

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Introduction to 'Are they rich because they're smart?'  
— PAGES 6-7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 24 JUNE 20, 2016

## 'We're fed up with two-tier pay,' say aerospace workers

BY MARY MARTIN

SPOKANE, Washington — Union members at Triumph Composite Systems walked out at the former Boeing plant here May 11, after voting 93 percent in favor of striking.

The 400 members of International Association of Machinists Local 86 are fighting to restore pensions for

newer workers and end a two-tier wage scale imposed by the company three years ago. They are also opposing the company's proposal to remove the cap on workers' insurance costs. The plant produces components for Boeing aircraft interiors.

Picketing June 4, machinist Dwight  
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Militant/Mary Martin

International Association of Machinists members picket Triumph Composite in Spokane, Washington, June 5, demanding end to two-tier wages and pensions imposed in 2013.

## Cuban leader at NY conference: End US embargo, return Guantánamo!

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK — The restoration of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments was a victory won thanks to the steadfastness of Cuba's revolutionary leadership "and the resistance and dignity of the Cuban people," said Josefina Vidal, the Cuban foreign ministry's director

general for U.S. affairs.

She was speaking together with José Ramón Cabañas, Cuban ambassador to the U.S., and Jeffrey DeLauritis, U.S. chargé d'affaires in Havana, at a featured workshop during this year's conference of the Latin American Studies Association. Their counterposed remarks underscored Washington's continuing efforts to undermine Cuba's socialist revolution, as well as the Cuban leadership's determination to defend it.

More than 6,000 professors, graduate students, publishers, writers and others attended some portion of the conference, held here May 27-30, which featured some 1,400 panel discussions and other events. The large majority were from the United States, Canada and Latin America, along with others from Europe and Asia.

A notable feature this year was the largest participation from Cuba ever. According to leaders of the delegation, 260 Cubans were granted visas to attend, while 50 were denied by the U.S. State Department.

Several dozen panels took up Cuba-related topics, including U.S.-Cuba relations since December 17, 2014,

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## After years of protests, Chicago cop who killed Rekia Boyd quits

BY JOHN HAWKINS

CHICAGO — Following a year of monthly protests at the Chicago Police Board demanding the firing of Dante Servin, the cop resigned May 17, two days before a hearing to consider dismissing him. Servin is the police detective who shot and killed 22-year-old Rekia Boyd in March 2012.

"It's a start," Martinez Sutton, Boyd's brother, told the *Militant*. "Servin is no longer on the force and

**Continued on page 4**

## SWP: Capitalism wastes human ability, potential

Tenn. worker: 'We sure need something different!'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Campaigners for the Socialist Workers Party talked with unionists at the 7 a.m. shift change at the Kellogg's plant here June 6, where members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union fought a nine-month lockout in 2013-14. Some remembered that SWP members walked the picket lines and covered the fight in the *Militant*.

"We're a little more unionized and a little stronger," said Steve Boswell when he pulled his car over to talk. "But we're still fighting for our back pay and benefits."

"Kellogg's thought we'd be forced to accept concessions," said maintenance worker Todd Parnell. "The workforce here is half Caucasian and half African American, and the bosses thought we wouldn't be able to unify. But we came together. Things are different than they used to be."

Parnell subscribed to the *Militant*, seven workers bought single copies of the paper and two made contributions



Militant/Maggie Trowe

John Benson, left, talks with Robin Long while campaigning for Socialist Workers Party in Memphis, Tennessee, June 4.

totaling \$12.

This response is common, as the Socialist Workers Party campaigns across the country, from here and Minnesota to Washington state, discussing and debating the way forward for working people with workers on their doorsteps, as well as at picket lines and at factory gates.

Teams campaigned here and in  
**Continued on page 3**

## US, Tehran-led Fallujah offensive adds to sectarian conflict in Iraq

BY MARK THOMPSON

Military offensives by the Iraqi and Syrian governments and by Kurdish forces were underway in early June to capture cities controlled by Islamic State. The government of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad has backing from Moscow in the air and Tehran on the ground. Washington is aiding Iraqi and Kurdish forces with airstrikes and some ground forces. The Iranian government backs Shia militias in Iraq.

Washington has collaborated with Moscow and Tehran to try to stabilize the Mideast in its imperialist interests. Deeper dependence on the Iranian rulers' involvement was a central goal of the "nuclear" agreement President Barack Obama reached with Tehran last year. One result is fraying of the U.S. rulers' longstanding alliances with the governments in Saudi Arabia and Turkey. At the same time, national and sectarian tensions continue to sharpen throughout the region.

Iraqi government soldiers and Shiite Muslim militias, backed by U.S. air strikes, began an assault May 23

on Fallujah, 32 miles west of Baghdad. All towns and villages on the city outskirts were reported captured by the end of May. Fallujah, with a predominantly Sunni Muslim population, was taken by reactionary Islamic State forces in January 2014.

There are up to 1,000 Islamic State  
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—On the picket line, p. 5—

Aerospace strikers stand firm against union busting in Quebec  
L.A. port truckers, warehouse workers strike, connect fights



# Books about working-class politics do well at Tehran fair

BY PETE CLIFFORD  
AND CATHARINA TIRSÉN

TEHRAN, Iran — “Your books are different. They’re engaging and make me think,” said a visitor to the Pathfinder stand at the 29th Tehran International Book Fair held May 4-14. The young man, from Yazd in central Iran, said he returns to the stand each year to get new books.

Books from Pathfinder Press, which publishes titles by communist and other working-class leaders around the world, have been displayed here since 1992. The big majority of the more than 200 people who left the booth with books in hand were first-time Pathfinder readers, leading to the highest sales in at least ten years.

Tehran-based publisher Talaye Porsoo, which translates and sells many Pathfinder titles in Farsi, also reported increased sales. Farsi is the language of a substantial majority in Iran, and is read or spoken by half the population in neighboring Afghanistan.

The annual cultural event, held this year at a large new trade-fair grounds south of Tehran, attracts hundreds of thousands looking for textbooks, novels, poetry, nonfiction and religious books in Farsi and other languages. In a special area, there were booths representing Algeria, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Oman, Turkey, and Russia, this year’s country of honor, as well as the Frankfurt Book Fair and the United Nations.

Participation by publishers from other countries remains limited by the refusal of major Western banks to process Iranian transactions, part of the

decades-long imperialist economic and financial sanctions squeezing the people of this country.

Visitors came to the book fair from all corners of Iran. A student from Mashhad, near the border with Afghanistan, traveled some 600 miles by train. He was interviewed by Al Jazeera’s Newshour program after purchasing a copy of *Problems of Women’s Liberation* by Evelyn Reed at the Pathfinder stand. Asked by the correspondent why he picked that title, he replied, “All human beings are born equal.” He returned the next day and bought *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. That book was among Pathfinder’s best sellers here.

### Books on the Cuban revolution

Books on Cuba’s socialist revolution were popular. A woman who stopped at the Pathfinder booth described what she had learned from *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, which she had bought at the fair last year. This time she got *Absolved by Solidarity*, which opens with the December 2014 victory of the international campaign to win freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries, who were framed up and held in U.S. federal prisons for up to 16 years.

Two young men from Sanandaj, a Kurdish city in northwest Iran, bought the newest Pathfinder title, *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*, which was the top



MEHR Newsagency/Hossein Esmaeili

**Hundreds of thousands from across Iran visited 29th Tehran International Book Fair, held May 4-14.**

seller. “We want to find out how they came out of prison stronger,” one of them said, after reading the back cover.

Interest in what lies behind today’s deep-going capitalist economic and political crisis worldwide was registered in sales of the Marxist magazine *New International*, featuring articles such as “US Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War” and “Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun,” both by Jack Barnes. Browsing through the latter, an economics student was drawn to two graphs showing the mounting debt bubbles that led up to the 2007-08 world financial crisis. Another popular title was *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters.

