

SWP members  
join discussion,  
debate over US  
gov't war moves

BY MARY MARTIN

At the end of the first week, the Socialist Workers Party's seven-week spring campaign to take the party, the *Militant* newspaper and Pathfinder Press books on working-class politics to working people is ahead of schedule. Participants from several areas indicate that as they took the party and its program to workers' doorsteps, as well as on strike picket lines and to social protest actions, discussions were marked by Washington's bombing of Syria and threats of a pre-emptive attack on North Korea.

The campaign runs together with the Militant Fighting Fund, a drive to raise \$112,000 to keep getting the *Militant* out and around.

The goal of the effort is to expand the reach of the party's publications, to increase the number of workers involved in its activities and to build the party.

"We discussed the U.S. attack on Syria with just about everyone we talked to over the weekend," Alyson Kennedy writes from Denver.

Many workers are horrified by the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons.

Continued on page 3

Washington  
tells Beijing:  
Back North  
Korea off

BY TERRY EVANS

Chinese President Xi Jinping's April 6-7 summit with his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida was completely upstaged by furor in Washington and other imperialist capitals over North Korea's nine-minute-long test-firing of an unarmed missile into the Sea of Japan the day before the summit. It was also marked by Washington's decision to shoot 59 missiles against a Syrian air base in response to Damascus' use of nerve gas April 4 against Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib province, killing at least 85 people and wounding over 500.

The media coverage of the summit focused largely on Washington and Beijing's response to the developments in Korea. "If China is not going to solve North Korea, we will," Trump told the *Financial Times* before Pyongyang's missile test. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said, "All options are on the table."

The U.S. rulers pressed Beijing to get their ally in Pyongyang to back off, with little effect so far.

On April 11 Trump announced the dispatch of "an armada" near the Korean Peninsula. The navy strike group includes the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier.

Continued on page 11

Trump garners  
bipartisan backing  
for escalation of  
war in Syria, Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump's decision to escalate Washington's intervention in Syria won him bipartisan praise, including from many liberals who've been spending most of their time whipping up hysteria against his presidency. MSNBC's Brian Williams, who has repeatedly attacked Trump, lauded the "beautiful pictures of fearsome armaments."

It gave a temporary boost to Trump's standing in opinion polls and undercut the liberals' campaign painting him as a dupe of Moscow.

But the politicians and bosses of the big capitalist media who are shedding crocodile tears over the men, women and children massacred by the Syrian regime's sarin gas bombing in Idlib had no tears for the civilians killed by Washington's Tomahawk attack April 6. Not to mention the thousands of ci-

Continued on page 11

Socialist Workers Party:  
Get US out of Syria, Iraq!



Inset, Militant/Steve Warshell; above, U.S. Navy Cynthia Jaquith, SWP candidate for Miami mayor, at Ft. Lauderdale protest against U.S. bombing of Syria. Above, Tomahawk missile launch from U.S. Navy ship, same type as the 59 used in U.S. attack on Syria April 6.

US uses horror at Assad gas  
attack to step up Syria war

BY JIM BRADLEY

Washington's April 6 missile strike against the Bashar al-Assad dictatorship's Al Shayrat air force base represents a further escalation of the U.S. rulers' military intervention in Syria's six-year civil war. It goes along with steadily growing numbers of U.S. ground troops in both Syria and Iraq and further involvement in combat in Yemen and Afghanistan.

President Donald Trump claims Washington's 59 cruise missile attack was carried out in retaliation for a chemical bomb dropped two days earlier by the Assad regime against civilians in the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun.

Continued on page 4

Stop Washington's bombs!  
All US troops out now!

The following statement was issued April 7 by Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York Osborne Hart.

The 59 deadly Tomahawk missiles that U.S. military warships rained

SOCIALIST WORKERS  
PARTY STATEMENT

down on a Syrian government airfield April 6 will further escalate Washington's decadeslong wars in the region. I demand stop the bombing! Get Washington's troops out of the Middle East

Continued on page 7

Join May Day protests! Demand  
amnesty for immigrant workers!

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — May Day actions this year to demand an end to deportations and for amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S. will be the largest in years. Marches, rallies and strikes are planned in dozens of cities and towns from coast to coast, many with official labor union involvement.

"An injury to one is an injury to all," Sean Campbell, president of Teamsters Local 813, told an April 3 press conference announcing the May 1 rally here at Foley Square. The 5 p.m. rally is being organized by a coalition of labor, immigrant and religious organizations. There will be a number of other actions around the city starting at 6:30 a.m.

"This is the first time our local has played a major role in a May Day protest," Campbell told the *Militant* by phone. "We want as many people as possible to come out and see more of these actions take place."

"We believe that workers' rights and immigrant rights go hand in hand," Héctor Figueroa, president of SEIU 32BJ, told the press. Local 32BJ

Continued on page 6

Inside

Emmett Till lynching spurred fight that overthrew Jim Crow 8

Kurds' national struggle looms over Mideast wars 4

'Problem isn't 'bad' government, it's the capitalist system itself' 6

—On the picket line, p. 5—

NZ meat workers fight against nonunion individual contracts

Canada bread workers strike over far-reaching attacks

Spring Campaign to expand the reach of 'Militant,' books				
April 1–May 23 (week one)				
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold
UNITED STATES				
Albany	60	15	60	15
Atlanta	65	18	65	11
Chicago	80	23	80	15
Denver	25	10	25	7
Lincoln	20	6	20	5
Los Angeles	110	26	110	14
Miami	35	2	35	10
New York	135	31	135	21
Oakland	80	28	80	35
Philadelphia	50	11	50	8
Seattle	70	26	70	7
Twin Cities	50	9	50	8
Washington	50	5	50	9
Total U.S.	830	210	830	165
Prisoners	15	9		
UNITED KINGDOM				
London	50	15	50	21
Manchester	45	1	45	5
Total U.K.	95	16	95	26
CANADA				
Montreal	40	7	40	11
Vancouver	30	4	30	1
Total Canada	70	11	70	12
New Zealand	40	11	40	3
Australia	35	12	35	5
Total	1,085	269	1,070	211
SHOULD BE	1,100	157	1,100	157



# UK action protests brutal attack on Kurdish refugee

**BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON**  
CROYDON, England — Some 150 people joined a protest April 8, called by Stand Up to Racism, against a brutal assault on three Iranian asylum seekers in this far southern corner of London a week earlier.

The attack by a gang of over 20 thugs that left an Iranian Kurdish refugee hospitalized and two others injured has provoked revulsion among working people. It shines a spotlight on the scapegoating and restrictions facing asylum-seekers.

According to press reports, the gang confronted the three friends at a bus stop, asking where they were from before launching the vicious attack. Reker Ahmed, who came to the U.K. from Sardasht in the Kurdish region of Iran, was chased, assaulted and left for dead. He suffered a fractured eye socket, fractured spine and a blood clot on his brain. His two friends managed to escape.

Thirteen people have been charged with offenses from attempted murder to violent disorder. Police say they are looking for another five suspects.

“I visited Reker in the hospital with Faysal Sariyildiz, a Kurdish Member of Parliament from Turkey,” Zinar Demeni from the Kurdish Solidarity Campaign, told those at the protest. “It was a privilege to do so.”

“I told him that many British people in the U.K. are behind you, they support you, they condemn this attack,” Demeni told the *London Times*. “This put a huge smile on his face.”

There has been widespread press coverage of the attack across the country. A fundraising appeal to raise £3,500 (\$4,350) for Ahmed has topped £57,000 (\$70,000).

Capitalist politicians were quick to condemn the attack. Prime Minister Theresa May joined Gavin Barwell, Member of Parliament for Croydon Central, in calling the attackers “scum.”

“When something like this does happen we must do everything we can possibly do to apprehend those that were responsible,” Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said at a midweek protest here.

While the government tries to pose as a protector of asylum-seekers, they are scapegoated and kept in pariah status, helping to maintain divisions within the working class. They aren’t allowed to work, except in exceptional circumstances. Only a minority of those seeking asylum win legal refugee status, which opens the door

## Stop deportation of Dominic Ricardo Morgan!



Militant/Sergio Zambrana

LATHAM, N.Y. — Fifty people picketed in front of the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security office here April 3, protesting moves by Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport Dominic Ricardo Morgan, a Jamaican-born worker living in Utica. Federal agents told him two months ago he is a priority for deportation and he must now check in with ICE every month. Representatives of New Sanctuary Movement, ICE-Free Capital District, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Socialist Workers Party and several churches were part of the protest, which took place while Morgan was inside for a hearing.

Margaret Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Albany, joined the action, urging participants to demand amnesty for the millions of workers who lack immigration papers acceptable to the government.

— SERGIO ZAMBRANA

### Discount on books for prisoners

Pathfinder offers books and pamphlets at a 50% discount off the cover price. There is a flat rate of \$2.75 for shipping and handling. Prisoners can mail their prepaid orders to Pathfinder Press  
PO Box 162767  
Atlanta GA 30321-2767

**For more info:**  
[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)

to seek work. Even then, they have to reapply after five years to stay.

It is unclear if Ahmed’s request for asylum has been approved or whether he was only given temporary protection, because he is still under 18. Youth whose cases have been rejected will be allowed to attend college and stay with a family until they become an adult, when they can face deportation.

“Asylum-seekers don’t have the right to work,” Memekan Suthian, a Tamil from Sri Lanka with Refugee Rights, told Communist League members at the demonstration. “We must demand the government grant the right to work and end their deportations.”

“I feel passionate about this issue,” said Ilayda Tuzun, 19, a shop worker and Kurd whose parents are from Turkey, adding that this was the first demonstration she had ever partici-

pated in. “The government carries out policies against refugees and asylum-seekers here — and against people in the Middle East — always speaking about ‘we British.’ It’s no wonder that something like this happened to Reker.”

CL members carried a sign opposing London’s military involvement in the U.S.-led intervention in Iraq and, after the protest, spoke with workers in nearby Kurdish shops and restaurants.

“Those who have no papers are forced to work for sub-minimum wages,” Rebaz Mohammed, who has been involved in the fight for amnesty for those without documents for 17 years, told us. “The ones who benefit are the bosses who make huge money and we are the losers.”

