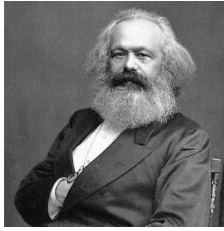


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



A Journal of Discussion and Debate



Vol. 3, No. 5

February, 2022

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To see the reasoning behind publication of TMLU, please see the article “Why ‘Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity’ in the first issue on the web-site below. Though we believe that a Party must have ideological unity, we include progressive articles from groups with varying views.

Note that we reprint many articles without our asking for permission. Clearly the authors are in no way responsible for other views in this publication.

Comments, criticisms and articles are welcome. The next issue of TMLU should appear in April, 2022. Material should be sent in by the end of March.

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No War with Russia over Ukraine!

Below we reprint several articles and a map that show the role of US imperialism in threatening war with Russia over the Ukraine. It is true that Russia has its own interests in the Ukraine that are not that of saving the Ukrainian people from the fascistic regime there, but of consolidating its position particularly in the countries that were formerly republics of the Soviet Union.

However, we need to point out that we are here in the “belly of the beast,” and that we must concentrate our fire on “our own” imperialism. In the period leading up to and during the First World War, Lenin clearly pointed out that it was an inter-imperialist war between British imperialism and its allies on the one hand and German imperialism on the other. However, he spent the great majority of his time criticizing Tsarist Russian imperialism and working for its overthrow; he was not “even-handed” between the two sides. This is the attitude we need to adopt in relation to US imperialism.



12/08/21

The US government and its corporate media have been trying to build a case that Russia is getting ready to invade Ukraine. Their main argument is that they have observed around 90,000 Russian troops near the border with Ukraine. Near the border means that they are on Russian territory, this is what the US calls aggression. Although US and NATO forces have surrounded Russia and have conducted military maneuvers right at the Russian border, that is deemed to be not provocative, but Russia massing troops in its own territory is. What is never said in any of these reports is that there are 125,000 Ukrainian troops in the Donbass region right near the Russian border. These troops have been freshly equipped by the US with advanced weaponry and US military “advisors” have been aiding them in their aggressive military posture. The massing of Russian troops near its border is a defensive move on their part to counter the threat of the US and NATO and their ally Ukraine that wants NATO membership.

In 1990, as the Soviet Union was collapsing, James Baker the US secretary of state told the Soviet leaders that NATO would not expand east of Germany. Since then, it has expanded into 14 countries in violation of that agreement, right up to the Russian border. History has since shown the world that it is the US and its NATO allies that are the aggressors everywhere in the world. It is the US



with its military in more than 170 countries, with 20 times the number of foreign bases as all other countries in the world combined that has invaded and occupied one country after the next. It is the US that spends almost as much on the military as all other countries combined. This is what the Russians fear and with good reason.

The Russians have only to look at the coup that the US orchestrated in Ukraine in 2014. They can recall Senator John McCain speaking to the protesters in Maidan Square, Kiev, urging them forward to topple their government, and US diplomat Victoria Nuland as she brought treats for the Maidan protesters and was recorded on the phone saying “fuck the EU” because they wanted to

replace the Ukrainian president with someone other than the US hand-picked person. The US pick, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, of course, was installed as the new prime minister after the coup, and ever since the US has had important influence in Ukraine. The new finance minister in the coup government was Natalie Jeresko, from the US and Joe Biden's son took a role on the board of the largest natural gas company in the country. The new government contained far right and Nazi parties such as the Svoboda Party and others associated with a coalition of right-wing groups called the Right Sector. In Ukraine today there are openly fascist militias, swastikas chalked on walls or displayed on jackets and torchlight marches through the streets with people chanting anti-Semitic and anti-Russian slogans. This is what the US put in place and what Russia – who lost 20 million people to the Nazi terror in World War II – fears.

The key demand of Russia is that Ukraine, which has the largest border with Russia of any European country, not become a NATO member. They also demand that the U.S. and NATO back off on their approach to the Russian border and stop placing armed nuclear installations on their border. The US/NATO/Ukraine aggression is happening at a time when the Ukrainian president Vladimir Zelenskiy has been making promises to “win back” Crimea and has started an offensive against the Eastern

break-away regions of Luhansk and Donetsk. All three areas are Russian speaking regions that rejected the 2014 coup as far-right and Nazi forces took hold of the government. The people of Crimea voted by over 90% to break from Ukraine and re-integrate into Russia since they had been part of Russia until 1956 anyway. In the Donbass, which is the area of Luhansk and Donetsk, the people organized into the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, created their own flags and built people's militias to defend their territory against the right-wing and anti-Russian government of Kiev. Although a cease fire agreement was reached, it has been consistently violated by Kiev and recently the Zelenskiy government has stepped-up attacks in the regions. More than 14,000 people have been killed in this war in the Eastern Ukraine.

