personally been tortured by the SBU [Security Service of Ukraine], imprisoned and abused by the regime — call on our American comrades to demand first of all that the Trump administration immediately declare a full amnesty for all political prisoners in Ukraine! Thousands of pro-peace people are being subjected to daily non-human torture and deprivation in the center of Europe! This must stop immediately!

We call on you American comrades, communists, leftists, anti-fascists to march to Ukrainian embassies and consulates throughout the United States and Canada to demand an end to political repression in Ukraine and the immediate release of political prisoners from prisons.

Comrades come out and fight for us as we would fight for you! □

Risking it all for dying capitalism

By **Betsey Piette**

A key question behind the havoc Donald Trump and Elon Musk are creating through their Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is: “Are the majority of the U.S. ruling class on board?”

In recent days, as Musk and his band of young technocrats rampage their way through federal departments, it appears they have no problem putting some key departments at risk through massive layoffs. One is the Treasury Department, which backs up the entire U.S. banking system, serving as the last resort to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in a banking crisis to insure nationwide bank deposits.

Another sweeping round of layoffs took place at the Department of Energy, impacting over 300 workers from the National Nuclear Security Administration who oversee massive U.S. nuclear stockpiles. CNN reported that government officials responsible for the cuts appeared unaware of the crucial roles played by these laid-off workers. (Feb. 14)

Is the crisis for the U.S. capitalist system so great that not just a few super-billionaires but the entire U.S. ruling class is willing to risk it all?

Capitalist media's acceptance of Musk

Major capitalist media — the Washington Post, the New York Times, CNN and others — all put forth a similar analysis of the Trump/Musk coup, but none question why now, and what is happening with U.S. capitalism to make it willing to take these risks.

Corporate media all report that in less than three weeks, Musk's DOGE has followed the same playbook at one federal agency after another: “Install loyalists in leadership. Hoover up internal data, including the sensitive and the classified. Gain control of the flow of funds.



And push hard — by means legal or otherwise — to eliminate jobs and programs not ideologically aligned with Trump administration goals.” (Washington Post, Feb. 8)

Very few government voices from either capitalist party in Washington seem to have the courage to question what is going on.

Washington's bureaucracy consists of agencies that administer services — Social Security, Education, Health and Human Services, the Veterans Administration, etc.; bodies that regulate the economy, including the Treasury Department; and the state apparatus — FBI, CIA, and other spy agencies, the Pentagon, USAID and the State Department.

There have been thousands of layoffs across the federal government system impacting the Treasury Department, the Office of Personnel Management, the Internal Revenue Service, Homeland Security, the VA, the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education and more. Musk's goal is to run federal agencies on a for-profit basis.

The end game is to slash the federal government to levels not seen in over 20 years, diminish regulations over private businesses, reduce services, attack workers' rights and curtail attempts to prevent capitalists' destruction of the environment.

By introducing greater technology and artificial intelligence (AI), Musk's DOGE plans to replace the human workforce in the federal government with machines and destroy unions in the process.

While Musk and Trump claim that DOGE staff are seeking to “identify fraud and waste,” so far they haven't targeted the Pentagon, the federal agency most notorious for fraud and waste.

Historic use of technology to replace human labor

Throughout the history of capitalism, companies have developed technology so that machines replace human labor in order to maximize profits. Karl Marx described this process in the Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848): “The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society. ... Constant revolutionizing of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation distinguishes the bourgeois epoch from all earlier ones.”

“High Tech, Low Pay,” written by Workers World Party chairperson Sam Marcy in 1984, elaborates on how the scientific-technological revolution of that period became an enormous economic factor in not only changing the social composition of the U.S. working class, but opening the way for imperialist export of technology and globalization of production.

AI was developed through intense exploitation of millions of workers on a global scale. The latest technological innovation is now being used by the

capitalist class at a time of extreme crisis to totally restructure a governing apparatus in existence for over two centuries.

Dictatorship of the billionaire class

While bourgeois media focus on Musk and DOGE, they ignore the underlying cause of the crisis which is the irreversible decline of U.S. imperialism and the rise of socialist China. This crisis makes it impossible for the U.S. ruling class to govern in the old way.

The crisis is so severe that the billionaires have appointed themselves to positions of government power. They no longer trust the traditional party leaders — the representatives and senators they bought and paid for — to get what they want from their capitalist government.

The billionaire class wants even more tax breaks, but restrictions Congress historically placed on the debt ceiling currently stand in the way. The federal budget deficit is \$2 trillion annually, with a national debt approaching \$37 trillion. Stripping funding from social programs would pay for huge tax breaks for the superrich while remaining under the debt ceiling.

And the superrich want aggressive imperialist policies that undermine other capitalist countries as well as increased threats against countries trying to build socialism, such as China.

Corporate media's focus on Trump and Musk serves to hide the dictatorship of the billionaire class — especially the control that they have over the government and their plans to eliminate any government regulations that get in the way of maximizing profits.

Membership in federal workers' unions has greatly escalated in recent weeks. Demonstrations are taking place around the U.S. and more are planned. The only power that can stop the dictatorship by the billionaires is the massive power of the global working class, which is slowly awakening to its task ahead. □

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper
 Edited by **Monica Moorehead**

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination

Larry Holmes • **Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery** Sam Marcy • **Black Youth: Repression & Resistance** LeiLani

Dowell • **The Struggle for Socialism Is Key**

Monica Moorehead • **Black Reconstruction: The unfinished revolution**

Minnie Bruce Pratt • **Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights & Global Justice!**

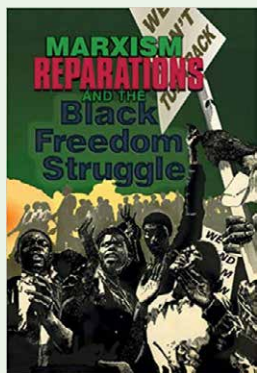
Saladin Muhammad • **Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior** Mumia Abu-Jamal

• **The U.S. role in Darfur Sudan** Sara Flounders

• **Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions** Pat Chin

• **Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation** Consuela Lee • **Africa needs reparations, not occupation and sanctions** Deirdre Griswold • **The May Day uprising of 2006** Larry Holmes

Free download at workers.org/books. Or purchase at online booksellers.



COVER GRAPHIC: SAHU BARRON

Belgian workers march against government's austerity plans

By **Kathy Durkin**

A tidal wave of demonstrations across Belgium on Feb. 13 brought out a multitude of people to protest the government's planned austerity policies, which would be draconian for the multinational working class.

Over 100,000 people came out in Brussels, mobilized by labor unions, to denounce disastrous changes to the pension system, lessening of workplace protections and cutbacks in social services, including health care, which would impact workers and patients. Airports and public transportation systems were affected, as those workers joined the mobilizations.

The General Labour Federation of Belgium (FGTB) wrote on Facebook:

“Workers, from all sectors, public and private services, feminist organizations, youth, as well as many associations in civil society ... Everyone took to the streets against the brutal measures and budget cuts imposed. ... We demand more solidarity, more humanity, quality public services and better protection of purchasing power.”

What is being called “the Arizona government,” headed by conservative Prime Minister Bart De Wever, is targeting labor unions, aiming to weaken them by such tactics as holding them financially responsible for any economic impact resulting from worker actions. Union members and their

allies also charge the reactionary government with aiming to stifle basic democratic rights to organize, demonstrate and speak out, with the goal of silencing opposition.