*Andrés Mendoza and Jonathan Silberman contributed to this article.*

## The Militant

Vol. 81/No. 16

Closing news date: April 12, 2017

**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 December.

**Business manager:** Lea Sherman  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018. **Telephone:** (212) 244-4899  
**Fax:** (212) 244-4947  
**E-mail:** [themilitant@mac.com](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 send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

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

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

**United Kingdom:** Send £26 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston, London, E8 2PB, England.

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

**France:** Send 120 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

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

**Australia:** Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

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

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

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

## THE MILITANT

### End US embargo against Cuba now!

*To normalize relations with Cuba, Washington must immediately end its economic embargo, get out of Guantánamo and stop its subversive regime-change programs. The ‘Militant’ reports on the challenges and debates before the world-wide solidarity movement.*



Jon Flanders

Anayansi Rodríguez, Cuba’s U.N. ambassador, speaks at N.Y. solidarity conference.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

### NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

#### RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,  
306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £3 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £10 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)



# SWP members join debate

**Continued from front page**  
ons. “Some were hesitant, but agreed with the U.S. bombing,” Kennedy added “One worker in Commerce City said ‘It’s about time something was done against Assad.

“Others wanted to know what could be done to end the drawn out crisis in the Middle East and welcomed the SWP statement calling for the U.S. to get out of Syria and the region,” continued Kennedy.

“We found a wide open discussion, including with workers who disagreed. ‘Well maybe you have a point,’ one worker said after we’d talked for a while. ‘I never thought about it like that.’

“A person who got a subscription and a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* urged us to talk to his neighbor, telling us he went to Standing Rock to support the fight of the Sioux tribe there for sovereignty,” Kennedy said. He wasn’t there but at the next door a truck mechanic got a subscription.

“So far we’ve sold 10 subscriptions and eight books toward our goals of 25 each,” Kennedy said. “And two of those who got the *Militant* want to get together again and continue talking.”

Results of the first week of the drive are shown in the chart on page 1.

Anyone who gets a subscription can get any or all of three Pathfinder books on special — *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* both by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by party leader Mary-Alice Waters — for just \$5 each.

In Seattle, SWP members and supporters of Mary Martin, SWP candidate for mayor, joined two protest actions against the U.S. bombing of Syria, and visited with workers on their doorsteps and union halls.

In the working class neighborhood of South Seattle, a couple originally from

Chile asked if we had any information about May Day actions in defense of immigrants in the area. They were glad to see we had a flyer for the May 1 march in Seattle.

“We are working to build a movement to fight for amnesty for all undocumented workers in the U.S.,” Martin said. “This fight is the only way we can break down the barriers and unite all workers to fight together against the growing attacks by the bosses and their government.”

They decided to get a copy of all three of the campaign books in Spanish.

In Longview, SWP members went door to door and to the Longshore union hall to meet up with union members they had worked with fighting an attempted union-busting lockout by EGT Corporation in 2011-12. They also aimed to win solidarity for silver miners on strike against Hecla in Idaho.

Dan Coffman, former president of the ILWU local there said he would be glad to write a statement of support for the miners and renewed his subscription. Two other longshoremen in the hall pooled their money to extend the union’s subscription and a third renewed and got a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*.

Helen Meyers from Minnesota reported that bakery worker Ned Neterval, a supporter of the SWP campaign of David Rosenfeld for mayor there, is part of an organizing drive where he works. He was reading the *Militant* newspaper in the breakroom when a co-worker from



Militant/Seth Galinsky

**Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York mayor, marches demanding amnesty in Feb. 24 Massapequa Park, Long Island, protest against deportations of immigrants.**

Togo asked to see the paper. He wanted to know how he could get more information about the politics in the paper.

Neterval decided to take a number of Pathfinder books to work. Two co-workers bought three copies of *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* two in French and one in English, and *We Are the Heirs of the World’s Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara, a revolutionary and president of Burkina Faso in the 1980s.

Beverly Bernardo in Montreal writes that members of the Communist League there visited with workers door to door over the weekend and at a demonstration of 300 against the U.S. bombing of Syria. “With the bombing of Syria

and the threats against North Korea this week, we need a revolution to stop these people who rule us,” Josette Hurtubise told Bernardo and fellow CL member Michel Prairie as she renewed her subscription. She also got a copy of Pathfinder’s new *Cuba and Angola: The War for Freedom* that describes how Cuba’s revolutionary internationalism led 425,000 troops and other volunteers to help Angola defend itself from invasions by apartheid South Africa. Hurtubise contributed \$50 to the Militant Fighting Fund.

Progress in the fund drive is shown on the chart on page 3. Contributors are urged to send their donations in early!

# Cuba sends doctors to aid Peru flood victims

**BY RÓGER CALERO**

“Now for sure! The Cuban doctors have arrived. Let everyone know,” Emmanuel Vigil Fonseca overheard one of the victims of catastrophic floods in Peru say, when he arrived as part of a 23-member brigade of Cuban internationalist doctors in the city of Piura, 620 miles north of the country’s capital. “Then, as if by magic, a line that seemed endless was formed.”

The doctors and specialists are members of the Henry Reeve International Contingent, created in 2005 by late President Fidel Castro to offer aid after

disasters and during serious epidemics around the world. Since it was created brigades of the contingent have been deployed 22 times to 20 countries — including twice to Haiti and Chile, and to West Africa to fight the Ebola epidemic — providing medical assistance to some 3.5 million people.

Cuba’s “army of white coats,” as its internationalist doctors have become known around the world, have won a reputation for their deep sense of solidarity that flows from the moral values promoted by Cuban workers and farmers through their socialist revolution.

The doctors and epidemiologists set up a field camp they brought from Cuba as soon as they arrived in Piura April 1 and began treating patients. They came with backpacks full of medicine and enough material — 4.2 tons — to treat 20,000 people in a month, along with 6 million tablets to purify 80 million liters of water.

Since the beginning of the year Peru has been battered by torrential rains caused by the El Niño weather pattern. But the flash floods and landslides that have left more than 94 dead, an estimator

**Continued on page 7**

Militant Fighting Fund			
April 1- May 23 (week 1)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Albany	\$4,100	\$0	0%
Atlanta	\$10,725	\$735	7%
Chicago	\$11,850	\$143	1%
Denver	\$750	\$0	0%
Lincoln	\$350	\$106	30%
Los Angeles	\$8,450	\$0	0%
Miami	\$3,200	\$0	0%
New York	\$16,600	\$750	5%
Oakland	\$13,700	\$800	6%
Philadelphia	\$3,600	\$0	0%
Seattle	\$7,300	\$762	10%
Twin Cities	\$4,100	\$0	0%
Washington	\$7,350	\$0	0%
Total U.S.	\$92,075	\$3,296	4%
CANADA			
Montreal	\$5,100	\$600	12%
Vancouver	\$3,000	\$0	0%
Total Canada	\$8,100	\$600	7%
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,575	\$599	13%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,175	\$75	6%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$2,450	\$1,310	53%
Manchester	\$925	\$0	0%
Total UK	\$3,375	\$1,310	39%
Total	\$109,300	\$5,880	5%
Should be	\$112,000	\$16,000	14%

## SPECIAL BOOK OFFERS

ALSO AT SPECIAL PRICES:

**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.* \$7

**Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power**  
by Jack Barnes. \$15

**Cuba and Angola:**  
*The War for Freedom*  
by Harry Villegas "Pombo." \$7

## SPRING PARTY-BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Available for \$5 (half price) with *Militant* subscription (trial offer 12 weeks \$5)

**Are They Rich Because They're Smart?**  
*Class, Privilege, and Learning Under Capitalism*  
by Jack Barnes

**The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record**  
*Why Washington Fears Working People*  
by Jack Barnes

**Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?**  
*A Necessary Debate Among Working People*  
by Mary-Alice Waters

EACH IS \$7 WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION

To subscribe or purchase books at these prices, contact Socialist Workers Party or Communist League branches listed on page 10.



# US gov’t steps up Syria war

Continued from front page  
of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib province.

The Assad regime was being driven back by opposition forces until Moscow moved a fleet of bombers into Syria in September 2015 and joined the civil war. They were backed by troops from Iran, Hezbollah and other Tehran-led militias. Since then the Assad regime and its allies have combined murderous bombing with sieges to starve and batter opposition-held areas.

They then offer what they call “reconciliation” deals and when the fighters agree to surrender their territory, they are permitted to go to Idlib province.

Assad is now using his coalition’s air power — and chemical weapons in Khan Sheikhoun — to brutalize rebels there. He says he plans to retake the entire country. And workers and farmers there are paying the price.

Reports of surviving eyewitnesses, evidence from bomb craters in the village and the results of autopsies on victims, point to use of a banned nerve agent like sarin and to the responsibility of the Assad regime.

The chemical weapons attack handed Washington a golden opportunity to justify its drive to ratchet up its military intervention in Syria.

Justifying the attack in the name of “national security,” Trump, who the previous week indicated his administration could live with the Assad government, blamed the regime’s repression of opposition forces for creating a refugee crisis that is destabilizing the region.

Decades of seemingly endless U.S. military interventions in the area — Iraq three times, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and more — is the real source of the destabilization. And it is also the root cause of the initial spread of Islamic State, which filled the vacuum left by the inability of U.S. imperialism to end these wars and the failure so far of working people to carve out a revolutionary leadership capable of taking power themselves.

Washington’s missile strike is a “significant blow” to U.S.-Russia relations, said Dmitri Peskov, spokesperson for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Moscow claims that Assad’s planes had bombed an opposition-controlled storehouse for chemical weapons, but so far no one has presented any evidence such a storehouse ever existed.

The day after the attack a Russian warship armed with cruise missiles was dispatched to the area of the Mediterranean where the two U.S. Navy destroyers launched the missiles into Syria. Moscow also suspended an agreement with Washington to coordinate air operations over Syria, set up to avoid accidental clashes, and said it would strengthen Assad’s air defense systems.

U.S. “boots on the ground” continue

to increase in both Syria and Iraq where U.S. military intervention is being carried out under cover of the fight to destroy the reactionary Islamic State.

The monthslong battle by the Iraqi army to retake the city of Mosul from IS, backed by Washington’s air power and military “advisers” on the ground, drags on. U.S. troop strength has climbed to over 6,000, including an initial levy of 300 troops from the Army’s 82nd Airborne Division that arrived in Kuwait at the end of March.