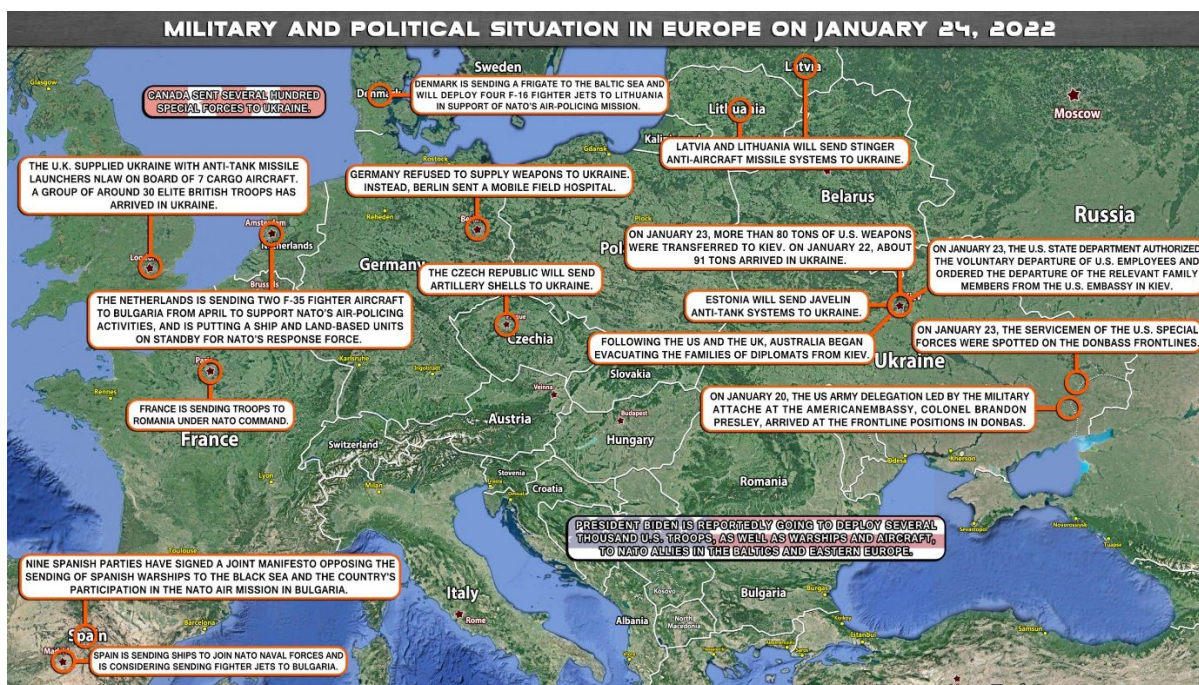
Another reason for the recent US/Ukraine aggression may be because just recently, Russia completed its Nordstream 2 natural gas pipeline from Russia to Germany and is ready to turn it on. This can provide gas to Germany and Europe at a much better price than the US can offer with its fracked gas. This will also replace the Russian gas pipeline that runs through Ukraine. Natural gas was a key factor in the 2014 Ukrainian coup. Like many of the other recent US initiated wars, energy may be a big issue in this situation too.

We demand:

No US weapons or military advisors for the Ukrainian military

Stop the US saber rattling, No war with Russia

Keep Ukraine out of NATO



<https://southfront.org/military-and-political-situation-in-europe-on-january-24-2022-map-update/>

*The World Socialist Web Site is generally one of the worst Trotskyite groups. They are usually totally divorced from reality, and last May Day they called for a **virtual** May Day demonstration. Presumably when it comes time, they will call for a revolution on the internet and then declare “socialism” in cyberspace.*

However, on the question of war in Ukraine, they have done good research and put together a worthwhile article showing the role of US and Western imperialism in establishing the current fascist regime in Ukraine and preparing for war with Russia over Ukraine. We reprint the beginning of the article below. The complete article can be found at: <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2022/01/22/ukra-j22.html>

“Democracy” in Ukraine—What is NATO risking a war for?

Peter Schwarz
21 January 2022

State commemorations and public memorials to war criminals, mass murderers, anti-Semites and Nazi collaborators such as Symon Petliura, Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych. The integration of fascist militias into the official armed forces and the networking and military training of neo-Nazis from all over the world under the protective hand of the state. Mafia-like struggles for state power between a handful of oligarchs and a corrupt judiciary and authorities. Screaming social inequality with an average monthly income of 412 euros (April 2021). These are the most salient features of Ukrainian “democracy,” for which the US and its European NATO allies are risking war against the nuclear power Russia.



Armored vehicles of the Azov regiment in Mariupol [Credit: Wanderer777/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia]

Every single word of his statement is a lie.

It was not the “Ukrainian people” who decided in 1991 to dissolve the Soviet Union, of which Ukraine was an integral part, but three Stalinist officials: Boris Yeltsin (Russia), Stanislav Shushkevich (Belarus) and Leonid Kravchuk (Ukraine). They met while hunting on December 7 at a dacha where, after considerable consumption of vodka, they decided without any public discussion to dissolve the state that had emerged from the October Revolution of 1917.

Of course, these Trotskyists cannot distinguish between “Stalinism” (that is, Marxism-Leninism) and revisionism, nor even between “Stalinism” and open capitalism – Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity.

There followed a decade of savage privatisation in which former Communist Party functionaries and their youth organisations looted socialised property and smashed up the highly developed education and health systems.

Rule of the oligarchs

The oligarchs who made it rich in the aftermath still dominate Ukraine's political life today. They control the economy and the media, buy up judges and MPs and maintain their own parties and militias.

Even the European Union, which has been supporting its "strategic partner" Ukraine with funds and advisers for more than two decades, concludes: "Oligarchs, high-ranking civil servants and corrupt prosecutors and judges are still dividing up the state among themselves, billions are disappearing abroad; Ukraine, with few exceptions, has made as little progress in building a constitutional state as it has in the fight against corruption." This is how the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* summarises the special report of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) on "Fighting Grand Corruption in Ukraine" from September last year.

The Ukrainian oligarchs change their political orientation and their international alliances as required.