Another issue of importance to the working class is that the U.S. and other NATO countries are demanding Belgium increase its military budget and spending on weapons. So, workers would pay the price in losing benefits and social services.

Solidarity is growing and the fight-back is expanding. Health and education workers collectives, international solidarity groups, youth networks and other organizations have supported the demonstrations. Mobilizations are planned for March 8, International Working Women's Day, and a general strike is projected for March 31. □



Demonstration of 100,000 in Brussels on Feb. 13, 2025, opposing attacks on workers. The banner reads in translation, “Youth unite against the Arizona measures.”

PHOTO: FGFB

Racist attacks on DEI will help escalate class struggle



By Monica Moorehead

Ever since Donald Trump issued an executive order to overturn DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) directives for governmental agencies, there has been an ongoing debate on the validity of such programs within the progressive movement — understandably so, considering DEI's origins. This order will block programs recognizing the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Black History Month, Juneteenth and Women's History Month, among others, for federal workers, many of them African American and gender oppressed.

Former President Joe Biden signed into law on Feb. 22, 2023, requirements for certain federal agencies such as the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education to set up "equity teams" and "DEI steering committees." These groupings were supposed to promote "the consistent and systematic treatment of all individuals in a fair, just and impartial manner," especially those who had "been denied such treatment."

The document named "Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander persons and other persons of color," religious minorities, women and girls, people in the LGBTQIA2S+ community, people with disabilities, people who live in rural areas as well as U.S. territories and "persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality." (HR Dive, Feb. 23, 2023)

Some of these DEI programs pushed for family restrooms, paid holidays, pay equity, subtitles and captions for the hearing impaired, breastfeeding and pumping accommodations for mothers, size-inclusive belts and chairs in medical facilities, belt extensions for plus-size people

on airplanes and more. To what extent these programs achieved practical goals for a large majority or a small minority is debatable, but the programs addressed a broad range of inequalities that exist under U.S. capitalist society.

Even some corporations and banks felt the pressure to adopt DEI programs whether their workforce was organized or unorganized. Some of these same big businesses are now retreating from any DEI programs that were put into place for their workers.

DEI rooted in Reconstruction era

The attack on DEI programs raises the question of form versus content. Yes, the form of DEI came from a pro-imperialist president, whose true allegiance was to the interests of the profit-driven billionaire ruling class; therefore, the form was certainly bourgeois-oriented. But despite that fact, the general objective of DEI was progressive, if nothing else to raise day-to-day fundamental rights denied to broad sectors of the working class. And this is true when it comes to the issue of bourgeois democratic rights for Black and other people of color.

Following almost 250 years of institutionalized enslavement, the outcome of the four-year Civil War was a military defeat for the slavocracy, ushering in the Reconstruction period — a profound effort to achieve full political and economic rights for freed Black people on par with whites within an emerging wage-slavery society.

Under Reconstruction-era laws — bolstered by thousands of Union troops stationed in the Deep South — Black men gained the right to vote and to become representatives in state legislatures, once wholly dominated by white male politicians. Public elementary schools and colleges for Black youth were set up and more.

Unfortunately, Reconstruction was tragically cut short by a violent counter-revolution carried out by the former slavocracy in the form of the fascist Ku Klux Klan along with the withdrawal of federal troops with a pro-enslavement administration in the White House.

Black people, who had tasted a minimal amount of democracy for only a decade, became victims of racist terror with lynchings, burnings of schools and churches, involuntary servitude through

mass incarceration and generally being forced into semi-enslavement conditions. In 1896, segregation in the North and South became the law of the country with the U.S. Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson, declaring "separate but equal" facilities were legal.

In answer to these major setbacks in the quest for social equality came the mass Civil Rights struggle led by Black workers in the Deep South, focusing on the right to vote, an end to segregation and the right to decent paying jobs. Despite facing unimaginable racist repression with bombings, jailings, lynchings and outright terror, Black people won the right to vote in 1965 and the desegregation of facilities in the South in 1964. The federal government was pressured into signing these bills due to the mass struggle.

A year after Democratic President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he issued Executive Order 11246 prohibiting employment discrimination based on race, color, religion and national origin by those organizations receiving federal contracts and subcontracts.

In 1969, Republican President Richard M. Nixon signed another executive order to implement equal employment programs, also known as affirmative action, within federal government contracts. Neither Johnson nor Nixon and the parties they represented were friends of Black or any oppressed workers but were forced through the grassroots struggle to pass progressive legislation to help offset generations of discriminatory hiring practices.

Black and Latine construction workers, employed under federal contracts, were beneficiaries of these programs.

Fast forward decades later to Biden's DEI programs, especially any police "reforms" coming out of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice following the mass protests against the police murder of George Floyd in May 2020. These "reforms" did not stop police repression but served to put a number of police departments on notice.

Trump's attacks aimed against all workers

The first objective of the racist, misogynist and xenophobic Trumpites' attack under the guise of opposing DEI is to target Black federal workers and Black people in general. As of Feb. 13, tens of

thousands of federal workers who were on probation for two years or less, have been laid off from their jobs, many of them African American.

These white supremacists want to erase all of the progressive gains first won under Reconstruction over 150 years ago followed by the Civil Rights Movement, including the concessions of Black History Month and Juneteenth!

The Trumpites don't want to stop with the Black population. As we have already witnessed, they have targeted migrants and trans people as the first wave of scapegoats for the growing capitalist economic crisis faced by all workers.

But the working class is showing optimistic signs of fightback and solidarity with early protests in the streets. They are not waiting for the impotent Democratic Party to show them the way. Pro-migrant demonstrations are spreading throughout the country in response to jailings and deportations, and more and more non-union workers, especially the most oppressed, are signing up to join unions since Trump took office.

The Trumpites are in for a rude awakening as the multinational, multigenerational, multigender working class will continue to consciously organize to unite on all the issues to declare, "Trump says get back, we say fight back!"

Concessions can be temporary and co-opted by the ruling class to reinforce class rule, which history has shown. A socialist transformation of society on a global scale is the only answer to win the total liberation of humanity from the shackles of capitalist slavery.

As the saying goes, "Class oppression is primary. National oppression is not secondary!"

The writer is a great-granddaughter of Black educator William James Edwards, the founder of Snow Hill Institute in Snow Hill, Alabama, in 1893. This private kindergarten through 12th-grade institute helped to educate Black sharecroppers one generation removed from slavery. A protégé of Booker T. Washington, Edwards is the author of "Twenty-Five Years in the Black Belt," which can be read in its entirety at docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/edwards/edwards.html.

Gov't workers rally to send fightback message vs. Trump

Hundreds of government workers and their allies held a rally on Feb. 11 on the northside of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The focus of the rally was to protest the forced buyout — aka

retirement of thousands of federal workers directed by Donald Trump's executive order following his second inauguration on Jan. 20. According to CNN, thousands of probationary federal workers have had

their jobs terminated as of February 13.

These workers, many of them members of the American Federation of Government Employees, are employed by various governmental agencies, such as

the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, Department of Justice, Transportation Security Agency, Department of Energy, Department of Education and more. AFGE represents 800,000 workers in Washington, D.C., and around the country, according to its website. (afge.org)

Kendrick Roberson, AFGE's national Vice President for Women and Fair Practices, fired up the crowd with a message of fight back against this attack on government workers. Brooklyn Congressional Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus, spoke in solidarity with the workers.

Other unions represented at the rally included the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Communication Workers of America; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and United Food and Commercial Workers.