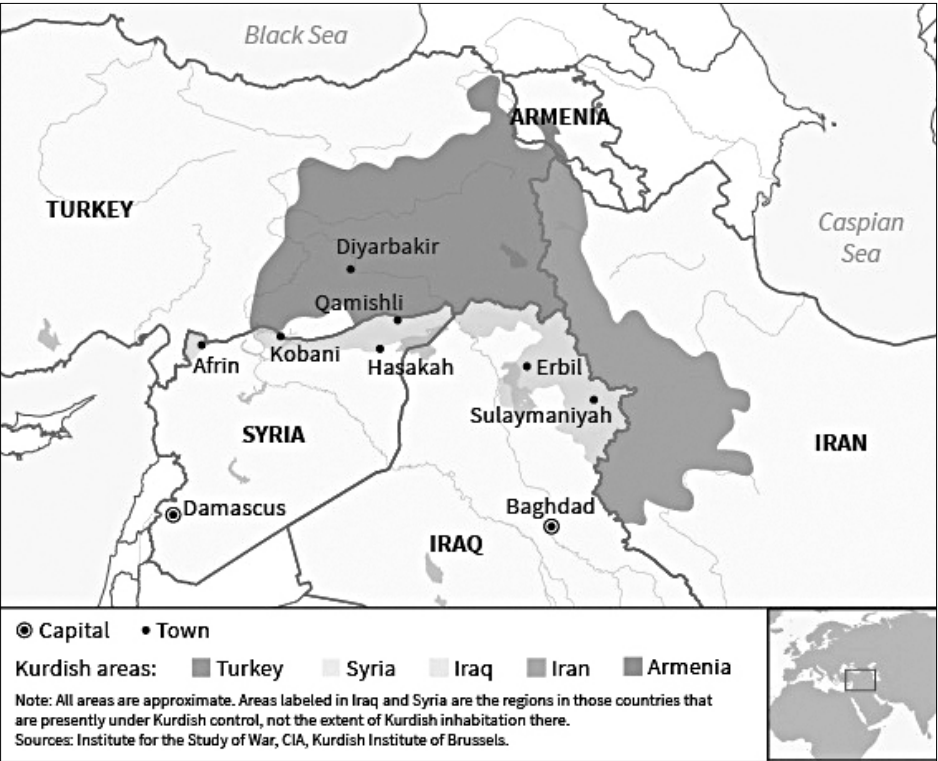
In northern Syria 900 U.S. troops in alliance with thousands of fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces led by the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), are fighting for position to launch an all-out attack on Raqqa, Islamic State’s self-proclaimed capital.

### What to do with the Kurds?

Washington’s problems in the region are increasingly compounded by the struggle of the 30 million oppressed Kurdish people for their national sovereignty — the geographical spread of the Kurds crosses the borders of Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq. And by the efforts of the capitalist rulers in these countries to prevent the Kurds from succeeding.

The YPG, the most effective fighters against Islamic State, control an autonomous enclave of 2 million Kurds in Syria on the Turkish border. Their tactical alliance with Washington doesn’t change the hostility of the U.S. capitalist rulers to their decadeslong struggle for independence.

The Turkish government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has invaded parts of northern Syria in an effort to keep the YPG from connecting



Map of Kurdish areas in Middle East. The 30 million Kurds are largest nationality in world without their own state. Washington and all capitalist powers in the region oppose their struggle.

the Kurdish cantons on the border and forming an autonomous region in Syria. Ankara fears this would strengthen the struggle of Turkey’s 15 million Kurds for their national rights.

For this reason, Erdogan also opposes the Washington-YPG alliance in the fight for Raqqa.

For over three decades Ankara has waged a war against its Kurdish citizens and the armed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Erdogan considers the YPG an arm of the “terrorist” PKK.

The regime has called a presidential referendum for April 16 designed to replace Turkey’s parliamentary system with an executive presidency giving Erdogan virtually dictatorial powers.

A special target of the regime has been the Peoples’ Democratic Party

(HDP), which has broad support among the Kurdish population.

Last November Selahattin Demirtas, the popular co-leader of the HDP, was jailed along with 13 other HDP leaders on charges that they are linked to the PKK. Ankara’s troops occupy parts of the Kurdish region and there have been thousands of arrests.

“Despite the fierce repression and the blackout of the ‘no’ campaign in the media, the HDP is campaigning with other social forces for a ‘no’ vote,” Ertugrul Kurkcu, HDP member of parliament and honorary president told the *Militant* by phone April 10. “At this point 45 percent are for ‘yes’ and 45 percent are for ‘no.’ And 10 percent are not decided. The Kurds can tip the vote against Erdogan.”

## Kurds’ national struggle looms over Mideast wars

BY PATRICIA MARSHALL

The fight of the Kurdish people — 30 million strong, divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria — for a homeland is an unresolved national question that reaches into the class struggle and deeply impacts the unfolding wars in the Middle East.

In Iraq, establishing the Kurdish Regional Government was an unintended consequence of U.S. imperialism’s invasion, overthrow of the Baathist regime of Saddam Hussein and occupation. The KRG’s decision to hold an independence referendum this year has been met with anger from Ankara and Baghdad.

Six years into the multifaceted wars in Syria, the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) and their allies hold 20,000 square miles along the Turkish border.

A cease-fire between the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and the Turkish government ended in July 2015. In the assaults by the Turkish army that followed, some 2,000 people were killed and up to half a million displaced in the mainly Kurdish southeast. Nevertheless tens of thousands gathered in Diyarbakir to celebrate Newroz (New Year) March 21.

From the seventh century on Kurds have resisted all efforts to subjugate them or wipe out their language and culture. Denied a homeland in the post-World War I imperialist carve-up of the region by the British and French rulers, they have subsequently faced efforts to suppress their Kurdish national identity.

Kurds living in Iraq joined the mass popular revolt that overthrew the British-backed monarchy in 1958, but faced

hostility and assault from Saddam’s regime that emerged. An estimated 5,000 Kurdish villages were destroyed between 1975 and 1980. In the late 1970s, Baghdad carried out an Arabization policy, resettling Arabs in the oil region around Kirkuk and forcibly relocating the Kurds.

Backed by Washington, Saddam launched a war against Iran, seeking to punish the Iranian people for workers and farmers overthrowing the shah in 1979. Seeking help against repression, Iraqi Kurds supported Iran.

The regime launched the genocidal Anfal campaign — the methodical murder of tens of thousands of Kurds. Its high point was March 16, 1988, when Iraqi warplanes dropped nerve gas on Halabja, killing over 5,000 people.

In Syria, the Kurds fought systematic discrimination under the Baathist Party regime of Bashar al-Assad and his father before him. Hundreds of thousands were denied citizenship in the 1960s. Public use of Kurdish was banned. Damascus confiscated land from Kurds to redistribute to Arabs.

Successive regimes in Turkey have denied autonomy to the 15 million Kurds living there and prohibited teaching or speaking the Kurdish language in public. In 1984 the PKK, a party with Stalinist roots, opened armed struggle against the Turkish government. Ankara unleashed a reign of terror in southeastern Turkey that killed 40,000.

During the 1991 Gulf War and its aftermath the Kurdish people came to “center stage in world politics as never before, not primarily as victims, but as

courageous and determined fighters for national rights,” Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes wrote in *The Opening Guns of World War III* in New International no. 7.

This has continued through the Kurds’ battle for autonomy in Syria. As Assad’s brutal efforts to suppress the 2011 uprising in Syria met sustained resistance, the Kurds organized to defend their territory.

Washington’s wars provoked and prolonged ongoing combat across the region, fracturing nations and creating the vacuum that led to the rise of the reactionary Islamic State. The IS offensive that swept across Iraq and Syria in 2014 was met by determined resistance from Kurdish fighters, capturing the admiration of Kurds and others throughout the region. They stopped IS at Kobani in a bloody battle and pushed them back.

In Iraq, Kurdish peshmerga forces refused to yield, taking control of Kirkuk when the Iraqi army fled as Islamic State fighters swept into the country. Kurdish fighters fought and stopped the IS massacre of the Yazidi at Mount Sinjar. The Kurdish region has become home to 1.9 million refugees from both Iraq and Syria.

None of the Kurdish leaderships have a revolutionary perspective to put workers and farmers in power. Nevertheless, the fight of the Kurdish people for sovereignty and self-determination is despised and feared by Washington and all the capitalist regimes in the region.

The determined resistance of the Kurds remains an inspiration to fighters against oppression worldwide.

—**MILITANT  
LABOR  
FORUMS**—

**NEW YORK**  
**New York**  
Film showing of “All Guantánamo Is Ours.” Speaker: Willie Cotton, Socialist Workers Party, participant in upcoming May Day International Brigade to Cuba. Fri., April 21, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 307 W. 36th St., 13th Floor. Tel.: (646) 964-4793.



# NZ meat workers fight against nonunion individual contracts

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Members of the Meat Workers Union signed a two-year contract in early March with meat processor AFFCO, winning a round in their ongoing fight against attempts by the company to drive the union from its plants. Union members at eight AFFCO plants voted 81 percent for the contract.

“At the end of the day we achieved a collective contract with the union. In that sense we won,” Justin Kaimoana, union secretary at the Wairoa plant, where workers were locked out in 2015 and 2016, told the *Militant* March 18.

In 2012 AFFCO, acquired by anti-union food giant Talleys, locked out part of the workforce. Workers fought back with pickets and rallies, but after the dispute was settled new hires were forced onto nonunion Individual Employment Agreements and union membership fell.

When the union contract ended in 2013, the company refused to negotiate. After the seasonal layoff in 2015, the bosses demanded all union members sign onto Individual Employment Agreements. In most plants workers complied and returned to work, although many remained union members. At the Wairoa plant workers refused and 250 were locked out. After a determined five-month fight, they won their jobs back. The Employment Court ruled the lockout was illegal.

Union members at other plants like Manawatu and Rangiuru fought a wide range of company harassment.

The new contract is the result of court-ordered mediation by a judge after the company tried to use new labor laws to walk away from negotiations.

Nonunion Individual Employment Agreement workers now comprise some 80 percent of AFFCO’s workforce.

“I’m not very impressed with the outcome, but we had to sign it to get a contract,” Kevin Hickey, a trimmer in the boning room at the Manawatu plant, said by phone.

Hilton Rohe, a mutton butcher with 37 years at Wairoa, said that several clauses are a step back. The workday has been extended slightly; weekly guaranteed minimum pay has been cut back; and premium pay for overtime has been re-

duced for the Wairoa plant. Provisions for seniority, important in controlling who is laid off or called back first in this seasonal industry, are preserved in line with court rulings, but worded to give the company some leeway.