For example, the richest man in the country, Rinat Akhmetov (estimated wealth by Forbes: \$7.6 billion), was long considered pro-Russian. Among other things, he controlled the Donetsk Basin's coal and steel industry, which has since been largely destroyed, and was for a time a deputy of the "Party of Regions" of President Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted in 2014. This did not prevent him from continuing to increase his fortune even after Yanukovich's fall.

The fourth richest Ukrainian, Ihor Kolomoyskyi (\$1.8 billion), is considered a promoter and mastermind of the current president, Volodymyr Zelensky, who won the 2019 presidential election on an anti-corruption ticket. Kolomoyskyi stands accused in the US and other countries of looting a bank he owns of more than five billion euros in "the biggest financial fraud of the 21st century." The Pandora Papers have since revealed that apparently Zelensky also profited from this fraud. He and his entourage own several shell companies in international tax havens, into which funds in the tens of millions have flowed.

Petro Poroshenko, the seventh richest Ukrainian with \$1.6 billion, was the country's president from 2014 to 2019. He made his fortune exporting sweets to Russia, was a minister for a time under President Yanukovich, and then turned ultranationalist and darling of the West. Now he stands accused of treason. He is alleged to have made lucrative deals with the separatists in eastern Ukraine while fueling the civil war against them as president. Poroshenko denies this and accuses Zelensky of wanting to get rid of a political opponent.

From the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) – PCEml

<https://www.pceml.info/actual/index.php/actualidad/noticias/1008-ucrania-ni-un-euro-para-guerras-ajenas>

Ukraine: Not one euro for foreign wars!

Editorial Board



DON'T BE FOOLED: In the current crisis between Putin's Russia and Ukraine, the interests of the respective peoples are not at stake. NATO's threats to intervene in the conflict are also not intended to safeguard the interests of the European peoples, but to reinforce the hegemonic position of the US among the imperialist powers. This conflict is part of the fight between Russia, China, the US and the

EU to impose the interests of their respective financial oligarchies in a period of crisis of imperialism.

The Spanish coalition government, which defines itself as "the most progressive in history", has decided to involve us in a foreign conflict that can have serious consequences for the security of our country.

The laments of paid mourners of the ministers of UP [Unidos Podemos, a coalition formed by Podemos with other social-democratic parties – TMLU] in the Council of Ministers or before the television cameras are just another excuse to cover up their attitude of yes-men when the interests of finance capital are at stake. The same people who agree on the labor reform with the big bosses bow their heads by hiding behind their coalition partner.

This is not the only place in which the Spanish army is taking part in tasks of support for imperialist interests: today, some 3,000 Spanish soldiers are taking part in 17 missions abroad under the command of another power, without Spanish sovereignty being endangered there.

Nor is this the first time that the Spanish army has been implicated in aggression against another people. In 2011 it took part in the conflict in Libya, today divided into two parts controlled by Russia and the United States respectively. We must not forget that former General Julio Rodríguez, former chief of the Defense Staff, military adviser to the President of the Government and head of operations of the Spanish Armed Forces in the NATO intervention in Libya, is now the leader of Podemos.

The withdrawal of imperialist forces from Afghanistan last August, after the fall of the US puppet

government, a withdrawal that was negotiated with the Taliban trained and armed militarily and defended politically by the reactionary powers of the Gulf (Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc.), was the latest shameful example of the participation of the Spanish army in foreign conflicts.

With this attitude, the Government proves once again that it has violated the three conditions it set in the referendum of March 1986 (voted on with an abstention of more than 40%), showing once again its lack of commitment to the truth and to the security of our country. These conditions meant that (1) Spain would not join NATO's integrated military structure; 2) it was forbidden to set up, store or introduce nuclear weapons on Spanish territory and 3) the US military presence in Spain would be progressively reduced.

Today as always:

**No War Between Peoples,
No Peace Between Classes!
No to NATO, Bases Out!**

Two Films on the Attempted German Revolution of 1918

The first is a relatively unknown (at least in the West) film of 1972 from the German Democratic Republic called *In Spite of Everything* 1972 (*Trotz Alledem*). It concentrates on the role of Karl Liebknecht. The YouTube link is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wSx_U9qmug. It is in German with English subtitles.

The second is the 1986 film by Margarethe von Trotta on Rosa Luxemburg, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LofL6gntN6U>. This is in German with Spanish subtitles (though probably one can also find it in English).

The pharmaceutical industry made \$50,000,000,000 in profit last year. Meanwhile 1 in 5 Americans can't afford life-saving medicine. It's nothing short of criminal negligence for that to happen.

The problem with a private healthcare system is disease becomes a profit center.

We found this short article of Lenin, written shortly after the 1905 revolution, by accident. Although there may have been changes to how this was interpreted in later years, it seems to us to be very relevant to the situation in capitalist countries, before the revolution. Unfortunately, most parties that consider themselves Marxist, or even Marxist-Leninist, do not want to deal with criticism. This is a problem that we need to overcome if we want to build a genuine Marxist-Leninist party with real roots in the working class.

Lenin: Freedom to Criticise and Unity of Action*

The editors have received the following communication, signed by the Central Committee of the R.S.D.L.P.

“In view of the fact that several Party organisations have raised the question of the limits within which the decisions of Party congresses may be criticised, the Central Committee, bearing in mind that the interests of the Russian proletariat have always demanded the greatest possible unity in the tactics of the R.S.D.L.P., and that this unity in the political activities of the various sections of our Party is now more necessary than ever is of the opinion:

(1) that in the Party press and at Party meetings, everybody must be allowed full freedom to express his personal opinions and to advocate his individual views;

(2) that at public political meetings members of the Party should refrain from conducting agitation that runs counter to congress decisions;

(3) that no Party member should at such meetings call for action that runs counter to congress decisions, or propose resolutions that are out of harmony with congress decisions.” (All italics ours.)