— Report and photo by
Kermit Leibensperger



Philly Whole Foods workers win union election

By Marie Kelly

Workers at the Whole Foods Market near the Art Museum in Philadelphia made history on Jan. 27 when their store became the first unionized Whole Foods in the U.S. The Whole Foods union is part of the United Food and Commercial Workers, which has over 1 million members in the U.S. and Canada.

Whole Foods is owned by Amazon. Whole Foods workers are subject to the same dehumanizing surveillance and quota systems as warehouse workers. They must account for every move they make while on the job. Personal shoppers are held to demanding productivity standards that force them to maintain a pace that leaves them prone to injury and mental stress.

Cashiers state that they have to work at such a rapid pace they have little time to engage with customers, making the workers feel like robots — all while standing their entire shift. Items scanned per minute are tracked, and the quota expected is exceedingly high. Whole Foods workers can't even afford to shop there because of the low wages they receive for their labor. This reality is not the corporate image of a worker-friendly environment that Whole Foods would like people to believe.

Warehouse workers at Amazon have been at the forefront of the revitalization of the labor movement. In 2021, Chris Smalls successfully led workers in forming the Amazon Labor Union at the JFK8 Amazon warehouse in Staten Island, New York. The ALU won a union recognition election on April 1, 2022. The ALU won

another victory when the National Labor Relations Board ruled against Amazon in the company's multiple union-busting legal filings.

Both Amazon and Whole Foods are notorious union busters. Whole Foods corporation has already filed an objection with the NLRB to the election results. Whole Foods workers will face an NLRB that has been hogtied by the Trump administration's attack on organized labor. With Trump's firing of two NLRB members, the board doesn't have a quorum that might tend to enforce Whole Foods' legal obligation to begin bargaining negotiations.

This is the stark reality of a class war between the billionaire oligarchy and the working masses. Labor organizers must use all the tactics in their toolbox to go on



the offensive to finally squash the ruling class and bring about a just society where workers own the means of production.

Philadelphia Whole Foods workers are committed to the struggle ahead. □

Capitalists impose mass layoffs in retail

By Otis Grotewohl

Hundreds of major U.S. retail stores are projected to close in 2025, with thousands of workers being displaced as a result.

JCPenney and the Ohio-based Joann Fabric and Crafts are the latest big box department store chains to announce upcoming store closures. In January, JCPenney revealed plans of shutting down eight stores nationwide; the company has been closing shops since declaring Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2020.

Joann Fabric and Crafts, known for selling unique craft-making supplies, publicly confirmed it is closing nearly two-thirds of its locations this year. After filing Chapter 11 bankruptcy twice in 2024, the company said 500 of its 850 stores will be shuttered nationwide.

These store closures will also hurt working-class sewists and tailors who rely on the stores' material. In referencing the Joann store closures, sewist Daleena Fredrick-Banks told the Akron Beacon Journal: "It is very sad for the seamstresses all over. We all have to regroup and refocus on how we will get the fabric needed." (Feb. 14)

JCPenney and Joann Fabric and Crafts are not the only department stores to announce upcoming closures. Big Lots recently announced it was closing nearly all of its locations, while Party City revealed they were closing every store by the end of February.

Other retailers expecting major closings and layoffs include Macy's, Kohl's, Dollar Tree, Office Depot, Advance Auto Parts, Walgreens and CVS.

Chain store closings negatively impact workers of all nationalities, generations and genders, especially women and gender-oppressed people, people of color, seniors, people with disabilities and people within the LGBTQIA2S+ community.



Retail workers protest layoffs triggered by private equity buyouts of store chains, 2019.

Working-class and oppressed communities, including those in rural areas, will suffer the most from the layoffs and closures.

Capitalism: responsible for store closures and job losses

When corporations face bankruptcy, the bosses find ways to place blame on the workers. One excuse companies use to justify shop closures is so-called "under-productivity." Rather than recognizing what Marxists call "overproduction," corporate executives fault employees for mistakes made at the top.

Overproduction happens when too many goods have been produced, which can no longer be sold at a profit, and value is diminished. Lower consumer demand may initiate a capitalist crisis or recession resulting in mass layoffs. Overproduction is cyclical and inevitable under capitalism.

Many of the companies that are shutting down operations have been bought out by private equity firms. While corporations sell their assets to avoid bankruptcy, private equity firms overhaul the

companies for profit, which often causes closings and foreclosures.

While many corporate executives supported Donald Trump for president in the last three elections, a number are concerned Trump's tariffs could increase costs. In 2018, Joann Fabric and Crafts' then-CEO Jill Soltau complained in an interview with Business Insider that "42% of all goods sold at Joann stores would be subject to tariffs," during the first Trump administration. (Akron Beacon Journal, Feb. 14)

Brick and mortar stores are also being replaced by online shopping and other forms of technology. The COVID-19 pandemic forced wider adoption of contactless payments and home delivery.

Solidarity and socialism are the solution

Retail store closings are happening just as federal workers are also being laid off in the tens of thousands because a goal of Elon Musk and Donald Trump's unofficial "Department of Government Efficiency" is to shrink the federal workforce as a budget-cutting measure.

Workers who are being let go by retail chains have a common material interest with federal workers, as well as undocumented workers and all working people around the world who are under attack by capitalism-imperialism.

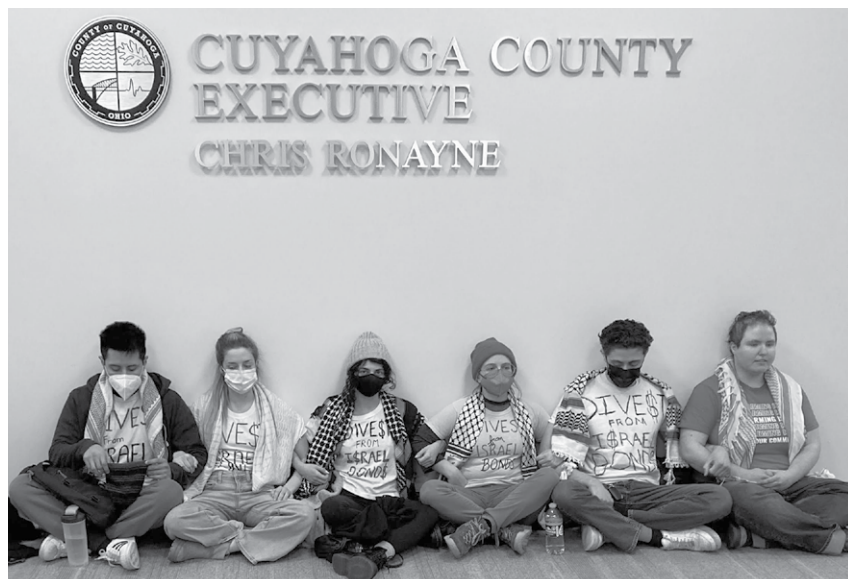
Workers are being terminated while consumer prices continue to increase. The Trump-Musk administration is also promoting job-killing technology, such as artificial intelligence (AI), at the same time the workforce is being reduced.

In contrast to the U.S., socialist countries use technology to promote job growth and sustainability. For example, the former socialist German Democratic Republic used the most advanced technology of its time to maintain full employment and improve working conditions.