Nearly 20 workers at Wairoa, including himself, have just been laid off with no regard for seniority, Rohe said.

Kara Iraia, union secretary and boning room worker at AFFCO’s Manawatu plant, was suspended March 21 for handing out a pamphlet to nonunion workers. “Before the workers never had a choice. Now they can join the union,” she said.

Rangiuru union secretary and butcher Bertie Ratu sees the new contract as a “foundation to build on.” She said by email that at her plant “the majority are now union members and still growing.”

Hickey noted that the union is also gaining members at Manawatu. “That’s a plus. Many were just waiting for the contract to be signed,” he said.

The battle is clearly not over. “AFFCO is still pushing to deunionize the plants,” said Kaimoana. The company is appealing to the Supreme Court the Employment Court ruling that the lockout at Wairoa was illegal.

“Everything we’ve won in the courts they’ve challenged,” said Kaimoana. “We have to win the Individual Employment Agreement workers to the union with the new contract. We’ve got rights and they haven’t.”

Patrick Brown contributed to this article.

## Truck drivers across Russia strike over gov’t taxes



Abdula Abdulaev for RBC Informational Agency

Long-haul truck drivers in cities throughout Russia launched a nationwide strike March 27 against a further hike in onerous federal highway taxes levied against them. With truckers taking part from Vladivostok to Smolensk and from Dagestan to Yamal, the action is far larger than the state-media acknowledges, according to the Russian paper *Novaya Gazeta*.

In the North Caucasian Republic of Dagestan thousands of truckers joined the protest actions. In response, the government in Moscow deployed hundreds of National Guard and riot police to the area, detaining several strike leaders. In the village of Manas, troops surrounded hundreds of drivers and their vehicles March 31. But the drivers, above, refused to disperse, telling reporters they wouldn’t leave until their demands were met. The troops left two days later. The protests reflect a deeper disquiet at the economic crisis facing workers as the capitalist rulers’ economy remains depressed.

The tax was met with a first round of protests when it was put into effect in 2015. It imposes the ruble equivalent of about a 4 cents per mile levy on trucks weighing more than 12 tons. During those protests, truckers said this ate up 10 percent of their income from every trip.

This January the government announced plans to double the tax. On March 24, three days before the planned truckers’ strike, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said the tax increase would be revised to 25 percent instead. Collection of these funds is done for a profit by a private company owned by the son of one of President Vladimir Putin’s cronies.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

## Canada bread workers strike over far-reaching attacks

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Some 160 workers are picketing at the Canada Bread plant in Langley near Vancouver. Members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union Local 468 voted to strike after the company locked them out on April 1.

“This is not really about money. They are trying to strip our seniority. The owners want to be able to send workers home after only two hours

work,” Carl Fraser, vice president of the local, told the *Militant* on the picket line April 8. “They want to take benefits away from workers who are on call. They call you three times and if you aren’t available within 30 minutes you can be terminated. They didn’t bargain. They just said ‘Take this.’”

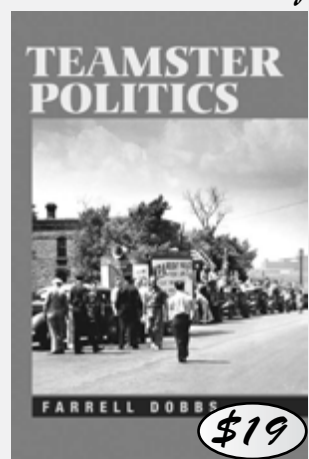
Canada Bread was bought in 2014 by Grupo Bimbo, the world’s largest baked goods conglomerate, based in Mexico. The owners also locked out

120 union members at their Laval, Quebec, distribution center.

“I believe the company representatives started out with the intention of us being out here today,” Glenda Brownie, who has worked for the company for 27 years, told the *Langley Advance*. Unionized truck drivers and engineers are refusing to cross the picket line. Workers from Safeway, a big food store, have come by to give support. There is constant honking as cars go by.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

Recommended reading



“Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party.”

— Farrell Dobbs

pathfinderpress.com



April 24, 1992

PEORIA, Illinois — Socialist Workers Party candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates brought their campaign for U.S. president and vice president to Peoria, Illinois, April 6 to show solidarity with striking Caterpillar workers.

Strikers discussed with Warren that one of the main arguments Caterpillar uses against the workers is the need for the company to be globally competitive.

Warren answered, “One thing we can answer is that we should reach out to workers in other countries and say we have a common struggle. Look at Caterpillar with plants all over the world. This strike affects workers all over the world. We can turn Caterpillar’s ‘global competition’ argument around on them by fighting for global solidarity.”



April 24, 1967

April 15 was a historic day. A relatively small group armed with a correct idea and assessment organized the biggest anti-war demonstration that this country has ever seen.

Nearly half a million people participated. The mobilization urged the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam and the right of the Vietnamese to self-determination. All the effort in the world could not have built this kind of an action if there were not the political basis for it.

A *New York Times* editorial the morning of the mobilization sanctimoniously advised that the action would have neither political nor moral impact. Nearly half a million Americans demonstrated they think otherwise.



April 25, 1942

China’s war is the struggle of a semi-colonial country for its national independence. China’s main enemy today is Japan, the imperialist invader. The victory of China over Japan would be a powerful blow against the whole imperialist world and an inspiration to all oppressed peoples.

We oppose any subordination of China’s war for freedom to the aims and strategy of the imperialist allies of China.

Has China’s war come under the control of China’s imperialist allies? What has happened since Dec. 7 and the extension of the world war to the Pacific?

The struggle for national liberation has become stronger, rather than weaker. The grip of Washington and London has been loosened on China.



# ‘Problem isn’t ‘bad’ government, it’s the capitalist system itself’

BY TONY HUNT

MANCHESTER, England — When Peter Clifford knocked on his door in the Gorton neighborhood here April 1 to introduce his party, the Communist League, Dave Evans said he would like to elect a government that “can make some reforms.”

“The problem workers face around the world is not ‘bad’ governments that resist changes, but that we face the rule of the capitalist class and the effects of the crisis of their social and economic system,” Clifford told him.

“As the bosses and their politicians sharpen their attacks on working people, we need a discussion to chart a course forward in the direction of a struggle by millions to take power,” Clifford said, “and put in power a government of working people.”

Clifford, a 61-year-old meat worker, is the Communist League candidate in two May 4 elections, for mayor of Greater Manchester and for Member of Parliament for the Manchester Gorton constituency.

Val Evans, Dave’s wife, said she joined the Labour Party, believing Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership would lead to change, but had become disillusioned and left. Clifford showed them *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist League’s sister party in the U.S. She said that when she worked as a caregiver, her manager had asked, “Why don’t you become a supervisor, you’re intelligent,” implying that the other carers were stupid, and that she could rise above them, like her.

The couple decided to get *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart*, as well as *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* They’re interested in joining Communist League members in an extended weekend of campaigning over the Easter holiday.

## ‘Brexit is a mess’

One of the biggest political questions being discussed and debated is what “Brexit” will mean for working people. The country’s rulers are negotiating the break with European Union leaders with a deadline of April 2019.

“Brexit is a mess,” Watson Muzamh told Clifford. “You wouldn’t buy a house if you hadn’t seen it,” he said, quoting former Labour Party leader Anthony Blair, an opponent of the U.K. breaking from the EU. “But both the U.K. house and the EU house are coming apart,” Clifford said, “and workers across Europe are paying the price.”

Muzamh told Clifford about the conditions he faces as a “self-employed” contract worker at Fedex. He pays a financial penalty if he’s sick and the bosses have to find a replacement worker. “We need a union,” he said.

This is a big issue for working people. The number of self-employed workers has risen sharply. In October 2016 there were 4.75 million out of a total U.K. workforce of some 32 million. This unorganized section of the working class is saddled with lower pay and loss of hard-won protections.

“Labour is not my party any more,” Ann Driscoll told CL campaigners Dag Tirsén and Hugo Wils. “All the parties are interested in Brexit, but they’re not interested in what the people were after when they voted for it.”

She said she voted for the rupture because EU membership meant “letting immigrants in and giving them preferential treatment for housing over British people.”

“All workers have to stand together, immigrants and British, women and men,” Tirsén responded. “That can unite the working class. It’s the road to build strong trade unions that fight not only for their own members but for all the oppressed and exploited.”

After talking it out, Driscoll agreed. “Yes we have to unite all of us,” she said.

Philippe Delcloque, a French citizen married to a Kenyan, was concerned they could both be deported post-Brexit. He’s a Labour Party supporter. Clifford explained that the Brexit vote, like the election of Donald Trump in the U.S., was the result of workers looking for a way to protest against the conditions they face, the attacks of the bosses and their governments, and looking for a sharp change.

“Those workers won’t support deportations of fellow workers,” he said. Delcloque took out a subscription to the *Militant* after hearing about how the paper covers and supports the Cuban Revolution.

## Join May Day protests! Demand amnesty now!

### Continued from front page

scored a victory when Immigration and Customs Enforcement released electrician Juan Vivares, an undocumented worker from Colombia, from custody. Vivares is married to Yahaira Burgos, a building porter, U.S. citizen and member of the union. When the union learned Vivares had been detained during a regular check in with ICE, it organized a protest outside the immigration jail where he was being held.

Deportations are increasingly unpopular among workers born in the U.S. The longer workers live, work and join together in fights against attacks from the employers, the more it breaks down barriers between them.

Edison Alvarado, a worker at Tom Cat Bakery here, encouraged others to go on strike May Day. Alvarado is one of 31 workers at the Long Island City bakery who are fighting plans by the company to fire them following an ICE I-9 audit that began during the Obama administration. The workers received a letter March 15 giving them 10 days to produce proof that they had work permits. After protests outside the bakery, Tom Cat extended the deadline to April 21.

In another victory, Guyanese immigrant Ramesh Palandiandi was released from ICE detention April 7. Although he has a green card and is married to a U.S. citizen, ICE claimed he was deportable because of a non-violent felony conviction in 2007 for which he served six months in jail.