In examining the substance of this resolution, we see a number of queer points. The resolution says that “at Party meetings” “full freedom” is to be allowed for the expression of personal opinions and for criticism (§ 1), but at “public meetings” (§ 2) “no Party member should call for action that runs counter to congress decisions”. But see what comes of this: at Party meetings, members of the Party have the right to call for action that runs counter to congress decisions; but at public meetings they are not “allowed” full freedom to “express personal opinions”!!

Those who drafted the resolution have a totally wrong conception of the relationship between freedom to criticise within the Party and the Party’s unity of action. Criticism within the limits of the principles of the Party Programme must be quite free (we remind the reader of what Plekhanov said on this subject at the Second Congress of the R.S.D.L.P.), not only at Party meetings, but also at public meetings.

Such criticism, or such “agitation” (for criticism is inseparable from agitation) cannot be prohibited. The Party’s political action must be united. No “calls” that violate the unity of definite actions can be tolerated either at public meetings, or at Party meetings, or in the Party press.

Obviously, the Central Committee has defined freedom to criticise inaccurately and too narrowly, and unity of action inaccurately and too broadly.

Let us take an example. The Congress decided that the Party should take part in the Duma elections. Taking part in elections is a very definite action. During the elections (as in Baku today, for example), no member of the Party anywhere has any right whatever to call upon the people to abstain from voting; nor can “criticism” of the decision to take part in the elections be tolerated during this period, for it would in fact jeopardise success in the election campaign. Before elections have been announced, however, Party members everywhere have a perfect right to criticise the decision to take part in elections. Of course, the application of this principle in practice will sometimes give rise to disputes and misunderstandings; but only on the basis of this principle can all disputes and all misunderstandings be settled honourably for the Party. The resolution of the Central Committee, however, creates an impossible situation.

The Central Committee's resolution is essentially wrong and runs counter to the Party Rules. The principle of democratic centralism and autonomy for local Party organisations implies universal and full freedom to criticise, so long as this does not disturb the unity of a definite action; it rules out all criticism which disrupts or makes difficult the unity of an action decided on by the Party.

We think that the Central Committee has made a big mistake by publishing a resolution on this important question without first having it discussed in the Party press and by Party organisations; such a discussion would have helped it to avoid the mistakes we have indicated.

We call upon all Party organisations to discuss this resolution of the Central Committee now, and to express a definite opinion on it.

Volna, No. 22 , May 20 , 1906

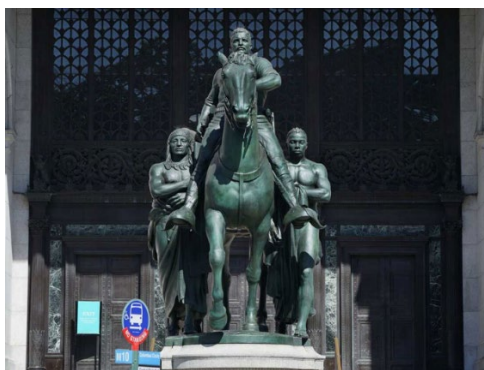
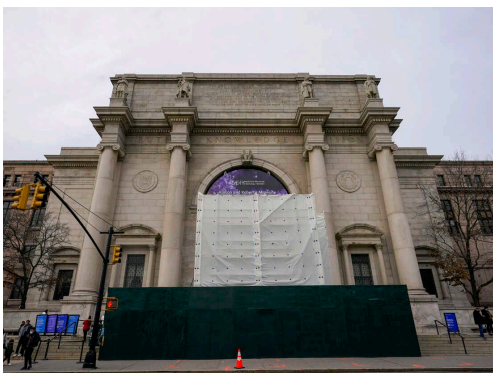
Published according to the Volna text

From Lenin's *Collected Works*, Vol. 10, pp. 442-443, 4th edition, Progress Publishers, Moscow.

* On May 11 (24), 1906, 300 R.S.D.L.P. members of the Moskovsky district in St. Petersburg held a meeting to discuss the results of the Unity Congress. The reports were made by Lenin (no record of his report has been preserved) and the Menshevik Dan. Towards the close of the meeting a controversy broke out between the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks over whether it was permissible to criticise decisions of the Unity Congress in the press and at public meetings. The Mensheviks, who were doing their utmost to limit the ideological struggle over the Congress decisions, considered criticism permissible only at Party meetings, and proposed a resolution to that effect. Lenin moved an amendment saying that all the Congress decisions should be discussed not only at Party meetings, but also in the Social-Democratic press and at public meetings. The resolution, including Lenin's amendment, was carried against 39 votes (Volna, No. 15, May 12, 1906). In reply to Lenin's amendment the Central Committee, most of whose members were Mensheviks, adopted the resolution which Lenin criticises in his article.