A woman from Saudi Arabia studying in Iran bought the Arabic-language editions of *Is Biology Woman’s Destiny* by Evelyn Reed and *Voices from Prison: The Cuban Five*. Two men from Egypt bought 11 books, including titles by Malcolm X and by communist leaders Leon Trotsky and James P. Cannon. Other visitors to the Pathfinder stand included several individuals originally from Afghanistan, the largest immigrant group in Iran, as well as from Iraq, including Erbil, capital of the Kurdish Regional Government there.

Pathfinder’s titles in Spanish and French also attracted attention. A Spanish-language teacher snapped up eight books, saying her students would be more likely to learn by “reading something that interests them.”

At the Talaye Porsoo stand in the

Farsi-language hall, top sellers included the fourth and final volume of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation and the Road to Workers Power*. Another was *Two Worlds at Night: The Legacy of Imperialism and the Road to Social and Cultural Advance* by Jack Barnes, which presents a course to close deep economic and social disparities between oppressed and oppressor nations as part of the fight for power by revolutionary workers parties the world over.

As has often been the case, the *Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels topped Talaye Porsoo’s sales at the book fair, along with other Marxist classics and titles on women’s emancipation and Cuba’s socialist revolution. In recent years, Talaye Porsoo titles have gotten favorable reviews in the Tehran daily newspapers *Etemad* and *Shargh*, as well as by the Iranian Students News Agency and Iran’s Book News Agency.

Golâzin, another Iranian publisher that translates and sells Pathfinder titles, had a number of these books at its booth, including *Woman’s Evolution* by Evelyn Reed and *Che Guevara Speaks*.

**‘Militant’ publishing break**

This is a three-week issue.

*Militant* no. 25 will be mailed out June 30.

# THE MILITANT

## End U.S. colonial rule in Puerto Rico!

**Washington’s plan to impose a financial control board on Puerto Rico strips away the mask: the island nation is still a U.S. colony.**

**The ‘Militant’ covers the fight against U.S. colonial domination and to free independence fighter Oscar López, imprisoned 35 years.**

Militant/Ron Richards

May 29 march in Puerto Rico demands release of Oscar López from U.S. prison.

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# The Militant

**Vol. 80/No. 24**

**Closing news date:** June 8, 2016

**Editor:** John Studer  
**Managing Editor:** Naomi Craine

**Editorial volunteers:** Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Emma Johnson, Jacob Perasso, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, one week in June, one week in July, one week in August and one week in September.

**Business manager:** Lea Sherman  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
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**E-mail:** [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)  
**Website:** [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

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

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

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

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

**Latin America, Caribbean:** For one year

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**Pacific Islands:** Send NZ\$55 for one year to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140, New Zealand.

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



# Campaigning for SWP

Continued from front page

Nashville, Chattanooga, Jackson, Murfreesboro, Smyrna, Lebanon, Knoxville, Alcoa and Johnson City May 29-June 6.

“We sure need something different, because it’s going the wrong way,” Joey Yopp, a retired gas company worker from a union family, said June 4 at his door in Memphis. Yopp has been favorable to Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. He and many others signed to put the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart on the state ballot.

The same day John Benson talked with Robin Long on her porch. Long has a chronic illness and is on disability, but would like to find work she could handle. “Just because you’re disabled doesn’t mean you can’t do anything useful,” she told Benson.

“Under capitalism there’s a tremendous waste of human potential and creativity,” he agreed. Long signed to put the SWP ticket on the ballot. “This means I could have someone to vote for,” she said.

In Nashville June 2 John Miller called his wife, Pascale Killian, to the door to talk about the SWP’s political perspective. Killian, a nurse, subscribed to the *Militant* and got a copy of *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* “It’s getting closer than it was a few years ago,” she said, referring to the book’s title. Miller signed to be an SWP elector.

During nine days of door-to-door campaigning, Socialist Workers Party supporters collected 456 signatures and secured 11 electors, sold 38 *Militant* subscriptions and nearly 100 single copies and more than a dozen books.



BY JOHN STUDER

SEATTLE — SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy visited Spokane, Washington, June 4-7 to join the picket line of International Association of Machinists Local 86 members at Triumph Composite Systems and to discuss the party’s revolutionary working-class program with area workers on their doorsteps. She was joined by Mary Martin, SWP candidate for governor of Washington; Eleanor García, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from California, who works for a nonunion Triumph plant in Los Angeles; and supporters.

The Triumph workers have been on the picket line since May 11, fighting company demands to keep a divisive two-tier wage scheme, deny pensions to new workers and raise health care costs (see article on front page).

The visit came as SWP supporters were wrapping up a three-week effort to introduce the party across the state, win new readers to the *Militant*, familiarize workers with books from Pathfinder Press on working-class history and the SWP’s program and gather signatures to put Kennedy and Hart on the ballot. In Spokane, 10 of the 111 workers who signed got subscriptions. Statewide more than 1,650 — well over the 1,000 requirement — signed to get the party on the ballot.

“Where I work, a lot of workers have been quitting because we haven’t got a union and get just \$12.50 to \$18 an hour,” Stephan Teah, an assembler at Exotic Metals, which like Triumph makes parts for Boeing, told Kennedy. “When I found out that workers at Triumph were fighting for better condi-

tions, I said ‘Yes!’ I drive by the picket line every day and wave.”

**Oppose assault on Trump supporters**

Socialist Workers Party campaigners talked about a variety of political questions in the news as well as how the working class needs to organize independently of the bosses and fight to defend the interests of all the oppressed.

“The physical assaults on Trump supporters are an attack on the working class,” Kennedy told many workers she met in Spokane, referring to the June 2 attack on people leaving a rally in San Jose, California. “Workers were sucker-punched coming out of the meeting, and had eggs and other objects thrown at them,” she said. “The liberal press and left-wing groups that claim Trump is a fascist actually see those who back him as the real danger and view them as stupid, reactionary ‘trash.’”

“These growing attacks on our class show we need to organize to fight for workers power,” Kennedy said. “And they are making some look to the Socialist Workers Party.”

One man who answered his door said he was backing Donald Trump because he has something different to offer. Kennedy responded that workers need to organize and prepare to fight for political power themselves. His wife came over. “I don’t like any of the other candidates,” she said. “I like what you say and the fact that you’re a worker.”

Three others in the house joined in, all saying they were attracted to Bernie

## US socialist candidate joins with striking workers in Quebec visit

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, walked picket lines, exchanged experiences with workers and youth, and built participation in the upcoming Active Workers Conference during a visit here at the end of May.

“Because of the world capitalist economic crisis we need more international working class solidarity than ever,” she told a crowd of 100 strikers and their supporters May 27 at a press conference and rally near the Old Port tourist



Militant/Marie-Claire David

SWP U.S. presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy speaks at May 27 strike rally of Old Port workers in Montreal.

## Communist League in Australia: Workers need to organize independent of bosses

ORANGE, Australia — Arthur McLean, left, and Beryl McLean were pleased to talk with Ron Poulsen, right, the Communist League candidate for Senate from New South Wales in the July 2 federal elections. Poulsen and other campaigners were knocking on doors here, a four hour drive west of Sydney.

“Working people have the capacity, as they showed in Cuba, to build a movement to displace the capitalist rulers,” Poulsen said. The McLeans got a subscription to the *Militant* and signed to put the working-class candidate on the ballot.

Communist League campaigners learned that Electrolux, the biggest manufacturing plant here, closed down a few months ago putting 200 out of work.

Carl Yeager, who worked at Electrolux for a time, also signed to put Poulsen on the ballot. He said the town council was about to lay off many workers, adding that neither the Liberals nor Labor in government do anything for working people. “The working class needs to organize independently of the bosses’ parties,” Poulsen said.

— LINDA HARRIS



Militant/Linda Harris

Sanders. All five signed the petition, and they got a subscription.