Several marches are planned in Los Angeles that will converge at Los An-



Militant photos, Dag Tirsén

Peter Clifford, Communist League candidate for Manchester mayor, takes party, program onto workers doorsteps, joins social protests, discusses crisis facing workers. Above, Clifford, with mike, speaking at Nov. 12 Manchester action in defense of Kurds against repression. Inset, Clifford, right, introduces League to agency worker Mark Fraser in Clayton, Manchester, December 2016.



The Communist League calls for workers to fight for a government-funded public works program to address joblessness and build homes, hospitals and schools, as well as tackling crumbling infrastructure. This can help to overcome divisions imposed on the working class between employed and unemployed, and between British-born — and long-time British resident immigrants — and foreign-born workers.

Naila Fahad was interested in this when Clifford knocked on her door. “What can we do?” she said. “Isn’t Labour for the workers?”

“It will take a struggle to imple-

ment a public works program,” Clifford told her. “The idea isn’t to make capitalism ‘fairer,’ but to strengthen the working class on the road to replacing it. Labour claims it can make dog-eat-dog capitalism better, but that’s impossible.”

“The Communist League presents a working-class perspective in contrast to all the other parties — from Labour to the Conservatives. They all seek to prop up capitalist rule over a declining Britain and the little left of its empire,” Clifford said. “The Communist League wants to organize the working class to fight to take political power.”

ges City Hall. “I am marching on May Day to participate in sending a clear message: Immigrant workers in America will never give up on our struggle to win dignity, respect and justice,” Lydia Flores, a supermarket cashier and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770 told a Los Angeles press conference March 21.

Since taking office, President Donald Trump has made demagogic statements scapegoating undocumented workers, claiming they take “American” jobs and are a threat to national security.

But for the most part Trump has extended policies implemented by Barack Obama, including immigration sweeps that supposedly target undocumented workers who have done jail time, I-9 audits that force the firings of workers without papers, and beefing up the border patrol.

In 2006 legislation was introduced in Congress that would have made presence by anyone without papers in the U.S. a felony. It went down to defeat when immigrant workers led a wave of protests that culminated on May 1 with millions going on strike and marching in the street.

## Stop the deportations and raids! Amnesty Now! Join May 1 protests!

**Alabama** info call (205) 603-4400

**Atlanta** 11 a.m. City Hall

**Burlington, Vt.** 12 noon.

assemble 294 N. Winooski Ave

**Chicago** 11 a.m. assemble at Union Park, Ashland and Lake

**Fresno, Calif.** 3 p.m. Cedar and Kings Canyon, then march

**Harrisburg, Pa.** 3 p.m. State Capitol

**Los Angeles** 11 a.m., MacArthur Park, march to City Hall

**Lawrence, Mass.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 200 Common St.

**Miami** 5 p.m. Stephen P. Clark Government Center

**Milan, Mo.** To be announced

**Milwaukee** info (414) 643-1620

**New York City** 5 p.m. Foley Square

**Philadelphia** 12 noon City Hall

**Phoenixville, Pa.** 12 noon Reeves Park

**Reading, P** 10 a.m. 501 Washington St

**San Francisco** Assemble 11 a.m. at Justin Herman Plaza

**Seattle** 11 a.m. Judkins Park, march at 1 p.m.

**Washington, D.C.** Assemble 2 p.m. Dupont Circle Metro

**White Plains, NY** 4 p.m. Westchester Gov’t Bldg.

**Yakima, Wash.** - 12 noon Miller Park

Send info on actions in your area to [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)



# Chicago event raises funds for May Day brigade to Cuba

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHICAGO — “We’re planning this trip to build solidarity with the Cuban Revolution,” said Michael Jabari at an April 8 fundraiser to support participation in the 12th May Day International Brigade to Cuba. Brigade members will join hundreds of thousands of Cubans at the annual May Day march in Havana, take part in voluntary work in the fields and attend an international meeting to discuss building solidarity with the revolution. They will meet members of women’s, union, youth and other mass organizations and visit workplaces and surrounding cities.

Jabari spoke following a showing of “Maestra,” a documentary about the 1961 mass campaign to wipe out illiteracy in Cuba. The campaign “epitomized what the revolution is about — the day-to-day work of the people,” he said.

The film features interviews with some of the tens of thousands of women who volunteered as teenagers to teach others to read and write. It gives a glimpse of how the revolution opened the door to millions of working people transforming themselves and their society through solidarity in action.

About 30 people attended the event. On May Day, brigade members will carry a banner reading, in English and Spanish, “End the embargo now! U.S. out of Guantánamo now! End the regime change programs now!” explained Dan Fein from the Chicago Cuba Coalition, which is organizing the U.S. component of the brigade.

They will also witness the effects of the decadeslong U.S. embargo of Cuba. In their last week in Cuba, some brigadistas will travel to Villa Clara and Cienfuegos to learn how the revolution unfolded there.

Others will participate in the Fifth Seminar for Peace and for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases in Guantánamo province. Since 1898 Washington has occupied Cuban territory at Guantánamo in order to in-

tervene in the affairs of Cuba, Haiti and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Today it is the location of Washington’s most notorious prison. Seminar participants will discuss how to expand the fight for U.S. Out Now!

“I think capitalism is not good for your mental health,” Rosalyn Chernka, a psychiatrist from Chicago who is going on the brigade, told the *Militant* before the program. “Capitalism is about *getting* things; socialism is about *doing* things” to advance human solidarity, she said, explaining why she wants to learn more about revolutionary Cuba.

Steve Eckardt, co-coordinator of the Chicago Cuba Coalition said the group will organize public meetings for participants in the brigade to speak about the revolution and their experi-



Reuters/Edgard Garrido

Students at tribute to Fidel Castro in Santiago de Cuba, Dec. 3, following his death. This year’s International May Day Brigade is dedicated to revolutionary leaders Castro and Che Guevara.

ences in Cuba when they return.

“I definitely will be speaking when I come back, informing everyone I can about what I learn,” Jabari said.

For further information contact the Chicago Cuba Coalition at (312) 952-2618 or email: ICanGoToCuba@gmail.com.

## Socialist Workers Party: ‘US out of Syria, Iraq!’

Continued from front page now!

Washington’s wars against Iraq and the war in Afghanistan — the longest in U.S. history — both continue today. The administration of Donald Trump has been building on the course of the Barack Obama administration before him, increasing the number of troops in both countries, as well as in Syria.

The course is bipartisan. Washington’s missile attack yesterday won applause from Democrats, including New York Sen. Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, as well as the *Washington Post*.

Washington’s attack has escalated the war and will lead to further slaughter of the toilers in Syria and the Middle East. The capitalist rulers who determine U.S. imperialist moves at home and abroad hold their economic and political interests paramount. Washington’s access to resources, markets and investment — and the prevention of any revolutionary action by workers and farmers in the region — guides their actions.

Announcing the attack, Trump called on “all civilized nations to join us to end the slaughter and bloodshed in Syria,” cynically ignoring the deaths of more than 1,000 civilians and others in U.S. bombing raids there over the past year. It is Washington’s wars that have provoked and prolonged the combat across the region, including creating the vacuum that led to the rise of the reactionary Islamic State.

President Trump claims the missile strike is a response to a murderous chemical weapons attack on civilians days earlier. There is substantial evidence, including the direct testimony of survivors of the gas bombs, that the dictatorial Bashar al-Assad regime was responsible. The chemical attack presented Washington an opportunity on a silver platter to escalate their intervention.

Washington’s claims to moral authority are an affront to working people everywhere. The U.S. ruling class is the only power to ever target civilians with nuclear bombs. It has used napalm and all kinds of weapons of mass slaughter, enforced its stifling and destructive economic embargo against Cuba for decades to make Cuba’s workers and farmers pay for their socialist revolution, and on and on.

Working people in the Middle East

suffer from the carnage of the ongoing wars. The toilers in Syria organized massive popular mobilizations for political rights and against the regime in 2011, but were put down in blood. Since then, over 400,000 have died and 11 million people, more than half the population, have been driven from their homes.

Working people in Syria need to find a road forward, but foreign imperialist intervention is a deadly obstacle to the fight for liberation.

Worldwide solidarity and political space are what is needed for Syrian toilers to construct the revolutionary working-class party needed to take power.

Workers in the U.S. are facing carnage as well. A “new normal” of permanently lower employment, attacks on health care, pensions, safety on the job, political and social rights, and from the rulers’ cops and criminal “justice” system marks life under today’s capitalist crisis. The employers and their government are seeking to boost their profit rates on our backs.

Among the hardest hit are workers

who are drawn into service in the imperialist military, maimed and scarred and left to their own devices when they return.

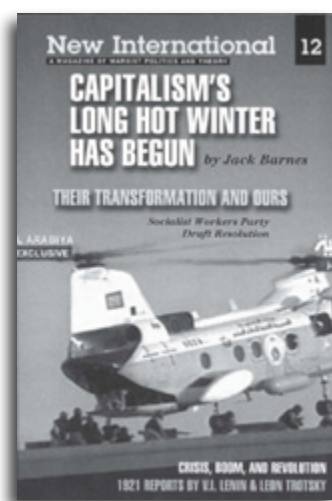
Washington’s attack on Syria is also intended as a warning to North Korea. U.S. government spokespeople have made it clear Washington is ready to use military might to move unilaterally to inflict pain and suffering on the people there if they see the opportunity.

The capitalist rulers — and their Democratic and Republican parties alike — have *their* foreign policy, to defend *their* dog-eat-dog capitalist private profit system by all means.

Working people need *our own* internationalist policy of solidarity with workers struggling worldwide. We need our own political party. That is what the Socialist Workers Party is fighting to build.

Join us to condemn Washington’s assault on Syria. Join protests against their wars. And demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops and military from Syria and the Middle East.

### IN THE MAGAZINE ‘NEW INTERNATIONAL’



#### Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter Has Begun

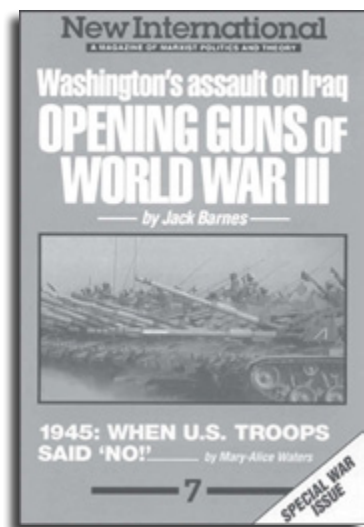
“One of capitalism’s infrequent long winters has begun. Accompanied by imperialism’s accelerating drive toward war, it’s going to be a long, hot winter.”