Racist Statue of President Teddy Roosevelt Finally Removed from in Front of the American Museum of Natural History

The racist statue of Roosevelt on a horse, surrounded by an African American and a Native American on foot, has finally been removed. For decades it stood in front of the main entrance to the museum in New York, where it was seen by and influenced hundreds of thousands of school children and others. It took years of protests by demonstrators and fudging by former Mayor de Blasio and others until it was finally removed in January. The pictures of the location and the statue are below:¹



¹ See <https://www.npr.org/2022/01/20/1074394869/roosevelt-statue-removed-natural-history-museum>

Peace and Justice Organizations Call for Freedom for Assange
Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox <cindy@cindysheehanssoapbox.com>
Sat 1/8/2022 5:22 PM

Peace and Justice Organizations Call for Freedom for Assange



January 8, 2022

Click Here to Listen

Use this link to listen: https://archive.org/details/cindy-cssb-010822-em-limited?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Jan_08_2022_Email&utm_medium=email

Topic: Persecution of Julian Assange

Cindy chats with Joe Lombardo of [UNAC](#) (United National Antiwar Coalition)



Peace and Justice Organizations call for Freedom for Julian Assange

Imprisoned Wikileaks founder, journalist and free speech champion Julian Assange today faces life imprisonment for telling the truth about U.S. war crimes in Iraq, Afghanistan and at the U.S. torture base in Guantanamo Bay.

Assange faces charges under the 1917 U.S. Espionage Act. Prosecution under that WWI anti-democratic law placed thousands of antiwar activists in prison for exercising their free speech right to protest WWI.

Ironically, the Dec 19, 2021 New York Times front-page two-part series entitled, ***Hidden Pentagon Records Reveal Patterns of Failure in Deadly Airstrikes***, follows in Assange's footsteps in reporting U.S. war crimes, yet *The Times* staff writers remain free.

and Afghanistan conducted under the Obama and Trump administrations. The Times on-the-scene reporters subsequently confirmed tens of thousands of civilian casualties – collateral damage.

“The [Pentagon] documents,” according to The Times, “identify children killed or injured in 27 percent of cases; in The Times’s ground-breaking reporting it was 62 percent.”

The Times and several other major publications worldwide reprinted much of the same Pentagon material that Assange’s Wikileaks released to the world. Yet Assange faces a life in prison for publishing the truth.

The persecution of Julian Assange by the U.S. government is a threat against free speech and free press. It is also a threat to the Peace Movement and all movements for social change since without information and the ability to speak and write freely about U.S. wars and war crimes we are greatly limited, and the people of the world are kept in the dark.

Therefore, Peace and Justice organizations and activists demand:

- Free Julian Assange!
- No to U.S. wars!
- Freedom of the press!
- Free journalists!
- Free speech!

Initial signers:

Organizations: *United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), ANSWER coalition, Code Pink, Black Alliance for Peace, International Action Center, US Peace Council, Veterans for Peace, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), World Beyond War, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Popular Resistance, Alliance for Democracy, Ban Killer Drones, People’s Opposition to War, Imperialism and Racism, Free Palestine Movement, International Solidarity Movement (Northern Calif), Palestine Children’s Welfare Fund, Syria Solidarity Movement, NakbaTour, Resumen Latinoamericano, One State Assembly, Association for Investment in Popular Action, Upstate NY Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars, Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War, Sanctions kill Coalition.*

Individuals: *Margaret Kimberley, Ann Wright, Ajamu Baraka, Madea Benjamin, Gerry Condon, Joe Lombardo, Kathy Kelly, Cindy Sheehan, Margaret Flowers, Bahman Azad, Sara Flounders, David Swanson, Brian Becker, Jeff Mackler, Jodie Evans, Bruce Gagnon, Nancy Price, Darien De Lu, Cassia Laham, Judy Bello, Rhonda Ramiro*

[Click here to add your name to the statement](#)

Clyde Bellecourt, One of Original Founders of the American Indian Movement, Passes Away



Clyde Bellecourt (center) addresses the media after the Washington football team retires its name on July 13, 2020 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center.

By Darren Thompson
January 11, 2022

MINNEAPOLIS — Clyde Bellecourt, one of the original founders of the American Indian Movement (AIM), passed away today due to complications with cancer, according to Lisa Bellanger, Co-Director of the American Indian Movement's Grand Governing Council. His Ojibwe name is Nee-gon-we-way-we-dun—"Thunder Before the Storm." He was 85 years old.

Along with Dennis Banks, Eddie Benton-Benai, and George Mitchell, Clyde Bellecourt co-founded the American Indian Movement in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1968. In its beginning, the American Indian Movement aimed to address systemic issues of poverty, discrimination, and police brutality against urban American Indians.

Bellecourt participated in the Wounded Knee Occupation, which eventually went to receive international press coverage. At Wounded Knee, Bellecourt became a negotiator, where Russell Means, Carter Camp, and Bellecourt eventually held a meeting with an official representative for the U.S. President to discuss the federal government's Indian policy.



Clyde Bellecourt with Wounded Knee portrait at the American Indian Movement Interpretive Center in Minneapolis in August 2015. (Photo/Levi Rickert)

After leaving Wounded Knee, Bellecourt and Russell Means were arrested in Pierre, South Dakota for participating in the Wounded Knee Occupation and the court set bond at \$25,000. Upon release, Bellecourt and Means were served a restraining order that neither could be within five miles to the town of Wounded Knee. While released on bond, Bellecourt and Means went on a fundraising tour across the United States, to raise money for the Wounded Knee Occupation.

Bellecourt's lifelong activism was his dedication to his community. Bellecourt also founded the Heart of the Earth Survival School in 1972, and the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center (AIOIC) in 1979. Both were founded to address the education and employment disparities faced by American Indians in the Minneapolis urban area. He was committed to removing racist Native mascots and names. After the Washington Football Team announced the removal of its mascot, Bellecourt said at the press conference, "People laughed at us, said that wasn't important, there's more important issues. But if we cannot deal with racism, we cannot do anything."