While the U.S. ruling class currently uses AI as a tool to reduce jobs, China's AI sector is "significantly expanding its hiring efforts," according to a recent Global Times report. (Feb. 11)

When comparing the differences in how socialist and capitalist countries utilize technology, Workers World Party co-founder and chair Sam Marcy wrote: "It's not true that technology itself has grown to such dizzying heights that it cannot be controlled or managed. It can be. What stands in the way is private ownership and the struggle for super-profits, which make the productive forces in capitalist society unmanageable and lead to periodic crises." (Workers World, Dec 12, 1991, "IBM and the High Tech crisis")

Solidarity between workers and oppressed people is imperative in fighting back against the white supremacist Trump-Musk billionaire dictatorship and their dead-end capitalist system. A united, multinational working-class led resistance is necessary in forcibly putting a halt to the job-killing onslaught! □



Struggle intensifies for county divestment from Israel Bonds

Since April 2024, the Cleveland Palestine Advocacy Community and other organizations have been demanding that the Cuyahoga County Council divest from Israel Bonds. Of the \$16 million of taxpayer dollars invested in genocide, \$3 million are up for renewal this March.

Activists recognize the need to ratchet up the struggle. On Feb. 11, before the meeting of the County Council, CPAC members held a sit-in outside the office of County Executive Chris Ronayne. They were escorted off the premises but were not arrested.

At the County Council meeting that evening, Rev. Regis Bunch, who is African American, was arrested and dragged out of Council chambers after he "disrupted" the Pledge of Allegiance. He was held in the county jail overnight.

CPAC, Rev. Bunch and Cleveland's Palestine solidarity movement are determined to keep fighting until all Cuyahoga County funds are divested from the Zionist apartheid state.

— Report and photo by Susan Schnur

China's DeepSeek reveals advantages of socialism

By Hugo East

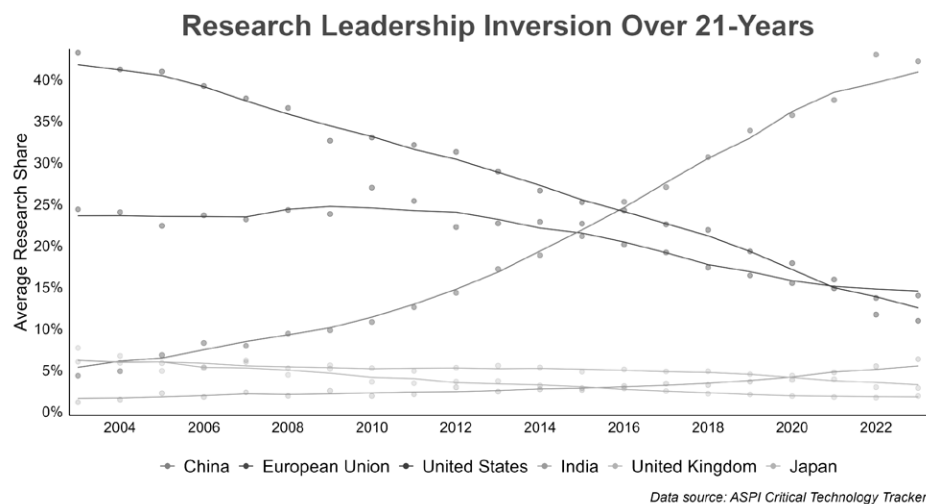
Below are excerpts from an article published on workers.org on Feb. 10. To read the full article go to workers.org/2025/02/83781/

The Chinese company DeepSeek released its artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot to the U.S. market on Jan. 20. By the following week, it was the most downloaded app on the iOS App Store, surpassing Open AI's ChatGPT.

The rapid rise of DeepSeek caused an unprecedented crash in the valuation of multiple U.S. tech companies, wiping out close to \$1 trillion in combined market value from chip giant Nvidia Corp. and other peers. The loss to Nvidia was by far the largest, fastest devaluation of a U.S. company in history.

DeepSeek owes its efficacy to the socialist character of the People's Republic of China (PRC), in which it was developed. Socialist planning has enabled the PRC's meteoric rise as a world power rivaling the U.S., as evidenced by the success of DeepSeek.

The latest iteration of that socialist planning is a ten-year initiative that began in 2015 called "Made in China 2025" (MIC 2025). MIC 2025 has in the final year of its implementation, through DeepSeek, seen the seeds it has planted bear fruit. A September 2024 study called the Critical



Comparison of research leadership growth by country over a 20-year period.

Technology Tracker — published by the think tank Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) prior to the rise of China's now-world-class AI sector — found that from 2003 to 2007 China led the world in just three out of the 64 critical technologies that the study tracked. From 2019 to 2023, however, China was the leading country in 57 of those 64 technologies, with the U.S. leading in the remaining seven — one of which in 2023 was AI.

MIC 2025 fits squarely within China's socialist economic development as first initiated by the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1949 under the leadership of its then-leader Chairman Mao Zedong. In an interview with U.S. journalist Edgar Snow excerpted in "Red Star Over China," Mao said: "Our millions of people, once really emancipated, with their great latent productive possibilities freed for creative activity in every field, can help improve the economy as well as raise the cultural level of the whole world."

Regulations imposed by the CPC come from its conformance with the long-term socialist project of the PRC and contrast sharply with the way U.S. companies overwhelmingly are operated. In a

July 2024 interview, DeepSeek's founder Liang Wenfeng made this fact plain: "Our principle is neither to sell at a loss nor to seek excessive profits. ... This time, our goal isn't quick profits but advancing the technological frontier to drive ecosystem growth."

Chinese tech innovates around U.S. trade embargo

Just like the PRC's recent ascendancy in automotive manufacturing, DeepSeek has found success despite the U.S.'s attempts to starve China's AI industry of supposedly vital resources through a targeted trade embargo. The Biden administration created trade controls that the U.S. used to keep the hardware — mostly computer chips manufactured by the U.S. company Nvidia — out of China.

But, as the New York Times columnist Cade Metz said: "The impressive performance of the DeepSeek model raised questions about the unintended consequences of the American government's trade restrictions. The controls have forced researchers in China to get creative with a wide range of tools that are freely available on the internet." (Jan. 27)

A recent article in the British scientific journal Nature summarized the details of DeepSeek's innovation. Wenda Li, an AI researcher at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, said: "Having limited computing power drove the firm to 'innovate algorithmically.' During reinforcement learning the team estimated the model's

progress at each stage, rather than evaluating it using a separate network."

These innovations have put DeepSeek's performance on a variety of tasks on par with the U.S.'s current leader, OpenAI's ChatGPT — even outperforming it on some.

These algorithmic innovations also had the effect of making DeepSeek much less expensive, both in direct financial cost and in energy consumption.

DeepSeek's R1 and OpenAI's o1 are types of language models used to solve complex problems and perform scientific reasoning.

U.S. market response symptomatic of capitalist flaws

When DeepSeek's release became evident to the U.S. financial markets, the effects were devastating. In one day Nvidia lost \$600 billion in its stock's value, a record for a single company. The S&P market lost 1.5% of its value, and tech-heavy Nasdaq dropped a whopping 3.1%.

The scale of these losses is attributable to the central role that speculation plays in U.S. valuations. Venture capital firms have pumped billions of dollars into U.S. AI companies based on the assumption that U.S. AI would remain dominant in the world, and the companies' valuations, determined by the stock market, were extremely high. OpenAI was valued at \$157 billion prior to the release of DeepSeek.

