MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!

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Message to workers in Greece

We are with you!

Workers World is in complete solidarity the long-standing policies of with the working class of Greece, who held a powerful one-day general strike on Feb. 28. Millions of workers, along with students and small businesspeople, filled the streets. At least 200 cities and towns were hit with strike actions, shutting the whole country down.

Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons, clubbed strikers and made arrests. More than 80 people were detained, and a number of workers were injured. Clashes erupted as demonstrators repeatedly tried to breach barricades and storm the parliament in Athens, Greece's capital. Some protesters hurled Molotov cocktails and makeshift explosives at police.

We demand the immediate release of all detainees and that no charges be filed against any of them.

This showdown with the state was called on the second anniversary of a crash between a freight train and a passenger train in the area of Tempe near the Greek city of Larissa that killed 57 people. Most of the dead were young university students; among them were also 11 railroad workers.

Parents of the students who were killed spoke at strike rallies in multiple cities.

Greek workers remain angry over the failure of the state to punish the parties responsible for the accident or to reverse austerity and neoliberalism that have impoverished the Greek masses and allowed the collapse of the infrastructure.

The strike was supported by the General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE), which represents private sector workers, and the Supreme Administration of Greek Civil Servants Trade Union (ADEDY), which represents public sector workers.

The main slogan of the strike was: "Their profits or our lives."

That is what it boils down to for the working class-not only in Greece but everywhere that capitalism remains the dominant mode of production. Workers are literally fighting for their lives.

The working class demonstrated its power on Feb. 28 in Greece. The working class is the motor force of history. It is the only class that can put an end to the deadly system of capitalist wage slavery.

Workers World urges the workers of the world in the Global North and the Global South to extend solidarity to the workers in Greece. The workers' struggles know no borders.

Long live the resistance of the workers of Greece! Solidarity forever!



General strike in Athens, Greece, Feb. 28, 2025

PHOTO: COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE

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General strike in Larissa, Greece, Feb. 28, PHOTO: COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE 2025, near the 2023 deadly train crash.

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WORKERS WORLD

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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 neverending quest for evergreater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ 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 world-wide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at www.workers.org/join-form and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Defend the right to self-defense!

WORKERS WORLD → editorial

For over 16 months since the Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, 2023, Workers World has shown solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people's right to conduct an armed liberation struggle — from Gaza to the West Bank — against the U.S.-backed, Zionist, genocidal occupation.

That same solidarity should be shown towards the majority African American community of Lincoln Heights, Ohio — located on the outskirts of Cincinnati and very close to the Mason-Dixon line — where people chose self-defense when armed neo-Nazis began to terrorize the residents beginning on Feb. 7.

At least a dozen of these armed fascists had the arrogance to show up unexpectedly in pickup trucks for a march within the same vicinity of Black children leaving from Lincoln Heights Elementary School. One can just imagine how traumatizing and intimidating this event was for these youth and their parents.

Two weeks later, these same fascists appeared again, tossing KKK flyers into the same community. And to no one's surprise, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office did nothing to drive these fascists out of the Black community. In fact, community residents saw firsthand how the police protected the fascists who were a clear danger to their community. One fascist was merely cited for "littering."

It's important to know that Lincoln Heights has been a self-governing community for years, where residents actively try to reverse the lack of public services, underinvestment and neglect on the part of the local white power structure. This is why Lincoln Heights has been subjected to an outside police presence.

Cops work hand in hand with fascists

Showing no clear signs of intimidation, members of the Black community formed the Lincoln Heights Safety and Watch Program, and armed themselves with weapons. Its members patrol 24 hours a day to defend their community from invasion by these white supremacists.

Dominic Brewton Jr., a community resident, said, "When we saw that the police



Armed resident in Lincoln Heights, Ohio, Feb. 17, 2025.

wasn't helping us, every able-bodied man in the neighborhood, with or without a gun, has stood guard and has been standing guard ever since." (Washington Post, Feb. 27)

Self-defense is absolutely necessary. When Kyle Rittenhouse, a white supremacist who murdered two Black Lives Matter activists in Kenosha, Wisconsin, following the police shooting of Jacob Blake in August 2020, the police were seen giving Rittenhouse aid and comfort hours after the murders.

When white supremacist Dylann Roof murdered nine Black parishioners in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, the police got him a hamburger after his arrest. It is not a stretch to say that many police wear a badge by day and KKK hoods by night.