"Today, we lost a civil rights leader who fought for more than a half century on behalf of Indigenous people in Minnesota and around the world," said Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan in a statement to *Native News Online*. "Indian Country benefited from Clyde Bellecourt's activism - he cleared a path for so many of us. Few have advocated harder and longer than he did, and we are indebted for that work. As a co-founder of the American Indian Movement, he fought for the visibility and fair treatment of Native people. Minneapolis has one of the most robust and vibrant networks of organizations serving the urban Indian community in the country, and that is because of Clyde and his work."

Other organizations founded in part by Bellecourt include the Elaine M. Stately Peacemaker Center for Indian youth; the AIM Patrol, which provided security for the Minneapolis Indian community during the riots after the murder of George Floyd in 2020.

He was inspired to co-found AIM in the late 1960s when he saw what happened to families offered opportunities to leave Indian reservations with moving expenses paid for to certain government-designated cities where they were promised vocational training and competitive jobs, as part of the Indian Relocation Act of 1956. Upon arrival to urban cities, many American Indian families didn't receive the services they were promised, which led to poverty, joblessness, and homelessness, along with mistreatment by law enforcement, discrimination in housing and employment, and weakened tribal ties. AIM served its community by advocating for fair treatment in housing and education, monitoring law enforcement's interactions with American Indian people, and to influence pride in Indian culture during a time the dominant culture was aimed at stripping Indian culture.

In November 2016, *The Thunder Before the Storm: The Autobiography of Clyde Bellecourt* with Jon Lurie was published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press.

As an elder, Bellecourt participated in the Standing Rock resistance in 2016.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the family. This is a continuing story.

Neely Bardwell contributed to this article.

Crime and the Role of the Police in the United States and the Soviet Union

In the last few weeks there have been a number of terrible crimes, particularly murders, in New York City. A woman, Michelle Alyssa Go, was killed after she was pushed onto the subway tracks in Times Square on January 15. An 11-month-old baby was shot in the face in the Bronx on January 19 and is in critical condition. And two cops, Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora, were shot and died after responding to a domestic violence call in Harlem on January 21. The presumed shooter, Lashawn McNeil, also died after being shot by a third officer at the scene.

The only response from the new mayor, Eric Adams, a former police captain, is to revive a plainclothes police unit that was responsible for much of the violence against civilians in the past, including the murder of Amadou Diallo and Eric Garner, to place another 1,000 cops in the subway system, to undo bail reforms meant to keep non-violent suspects out of jail, and to work with the federal government to reduce the number of guns coming into New York. The New York Police Department already has some 35,000 cops and a budget of over \$5 billion.²

However, in the Soviet Union, even during the revisionist Khrushchev and Brezhnev period, there was very little crime, as the majority of people still preserved socialist morality. We reprint excerpts from the 3 volume work, *Sovietica*, by Irina Malenko, who left the Soviet Union under Gorbachev and considers herself a “refugee from perestroika.”³

“In the more than 20 years that I lived in the Soviet Union, in our city with a population of half a million there were only two murders. A murder was something completely exceptional, extraordinary. Something from the movies. Something almost as extraterrestrial as unemployment, homelessness and hunger.

“All these things existed in other places, on another planet that we could only see on TV programs. Nobody had any firearms in their hands, and the very thought of this seemed completely strange to us.

“In the first murder case I heard of in our town, a mentally ill mother of one of Marussia's [Irina's daughter] classmates, Olya, killed her daughter. I was so shaken up by this, although I never knew the girl, that I dedicated a poem to her.

“In the second case somebody stabbed a man behind the railway line near our house (our house was the last one, right next to the railroad). It was in the winter, and the murder victim was a married man who was meeting his mistress in the forest. Apparently he was stabbed by

someone in her family (maybe her husband?), because the murderer did not touch the woman. He only said to her before running away: «Don't yell, you fool!»

“I remember that when I heard about it at home I climbed under the table from fear, while the adults ran out into the street. They lay the injured man (he was still alive) on the snow under the light of a street lamp, and our men ran after the killer: yes, such were the times then – people did not remain aloof! But he escaped across the icy river to the other shore.

“But nowadays...⁴ do I have to tell you about it?! My classmate Anton, who after medical school worked in the morgue, could not take it anymore: «Each night they bring us seven to ten corpses, and all of them are young people!» He finally reverted to religion and buried himself somewhere in a mud hut, away from the world. Well, what a life we have now...

“... When I was six, mum brought me to Moscow; she managed to get tickets for the American ice show «Holiday on Ice». We returned home after that show with the night stop train.

“The carriages were empty; I slept in my mum's lap almost the whole way. Then we walked home across the city at 4 A.M.! The summer night was marvellous – warm and quiet. It was so fantastic, and nobody was afraid of anything or anyone. Sometimes we came across occasional passers-by, courting couples or workers returning from the night shift, and no one had the idea of attacking someone for some infamous purpose. Only now those «liberated» democratic apes really do not understand: how could one miss such a chance and not rape or rob a woman with a child, if they happened to be in your way alone in the evening? Why such a change? As one film critic said, completely seriously, «a transition took place in our society, from the Soviet mentality to the norm»!”⁵

The Role of the Police

The role of the police in the US is well-known, and we will only remind our readers that about 1,000 civilians are killed by police each year, with Blacks and Latinos far out of proportion to their percent of the population.⁶

The situation in the Soviet Union was very different. We quote again from *Sovietica*:

“Mum took me to the park also – on her days off and sometimes in the evenings after work when she went there with her colleagues on a VPW – Voluntary People's Watch . «Combatants» as they were called using an old

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-24/nyc-mayor-eric-adams-outlines-plan-to-curb-crime-gun-violence>

³ Volume 1 is available from Red Star Publishers for \$20.