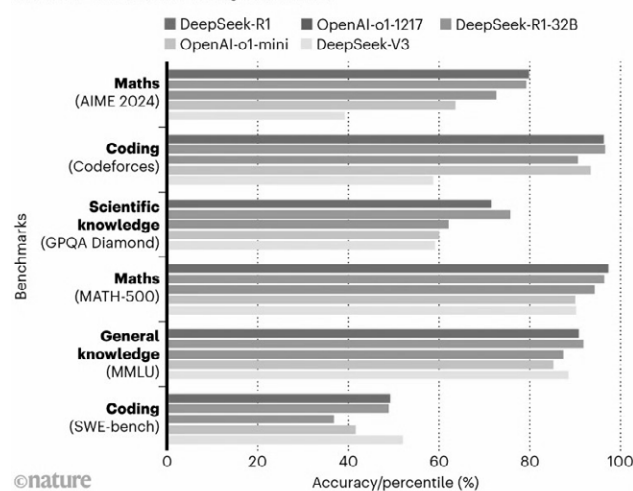
The speculative value of the U.S. energy sector also fell precipitously due to DeepSeek. U.S. AI requires a tremendous amount of energy to develop and operate. DeepSeek requires far less because of the algorithmic innovation it employs to compensate for its relative lack of computer chips. Prior to the release of DeepSeek, it was estimated that by 2030, 17% of the U.S. energy output could be going to data centers used by tech companies to power AI.

DeepSeek is just one of several technological and scientific innovations developed under a socialist economy that challenges capitalist profits while benefiting the whole world.

To read the interview with the founder of DeepSeek, Liang Wenfeng, go to: tinyurl.com/y9ffaj9jb.

AI RIVALS

DeepSeek tested three versions of its large language models against OpenAI's o1 models on mathematics, coding and reasoning tasks. DeepSeek-R1 beat or rivaled o1 on maths and coding benchmarks.



Comparison of DeepSeek and OpenAI.

Panamá: Unions battle regime over workers' rights

By G. Dunkel

A mass national demonstration Feb. 12 in front of Panamá's National Assembly protested the regime's attempt to privatize social security and its attacks on the labor movement. Using excessive force, police fired tear gas at protesters, who replied with rocks and bottles. Police made 480 arrests and injured 100 demonstrators, while claiming that 15 cops were injured.

The demonstration protested Law 163, which is intended to privatize social security. It denounced President Donald Trump's statements threatening to seize the Panamá Canal and the servile pro-U.S. attitude of Panamá's President José Raúl Mulino. The action also honored the memory of Al Iromi Smith Rentería, a worker killed by Panamanian police on Feb. 12, 2008.

For the past few years, unions in Panamá, led by SUNTRACS (the National Union of Workers of Construction and Similar Industries), have been fighting for union rights, freedoms and activism in general.

In 2023, SUNTRACS conducted a months-long campaign against what its leaders considered a bad deal between the Panamanian regime and an internationally known mining company, Minera Panamá S.A., a subsidiary of the Canadian multinational First Quantum Mineral. SUNTRACS won when the Panamanian Supreme Court ruled the deal was unconstitutional. (equaltimes.org, Feb. 13)



PHOTO: ROMÁN DIBULET

Members of civil society and the SUNTRACS trade union protest persecution by Panamanian authorities, including the closure of their bank accounts. Panamá City, 2024.

A few months later the government-owned banks where the union held its members' dues closed the union's account, declaring that it suspected this account was being used in the "financing of terrorist activities."

The union brought up this "illegal and arbitrary" act of the government's bank to the International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) Global Rights Index as well as to Panamá's Ombudsman's Office. Both these entities held that closing the account "violated the union's right of free association." The International Labor Organization also took up the issue.

SUNTRACS moved some of its funds out of the country. Its general secretary, Saúl Méndez, and foreign relations secretary, Jaime Caballero, have been charged by the pub-

lic prosecutor's office with crimes against freedom and the economic order. Caballero was arrested Feb. 26, 2024.

Eduardo Gil, general secretary of the Panamanian national Center Convergencia Sindical (Trade Union Convergence or CS) has said that the criminalization of social protests, particularly when directed against union leaders, continues to be one of the main challenges for trade unions.

Protests against privatizing social security

Despite these active attacks from the government, SUNTRACS together with the Pueblo Unido por la Vida (People United for Life) alliance managed to hold the Feb. 12 mass protest over attempts to turn social security into a privately run institution.

The government's proposed law would turn over the resources of the public entity to the banks and pension administrators and raise the retirement age. The regime refuses to listen to popular proposals on pensions and how to guarantee decent health care.

Secretary General of SUNTRACS Saúl Méndez said that the bill seeks "to impose the theft of insurance money, increase the retirement age, rob pensioners and workers of their money to give it to the banks. We all want peace, but not the peace of the cemetery, the peace of misery and hunger that they want to impose on us. That is why we need unity, firmness and discipline in the face of this problem." (Peoples Dispatch, Feb. 13) □

'America First' agenda targets world's poor

Making the ludicrous assertion that the United States Agency for International Development is run by a "bunch of radical lunatics," President Donald Trump has attempted to end all funding for USAID. A judge has put a hold on the cuts temporarily.

The attacks on USAID are under the banner of "America First," a slogan employed repeatedly by Trump in his inaugural address and in previous and subsequent remarks. This move represents a crass appeal to vulgar protectionist attitudes.

"America First" has an ugly history, going back to the 1930s and 1940s when the America First Party operated under the leadership of Nazi sympathizers Gerald A.K. Smith and Father Charles Coughlin and right-wing "populist" politician Huey Long of Louisiana. A second America First Party was founded in 2002 by supporters of ultrarightist Pat Buchanan.

But in 2025, what Trump really means is "billionaires first."

Ironically, the so-called "radical lunatics" at USAID have distributed funds to the Cold Warriors who operate the "National Endowment for Democracy," which exists to undermine socialism and anti-imperialism around the world. The misnamed "Food for Peace" programs are notorious for using food as a weapon to get impoverished

countries to make concessions to U.S. imperialism.

Needless to say, some elements of the ruling class are up in arms about the abrupt elimination of USAID. They fear that this removes a weapon from U.S. imperialism's arsenal.

Abolishing USAID would also mean an end to programs that have saved lives, including food aid, AIDS/HIV prevention, disaster relief, bed nets that offer protection from malaria and demining programs in Vietnam — where unexploded ordnance continues to kill people 50 years after the Vietnam War's end.

A reported 13,000 workers worldwide will be out of a job. When the federal judge ruled against the USAID cuts it was after a union representing government workers filed a lawsuit.

Under the guise of "keeping the money here," Trump has taken aim at Earth's poorest populations. He is essentially giving himself dictatorial powers, with the ability to terminate all kinds of programs he and his sidekick, centibillionaire Elon Musk, deem wasteful. This is a billionaires' coup in the making. Workers and oppressed people need to mount a fightback.

That doesn't mean socialists and progressives should clamor for these programs to be restored. The truth is that U.S. imperialism has ruthlessly exploited the people



Annual Juneteenth demonstration, called by People's Organization for Progress, demands reparations on June 19, 2023, in Newark, New Jersey.

and resources of the Global South for decades and in some cases for centuries. The ruling class owes trillions of dollars in reparations for its crimes against humanity.

It's time to pay up! Reparations now!

That's a righteous demand in response to the right-wing attack on aid to oppressed countries. □

Feed the people! Not the war machine!

By Mutual Aid and Scientific Socialism

The following article is from the January 2025 newsletter of Mutual Aid and Scientific Socialism, based in Brooklyn, New York.