Kennedy and Martin were interviewed by Spokane radio station KYRS.



BY CANDACE WAGNER

MINNEAPOLIS — “Hi, my name is Candace,” I say. “If you have a moment I’d like to tell you about my organiza-

tion, the Socialist Workers Party. We think that organizing working people ourselves is the answer to the crisis we face.” The door swings open. “Come in. Sit down.”

In the past two weeks, hundreds of doorstep and living room discussions about the crisis of capitalism and the revolutionary perspective put forward by the SWP have taken place in over 25 towns and cities across Minnesota. As a result, over 100 people have signed up for subscriptions to the party’s newspaper, 25 purchased books and many made financial contributions. Some 1,500 have signed petitions so far toward the 2,400 goal to put the SWP ticket on the ballot.

“We need to do in this country what the Cuban workers and farmers did in 1959 and take political power,” said Lisa Rottach, talking with retired Marine Ron Dalrymple at his door. “I was stationed in Guantánamo,” he responded, referring to the military base Washington imposed on Cuban territory. After further discussion, he purchased a subscription to the *Militant* to learn more.

Pam White described her many years work as a nursing assistant. “They don’t care about the patients. It’s hurry them in and hurry them out,” she said. “I prefer non-union, but from the changes I’ve seen, now I think we need unions.”

SWP campaigners are meeting workers with struggle experience. An older worker in Austin remembered the party from the 1980s strike of packinghouse workers there against the Hormel Corporation. A woman in Osseo described the successful organizing drive of her workplace into the Teamsters union. A union healthcare aide said that she will be walking the picket line with the Allina nurses if they vote to strike against concession demands.

**Join the  
Socialist Workers Party  
campaign in 2016!**

Contact an SWP branch listed on  
page 8 or:

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# End US embargo of Cuba

Continued from front page

when Washington and Havana publicly announced steps that led to the reestablishment last year of diplomatic ties. The U.S. government unilaterally broke relations with Cuba's revolutionary government more than five decades ago.

## 'End embargo, leave Guantánamo'

In her presentation, Vidal outlined several areas in which Cuban authorities were making or seeking progress in relations with Washington, including direct mail service between the two countries, cooperation in combating drug trafficking and migration talks. Nonetheless, she stressed, Washington continues its decades-long trade embargo against Cuba, its occupation of Guantánamo against the will of the Cuban people and its policy of granting expedited U.S. residency to Cubans who reach the United States outside legal channels. The U.S. government continues to pursue its "goal of bringing about internal changes within Cuba," she said, in violation of the Cuban people's right

# Chicago cop

Continued from front page

can't do to anyone else what he did to my sister. That's the most important thing to me. But he has been sitting at a desk collecting his salary for the last four years and is still going to collect his pension."

Servin, who was off duty when he shot and killed Boyd, got into a verbal altercation with a group of youths near his home. One of the young men allegedly walked toward the detective's vehicle holding a cellphone. Servin pulled his gun and fired five shots, hitting Boyd in the back of the head.

Servin was stripped of his police powers in November 2013 and charged with involuntary manslaughter, reckless discharge of a firearm and reckless conduct. However, he walked free in April 2015 after Associate Judge Dennis Porter dismissed the charges — on grounds that Servin's act was deliberate, not reckless.

Meanwhile legal proceedings continue in the lead up to the trial of Jason Van Dyke, the cop who killed 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in October 2104. The release last November of the police dash-cam video showing Van Dyke shooting McDonald sparked a wave of protests that swept the city for weeks.

On May 5, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez reversed her previous stance and requested the court appoint a special prosecutor to handle Van Dyke's case. Alvarez lost her bid for the Democratic Party nomination for state's attorney to former prosecutor Kim Foxx, who made Alvarez's handling of the McDonald killing and other recent cop killings a central issue of her campaign.

## 'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The Prisoners' Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

to decide their own affairs.

DeLaurentis, the ranking diplomat at the U.S. embassy in Cuba (the Obama administration has made no nomination to fill the post of ambassador), spoke glowingly about Barack Obama's visit to Cuba in March. He reiterated Washington's "support for the private sector" in Cuba and its unhappiness that, among other things, Cuban laws do not allow U.S. companies that might operate on the island to freely hire and fire workers.

Questioned by audience members about the U.S. occupation of Cuban sovereign territory at Guantánamo, DeLaurentis curtly replied, "Gitmo is not on the table." Vidal reiterated that the only resolution of that issue is "the unconditional return of Guantánamo."

Asked by John Kirk, a professor at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, about the U.S. government's Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program, DeLaurentis made it clear Washington has no intention of ending that policy, which encourages Cuban medical personnel serving abroad to desert and move to the United States.

Ambassador Cabañas urged supporters of Cuba to lobby Congressional representatives and educate them and others about the need to lift the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Many other panels at the LASA conference discussed a broad range of topics, especially the growing economic, social and political crises in Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Puerto Rico and other countries.

Hundreds of participants at the conference opening session gave an enthusiastic welcome to a large group from Brazil wearing "No to the coup" T-shirts, in opposition to current impeachment proceedings against President Dilma Rousseff. Delegates expressed approval for an emergency resolution denouncing the impeachment process in Brazil as "antidemocratic."

Other panels took up subjects such as U.S. immigration policy, gender studies, contemporary literature, Black rights, Chinese investment in the region, prison reform, agricultural policy and the fight for women's right to choose abortion. In most Latin American countries, abor-

## Oregon oil train crash highlights danger of smaller crew



Columbia Riverkeeper

Smoke billows from derailed train cars carrying volatile Bakken crude oil June 3 a half mile from the center of town in Mosier, 70 miles east of Portland, Oregon. Eleven cars from the 96-car Union Pacific train jumped the track and four caught fire, forcing the evacuation of some residents. The derailment occurred on relatively straight track while the train was traveling within the speed limit. Such oil trains are operated by a two-person crew.

Some 18 trains a day headed for Pacific seaports run along the Columbia River through the area where the derailment occurred. "You are talking about trains that are 98 percent hazardous material, operated with crews that are half the size they used to be," said Herb Krohn, Washington state legislative director for the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.

— MAGGIE TROWE

tion remains severely restricted or even banned; only in Cuba is it available to women as a basic health matter and free of charge.

One center of informal exchange was the large book exhibit area. At the Pathfinder Press booth, titles explaining the world capitalist economic crisis were among the most sought-after, as were books about the Cuban Revolution.

A well-attended book launch at the exhibit hall featured Pathfinder's most recent book, "*It's the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US 'Justice' System*": *The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class*. Speaking were American University professor Phil Brenner, a prominent figure in Cuban studies; Raúl Rodríguez, director of the University of Havana's Center for Hemispheric and U.S. Affairs; and Mary-

Alice Waters, Pathfinder president and the book's editor.

During the conference, New York and New Jersey groups in solidarity with Cuba hosted a reception and dinner for the Cuban delegation, attended by more than 150 people, including Ambassador Cabañas, Vidal, and Rodolfo Reyes, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations.

That gathering heard much-appreciated remarks from Miguel Barnet, president of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba and a member of Cuba's Council of State; well-known poet Nancy Morejón; and economist Antonio Romero of the University of Havana. Romero explained the challenges the Cuban government is today confronting in the context of the world economic crisis and Washington's intensified efforts to undermine Cuba's socialist revolution.

## SPECIAL BOOK OFFERS FOR MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS



### The Cuban Five Talk About Their Lives Within the US Working Class

"It's the poor who face the savagery of the US 'justice' system"

GERARDO HERNÁNDEZ, RAMÓN LABAÑINO, ANTONIO GUERRERO, RENÉ GONZÁLEZ, FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

Five Cuban revolutionaries, framed up by the U.S. government, spent up to 16 years as part of the U.S. working class behind bars. In this 2015 interview they talk about U.S. capitalist society and its "justice" system, and about the future of the Cuban Revolution.