⁴ Author refers to "post-perestroika" years straight after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

⁵ From *Sovietica* Vol. 1, pp. 17-18

⁶ See, for example, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/585152/people-shot-to-death-by-us-police-by-race/>

Russian word, walked usually in threes, slowly as if on a promenade, with red bandages around their arms. They were armed with a whistle – in case of need to call for militia. Their task was to keep an eye on good order and prevent any hooliganism. But there was nothing to prevent, really. For all the time I was with my mum on this watch I remember only one occasion when their intervention was required: it was with a drunk citizen who has sprawled asleep on a lawn. That was serious for those times, a «state of emergency»! And there was also in our everyday life a district militiaman whom we all knew by name and patronymic and who also knew everybody who lived in his district and often just came to people for a chat, to get to know them, to find out if they had any complaints. The militiaman was a well-respected person, not «a cop», like today. He was an authority figure even for disobedient children: to tell them, «I will tell the militiaman about you» was an extreme measure if all other measures failed.

“And when many years later, during the days of perestroika, for the first time in my life I saw a militiaman in Moscow with a baton hanging from his side, at first I could not believe my eyes. Whom was he going to beat with it? What need was there to do such thing? Back then there were neither mass riots yet, nor hooliganism, nor such criminality as today. This sight seemed to me so ridiculous that I was simply choking with laughter. The militiaman did not see me – I walked behind him and could not resist taking his picture with my camera that I had in my hand: to show at home, otherwise they might not believe me. Passers-by noticed what I was doing, looked at the militiaman and they too began to laugh, but he was still unaware of the whole commotion.

“But there was nothing to laugh about... The thing is that it was no longer our militiaman, not a Soviet one, and now there was somebody he had to protect from the people with baton charges. We simply did not know it yet, but at least that should have given me food for thought. It looked like in order «to return to the civilised world», to move on to «new thinking» and to adopt «universal human values», it was necessary to arm militiamen with batons, first of all. Nice «universal values» they were, needless to say...”⁷

“Mum told me that a couple of years after the end of World War II in the Soviet Union there was no more homelessness, and orphaned children were all placed in orphanages. In Moscow gangsterism was eliminated, and after 1955 street theft practically disappeared from small and medium-sized cities. I've already talked about the Institute of district policemen. Local policeman knew all the people in their area, they knew their family problems, they

knew who recently returned from prison, knew if someone shunned socially useful work (for mothers-housewives that, naturally, did not apply), knew who was drinking, knew if somewhere moonshine was brewed, and the houses of the gamblers (gambling for money was not allowed) – and they were taking measures to make sure that the situation does not spiral out of control. Within the police departments there were “children’s rooms” where teenagers with what they call now “challenging behaviour” were registered. It was considered a great shame if someone was registered there (fortunately, these were very few). In their work, juvenile inspectors relied on the Komsomol and Pioneer organizations in their school district. They tried to keep children busy with various activities after school, so that they wouldn’t get an idea to engage into something silly out of boredom: there were free interest groups and clubs for them in the Pioneers’ Palaces, special children’s sessions in theatres, especially during the holidays, free of charge all-day afterschool – for those whose both parents were working and who did not have grandparents to look after them. There was the system of patronage of plants and factories over schools, including arranging different excursions for the children. (Some of the kids went after school to work at those factories, and the factory could later send them to study in college with a scholarship from the factory, which was higher than an average stipend.)

“On the streets in my mother's time there were traffic regulators. For the post-war children they were friends. ‘We had a traffic guard – Uncle Nikolai,’ – told me mum... ‘he was standing at his post near the district hospital, and I with my school friends, first-graders, walked around his post, while he told us about the war, about his life before the war and all sorts of interesting stories. I remember him – a tall, handsome, intelligent man – and I think: it is such a criminal offense to call people like him with this nasty word “cops”!

“For minor offenses offenders were not brought to courts because their work collective was sorting them out. Including the offences that took place in their free time.

“For re-offenders comrades’ courts existed in enterprises. For example, my mother told me how in the 1960s in our city’s accordion factory in one of the workshops there was a meeting of a comrades’ court, discussing the behaviour of one worker in the local library. He deliberately threw several books on the floor. The court decided to oblige the worker to apologize to the library staff, to take him on comradesly bail and to conduct educational work with him – until he reforms. And in fact, that worked, he never did anything anti-social again!”

⁷ *Sovietica*, Vol. 1, pp. 50-51.

From the American Party of Labor

<https://theredphoenixapl.org/2022/01/20/the-tragic-fire-in-the-bronx-who-is-responsible/>

The Tragic Fire in the Bronx: Who is Responsible?

By Editor *on* January 20, 2022



From a Red Phoenix Contributor in New York City

As has been in the news regularly in New York, and probably also in the rest of the country, on Sunday, January 9, a fire in the Bronx killed 17 people, including 8 children. The majority of those killed, as well as others who are still hospitalized from smoke inhalation, were immigrants from Gambia in west Africa.

The fire department has determined that the cause of the fire was a faulty space heater. Also, the fire spread so rapidly throughout the building because the mechanism for apartment doors to close automatically was not functioning, allowing smoke to spread rapidly through the building. This is undoubtedly true. But one question the bourgeois media passes over is simple: Why was a space heater needed? Clearly, because the heat was insufficient!