As we experience another bitter winter, potholes remain unpaved, people still lack adequate health care and homelessness and hunger continue to rise. While the people remain abandoned, the U.S. government has sent \$18 billion of our taxes (since October 2023) to fund the genocide and colonization of our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

With the money sent to Israel in the last year alone, we could afford 75% of the total cost required to end hunger in the U.S. With the U.S. military budget for this calendar year, we could have solved hunger 33 times over.

Under our current for-profit health care system, over 78 million people do not have sufficient health insurance.



PHOTO: LEON ROSELLI, MASS

Distribution and outreach by Mutual Aid and Scientific Socialism, Kensington Plaza, Brooklyn, New York, Winter 2024.

With Affordable Health Care subsidies expiring, especially under our new House of Representatives and Senate, millions more are estimated to lose access to

their health care plans.

So why do our politicians continue to fund the war budget despite our crumbling infrastructure? It all stems back to the same thing: profit. Weapons manufacturers are incentivized to continue endless wars that reduce the quality of life for both domestic and international working-class people.

Free, free Palestine! From the river to the sea!

It is time for us to recognize that we have more in common with the average Palestinian than with any millionaire or billionaire. Instead of separating ourselves on the basis of national identity, all workers should engage in a struggle against authoritarian control by the ruling classes. This system relies on us to be mindless, obedient drones, continuously alienated from our labor. There is nothing more threatening to the current hierarchy than awareness of its unjustifiable nature.

In simpler terms, there is no weapon more powerful than knowledge. □

Forging alliances against imperialism

By Richie

The Anti-War Action Network Founding Conference, held February 15 – 16, 2025, in St. Paul, Minnesota, brought together hundreds of activists from anti-war student groups, Palestine solidarity networks and seasoned campaigners to unite against U.S. imperialism and militarization.

Attendees participated in dynamic panels such as "Palestine: Where Does Our Movement Need to Go?" "The Growing Divestment from Genocide Movement" and "Organizing Against War Profiteers," where diverse organizations shared practical strategies — from local divestment campaigns and grassroots protest tactics to using research and social media for effective community mobilization.

Interactive workshops provided hands-on training in street organizing and

research methods while sessions on Syria and the broader Axis of Resistance highlighted the disabling impact of U.S. sanctions and military interventions on regional resistance movements.

The conference culminated in a founding session that saw the adoption of a new mission statement, the election of a steering committee and the approval of resolutions to drive future

national days of action, including observances for Land Day and Al-Nakba, all underscored by networking opportunities that fostered further unity and strategic collaboration among the participants.

To read the greeting delivered by Richie on behalf of the United National Antiwar Coalition, go to workers.org/2025/02/83899.



Founding conference of the Anti-War Action Network, held in St. Paul, Minnesota, Feb. 15-16, 2025.

PHOTO: WATCHMERISEMPLS

Leonard Peltier is released, finally!

In the morning of Feb. 18, 2025, Leonard Peltier was released from a federal prison in Florida but remains under home confinement. Below are excerpts from a news release issued the day of Peltier's release by NDN Collective, an "Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power."

Sumterville, Florida — This morning, Leonard Peltier was released from over 49 years of wrongful incarceration. Mr. Peltier is an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians and will reside on his tribal homelands in North Dakota.

Upon Peltier's request, NDN Collective is bringing him home to the Turtle Mountain community. NDN Collective and partners built upon five decades of organizing and led the advocacy that secured Peltier's release. Tomorrow the organization is hosting a celebratory event and community feed to welcome Peltier back to his homelands.

"Today I am finally free! They may have imprisoned me, but they never took my spirit!" said Leonard Peltier. "Thank you to all my supporters throughout the world who fought for my freedom. I am finally going home. I look forward to seeing my friends, my family and my community. It's a good day today."

"Leonard Peltier is free! He never gave up fighting for his freedom, so we never gave up fighting for him. Today our elder Leonard Peltier walks into the open arms of his people," said Nick Tilsen, NDN Collective Founder and CEO. "Peltier's liberation is invaluable in and of itself — yet just as his wrongful incarceration represented the oppression of Indigenous peoples everywhere, his release today is a symbol of our collective power and inherent freedom." □

An appreciation of Malcolm X

By Monica Moorehead

February 21, 2025, will mark the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. The following slightly edited article was originally posted on workers.org on May 23, 2013.

The great Black leader, Malcolm X — also known as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz — was born on May 19, 1925. His birth name was Malcolm Little.

As a child, he experienced the horrors of racism growing up in Lansing, Michigan, where his father, Earl Little, was lynched when Malcolm was six years old. When Malcolm told one of his teachers that he wanted to be a lawyer she discouraged him from pursuing this career because he was Black.

When he went to prison in the early 1950s for petty crimes, Malcolm's political outlook blossomed as he met and joined the Nation of Islam (NOI), the largest mass Black organization in the U.S.

As his political reputation as a nationalist leader grew while imprisoned, Malcolm drew the attention and ire of the FBI's counterintelligence program, known as COINTELPRO. This repressive program — created by former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and sanctioned by every branch of the U.S. government — targeted any mass movements inside the U.S. that sought self-determination and national liberation from racist repression.

The FBI's tactics included demonizing through disinformation, frame-ups leading to incarceration and killings of political leaders of movements led by the oppressed.

Malcolm X's advocacy for the right to armed self-defense against state repression influenced mass organizations such as the Black Panther Party, the Deacons for Self-Defense, the Young Lords, the American Indian Movement and many others. These groups eventually were targeted by COINTELPRO, along with countless heroic leaders like Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Assata Shakur, Fred Hampton, Safiya Bukhari, Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier.



Malcolm X's political consciousness broadened from revolutionary Black nationalism at home to anti-capitalist internationalism based on his travels abroad, especially to Africa, Asia and West Asia [aka the Middle East]. He once stated, "The same man that was colonizing our people in Kenya was colonizing our people in Congo. The same one in the Congo was colonizing our people in South Africa and in Southern Rhodesia and in Burma and in India and in Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

"They realized all over the world where the dark man was being oppressed, he was being oppressed by the white man; where the dark man was being exploited, he

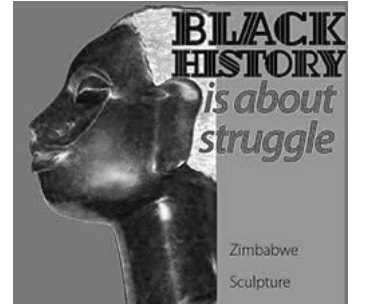
was being exploited by the white man." ("Malcolm X Speaks," 1965)

Malcolm's two-day visit to Gaza, including the Khan Younis refugee camp in early September 1964, prompted him to write a commentary entitled "Zionist Logic." In it he likens Zionism to a "new kind of colonialism" that not only threatens the existence of Palestine, but also the newly independent African countries.

A week before his assassination, he stated: "It is incorrect to classify the revolt of the Negro as simply a racial conflict of Black against White or as a purely American problem. Rather, we are today seeing a global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter."

After leaving the NOI, Malcolm X initiated the short-lived Organization of Afro-American Unity in 1964 to help promote Pan-Africanism and broaden solidarity between Black people at home and globally. He was assassinated while giving a speech at the Audubon Ballroom auditorium in New York City, on Feb. 21, 1965. It is widely known that the U.S. government was behind the assassination.