**\$10** (regular \$15) Also in Spanish

### Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

MARY-ALICE WATERS

**\$4** (regular \$7) Also in French, Spanish

### Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

JACK BARNES

**\$7** (regular \$10) Also in French, Spanish

### Women in Cuba: The Making of a Revolution Within the Revolution

VILMA ESPÍN, ASELA DE LOS SANTOS, YOLANDA FERRER

**\$15** (regular \$20) Also in Spanish

### Teamster Politics

FARRELL DOBBS

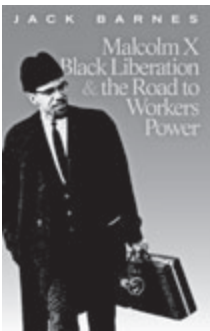
**\$14** (regular \$19) Also in Spanish

### Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

JACK BARNES

**\$15** (regular \$20)

Also in French, Spanish



### 50 Years of Covert Operations in the US

Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class

LARRY SEIGLE, STEVE CLARK, FARRELL DOBBS

**\$8** (regular \$12) Also in Spanish

IF YOU SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW, THESE SPECIAL OFFERS ARE FOR YOU. CONTACT THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY OR COMMUNIST LEAGUE BRANCHES LISTED ON PAGE 8.



# —ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

## Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles around the world!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including unionists striking US Foods, construction workers demanding safe conditions and workers fighting for \$15 an hour and a union. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

— Maggie Trowe

### Aerospace strikers stand firm against union busting in Quebec

GRAND-MÈRE, Quebec — “After 14 months on strike, not one member has crossed the picket line,” said Alexandre Maranger, president of Unifor Local 1209, talking in the strike trailer near the Delastek aerospace parts factory May 30.

“They are trying to get rid of our union” by replacing production workers with people from the research and development department, added local vice-president Steve Vézina.

The 50 production workers struck when their contract expired April 1, 2015. Strikers say that since they unionized in 2003, Delastek bosses have been threatening to move production overseas.

Other issues in the strike are wages and safety conditions. The starting wage is CA\$10.70 an hour, and

the average just CA\$12 an hour (CA\$1=US\$0.78). “This time we had no choice but to strike, because the conditions are so bad, and Delastek doesn't treat us with any respect,” said Vézina. The owner, Claude Lessard, has publicly called the strikers “savages” and “assholes.”

The strikers, who receive a union stipend of CA\$250 a week, have won support from other members of Unifor and other unions. Last December there was a solidarity march of 500 through Grand-Mère, in February United Steelworkers Local 9700 donated CA\$30,000 to the strike fund, and about 40 strikers joined the May Day union march in Montreal.

Delastek turned down a request to comment.

Donations and solidarity messages can be sent to: Section locale 1209-Unifor, 2040, rue Munro, Trois-



Militant/Bernie Senter

Striking truck drivers and other port workers rally in Wilmington, California, June 2.

Rivières (Quebec), G8Y 4K5. E-mail: alexandremaranger@gmail.com.

— John Steele

### L.A. port truckers and warehouse workers strike, connect fights

WILMINGTON, California — Port truck drivers carried out their 13th strike in two years at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach May 31-June 6. The strike targeted XPO, Intermodal Bridge Transport and K&R Transportation, and expanded to XPO in San Diego June 3. The bosses claim the drivers are “independent contractors” to deny their right

to unionize.

At the same time, warehouse workers at California Cartage Co. held their fourth strike against the company. The drivers at K&R, who haul cargo for Cal Cartage and are on strike for the first time, joined with the warehouse workers on the picket line.

“They say it is my truck, but it's not,” Manuel Rios, who has worked 23 years as a truck driver for K&R, told the *Militant* at a spirited rally of 200 port workers and supporters outside the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners meeting in Wilmington June 2. “I've never had a load with my name on it. It always says K&R.” Dozens of workers went into the meeting to explain their fight.

The Cal Cartage workers are demanding direct hiring, job placement by seniority and improved conditions. On April 30 the company forced all temporary workers, who are the majority, to apply at a new agency. Between 75 and 100 were not rehired.

“The gal that ran the old staffing agency runs the new one,” said striker Steve Hatch on the picket line June 1. “They're still bringing in new people every day and telling others it's slow.”

Many workers who did not strike greeted their co-workers on the picket line with handshakes and thumbs up. One woman stuck her fist out of the window of her car and said, “That's what I'm talking about! Strike!”

— Deborah Liatos

## Farmworker convention discusses fights to build union

BY LAURA GARZA

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Several hundred farmworkers and supporters attended the United Farm Workers' convention here May 19-22. Delegates heard reports on recent fights and organizing victories in the fields.

A highlight was the arrival of a busload of workers from McFarland, where 400 blueberry pickers had just won a vote to be represented by the UFW after a three-day strike against Klein Management over a pay cut and the firing of workers who objected. “We won more than we lost in those three days,” one of the pickers told the convention.

UFW President Arturo Rodriguez summarized some of the gains made by the union over the last four years, including four new UFW contracts covering some 1,500 workers, mostly in tomatoes.

“It's a good time to take the opportunity to strike,” said UFW Vice President Armando Elenes, noting the growers' need for more workers given the reduction in immigration in recent years. He said some modest wages hikes were won in 2015 in strikes by 400 fig workers at Stellar Distributing and 200 workers at Specialty Crop, both in Madera.

“When we have the union we have more respect,” said Oscar Gonzales, who works at Dole, one of the region's largest strawberry producers. “We can demand fresh water, we are given goggles if it's windy. We can stop if the wind gets to be over 35 mph, or if it's raining.” Gonzales, who has worked there for two years, said the conditions are different at the nonunion farm where his wife, Veronica Villana, harvests blackberries.

Gonzales said contractors make the workers do three days “training” without getting paid, and they work when it's raining. Villana showed this reporter photos of the fields flooded almost to the top of her knee-high boots.

Rose Ledezma, 21, has worked for two years in the blueberry harvest and came with her aunt, a longtime UFW supporter. They both had recently been fired by a supervisor who said they weren't going fast enough. Ledezma found work at another farm and said, “They want us to work the whole 10 hours a day in the heat.” The right to breaks, water and shade is one of the reasons she cited for needing the union.

The union won legislation in 2005 mandating growers provide protections from heat stroke. But without a union it's hard to force the companies to comply. The UFW estimates heat-related illness caused the deaths of 28 farmworkers between 2005 and 2011.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 21, 1991

The June 4 resignation of the Communist Party-dominated government brought an end to 47 years of rule by Albania's Stalinist party. A country of 3.5 million, Albania borders Greece and Yugoslavia.

A four-week general strike and massive demonstrations in Albania's capital, Tirana, forced the government's resignation. On leaving office, Prime Minister Fatos Nano announced a “nonpartisan” interim government would be formed and new elections scheduled.

The leadership of the recently formed Union of Free and Independent Trade Unions, which had mobilized hundreds of thousands of workers in the general strike, said it would recommend going back to work as soon as the new government took office.



June 20, 1966

There are a number of interesting aspects to the admission by Clifton Daniel, managing editor of the *New York Times*, that his paper deliberately helped deny the American people the facts about the impending invasion of Cuba in 1961.

Ten days before the slated invasion, it deliberately played down and emasculated a report on it by its correspondent Tad Szulc. The *New Republic* killed a similar story.

Both instances of self-imposed censorship were justified as in the “national interest” and to avoid aiding the “enemy.” This is so much hogwash. Cuba had competent intelligence and had been warning the world for months that the attack was coming and detailed the invasion build-up areas. The ones the *Times* and *New Republic* didn't want to tip off were the American people.



June 21, 1941

CLEVELAND — The Future Outlook League, Cleveland's militant Negro organization, won another victory when it forced the Ohio Bell Telephone Company to agree to the hiring of 25 Negro men and women in semi-skilled jobs.