Jack Barnes, in New International no. 12 \$16 Also in Spanish, French, Farsi, Swedish, Greek, Arabic

#### Washington’s Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III

The 1991 “U.S.-organized carnage against the Iraqi people is among the most monstrous in the history of modern warfare.”

Jack Barnes, in New International no. 7 \$14 Also in Spanish, French, Farsi, Swedish



PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

## Cubans in Peru

Continued from page 3

ed 700,000 persons homeless, and led to a major risk of epidemic outbreaks, are not caused by the natural disaster. They stem from the lack of adequate housing, basic infrastructure, and medical care for working people.

“Little by little we’re beginning to win the fight against diseases. We’re ready for battle, our morale is high and we’re at full throttle,” said Vigil Fonseca in a message published in the Cuban press.

This is not the first time the revolutionary government of Cuba has sent volunteer doctors and other medical aid to Peru as an elementary act of working-class internationalism, without regard to the political character of the existing Peruvian governments.

In 1970, following a devastating earthquake on the Peruvian coast, Cuba sent a medical brigade, and 100,000 volunteers, including President Fidel Castro, donated blood. Again in 2007, Cuban doctors were dispatched to Peru following another earthquake.



# Emmett Till lynching spurred fight that overthrew Jim Crow

*The Blood of Emmett Till* by Timothy Tyson. 291 pages. Simon & Schuster, 2017.

BY ILONA GERSH

This new book recounts the story of the brutal lynching of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black youth from Chicago who was spending part of the summer of 1955 with relatives in Mississippi. The courageous response to the murder, starting with the decision of Till's mother to display his tortured body in

## IN REVIEW

an open casket, helped to inspire the mass movement to bring down Jim Crow segregation.

It certainly had an impact on my life, growing up in a largely Black neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, near where Till grew up.

On Aug. 24, 1955, after working in the fields, Emmett and some other youth went to a store for snacks in the small rural town of Money, Mississippi. He was served by Carolyn Bryant, who owned the store with her husband Roy Bryant. The story that was spread was that Till grabbed her and cat-whistled at her outside the store.

Four days later, in the middle of the night, Roy Bryant and his brother-in-law, J.W. Milam, kidnapped Till from the house of his uncle Moses Wright, threatening to kill anybody who talked about it. They pistol-whipped him, shot him in the head, tied a 75-pound fan around his neck with barbed wire, and threw his body into the Tallahatchie River.

I was 6 years old in 1955. Tyson's

book describes how segregated Chicago was (and still is). I remember the racist attacks on Blacks living in the South Side Trumbull Park Homes housing project and on the beaches of Lake Michigan. One summer my mostly Black friends and I were stoned by white teenage boys on Rainbow Beach. There were big protests in the Black community against this kind of racist thuggery. Participants, including my mother, identified with the civil rights movement in the South.

The lynching of Till was part of a wave of racist terror that swept the South in response to the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court outlawing public school segregation. Three chapters in the book describe the government-condoned activities of the segregationist White Citizens' Council, which opposed the growing fight to end Jim Crow.

The movement for Black rights grew up against seemingly insurmountable odds and won. Protests answered the lynchings. The civil rights movement gained support in the working class all over the country. The mobilizations grew larger and started to hit every city and town in the South — and many in the North. Jim Crow's days were numbered.

In a 2008 interview with Tyson, Carolyn Bryant admitted that she had lied about Till. He never "grabbed her around the waist and uttered obscenities," as she said at the trial of Bryant and Milam, who were found innocent. "You tell these stories for so long that they seem true," she confessed to Tyson, "but that part is not true." More than 50 years after the trial she admitted, "Nothing that boy did could ever



Above, Sept. 6, 1955, Chicago funeral for Emmett Till, lynched by white supremacists in Mississippi. Inset, courageous response of Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, on right, to display his mutilated body in an open casket helped inspire mass movement that brought down Jim Crow segregation.



justify what happened to him."

I like to think that over time she was impacted by the effects of the overthrow of Jim Crow and the decline of racism in the U.S.

### Fighters for human dignity

"In the eyes of the rich and powerful few who profit from the Jim Crow system in the South, and of the demoralized and depraved who follow them, a Negro who is not afraid, who believes he is equal, is a poisoned enemy who must be destroyed," an editorial in the Jan. 23, 1956, *Militant* said. "Fighters for human dignity are the finest things a nation can produce."

The Emmett Till story is a story of the courageous response by ordinary people: his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, a clerk-typist and teacher; his uncle, Moses Wright, a Mississippi sharecropper; Willie Reed, a young sharecropper; and others who refused to accept Jim Crow terror.

The coffin containing Emmett Till's body came back to Chicago nailed shut and his mother was instructed not to open it. She told the funeral home that if they didn't open it, she would get a hammer and do it herself. "Let the people see what I've seen," she said.

According to the *Chicago Defender*, 250,000 people filed by the church where the open casket lay for four days. My mother took me there; the line wound through the neighborhood for blocks on end.

Tyson describes what the casket revealed: "The huge tongue seemed choked from his mouth. His right eyeball rested on his cheek, hanging by

the optic nerve, and the left eye was gone altogether. The bridge of his nose seemed to have been chopped with a meat cleaver, and the top of his head was split from ear to ear. A bullet hole just behind his temple showed daylight from each side."

Although we stood in line for hours as a protest against the murder, my mother didn't take me into the funeral home. Like many thousands of others, she was afraid of what we would see. Later, I saw the photos showing the mutilation of Till's face in *Jet* magazine, which was passed from hand to hand in my school, in Black churches, at workplaces, and on the streets, reaching millions of people.

For months, protests of thousands sponsored by the NAACP and various unions took place from coast to coast. Some of these are described in the book in a chapter titled "Protest Politics."

In one such account, Tyson describes an action in New York. "Jammed into the Garment District on 36th Street between Seventh and Eighth, the twenty-thousand protesters roared their approval when Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. proposed a national boycott on Mississippi products and a March on Washington in January to demand that Congress finally pass an antilynching bill."

You can find out more about how these actions unfolded and the growth — and victory — of the battles against Jim Crow in the pages of the *Militant* newspaper. They can be found at the-militant.com.

Ilona Gersh is a member of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago.

### Moves to censor Till painting are threat to political rights

Protests by some Black artists and other defenders of "identity politics" have been directed at a painting on display at the Whitney Museum Biennial in New York. The painting by Dana Schutz is based on the photograph of the mutilated face of Emmett Till lying in an open casket in Chicago that was printed in *Jet* magazine.

A quarter of a million people filed by the casket in 1955 after Till's mother demanded it be opened. "Let the people see what I've seen," she said.

Artist and writer Hannah Black wrote a letter to the Whitney, demanding the picture not just be taken down, but destroyed. "It is not acceptable for a white person to transmute Black suffering into profit and fun," she asserted. "The subject matter is not Schutz's; white free speech and white creative freedom have been founded on the constraint of others, and are not natural rights."

Schutz answered the attacks, explaining she decided to do the painting in the context of the protests across the country against police killings and brutality.

She said she listened to interviews with Mamie Till, Emmett's mother. "In her sorrow and rage she wanted her son's death not just to be her pain but America's pain," Schutz wrote. "I made this painting to engage with the loss. It was never for sale and never will be."

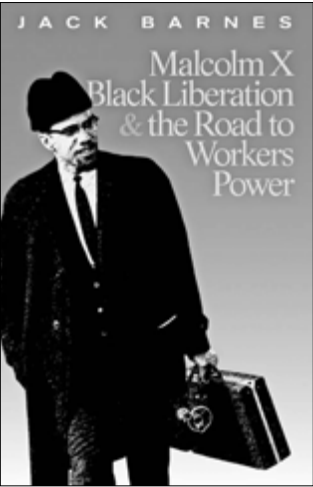
So-called identity politics is a deadly threat to the workers' movement and rapidly turns into race-baiting, slander and threats. "I will argue that Dana Schutz' time spent making it was time spent in the throes of a simulation of the sick, complicated eroticism of white violence against black bodies," art curator Aria Dean wrote on Facebook, backing the demand for destroying the painting.

Cuban-American artist Coco Fusco answered the calls for destroying the work of art in an article titled "Censorship, Not the Painting, Must Go" posted on the hyperallergic.com internet forum.

The calls for censorship are an assault on what working people need most today — the political space to discuss and debate how we can unite and fight effectively against the attacks we face from the bosses and their government as the crisis of their capitalist system deepens.

The idea that Caucasian opponents of racist brutality — or Latinos, Asian-Americans or anyone else — can't speak out or create art as part of expressing their views weakens our struggle. Art like this painting by Dana Schutz should be welcomed.

— ILONA GERSH



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

"This is a book about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat. A book about the last century and a half of class struggle in the United States ... and the unimpeachable evidence it offers that workers who are Black will comprise a disproportionately weighty part of the ranks and leadership of the mass social movement that will make a proletarian revolution." — Jack Barnes

\$15. Also in Spanish, French, Greek, Farsi, Arabic

See list of distributors on page 10 or visit [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)



# US, Canadian socialists, Cuban youth discuss US class struggle

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA — “I didn’t know anything about Cuba’s role in the fight to defend Angola’s independence until I came to this country to study,” said Godwin Konnyebal, a student from Ghana, at a meeting at the University of Havana’s School of Dentistry.

The 150 students in attendance listened with great interest to two Young Socialists, Rebecca Williamson from Los Angeles and Philippe Tessier from Montreal, and Róger Calero, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. A centerpiece of the meeting was the book *Cuba and Angola: The War for Freedom* by Cuban Gen. Harry Villegas, which had just been launched at the Havana International Book Fair. Published by Pathfinder Press, it’s a firsthand account of how Cuban volunteer combatants helped defend Angola from invasions by South Africa’s apartheid regime and hastened the demise of the white-supremacist regime in the early 1990s.

A number of the youth at the Feb. 21 event were from Ghana, Congo-Brazzaville and other African countries. Like Konnyebal, they belong to a generation that grew up three decades after the battles against apartheid and colonialism in southern Africa that changed the course of history, and before arriving in Cuba knew little about the aid to Angola of 425,000 Cuban internationalist volunteers between 1975 and 1991. Several spoke about how important the Cuban people’s solidarity and example has been in the struggles against imperialist oppression and exploitation in Africa.