As the late Panther leader Fred Hampton — who was assassinated by Chicago police on Dec. 4, 1969 — once stated, "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill the revolution." These prophetic words certainly apply to Malcolm X, whose inspiring words and legacy will live on now and for future generations. □



Black History Month: 'Stayed on freedom'

The following article first appeared in Workers World on Feb. 6, 2019. It was written in response to attacks levied against Black History Month as part of Donald Trump's MAGA agenda during his first term. Minnie Bruce Pratt, a managing editor of Workers World newspaper, poet and lesbian activist who grew up in the South, died in July 2023.

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Black History Month again offers us a chance to honor the body-and-spirit-filled determination of African-American people who have struggled, built and fought in order to win against the deeply violent injustices of "America."

Honoring the lessons of Black history means acknowledging that those who founded the U.S. were colonizers and enslavers bent on despicable wealth and profit. And the truth of Black history reveals that a MAGA agenda to make "America" "great again" means reinstating and intensifying the subjugation of Indigenous peoples, Black and Brown people, women and gender-oppressed people.

The current reactionary president's administration — unbridled in its vicious language and policies toward all these groups — is simply enacting the same hateful principles embedded in the documents of the "Founding Fathers."

This administration's new volley of attacks are attempts to roll back victories that people's movements have won over many hundreds of years, always with people of African descent in resistance and leadership.

The more recent wins under attack range from worker protections in union membership gained in the 1930s, to laws benefiting women like Title IX in the 1970s, to trans and gender-nonconforming people recently winning safety protections like gender neutral bathrooms.

The struggle has won some space for oppressed people to live, breathe, work and even sing — that is what the haters and the bigots want to erase.

But these attacks are not made simply out of hate. These are calculated attempts to intimidate and push back those who are leading the forward motion against prejudice, discrimination and violent repression. The attacks are designed to break solidarity between people and between movements.

One freedom song that the Black Civil Rights Movement marched to was "Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on freedom."

That determination by people of African descent in the



In Missouri, the Fannie Lou Hamer Committee of the Fight for \$15 led the way in striking against sexual abuse and wage discrimination at McDonald's.

U.S. fuels the struggle for justice every day, every year, every decade, every century in this unjust country.

Recognizing the leadership of Black women and workers in struggle

There are many, many inspiring examples to learn and reflect on during Black History Month. But just within

the last couple of years:

In Mississippi, the heart of the "right-to-work-for-less" South, Black auto workers have been indefatigable in organizing for a union at the Nissan plant in Canton.

In Alabama, Black women were the heart of local campaigns to uphold the basic right to a vote; their work resulted in the defeat of a violently white supremacist, anti-LGBTQIA2S+, anti-woman candidate for senator.

In Missouri, the Fannie Lou Hamer Committee of the Fight for \$15 led the way in striking against sexual abuse and wage discrimination at McDonald's. Fannie Lou Hamer was a legendary organizer for justice for African-American people.

And last December, in a small individual act of solidarity, Jussie Smollett appealed for lifting up the lives of Black women through support for Bennett College, a historically Black college for women in the South.

During Black History Month, let's affirm with our actions that we are also on the side of justice and solidarity in the fight against racism.

As attacks are hurled by bigots aiming to break down freedom struggles, let's remember that Black History Month calls us to actively honor hundreds of years of Black determination to keep fighting while saying, "My body is strong, but my soul is stronger." □

Sam Nujoma, ipresente!

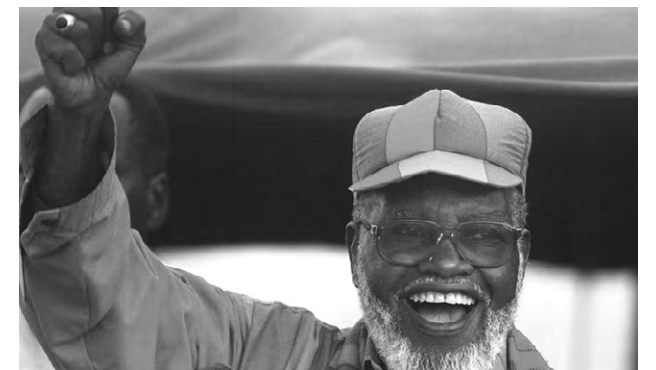
By Monica Moorehead

Dr. Sam Nujoma, leader of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), died on Feb. 8 at the age of 95 in Windhoek, Namibia.

SWAPO, founded on April 19, 1960, began as a political party. It then created an armed wing — the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) — in 1966 to fight for the liberation of South West Africa, occupied by the racist apartheid regime of South Africa. Dr. Nujoma became the commander-in-chief of PLAN.

A former German colony, South West Africa won its independence during U.N.-supervised elections in September 1989 and formally changed its name to Namibia. After spending 30 years in forced exile, Dr. Nujoma was elected the first president of Namibia on March 21, 1990, the day of Namibia's independence, and remained in office until 2005.

In a speech given in Harlem, New York, at the Harriet Tubman School on May 6, 1988, one year before Namibia's independence, Dr. Nujoma stated: "We believe that until



Namibia and South Africa are liberated, the forces of imperialism and capitalism will always undermine us all — people of African descent — whether at home or abroad. Therefore we consider, brothers and sisters, that your struggle is our struggle. Your victory is our victory. And our victory is your victory!" (Workers World, May 15, 1988)

The late Pat Chin contributed to this report.



Manifestación por los derechos de los migrantes, 18 de noviembre de 2025.

¿Qué causó el accidente aéreo? El acoso sindical, ¡no la DEI!

editorial Nadie debería sorprenderse cada vez que Trump se expone como el vil y repugnante intolerante ultraderechista que es.

Aun así, es casi imposible no indignarse. Un ejemplo es el accidente aéreo del 29 de enero cerca del Aeropuerto Nacional Reagan. Con absolutamente cero pruebas, Trump culpó inmediatamente a los programas de diversidad, equidad e inclusión, supuestamente instituidos por el ex presidente Joe Biden, de permitir la contratación de controladores aéreos menos cualificados.

Señaló específicamente a la Administración Federal de Aviación por «contratar activamente a trabajadores que sufren graves discapacidades intelectuales, problemas psiquiátricos y otras afecciones mentales y físicas en el marco de una iniciativa de contratación de diversidad e inclusión.» (Associated Press, 31 de enero)

Eso es mentira. Una gilipollez racista, sexista e incapacitante.

Uno podría pensar que sería más razonable investigar primero y luego asignar culpas. No este presidente. Si se le da la oportunidad de utilizar como chivo expiatorio a la gente de color, a los inmigrantes, a las mujeres y a las personas oprimidas por su género, a las personas LGBTQIA2S+ o a las personas con discapacidades, Trump lo hará, al margen de los hechos.

Tras un breve momento de silencio, Trump se lanzó a su diatriba contra la

DEI, mostrando cero compasión por las 67 personas que murieron tras la colisión en pleno vuelo entre un avión de pasajeros y un helicóptero militar. Fue el accidente aéreo más mortífero en Estados Unidos desde el 12 de noviembre de 2001.

Demasiados pocos controladores aéreos

Lo que se ha sabido es que la torre de control del tráfico aéreo que daba servicio al aeropuerto nacional Reagan carecía de personal suficiente. Un controlador supervisaba tanto los aviones como los helicópteros; antes de las 9:30 p.m., normalmente deberían haber sido dos trabajos separados. El accidente ocurrió a las 9:00 p.m. Según Associated Press, «El miércoles [29 de enero] el supervisor de la torre ordenó que [los dos trabajos] se combinaran antes [de las 9:30 p.m.]».