The FOL maintained a strong picket line for weeks before the company's downtown offices was bombarded with phone calls. One of the banners read: “We want to work with democracy before we have to die for it.”

The company at first refused to negotiate with the FOL while they were being picketed, bombarded with phone calls and, the company alleged, suffering from wire cutting by “unknown” parties. Finally after the NAACP and the Urban League had lined up solidly with the FOL, the company capitulated.



# Are they rich because they're smart?

## Class, privilege and learning under capitalism

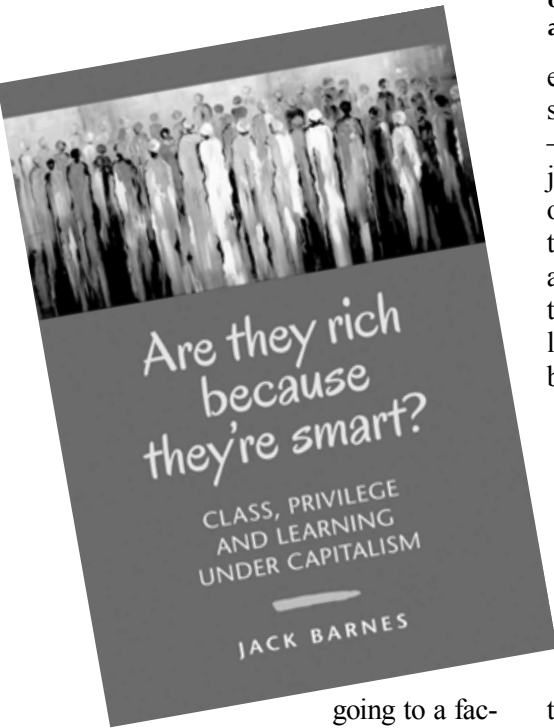
BY STEVE CLARK

*"The struggle for workers power, and the transformation of property relations necessary to open the transition to socialism, are possible only as working people begin transforming ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work, and each other. Only then will we learn what we're capable of becoming."*

Jack Barnes

Questioned during a December 2015 radio interview about the tens of thousands of workers turning out at rallies for presidential contender Donald Trump, President Barack Obama chalked this up to the fact that "blue-collar men have had a lot of trouble in this new economy, where they are no longer getting the same bargain they got when they were

### INTRODUCTION TO NEW BOOK



going to a factory and able to support their families on a single paycheck.

"You combine those things," Obama added, "and it means there is going to be potential anger, frustration, fear — some of it justified but just misdirected."

Only in some make-believe past did factory workers in the United States



U.S. troops near Kandahar, Afghanistan, March 2010. U.S. rulers have engaged in nonstop wars and military operations under Democratic and Republican presidents alike, in which hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants have been killed or maimed by all sides in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Nearly 7,000 U.S. soldiers have died, with 52,000 wounded. These are among reasons many workers come out to listen to Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.



Militant photos: Above, Chris Hoepfner. Right, Cindy Jaquith. Discussions Socialist Workers Party members have with workers on door steps, picket lines, protests or on the job are never simply about "issues" but about the way forward. Above, SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, left, with Rosa Arrendariz outside her home in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 21. Right, Rachele Fruit shows *Militant* and Pathfinder books to auto parts worker Jerome Weir, Lebanon, Tennessee, June 1.

ever receive a "bargain." Workers resisted — and will never stop resisting — abusive treatment on the job. They joined together ever more broadly to organize unions, waged strikes against the employers and the government, and won what they were strong enough to take without organizing on the political level independently from the bosses' parties.

What's most remarkable about Obama's language, however, is not its patronizing tone toward "blue collar men." It's the *fear* that exists at the highest levels of government (and among well-remunerated "professional" layers) about what's building up among working people in cities, towns, and countryside. It's the fear that is shaking both parties of the capitalist ruling families.

"There hasn't been nearly enough blaming of the people most responsible for [Donald Trump's] rise: his voters," writes liberal *Washington Post* columnist Charles Lane. These workers, he says, want to "blow the system to hell."

Venting in the stronghold of the con-

servative wing of this anti-working-class alliance, *National Review* writer Kevin Williamson more explicitly and crudely denounces "white working class dysfunction." These "downscale communities ... deserve to die," he says. "Eco-

**"This book is about preparing the working class for its greatest battle — to recognize we are capable of taking power and organizing society . . ."**

nomically they are negative assets. Morally, they are indefensible. ... The white American underclass is in thrall to a vicious, selfish culture whose main products are misery and used heroin needles. Donald Trump's speeches make them feel good. So does OxyContin."

We're living through the biggest crisis of the capitalist parties in the lifetime of anyone reading these pages. If anything, the disarray is greater in the Democratic Party than the Republican. The millions who've flocked to Bernie Sanders's call, resuscitating "Occupy" in bourgeois electoral garb, pose an unexpected obstacle to Hillary Clinton's anointment as the Democrats' 2016 candidate, and her election if nominated.

But what is surfacing in the 2016 presidential election is neither unexpected nor unexplainable. Its roots go back several decades. If you want to understand it, there's no better place to start than this book.

*Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* contains three articles by Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, taken from talks and reports he gave to large public audiences between 1995 and 2009. More recent statistics and subsequent events that shed light on the economic and social contradictions fueling today's political upheaval have been taken into account by incorporating them directly into the text. This spares readers from the distraction of frequent footnotes and



parenthetical material. The original articles are available in the books indicated in accompanying source notes.

The growing disorder of the world capitalist system has unfolded with jumps and starts over the past forty years — since the 1974-75 global recession, Vietnam War-fueled inflation surges, and "energy" crises of that time. Those shocks laid the groundwork for the 1987 Wall Street crash, which — like jittery animals sensing a coming earthquake — foretold the cumulative effects of the capitalists' falling profit rates and contraction of rate of investment in capacity-expanding plant, equipment, and employment.

In an attempt to postpone a shattering collapse, the US ruling families and their rivals resorted to a renewed debt spree — this time worldwide, and even more mammoth than the lending bonanza of the 1980s. They've fought tenaciously to press wages down, enlarge the reserve army of unemployed labor, intensify speedup on the job at the cost of life and limb, and make further progress in weakening the unions. They've done everything in their power to foster competition and conflict among workers. The employers' hope is to create the conditions necessary to induce a new wave of capital accumulation and sustained expansion of production and

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**Are they rich because they're smart?**  
Class, privilege and learning under capitalism  
by Jack Barnes

*In the coming battles forced upon us by the capitalist rulers, says Barnes, workers will begin to transform ourselves and our attitudes toward life, work and each other. Only then will we discover our own worth and learn what we're capable of becoming.*

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"There is no rising working-class social movement in the U.S.," Steve Clark notes, but there is resistance. Above, Steelworkers rally Feb. 11, 2016, during lockout at ATI steel mill in Washington, Pennsylvania. There is no "rise of racism" in the U.S. today, says Clark. "Racism has been pushed back by the conquests of the Black rights struggle, including among workers of all skin colors who work side by side in factories and other workplaces."

trade before confronting a rising challenge by the working class and labor movement to their inhuman system of exploitation.

This book comes off the presses during the eighth year of what Washington logs as an "economic recovery."

For working people in the US, from big cities to farming areas, that "upturn" has been marked by rising rents and home foreclosures, a *fall* in median household income, and historic lows in the percentage of workers actually holding a job (the government's headline unemployment figures notwithstanding).

Interest rates are at their lowest levels in the history of the imperialist world. Short-term rates have scraped zero year after year in the United States, and in parts of capitalist Europe and Japan interest rates have been pushed into negative territory — a tax on the bourgeoisie imposed by money capital with the will-o'-the-wisp goal of somehow facilitating growth. For the working class and lower middle classes, *both* zero and negative rates are a ruinous tax on those who depend on a pension or "savings" account for help to get by.