There is a historic precedent of the Black community arming itself against the repressive state apparatus, the police, along with the extra-legal arm of the state, neo-Nazis and the Klan. During the 1960s and 1970s, Black people set up armed self-defense squads in the South and North.

The Deacons for Defense and Justice was formed by Black workers in November 1964 in Jonesboro, Louisiana, to protect Civil Rights activists from KKK terror during the struggle for voting rights. Black activists Robert Williams and Mabel Williams organized armed self-defense against the KKK in Monroe, North Carolina, following struggles to

desegregate a swimming pool in the late 1950s, where they were joined by Black Liberation leader Mae Mallory.

The Black Panther Party, originally founded in 1966, formed armed community defense squads in Oakland, California, and in other large urban areas against police occupation and brutality by citing the Second Amendment, which guarantees the right to bear arms.

The Lincoln Heights Safety and Watch Program is carrying on this heroic tradition of people of color defending their right to protect themselves and communities from white supremacists who have been given the go-ahead to carry out their message of bigotry and hate with impunity from the police and sanctioned by the current White House administration.

And this tradition must continue to be defended by progressive and revolutionary forces from Palestine to the U.S. □





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A failed war, bully diplomacy and the next war

By Sara Flounders

Donald Trump is facing a crisis. How to get out of a war that is already totally lost in order to prepare for the next war, to prepare for a confrontation with China.

Trump blamed everyone else but the U.S. policy for the failure: the Kiev regime in Ukraine itself; the Biden administration; the NATO military alliance, which is still commanded by Washington; and the European Union. Everything that successive U.S. administrations have built up to reconquer Russia has thoroughly failed.

Trump told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the Feb. 28 White House press conference: "You don't have the cards! You are not winning." That's true for Kiev. But it's also true for U.S. imperialism.

The pressure is on Trump to create a new deal. That infamous news conference was a media spectacle. Trump bluntly told Zelensky, "You're either going to make a deal or we're out, and if we're out, you'll fight it out, and I don't think it's going to be pretty."

Zelensky, whose role as Ukraine's president has been dependent from the start on U.S. imperialist backing, has followed a script for years that Washington wrote: Refuse to negotiate, keep the war going. Billions of dollars will flow, with no accounting and endless corruption. Washington assured him it would back the war against Russia as long as it takes.

Trump: 'You're fired'

It did not take long. Now that the script has changed, Zelensky has become disposable. Trump said Feb. 28, "I gave you the Javelins and \$350 billion and you couldn't do it." In Trumpspeak, that means, "You're fired!" The comment was straight out of Trump's TV show, "The Apprentice." Trump excels at diplomacy — bully style, which is like much imperialist diplomacy, but he does it on television.

This harsh public treatment of Zelensky created an immediate crisis among NATO-member countries. These include Britain and every country in the European Union, which had all been tied to the U.S. war chariot. The NATO military alliance failed

at the task to which U.S. imperialism directed it in the 1990s—to march eastward and in the end dismember Russia.

Now the U.S. billionaires who have lined up with Trump are desperate to get out of the failed war in Ukraine, wrap it up quickly

and take on China, which has become a real competitor for the U.S. imperialist economy.

Trump is betting he can make a direct deal with Russia. Offer to end sanctions, restore diplomatic relations and assert a direct U.S. stake in Ukraine's hypothetical, wholly undeveloped rare earth minerals.

Can Washington split Moscow and Beijing?

The difficulty Trump has in planting a wedge between Russia and China is that Russia now has far greater, more accessible, trade with the Global South, especially with China and the BRICS+ countries, than it does with the U.S. (BRICS' founders were Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa; they, have been joined by Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia as of January 2025. Nine "partner countries" are Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan.)

China-Russia annual trade was \$244 billion in 2024. U.S.-Russia annual trade was only \$3.5 billion that same year. China was the world's largest exporter at \$3.4 trillion in 2024. U.S. exports meanwhile have fallen far behind, and had dropped to \$2.1 trillion last year.

While the U.S. has spent trillions of dollars on wars and given giant grants to privately owned military corporations, China has focused on vast infrastructure development, trade and cooperation. China is now the largest trading partner of the overwhelming majority of countries in the world — 120 countries and growing. U.S. trade dominance is over.

Trump and the MAGA billionaires' unsolvable problem is that U.S. imperialism is decaying and has less and less to offer. China — based on socialist planning and by



spurring the development and trade potential of the Global South — offers much more.