The meeting at the dental school was one of two organized by the leadership of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) for the Young Socialists and Calero to talk with youth in Cuba. The other was an exchange with young workers at a pharmaceutical plant.

The Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) organized a third meeting, held at the University of Pinar del Río in western Cuba.

Mary-Alice Waters, a Socialist Workers Party leader and president of Pathfinder Press, also participated in two of the meetings. All four were in Cuba for the annual Havana International Book Fair, where Pathfinder Press had a stand.

## ‘What kind of socialism?’

In addition to the interest in Cuba’s internationalist aid to the freedom struggle in southern Africa, the stu-

dents and workers had many questions about the class struggle in the United States.

The speakers described the depth of the crisis of the capitalist system unfolding today, its devastating consequences for working people in the U.S., Canada, and other imperialist countries, and how communists there are part of working-class discussions and struggles that are developing.

They drew on three new books by Socialist Workers Party leaders about class politics in the United States: *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record* and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by Jack Barnes, and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by Waters. Those titles, which also were presented at the Havana book fair the week before, and a wide selection of other books on revolutionary working-class politics, were on sale at the meetings. Dozens of students left with one or more books in hand.

At the University of Pinar del Río event, attended by more than 100 students, Yamil Alexander Otero, from El Salvador, said he had learned from many Central American workers about the brutal conditions they face as immigrants in the United States. Those conditions should be known more broadly, he said.

Calero agreed, and underlined the importance for the U.S. labor movement of demanding amnesty for undocumented workers and organizing them into unions regardless of their immigration status.

“Immigrant workers are not simply exploited,” he noted. “They are strengthening the working class in the U.S. as they join protests against deportations and union struggles.” Their actions help break down divisions imposed by the bosses on working people. He pointed to demonstrations by tens of thousands that had just taken place across the country in response to a recent wave of immigration police raids.

“Can you achieve socialism in the United States through elections, or do you need a revolution?” asked Alejandro Simón, a law student at the University of Pinar del Río.

A youth from the Democratic Republic of Congo asked, “Are you in favor



Militant photos: top, Martín Koppel; above, Sergio Zambrana

Top, law student Alejandro Simón, asks Young Socialists from North America, “Can you achieve socialism in the U.S. through elections, or do you need a revolution?” during assembly at University of Pinar del Río. “No revolution has ever been made anywhere through elections,” Rebecca Williamson said. Above, Róger Calero, Philippe Tessier and Williamson, from left at table, discuss with workers at Medsol pharmaceutical complex.

of the kind of socialism Bernie Sanders talked about during the elections?” referring to one of the 2016 Democratic presidential candidates.

“No revolution has ever been made anywhere through elections,” Williamson said. “The president of the United States acts as a manager for the interests of the capitalist class. What we need is not a change of president but a change in the class that rules the country — and that will take a socialist revolution by millions of working people.”

“For us the Cuban Revolution is a concrete, living example we can point to. It shows how workers have taken state power and transformed society,” Calero added. Even today, he said, “when Cuba is surrounded by the world capitalist crisis, workers and farmers here continue to defend their own revolutionary gains as well as the interests of working people internationally.”

## Exchange at medicine factory

At Medsol, a pharmaceutical complex, the Young Socialists had an exchange with a group of 40 workers at a production unit that manufactures a wide range of medicines. Nearly half the workers in that plant are 35 years old or younger.

Workers described some of the obstacles they face in obtaining needed raw materials and spare parts as a result of U.S. policies that were not changed when diplomatic relations were re-established two years ago. Cuba is barred from buying U.S. products or even using U.S. dollars in commercial transactions, and have to obtain more costly imports from other countries.

“When materials are delayed because of the U.S. blockade or other difficul-

ties,” one worker said, “we organize ourselves to make sure we can produce in a timely way the medicines our country’s public health system depends on.”

Many of the employees belong to the Technical Youth Brigades, a nationwide movement of young workers dedicated to developing more efficient production methods and improvising creative solutions to the lack of spare parts — another consequence of U.S. trade sanctions — that cause machines to be idled.

“In Cuba we produce medicine in order to cure diseases. In other places it’s a business,” said a director at Medsol.

“In our plant solidarity among workers is very strong,” one worker told us. “We try to deal with problems collectively. We look after each other. How do workers in your countries show solidarity with one another?” she asked.

The speakers described how the capitalist rulers foster competition and dog-eat-dog values. At the same time, they noted the kinds of struggles for safety and dignity on the job that workers become involved in as the bosses, in their drive to increase profits, force working people to look more and more toward each other and their unions to protect themselves, their communities and the environment.

Tessier pointed to the current frame-up trial of Thomas Harding and Richard Labrie, two rail workers accused of causing the 2013 Lac-Mégantic rail disaster in Quebec. The workers explain that the derailment and deadly fire was a direct consequence of the employer’s profit drive, he said, and many working people in Canada have rallied to their defense.

Róger Calero and Jonathan Silberman contributed to this article.

**“There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.”**  
— Fidel Castro, March 1961

This book by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, is about the class struggle in the U.S., where the political capacities and revolutionary potential of workers and farmers are as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers who overthrew the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959. And just as wrongly.

**www.pathfinderpress.com**





# SWP fights against FBI ‘Cointelpro’ spying, disruption

Below is an excerpt from COINTELPRO: The FBI’s Secret War on Political Freedom, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for April. It provides an in-depth look at the covert and illegal FBI counterintelligence program code-named COINTELPRO. Much of what is known about the decadeslong political disruption program is the result of evidence forced to light through a federal lawsuit brought by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance against FBI spying, harassment and disruption. Filed in 1973 at the height of the Watergate crisis, the SWP and YSA won the landmark case 13 years later. Copyright © 1975 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

On June 17, 1972, five men were discovered breaking into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. The story that eventually unraveled — including spying and political sabotage — had an unprecedented impact on American political life. It eventually forced the resignation of the president of the United States.

The Cointelpro documents reveal that none of the Watergate crimes were original. The FBI has for years been do-



Judy White speaks during 1966 campaign as SWP candidate for governor of New York. FBI “looked for a way to sabotage campaign” and had hand in the passage of what was called the “anti-Judy White law,” which barred all those under 30 from running for governor.

ing the same thing — and worse — to the Socialist Workers party. Every one of the plumbers’ “dirty tricks” had been used for years by the FBI against the SWP, civil rights leaders, and others on the government’s “enemies list.”

As this country’s political police, the FBI has been assigned the role of determining what ideas are fit for the American people to hear and what ideas are not. Socialism, in their opinion, is not fit.

The ruling class, which runs the government, is convinced that it would be better for them if socialism were considered illegitimate or “subversive.” The idea that the working people of this country should take over its wealth and resources and use them for their own welfare is a subversive idea — if you are a capitalist.

In the early 1960s the witch-hunt that had dominated American politics during the 1950s was giving way to a greater openness to radical ideas. Socialists began winning a place on the ballot — and were more and more being treated as legitimate candidates with a particular point of view. The FBI decided that they had a problem. Cointelpro was their solution.

The Cointelpro plot to disrupt socialist election campaigns was concocted not because of any illegal activities by the SWP, but because, as J. Edgar Hoover said, socialist candidates were “openly”

talking to people about their ideas.

The documents at the end of this chapter show that the FBI attempted to wreck the 1961 campaign of a Black socialist for Manhattan borough president, waged a sustained drive against Clifton DeBerry, the SWP’s 1964 presidential candidate, tried to get socialists excluded from supporting an independent Black candidate in San Francisco in 1964, and incited an attack on Fred Halstead when he was the SWP presidential candidate in 1968.

These actions are only part of the record of FBI sabotage against socialist candidates. And there are operations that remain hidden in files the FBI is refusing to disclose.

One Cointelpro operation that has come to light through the socialists’ suit concerns the 1966 campaign of Judy White for governor of New York. This was during the period when the antiwar movement was beginning to have a major impact on the thinking of the American people. White was a leader of the antiwar movement.

A broad layer of opponents of the war — including many radicals who were not particularly close to the SWP — had endorsed White as the only antiwar candidate in the race.

Campaign supporters worked hard to get the signatures necessary to obtain ballot status, which brought a significant

amount of attention from the media.

The FBI looked for a way to sabotage this campaign. They noticed that according to New York law White was formally not old enough to hold the office of governor. The FBI tried to get this fact reported in the media in an attempt to discredit the campaign.

According to the documents, the FBI decided to rely on the *Daily News* to do the job for them, but the New York City CBS television affiliate did it instead. A copy of the transcript of the editorial broadcast by the station immediately following the election is reproduced in the files.

White recently read the Cointelpro papers relating to her campaign. “It was the CBS editorial that started the whole controversy that led to the passage of what was called the ‘anti-Judy White law,’” she recalled.

As the documents show, the state legislature soon passed a law altering the election code to require that a candidate be old enough to assume an office in order to run for it. ...

The next set of documents concerns an FBI undercover plot implemented the previous year. The city was Denver, where the Socialist Workers party was fielding candidates in the elections for school board.

“In an effort to prevent these people from being elected,” the Denver office proposed to FBI headquarters that a letter be sent to the president of the Denver school board to “alert” him to the fact that socialists were running for positions on the board.

The Denver FBI included in its proposal to Washington an article about the SWP that had appeared in the *Denver Post* the previous year. That article branded the SWP “as both subversive and on the Attorney General’s list of subversive organizations.” The FBI likes the media to refer to the SWP in this fashion, and there is every reason to believe that the FBI was involved in writing that story. ...

One of the main lessons of both Watergate and the Cointelpro papers is that the use of such illegal methods against political opponents cannot remain limited to socialists. If tolerated, they will inevitably be aimed at other forces in this society who run into conflict with the powers that be. This is an important conclusion to be drawn by the labor movement and others.

## IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

### UNITED STATES

**CALIFORNIA:** **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

**FLORIDA:** **Miami:** 7911 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 390-8310. Email: swpmiami@att.net

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

**ILLINOIS:** **Chicago:** 2018 S. Ashland Ave. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 455-0111. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

**MINNESOTA:** **Minneapolis:** 416 E. Hennepin Ave., Suite 214. Zip: 55414. Tel: (612) 729-1205. Email: tcswp@qwestoffice.net

**NEBRASKA:** **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@windstream.net

**NEW YORK:** **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 964-4793. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com **Albany:** P.O. Box 8304. Zip: 12208. Email: albanyswp@gmail.com

**PENNSYLVANIA:** **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 20. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20011. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

**WASHINGTON:** **Seattle:** 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: seattleswp@qwestoffice.net

### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. Email: cl\_australia@optusnet.com.au

### CANADA

**QUEBEC:** **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com **BRITISH COLUMBIA:** **Vancouver:** Email: clcVancouver@fastmail.fm

### FRANCE

**Paris:** BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland:** 188a Onehunga Mall, Onehunga. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025, Auckland 1140. Tel: (09) 636-3231. Email: clauk@xtra.co.nz

### UNITED KINGDOM

**ENGLAND:** **London:** 2nd Floor, 83 Kingsland High St., Dalston. Postal code: E8 2PB. Tel: (020) 3583-3553. Email: clldon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** Room 301, 3rd floor, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. Postal code: M1 2EH. Tel: (016) 1478-2496. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

*April* **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

**PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS**

**25% DISCOUNT**

**Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom**  
by Nelson Blackstock  
Describes the decadeslong counterintelligence program, Cointelpro, directed against socialists and activists in the Black and anti-Vietnam War movement.  
\$18. **Special price: \$13.50**

**Democracy and Revolution**  
by George Novack  
\$22. **Special price: \$16.50**

**Malcolm X Speaks**  
\$20. **Special price: \$15**

**The Struggle Against Fascism in Germany**  
by Leon Trotsky  
A central leader of the Russian Revolution examines the class roots of fascism and advances a revolutionary strategy to defeat it.  
\$35. **Special price: \$26.25**

**American Railroads: The Case for Nationalization**  
by Dick Roberts  
\$17. **Special price: \$12.75**

**Cuba et la révolution américaine à venir**  
(Cuba and the Coming American Revolution)  
by Jack Barnes  
\$10. **Special price: \$7.50**

**Join Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long**

**ORDER ONLINE AT**  
**WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM**  
**OFFER GOOD UNTIL APRIL 30**



# Washington presses Beijing

Continued from front page

carrier that conveys 60 warplanes and a crew of 6,500, a cruiser armed with Tomahawk missiles and two guided-missile destroyers equipped with the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System. Submarines accompany the battle group.

Meanwhile, Washington and Seoul have been carrying on a massive seven-week-long military exercise involving some 30,000 U.S. troops and 300,000 South Korean soldiers that practice an invasion of the North. For the first time, the special Navy SEAL team that carried out the assassination of Osama bin Laden is participating. Some exercises, U.S. spokespeople said, simulate the “decapitation” of the North Korean leadership.

And Washington has begun installation of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, anti-missile system near Seoul, a system that Beijing feels would enable the Pentagon to spy on its missile program as well.

Also shaping the summit was Washington’s opposition to Chinese military expansion across the South China Sea and sharper competition between the two countries as world trade slows. During the dinner break the first night, Trump informed Xi that he had just unleashed the missile onslaught on Syria. He pressed Xi to do more to help Washington against North Korea, repeating warnings that the U.S. could act unilaterally to force North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Washington holds the world’s largest nuclear arsenal.

## Sharpening competition

The explosive growth of capitalist industry and trade with China over the past 30 years has increased competition for U.S. capitalists. To defend its rising influence Beijing has expanded and upgraded its armed forces. For the first time, Washington faces a serious challenge to the fruits it won in World War II — control over Pacific trade routes.

Beijing’s claim to some 80 percent of the South China Sea, including more than 40 islands, is contested by Tokyo, Hanoi, Manila and other governments in the region. Trillions of dollars of trade goes through these waters every year.

Although a declining power, with its world order unraveling, U.S. imperialism holds far greater firepower than any of its rivals. And the dollar remains the world’s reserve currency. Bloody wars ending in a standoff in Korea and defeat in Vietnam did not quell the U.S. rulers’ resolve to retain their supremacy in the region. Washington has the world’s

largest naval force, consisting of some 270 ships, including 10 aircraft carriers — more than the navies of all other countries in the world combined — 90 surface combat vessels, 72 submarines, and dozens more warships of varying sizes and shapes dedicated to maintaining “freedom of navigation” for U.S. imperialism.

In recent years Beijing has built artificial island military bases across the South China Sea. “Your access to those islands ... is not going to be allowed,” Tillerson threatened the Chinese rulers in January. But by March 27 the Center for Strategic and International Studies reports that China was completing the installation of aircraft hangers and missile launchers on the islands, allowing Chinese warplanes “to operate over nearly the entire South China Sea.”

The U.S. has opened new bases in the region and plans to position 60 percent of its warships there by 2020. From 2011 the Obama administration began a much-ballyhooed “pivot” to Asia, increasing Washington’s military presence in the Pacific. They said this was necessary and possible because the wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East were winding down.

The U.S. has the largest military budget in the world, spending \$584 billion



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Sean Castellano

**USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier, part of ‘armada’ sent by President Donald Trump to Korean Peninsula. Washington told Beijing to get Pyongyang to back off, or face unilateral U.S. action.**

a year. China, in a distant second place, spends \$143 billion.

China’s rise is fracturing long-standing alliances among capitalist powers in the region, creating obstacles for Washington. On March 7, the Rodrigo Duterte government in the Philippines rejected Washington’s proposal to build facilities at the Bautista Air Base, the closest Philippine base to the Chinese-built islands in the Spratly archipelago. At the same time Duterte said he is re-

inforcing the Philippine’s own claims to islands, ordering troops to occupy and fortify them.

At the conclusion of the summit, neither Washington nor Beijing could announce anything of consequence. They said Trump and Xi agreed to spend the next 100 days seeking accommodations to avoid a trade war. Beijing’s bosses and farm enterprises enjoy a \$347 billion annual trade surplus over their U.S. counterparts.

# Trump’s war moves garner bipartisan backing

Continued from front page

vilians killed and maimed across Syria and Iraq in previous U.S. airstrikes. After all that’s just “collateral damage.”

And some of them echoed the White House in saying Washington’s new war moves should put fear in the heart of others targeted by U.S. imperialism, especially the government and people of North Korea.

The day after the strike, CNN “analyst” Fareed Zakaria — who has called Trump a “bulls--t artist” — said, “I think Donald Trump became president of the United States” last night.

Even those in the Democratic Party who had some criticism of Washington’s missile attack stuck to griping about why Trump hadn’t sought congressional approval first or worrying about what might go wrong in the future.

“Trump must explain what this military escalation is intended to achieve and how it fits into the broader goal of a political solution,” was the best former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders could come up with. He added he was “concerned” the strike could lead Washington into a “quag-

mire.”

The *Washington Post*, a house organ for anti-Trump hysteria, editorialized April 7 that Trump’s response “was right as a matter of morality, but it could also yield a host of practical benefits.”

The *Post*’s editors opined that Trump “could fill the leadership vacuum, in the Middle East and beyond, left by President Barack Obama’s decision not to enforce his own red line on Syria’s use of chemical weapons.”

All of these pro-capitalist spokespeople came together to try to whip up support for Washington’s war machine defending “our” interests abroad.

“It was hard not to feel some sense of emotional satisfaction, and justice done, when American cruise missiles struck an airfield in Syria,” the *New York Times* editorialized April 7. But the owners of the *Post*, the *Times* and many liberals and middle-class radical opponents of Trump can’t give up on their belief that he must somehow be pushed out of office long before the end of his term.

In the same editorial, the *Times*’ editors complained “whether by design or not, the American military action has also shifted the focus from the scandal over Russia’s interference in the election on Mr. Trump’s behalf and allegations that the president and his allies may have colluded with Moscow.”

Some middle-class left groups try to pretty up the Assad regime, inventing convoluted conspiracy theories about Assad’s sarin assault. Trump was responsible for the sarin in order to take people’s minds off his collusion with Moscow, they say. Or Syrian rebels faked it to give Assad a bad name.

Workers World Party and the Party for Socialism and Liberation insist opponents of U.S. war moves must recognize the Assad regime as a heroic and principled defender of the fight for national liberation and against imperialism. They argue that charges that the Assad regime is massacring the people of Syria with barrel bombs, chlorine

bombs and sarin gas are all lies. Their stance is a blow to the fight against the U.S. imperialist intervention.

## Splintered Democrats

Meanwhile, Democratic Party activists, from supporters of the failed campaign of Hillary Clinton to those who follow Bernie Sanders, have their sights set on taking power in city, state and congressional elections.

Sanders’ goal is what he calls a “revolution” to take over the fractured party and “restructure” it toward a base in the working class and away from the “elites.” He wants to keep workers who are searching for an alternative to the powers that be and a road to deal with the effects of today’s capitalist economic and political crisis from breaking with the two-capitalist-party system.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, there is “a surging wave of activists” who the various factions among the Democrats are hoping to corral into ringing doorbells. Sister District, Code Blue, Act Blue and Flippable are among the groups that have sprung up to counter Trump and pour money and foot soldiers into local electoral races.

“A key question for the Democratic Party now is whether newly energized liberal activists will work with the party establishment” the paper said, “push it hard to the left or challenge it in future primary elections.”

One of the beneficiaries of these efforts is Jon Ossoff, Democratic Party candidate for Congress in the Sixth CD north of Atlanta. Ossoff’s slogan is “Make Trump Furious.” Some 97 percent of the \$ 8.3 million raised for him so far comes from small contributors out of state.

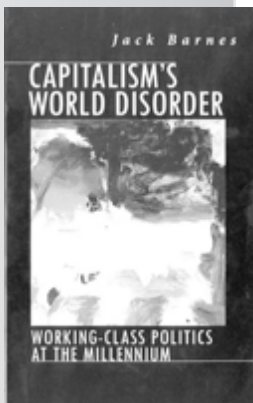
“It seemed important right now to send a message to Republicans that, at a grass-roots level, Americans are not happy,” Sarah Kupferberg, a Berkeley ecologist and one of those contributors, told the *Journal*. She added, “I’m very disaffected with the Democratic Party.”

## Capitalism’s World Disorder

*Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*

by Jack Barnes

The social devastation, financial panics, political turmoil, police brutality and military assaults accelerating around us are not chaos. They are the inevitable product of lawful and understandable forces unleashed by capitalism. But the future capitalism has in store for us is not inevitable. It can be changed by the timely solidarity, courageous action and united struggle of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world. This book has been written to bring closer that future. \$25



Available at locations listed on page 10, or at [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)