In short, capitalism is well into a slow-burning global depression.

What's more, the US rulers have engaged in nonstop wars and military operations since the turn of the millennium (not to mention the bloody 1991 Gulf War and the first war on European soil since World War II in the former Yugoslavia during the administrations of George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton). Just since September 11, 2001, the presidencies of Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama have fought wars or carried out airstrikes, shelling, drone assaults, and Special Forces operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, Syria, and elsewhere.

Hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants in these countries have been killed or maimed by all sides in military conflicts since 2001, and millions left homeless, hungry, and dispossessed. Nearly 7,000 US soldiers have died and

more than 52,000 have been wounded — disproportionately young men and women from rural areas and urban working-class neighborhoods, who've faced scandalous neglect on return.

*All the above* are among the reasons

**"We're living through the biggest political crisis of the Democratic and Republican parties in our lifetimes . . ."**

so many working people are coming out to listen to and vote for Donald Trump. And they explain large elements of why other workers, even if smaller in number, give a hearing to Bernie Sanders, as well.

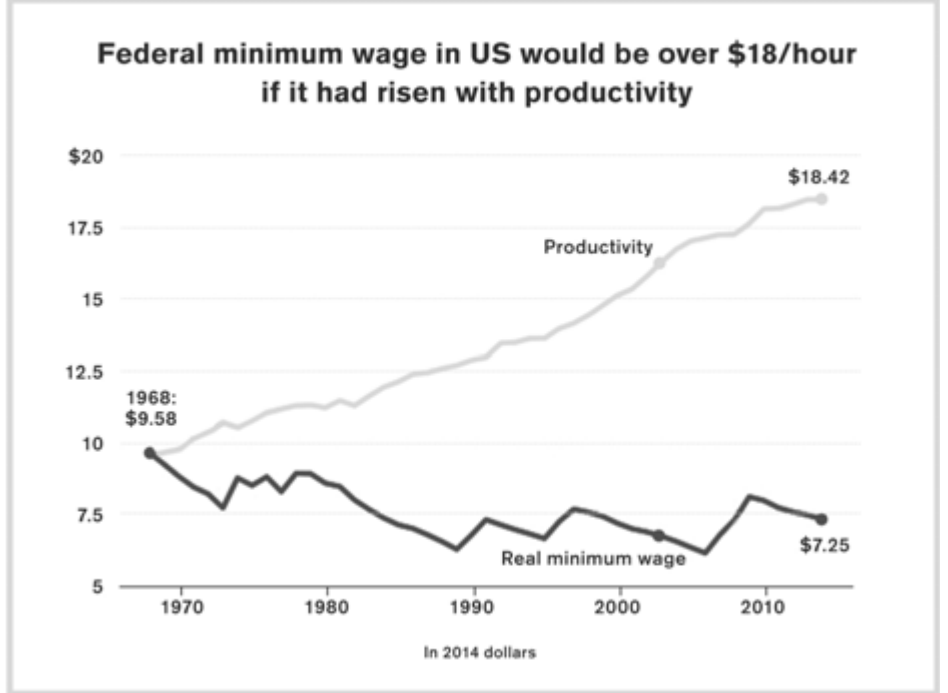
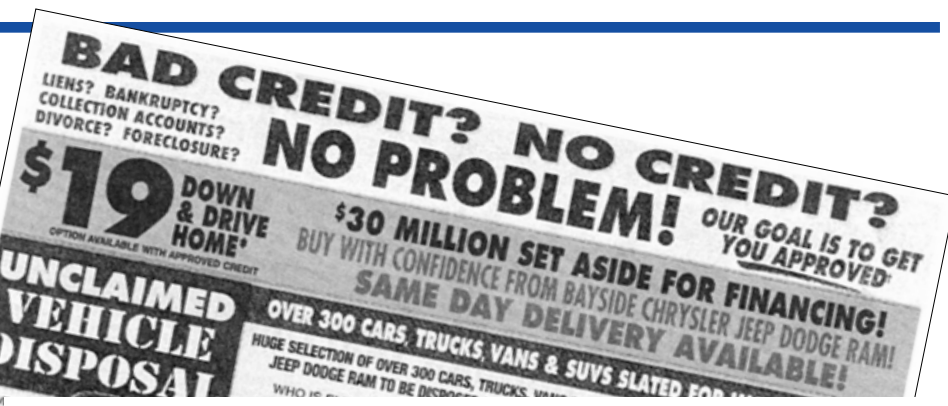
Contrary to the drumbeat in the corporate media, this crisis in the capitalist parties has nothing to do with a nonexistent rise of racism within a nonexistent "white working class." There's a *working class* in the United States. Among other things, these workers are Black, Latino, Asian, African, and (for now and decades to come) a majority are Caucasian. More and more are of mixed race as well. Racism and racist acts have been *pushed back* as a result of the conquests of the mass, proletarian-based struggle for Black rights, including among the growing numbers of working men and women of various skin colors, mother tongues, and national origins who work together side by side in factories and other workplaces day in and day out.

"I have never voted, and I'm not here to represent the Republican Party. Quite frankly, I don't give a damn about the Republicans," said former basketball coach Bobby Knight to tumultuous cheers as he introduced Trump to some twelve thousand participants in an April 28 rally in Evansville, Indiana. "I don't give a damn about the Democrats either."

At least on these double "don't give a damns," Knight echoed the sentiments of growing millions in the working class and worse-off middle classes across the United States.

✧

*Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* puts a spotlight on the sharpening class inequalities in the United



Top, ad in *New York Daily News* April 2016. Trying to postpone a shattering collapse, U.S. rulers and their international rivals have resorted to renewed debt spree. They have pressed wages down, intensified speedup on the job and made new progress on weakening the unions.

States, especially the relatively recent and accelerated expansion of a high-earning professional and upper middle-class layer in US capitalist society.

This "self-designated 'enlightened meritocracy'" — of millions, if not tens of millions, the author says — is composed overwhelmingly of those pursuing "careers in the universities, the media, 'think tanks,' [as well as] highly paid supervisory personnel, staffers, or attorneys [for] foundations, 'advocacy groups,' NGOs, charities, and other 'nonprofit' institutions."

They are determined "to con the world into accepting the myth that the economic and social advancement of its members is just reward for their individual intelligence, education, and 'service.' Its members truly believe that their 'brightness,' their 'quickness,' their 'contributions to public life' ... give them the right to make decisions, to administer and 'regulate' society for the bour-

**"There is growing confidence among workers everywhere in the U.S. to discuss the broadest political and social questions . . ."**

geoisie — on behalf of what they claim to be the interests of 'the people,' an imaginary and classless "we."

Just during the week this book was being readied for the presses, two articles — one in the liberal *Washington Post*, the other in the conservative *Wall Street Journal* — captured to a "T" the spoken or unspoken class attitudes of many in this meritocratic layer.

"Never have so many people with so little knowledge made so many consequential decisions for the rest of us," wrote David Harsanyi in a May 20 *Post* column headlined, "We must weed out ignorant Americans from the electorate."

Then, two days later in the *Journal*, Andy Kessler wrote, "Hollywood mov-

ies notwithstanding, capitalism is not about greed. It is a system that weeds out dumb ideas from smart ones." It would have been impolitic for Kessler to come right out and say it's a system that "weeds out dumb *people* from smart *people*," but people both "dumb" and "smart" are able to read.

As Barnes points out, this social layer has a special place in overseeing one of the shifts that marks the evolution of the US imperialist state since the closing decades of the twentieth century: the centralization of powers initially reserved in the US Constitution to the legislative branch of government (the House of Representatives and Senate, and their counterparts on the state level) in a more and more dominant executive branch (the White House and its multiplying "regulatory" agencies and "administrators").