End the war — the first step

Of course, Moscow may want to normalize relations with U.S. imperialism, if that is possible. It's in Russia's interest to bring an end to this extremely dangerous confrontation.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin's government has now been through many rounds of NATO's aggressive expansion in the last three administrations, including Trump's first term. Russian ministers have expressed few if any illusions about U.S. diplomacy, which is filled with promises made and then broken, temporary ceasefires and false "restarts." At this time Russia's economic interests appear to be anchored to the growing trade alliances of the Global South.

It is also in China's interest to find a resolution to the war in Ukraine and China has consistently offered diplomatic assistance.

U.S. power: the global danger

Even with a declining economy, U.S. power is a danger to the planet. Washington repeatedly threatens to use nuclear weapons, has over 800 military bases on foreign soil, flaunts naval power in every ocean and has military alliances with other imperialists and client states. The dollar is still the major world currency. Washington's subsidized "independent" media is a blanket of fake news.

U.S. industrial capacity today, however, is hollowed out by the endless capitalist drive to extract the greatest rate of profit. This has led to employing and exploiting labor for the lowest wages outside the United States.

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A failed war, bully diplomacy and the next war

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Militarism, weapons production, constant wars and regime change operations, to conquer new markets, are immediately profitable for billionaire investors. But they are deadly to the planet, the infrastructure — and they have resulted in weakening imperialism with respect to the Global South and especially to China.

Russia hit by heaviest sanctions yet

At the beginning of the February 2022 "Special Military Operation," Russia's trade was still with the West. Its gas, oil, grains and fertilizer went to Western markets.

Led by the U.S., the imperialist states imposed enormous sanctions on Russia. The harsh new sanctions closed off every trade possibility. When the German government wavered about buying Russian gas, a commando operation blew up the Nord Stream Pipeline that delivered the gas.

Russia has survived and even thrived despite the heaviest collective sanctions ever imposed on any country by all the G-7 imperialist countries in February 2022. Within six months, 300 global companies exited the Russian market and another 700 halted new investments. (Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, Aug. 14, 2022)

Four provinces that were formerly part of eastern Ukraine — Donetsk and Lugansk in the Donbas region and Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — voted overwhelmingly in a historic referendum in October 2022, to formally join the Russian Federation.

Belt and Road alternative to IMF

In the past, U.S. imperialism, through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank loans and the power of private banks, could use the leverage provided by the loans to pressure countries to privatize industries or sell them cheaply to pay interest on the loans. Developing countries seeking to modernize had no alternative to obtain loans.

Today, however, there are alternatives to debt bondage aimed at guaranteeing profits to finance capital.

Socialist China's planned economy is an engine driving global infrastructure development. Its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), now involves 150 countries and develops road, rail, port, energy, health and digital infrastructure. BRI is improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth.

Both Republican and Democratic administrations have agreed that China is the great threat to U.S. dominance. They all voted to approve every military appropriations budget item, much of it directed at China. It was the Barack Obama presidency that introduced the Pivot to Asia military plan to surround China with 400 U.S. military bases and aircraft carriers.

Trump's presidency veered from inviting China's President Xi Jinping to Mara-Lago and announcing a 10-part agreement to expand trade — to announcing within a year sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports of steel, technology, and electronics, even shoes and clothing. Biden's presidency left all those tariffs in place and added more restrictions on trade with China.

On March 4, the Trump administration announced higher tariffs on Chinese imports to the United States — also on Mexican and Canadian imports. Beijing has already announced that China will impose tariffs on selected U.S. imports. These steps escalate the trade war that the U.S. has provoked.

Will G7 become G8 again?

Before the 2014 Maidan coup in Ukraine that replaced a government that had friendly relations with Russia with a hostile regime, Russia was taking part as the eighth member of the G8, then made up of the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan – and Russia. In 2014, Russia was expelled from the G8 and was cut off from the imperialist-controlled infrastructure of banking, investment and global extraction of profits. The pretext for the expulsion was Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The Trump administration clearly wants to try to pull Russia back and away from China and the BRICS group. Trump proposed on Feb. 13 that Russia be invited back to the G7 group of countries, which would again make it the G8.