Esto era un accidente a punto de ocurrir. Según el sindicato que representa a los controladores aéreos, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, en un análisis obtenido por el New York Times, «Más del 90% de las 313 instalaciones de control aéreo del país operan por debajo de los niveles de personal recomendados por la Administración Federal de Aviación». Además, «La persistente escasez de personal y una inversión insuficiente en sistemas de seguridad han provocado un número alarmante de choques cercanos entre aeronaves». (New York Times, 31 de agosto de 2023)

En el capitalismo, los jefes siempre bus-

can formas de reducir costes mediante la reducción de la mano de obra. Esto es cierto tanto para los trabajadores del sector público como para los del sector privado.

Además de reducir el número de puestos de trabajo, esta práctica contribuye a un alto nivel de estrés laboral entre los controladores aéreos. Este estrés fue uno de los principales problemas de salud y seguridad en la huelga de 1981 de la Organización Profesional de Controladores de Tráfico Aéreo (PATCO). El entonces presidente Ronald Reagan rompió el sindicato y despidió a todos y cada uno de los miembros del sindicato que no cruzaron la línea de piquete.

Con el tiempo, los controladores que

sustituyeron a los miembros despedidos de PATCO se dieron cuenta de que necesitaban un sindicato y formaron NATCA. Los miembros del sindicato se enfrentan a las mismas o peores condiciones de exceso de trabajo y falta de personal que llevaron a la huelga de PATCO.

Una investigación objetiva, si se lleva a cabo, revelaría los hechos en torno a esta tragedia.

Dependerá de los trabajadores y de las personas oprimidas conectar los puntos y darse cuenta de que el recorte de costes capitalista y la búsqueda constante de mayores beneficios, y no la DEI, causaron el mortal accidente aéreo, uno que podría haberse evitado. □



Miembros en huelga de la Organización Profesional de Controladores de Tráfico Aéreo (PATCO), que se declararon en huelga el 3 de agosto de 1981 y fueron despedidos dos días después por el entonces presidente Ronald Reagan.

Una apreciación de Malcolm X

Por Monica Moorehead

El 21 de febrero de 2025 se cumplirá el 60 aniversario del asesinato de Malcolm X. El siguiente artículo, ligeramente editado, se publicó originalmente en workers.org el 23 de mayo de 2013.

El gran líder negro Malcolm X -también conocido como El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz- nació el 19 de mayo de 1925. Su nombre de nacimiento era Malcolm Little.

De niño, experimentó los horrores del racismo al crecer en Lansing, Michigan, donde su padre, Earl Little, fue linchado cuando Malcolm tenía seis años. Cuando Malcolm le dijo a una de sus profesoras que quería ser abogado, ella le disuadió de seguir esta carrera por ser negro.

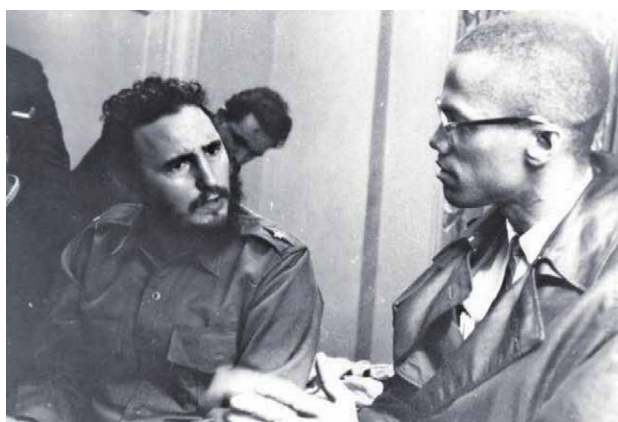
Cuando ingresó en prisión a principios de la década de 1950 por delitos menores, la perspectiva política de Malcolm floreció al conocer y unirse a la Nación del Islam, la mayor organización de masas negra de EE UU.

A medida que crecía su reputación política como líder nacionalista mientras estaba encarcelado, Malcolm atrajo la atención y la ira del programa de contrainteligencia del FBI, conocido como Cointelpro. Este programa represivo -creado por el entonces director del FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, y sancionado por todas las ramas del gobierno estadounidense- tenía como objetivo cualquier movimiento de masas dentro de Estados Unidos que buscara la autodeterminación y la liberación nacional de la represión racista. Las tácticas del FBI incluían la demonización a través de la desinformación, los montajes que llevaban al encarcelamiento y los asesinatos de líderes políticos de movimientos dirigidos por los oprimidos.

La defensa de Malcolm X del derecho a la autodefensa armada contra la represión estatal influyó en organiza-

ciones de masas como el Partido de las Panteras Negras, los Diáconos para la Autodefensa, los Young Lords, el Movimiento Indio Americano y muchos otros. Estos grupos fueron finalmente objetivo de Cointelpro, al igual que innumerables líderes heroicos como Malcolm X, el Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Assata Shakur, Fred Hampton, Safiya Bukhari, Mumia Abu-Jamal y Leonard Peltier.

La conciencia política de Malcolm X se amplió del nacionalismo negro revolucionario en casa al internacionalismo anticapitalista basado en sus viajes al extranjero, especialmente a África, Asia y Asia Occidental [también conocido como Oriente Próximo]. En una ocasión declaró: «El mismo hombre que estaba colonizando a nuestro pueblo en Kenia estaba colonizando a nuestro pueblo en el Congo. El mismo que estaba en el Congo estaba colonizando a nuestro pueblo en Sudáfrica, y en Rodesia del Sur, y en Birmania y en la India, y en Afganistán, y en Pakistán. Se



Fidel Castro (izquierda) y Malcolm X en Harlem, el 19 de septiembre de 1960. Un ejemplo del internacionalismo anticapitalista.

dieron cuenta de que en todo el mundo donde el hombre oscuro estaba siendo oprimido, estaba siendo oprimido por el hombre blanco; donde el hombre oscuro estaba siendo explotado, estaba siendo explotado por el hombre blanco». (Malcolm X Speaks, 1965)

La visita de dos días de Malcolm a Gaza, incluido el campo de refugiados de Khan Younis a principios de septiembre de 1964, le llevó a escribir un comentario titulado «Lógica sionista». En él compara el sionismo con un «nuevo tipo de colonialismo» que no sólo amenaza la existencia de Palestina sino también la de los países africanos recién independizados.

Una semana antes de su asesinato, declaró: «Es incorrecto clasificar la revuelta de los negros simplemente como un conflicto racial de negros contra blancos, o como un problema puramente estadounidense. Más bien, asistimos hoy a una rebelión global de los oprimidos contra los opresores, de los explotados contra los explotadores.»

Tras abandonar la NOI, Malcolm X puso en marcha la efímera Organización de la Unidad Afroamericana en 1964 para ayudar a promover el panafricanismo y ampliar la solidaridad entre los negros en su país y en el mundo. Fue asesinado mientras pronunciaba un discurso en el auditorio Audubon Ballroom el 21 de febrero de 1965. Es ampliamente conocido que el gobierno estadounidense estuvo detrás del asesinato.

Como afirmó en una ocasión el difunto líder de los Panteras Fred Hampton -asesinado por la policía de Chicago el 4 de diciembre de 1969-: «Puedes matar a un revolucionario pero no puedes matar la revolución». Estas proféticas palabras se aplican sin duda a Malcolm X, cuyas inspiradoras palabras y legado perdurarán ahora y para las generaciones futuras. □