There's no way for the working class to vote or legislate itself to power, or to the revolutionary expropriation of the propertied ruling families and the transition to socialism. But the expanding concentration of power in the hands of the presidency — including the de facto power to declare wars, and to bypass legislation and debate by issuing Executive Orders — is dangerous (ultimately a bonapartist threat) to the interests of workers, working farmers, and the labor movement.

Today there is even an Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the White House, established by Executive Order in 1993 during the Clinton administration. The agency's director during Obama's first term, Cass Sunstein, coined a term for this aspiration of middle-class meritocrats to administer and regulate the lives of the unwashed masses, who can't be trusted to know what's in our own interests. He christened it with a book titled *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness* (that is, getting us to do what they think is "best for us," without us having a say or figuring out they're trying to control us).

**Continued on page 9**



# Students, workers denounce lashing of miners in Iran

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The Iran Labor News Agency reported May 25 that 17 workers at the Agh Darreh gold mine in Iran's West Azerbaijan province had been found guilty by a local court of "preventing people from doing business by disturbing the peace." They were punished with between 30 and 100 lashes, and some fined the equivalent of \$165.

Courts have imposed such beatings on workers before, but this time it was publicized and sparked protests nationally that included student organizations and labor figures.

The charges stemmed from a December 2014 protest by miners against the company's refusal to renew their contracts, Farmarz Tofighi told the semi-official Fars News Agency May 27. "According to the charter of the International Labor Organization, which Iran is a signatory to, workers have a right to protest and march," said Tofighi, who was identified as a worker activist.

On May 28 the Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company issued a statement that condemned "lashings and fines imposed on protesting workers demanding their rights." The organization is well known around the country for its militant actions in defense of workers rights.

After the lashings got national publicity, Labor Minister Ali Rabiee summarily fired the ministry's director in West Azerbaijan. Hassan Sadeghi, a prominent labor figure, told Iran Labor

News this could be seen as "low level politicking," to deflect blame from the ministry.

Alireza Mahjoob, a deputy in the Majles (parliament) who is considered a labor supporter, said he will move to have Rabiee and the interior minister summoned to the Majles for questioning.

Labor News reported June 1 that in an open letter to Rabiee, Hosein Habibi, the secretary of the Coordinating Council of Islamic Shoras [Councils], called on the Judiciary Authority to apologize to the Agh Darreh miners.

On June 7 the same news agency published the names of 52 student organizations across the country that issued a joint statement in solidarity with the miners and demanded the government recognize workers rights.

Another lashing case was reported in late May. More than 30 college students, men and women, were arrested for attending a graduation party in Qazvin, 90 miles northwest of Tehran. The Judiciary Authority asserted that the women were dancing "half naked." Within 24 hours each student was sentenced and subjected to 99 lashes.

At a press conference in Tehran June 1, Judiciary Authority spokesperson Hojjatol Islam Mohseni Ajei defended the sentencing, and insinuated that "foreign embassies" may be involved in such parties around the country.

## 'Release report' on cop killing of Idaho rancher



Protesters outside the Idaho Capitol in Boise May 20 demanded release of a report on the cop killing of rancher Jack Yantis near Council, Idaho, Nov. 1. State police gave the Attorney General their investigation results in early March. "They're stalling," Sharon Ketchum told the *Idaho Statesman* at the protest.

Yantis was killed when cops called him to the scene after a car hit one of his bulls. As Yantis aimed his rifle to put the animal out of its misery, one of the deputies grabbed him and spun him around, and the two cops fired. Donna Yantis, Jack's wife, and Rowdy Paradis, his nephew, who witnessed the shooting, were thrown to the ground, handcuffed and not allowed to render aid.

An attorney for the cops, who are on paid leave, claims the family's account is "not accurate in numerous material respects." The Attorney General's office says it won't set a date to release the report to avoid "a rush to judgement."

"If we don't get a decision, we plan to have a rally every month at the Capitol," Rebecca Barrow, who is active in the "Justice for Jack" fight, said in a phone interview.

"It's on everybody's mind," Johanna Nielsen, a rancher and friend of the Yantis family, told the *Militant* from Council June 2. "It's like a bubble waiting to burst."

—SETH GALINSKY

## Aerospace workers are 'fed up with two-tier pay'

Continued from front page

Devine wore a union T-shirt that read "One equal team," opposing the two-tier wages the company imposed in 2013 after union members rejected a concession contract but voted not to strike. New hires start at a significantly lower rate and never reach the pay of more senior workers. "The company says it has to cut costs," Devine said. "It's inconceivable for *them* to take a pay cut or to cut their profit margin."

The same contract replaced pensions with a 401(k) retirement savings scheme for workers hired after 2013.

On June 1 the company published an "Open letter to our employees and the Spokane community" in the *Spokesman Review*, in which it defended its course and declared its willingness to talk to the union.

The IAM sent the company a letter saying it should contact the union, not the newspaper, if it was ready to talk.

On June 6 signs on the picket line that read "Lockout" replaced the signs reading "Strike." Steve Warren, the business agent for Local 86, told the *Militant* the union has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board accusing the company of unfair labor practices. "We believe this will result in a determination that this is a lockout," he said.

Triumph Group Director of Corporate Communications Michele Long told the *Militant* the company had no comment.

Unionists say members of the National Association of Letter carriers, United Steelworkers and the engineers' union SPEEA, as well as nurses, teachers and others visit their picket lines. Local businesses donate water and food.

The IAM 751 District Council based in Seattle, which includes workers at Boeing, contributed \$100,000 to a hardship fund for the Triumph workers.

"This fight is about stopping the erosion by management of unions across the country," said mechanic Greg Buckles. For the past year, he said, workers in the plant have been wearing union buttons that read, "Have you started your independent strike fund?" in preparation for the strike.

The company also prepared, and has brought in replacement workers. Every morning at shift change, unionists line up at the plant gate as five or six partially filled buses of strikebreakers roll in.

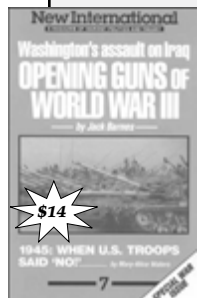
"We are solid. We are finally tired of the way they treat the workers. Getting back pensions is the number one issue," said Ryan Van Valkinburgh, 38, an assembler in the plant. "We also don't want the two-tier wages and the health care costs with no limit. And we definitely don't want our jobs going to Mexico." He was referring to the fact that Triumph has moved some work from Spokane to its plant in Mexico.

Sue Six, 52, has worked at the plant for three years and assembles ducts. "In 1999 I went to the World Trade Organization protests in Seattle," she said. "I'll never forget a woman from Mexico who gave a speech about the conditions workers face there, including \$2 a day wages. How can you live on that? That's why we can't be saying foreign workers are 'taking our jobs.' We should welcome them and stick together."

"In a way I have to thank the company for the strike and bringing us together. Before I didn't know these people's names or where they worked," Six said, indicating other pickets. "Now we talk every day. Now we are stronger."

### in New International no. 7 Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III

— by Jack Barnes



The U.S. war and devastation of Iraq sounded the opening guns of sharpening conflicts and class battles that will decide whether the horrors of World War III are inflicted on humanity or a road is opened by working people to a socialist future of international human solidarity.

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# The political war on the working class

“Blame the Trump voter for the drop in the labor force,” declared columnist Rex Nutting on the news site *MarketWatch* June 3. “Older, uneducated whites,” he said, have disproportionately given up looking for a job, while those with a college diploma do well. “It’s the degree, stupid,” Nutting concluded.

“The white American underclass is in thrall to a vicious, selfish culture whose main products are misery and used heroin needles,” sneered Kevin Williamson in the *National Review* in March.

Their contempt is typical of the mounting propaganda war against the working class, from both the left and right of capitalist politics. The hysterical denunciations of Donald Trump are not aimed at the bourgeois politician, but rather at the workers who’ve turned out to hear him, fed up with “politics as usual” and the effects of capitalism’s slow-burning world depression and non-stop wars.