Dmitry Peskov, press secretary for Russian President Vladimir Putin, downplayed the invitation: "We have repeatedly said that the group which is now called the G7 has lost much of its relevance. It no longer unites the world's fastest growing economies. ... Centers of growth have moved to other regions of the globe." (Reuters, Feb. 14)

China's ability to compete with the imperialist-led economy is why U.S. imperialism is so determined to focus on Beijing as an enemy. What is more threatening to billionaires who are plundering the planet than a future of cooperation among the countries they plundered?

Russia may negotiate to end a threatening war and might choose to accept many invitations. But Moscow is unlikely to act against the interests of the Russian state or the Russian economy.

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."

 Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister, Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

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Huelga de guardias de prisiones en Nueva York

¿De qué lado estamos?

Generalmente es un buen impulso de clase solidarizarse con los trabajadores en huelga. Con el capital de un lado y el trabajo del otro, los trabajadores suelen hacer huelga para conseguir una porción mayor de la riqueza que ellos solos han creado. ¿De qué lado está usted? Estamos del lado de los trabajadores.

Pero ésa no es, ni debería ser, una respuesta automática en todas y cada una de las huelgas. Por ejemplo, hubo «huelgas de odio» racistas en las fábricas de automóviles en la década de 1940 contra

los trabajadores negros que eran ascendidos a puestos en la cadena de montaje. El sindicato United Auto Workers se negó a defender a esos trabajadores cuando fueron despedidos.

En 1968, la Federación Unida de Profesores llevó a cabo una huelga en toda la ciudad de Nueva York que se oponía al control de las escuelas públicas por parte de la comunidad negra en el barrio de Brownsville, en Brooklyn. El Workers World Party y su organización juvenil de entonces, Juventud contra la Guerra y el Fascismo, denunciaron la huelga por racista.

Workers World nunca ha apoyado las huelgas de la policía, los guardias de prisiones o los guardias fronterizos, porque no forman parte de la clase obrera, sino que son un componente esencial del aparato represivo del Estado capitalista. Su «trabajo» consiste en proteger la propiedad y hacer cumplir el statu quo supremacista blanco, xenófobo, misógino, transfóbico, anti-LGBTQIA2S+ y capacitista. Las comunidades oprimidas consideran que la policía oficial es una fuerza armada que ocupa sus barrios.

¿De qué lado estamos? Estamos del lado de George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Donald Brooks y de innumerables víctimas conocidas y desconocidas



-en su inmensa mayoría pobres, de clase trabajadora y de color- de la brutalidad policial y de los guardias de prisiones.

Las organizaciones de policías y guardias -mal llamadas «sindicatos»- están en el otro bando. Estas organizaciones representan a los asesinos racistas en las audiencias por agravios y les ayudan a eludir la más mínima acción disciplinaria.

Grupos como la Orden Fraternal de la Policía y la Asociación Benévola de la Policía no deberían estar afiliados a la AFL-CIO. Sindicatos como la Federación Americana de Empleados Gubernamentales y la Federación Americana de Empleados Estatales, de Condados y Municipales deben desafiliar a sus unidades que representan a policías y guardias.

Ningún apoyo a la huelga de guardias de prisiones de Nueva York

No ofrecemos ningún tipo de solidaridad con la huelga de guardias de prisiones que comenzó el 12 de febrero en el estado de Nueva York. Los guardias no sólo exigen más personal, aumentos salariales y una mayor remuneración de las horas extraordinarias, sino que exigen la derogación de la Ley estatal de 2021 de Alternativas Humanas al Aislamiento de Larga Duración. HALT limita el uso arbitrario y represivo del aislamiento solitario

contra los presos.

Nikko Colon, encarcelado en el Correccional de Wyoming, preguntó: "¿Piden derogar todo el proyecto de ley? ¿Quieren derogar las pruebas científicas [de que es] una tortura?". (The Marshall Project, 22 de febrero)

A diferencia de los guardias, los trabajadores encarcelados forman parte de la clase trabajadora, y a menudo trabajan por una pequeña fracción del salario mínimo, que ya es demasiado bajo. Cuando los trabajadores encarcelados se rebelan y toman toda o parte de una

prisión, como hicieron en el Correccional Collins de Nueva York justo antes de la huelga de los guardias y más recientemente en el Correccional Riverview, les apoyamos tanto como a cualquier otra lucha laboral legítima.

Cuando comenzó la rebelión de la prisión de Attica, Nueva York, en 1971, Workers World apoyó incondicionalmente a los presos, cuyas reivindicaciones incluían el reconocimiento como trabajadores y el derecho a formar un sindicato.

iDe ese lado estamos nosotros! □