There is a growing openness among workers to discuss and debate the broadest social and political questions. This is above all what the ruling class fears.

The bosses and their spokespeople denigrate workers, trying to convince us not only to accept deteriorating conditions of life, but to blame ourselves. If we

don’t have a college diploma, unemployment and low pay are what we deserve. Health problems and addictions are a consequence of lifestyle choices resulting from our “ignorance.” And on it goes.

Such anti-working-class slanders have long been directed against workers who are African American. Today they are also aimed at “poor Hispanics” and “poor whites” — that is, our whole class.

This propaganda war is articulated above all by voices among the self-designated “meritocracy,” a high-earning professional and upper middle-class layer seeking to justify its wealth and position.

The new book *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, explains the rise of this meritocracy and sharpening class inequality in the United States, and answers the anti-working-class propaganda war of the mouthpieces for capitalism.

Above all, as Barnes explains, it is about “the battle to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us, and to recognize that we are capable of taking power and organizing society.” Workers will find this book a valuable tool as we discuss and organize along that course.

## Are they rich because they’re smart?

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ing to manipulate us).

The actual scope of the expansion of the imperialist state is much greater and more invasive in the lives of working people than just “nudges,” of course. According to Washington’s own figures, there are some 510 federal departments and agencies today, none of which are elected and whose decision making is never seen on CSPAN or anywhere else.

What’s more, under cover of “national security” and “fighting terrorism” (and now vastly aided by “social media” technologies), the tentacles of police surveillance at the federal, state, and local levels have increasingly penetrated every aspect of our lives and eroded hard-won rights that protect us *against* the state. This massive snooping has become an emblem — a *hated* emblem — of imperialist America the world over.



There is as yet no rising working-class social movement in the United States in response to assaults on our wages, living conditions, and political rights. But over the past few years there have been strikes and resistance to lockouts by members of the United Steelworkers, Communications Workers of America, Teamsters, farmworkers organizations, and other unions. Fast-food and other low-paid workers are demanding a \$15 hourly minimum wage.

Tens of thousands have come into the streets to protest police killings and brutality and demand the arrest and prosecution of the cops responsible. Workers and their families are raising their voices against the massive penal system in the US, with its draconian sentences, brutalizing solitary confinement, and official barbarities. Immigrant workers and their supporters have organized to speak out against deportations, E-Verify victimizations, and other indignities. Mounting attacks on a woman’s

right to choose abortion continue to be met with protests.

Above all, there is growing confidence and openness among workers everywhere in the United States to discuss and debate the broadest social and political questions, including the stakes for the working class in organizing the unorganized and rebuilding our unions as instruments of solidarity and struggle.

These political opportunities are not an impression from outside the working class. They’re the practical conclusion from half a decade of efforts by members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party going door to door in working-class neighborhoods of all kinds across the country to talk with and exchange experiences and views with fellow workers.

The heart of these discussions — whether on a porch, at an apartment door, at a strike picket or social protest, or life on the job — is never simply about “issues,” even political questions of great importance to the working class. It’s about the way forward. It’s about what Jack Barnes points to in the closing article in this book as “preparing the working class for the greatest of all battles in the years ahead — the battle to throw off the self-image the rulers teach us, and to recognize that we are capable of taking power and organizing society.”

That’s the conclusion that’s decisive for workers everywhere today. To act on the necessity, as we gain confidence and experience fighting alongside each other, for the working class to recognize our humanity, our capacities, and the traditions our class has forged during well over a century and half of struggles, including revolutionary battles and victories. “To broaden our scope,” to discover our “own worth,” as Malcolm X was always explaining.

“Learning as a lifetime experience,” as the author puts it in these pages — what better reason to make a socialist revolution? “What better reason to get rid of the capitalist state and use the workers state to begin transforming humanity, to begin building human solidarity? And we have the living example of the Cuban Revolution to show how it’s possible to start down that road.”

These are the stakes addressed in *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*.

May 30, 2016

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## Offensive in Iraq

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fighters in Fallujah now and some 50,000 civilians — some being used as human shields. The city, which once had a population of 300,000, was the scene of fierce fighting during the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq and remained under U.S. military occupation until 2009.

The offensive has exacerbated sectarian friction between Iraq’s minority Sunni population and the majority Shia-led government. On June 2, Iraqi Speaker of Parliament Salim al-Juburi, who is Sunni, urged Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to enforce discipline among the government forces attacking Fallujah, following reports of abuses against civilians. Abadi has sought to downplay the role of the Iran-backed Shiite militias, which have a record of brutal reprisals against Sunnis. In a move to avert Sunni protest, Baghdad ordered the militias to stay on the outskirts, slowing the offensive.

Sunni politicians in Iraq have condemned the involvement of the militias and of Iranian military officers under the command of General Qassem Soleimani, head of the Quds special forces of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard. “We are Iraqis and not Iranians,” said member of parliament Hamid al-Mutlaq.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir accused Iran May 29 of interfering in Iraq and “causing sectarianism.” Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif responded by calling the criticism “arrogant” and saying Tehran would stay “as long as Iraq wants us to.”

### Fracturing of Iraq

Increasingly Iraq has split into three distinct ethnic regions, registering the failure to establish a stable capitalist regime in Baghdad following the 2003 invasion by Washington and London. There are growing calls for autonomy among Iraq’s Sunni population, concentrated in the north and west, who say the government in Baghdad has marginalized them. The Kurds — an oppressed nationality living in territory of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran whose aspirations for independence have long been thwarted by imperialist and regional governments — have established their own autonomous region and government in northern Iraq.

The assault on Fallujah has put on hold plans announced by Washington and Baghdad earlier this year for an offensive to retake Mosul, Islamic State’s biggest stronghold in the country. Some 5,000 Kurdish Peshmerga forces, however, began an offensive May 29 to push IS out of villages east of Mosul.

In Syria, some 30,000 Kurdish and Arab fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces, led by the Kurdish Popular Protection Units (YPG), began advancing from the north toward the city of Raqqa May 24 backed by U.S. airstrikes. The city of 200,000 is Islamic State’s de facto capital.

Meanwhile, forces of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, backed by Russian airstrikes, began an attack from the southwest June 1. This is the first time in two years Syrian government forces have entered Raqqa, demonstrating the gains the regime is making with Moscow’s support.

The Syrian Democratic Forces began advancing simultaneously on the city of Manbij near the Turkish border. Capturing the city would sever a vital supply route for Islamic State and strengthen Kurdish control over territory in northeastern Syria. Previous efforts to take Manbij have been slowed by Turkish shelling. Ankara labels the YPG “terrorist” and opposes the development of a Kurdish autonomous zone.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu accused Washington June 5 of having a “double standard” for its collaboration with the YPG. He called on the U.S. government to “join forces” to open a new military front in Syria. The Turkish government reinforced its garrisons along the Syrian border in May.

Since the collapse last July of a ceasefire with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), Ankara has mounted a military assault on cities and towns in Turkey’s predominantly Kurdish southeast. Thousands of dwellings have been destroyed and 355,000 people displaced. Ankara claims 5,000 PKK fighters have been killed in both Turkey and Iraq.

Last December Turkey deployed some 150 troops to Iraq, where it carries out airstrikes against PKK bases. In May the foreign ministers of Iraq and Russia demanded Ankara withdraw these forces.

### Day of Solidarity with Fight for Puerto Rican Independence

#### Speakers:

Norberto González Claudio, former political prisoner; Rev. Danilo LaChapel; María de Lourdes Santiago, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Dr. Héctor Pesquera Sevillano, Hostos National Independence Movement  
**Fri., June 17, 6-10 p.m.**  
**1199SEIU, 310 W 43rd St.**  
**New York City**

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### International Day of Solidarity

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Puerto Rican independence fighter jailed in US for 35 years

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1st Ave and East 47th St.

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