New York City has some of the most specific heat regulations of any major city in the U.S. According to these regulations, from October through May, between 6 AM and 10 PM, when the temperature outside falls below 55°, the inside temperature must be maintained at 68°, and between 10 PM and 6 AM, the inside temperature must be at least 62° regardless of outside temperature. These

regulations are very good, but they only make sense if they are enforced. Although the City claims that previous complaints for heat violations were closed, this can simply mean that the tenants did not continue to re-report the violations.

I myself had to file numerous complaints about heat violations in my building. The process is fairly simple. One goes to the New York City web-site and fills out a complaint of a heat violation (if one does not have internet access one can put through the complaint by telephone). But what happens then? Does the City initiate any action against the landlord? No—if you're lucky, the City will check back with the tenant to see if the violation has been fixed, and if not they will wait a few days and ask again. Eventually, an inspector will come to check the condition in the building, and if it verifies it, it will note it as a violation.

If the case finally comes to court (a process that can take months), the tenant can bring witnesses. In one case in which I was involved, four tenants in our building of 20 apartments appeared in court. The judge simply asked the

landlord's lawyer whether he would provide sufficient heat, and after the lawyer contacted the landlord he finally signed a meaningless statement saying that he would provide heat as required by law. That was the end of it – no fine, not even an acknowledgement that the landlord had violated the heat regulations!

This should make it clear: one can have all the regulations one wants, which look beautiful on paper, but if there is no efficient method to enforce these regulations (including heavy fines to the landlord), these regulations are not worth the paper they are printed on.

Mayors Depend on Financing from Landlords

Of course, the mayors in New York (and other major cities) generally have strong ties to the real estate industry, which provides large campaign contributions. Former

Mayor de Blasio won his initial victory based on his description of New York as a “tale of two cities,” but ended up in bed with the real estate industry. New Mayor Eric Adams (a former police captain) never claimed to be a “progressive.” One of the people on his transition team for housing issues is Rick Gropper, owner of Camber Property Group, which is actually one of the owners of the building in the Bronx.

Only an organized tenant movement can force the City to enforce its regulations with teeth. And of course, only a socialist revolution, which would take all large residential and commercial buildings from private owners and transfer them to the socialist state, the organ of the dictatorship of the proletariat, can finally solve the problem of gentrification and provide housing at low cost to working people!

Joseph F. Hancock, Editor, Frank Goldsmith, Associate & International Editor Abdel Garcia, Assistant Editor, *Labor Today*

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XPO Logistics misclassifies, exploits drivers with independent contractor scheme designed to deny workers basic rights, benefits



LOS ANGELES — Port and rail truck drivers working for XPO Logistics across Southern California filed for an election to form a union Wednesday, setting up the first-ever National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) election involving misclassified port truck drivers.

The drivers seeking to form a union at XPO Logistics have long been misclassified as independent contractors, a legal designation that denies them basic rights and benefits including health insurance, paid sick leave, a guaranteed minimum wage and overtime pay.

Because federal labor law prohibits independent contractors from forming a union, companies like XPO purposefully misclassify workers as independent contractors to deny them that right.

In filing for union election, the XPO drivers are challenging their misclassification head on, arguing that they should be properly considered employees with the right to join together in a union.

“My fellow drivers and I are proud of the work we do every day to keep the supply chain moving and provide for our communities. Today, we’re proud to take the next step in forming a union to give us a voice on the job and fight for better pay and benefits,” said Domingo Avalos, an XPO driver at the company’s facility in Commerce. “Our company, XPO Logistics, tries to silence us by ignoring our demand for a union and by keeping us misclassified as independent contractors. But when we win our union, we will force XPO to listen — because we know together our voice is more powerful than any big corporation.”

Drivers also filed an unfair labor practice charge Wednesday alleging that XPO’s practice of misclassifying drivers as independent contractors — when, in fact, they are employees — interferes with those drivers’ right to organize and therefore violates federal labor law.

The union election comes as XPO Logistics recently agreed to pay close to \$30 million to settle two class-

action lawsuits filed on behalf of hundreds of misclassified port and rail truck drivers working at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach alleging the company paid them less than a minimum wage. Across the globe, XPO is notorious for maintaining poor working conditions, engaging in wage theft and fostering a culture of pregnancy discrimination, gender discrimination and sexual harassment. In Europe, some drivers have been forced to live out of their trucks for months on end.

Last week, XPO drivers seeking to form a union sent a letter to their employer demanding recognition of their union. XPO Logistics, a company with a long history of exploitation and union-busting, has so far failed to voluntarily recognize drivers’ demand. The unfair labor practice charges against XPO also allege that the company has violated its federally imposed duty to bargain by refusing to recognize and bargain with the union its drivers have chosen.

The XPO port and rail truck drivers seeking to form a union represent essential links in the nation’s supply chain, moving goods out of railyards, the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. Drivers based at XPO’s Commerce and San Diego facilities are seeking to join the Teamsters through Teamsters Local 848, headquartered in the greater Los Angeles area, and Teamsters Local 542, headquartered in San Diego.

“For years, XPO has led the race to the bottom we’ve seen across the trucking industry, skirting or outright ignoring the law in the name of corporate profits and shareholder dividends,” said James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. “The only way to stand up to a lawbreaking company like XPO is to bargain with the strength of a union. The Teamsters are proud to stand with brave drivers across California who are coming together to demand the respect, pay and dignity on the job they deserve.”

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About The International Brotherhood of Teamsters:

The Teamsters is America’s largest, most diverse union. The Teamsters are known as the champion of freight drivers and warehouse workers, but have organized workers in virtually every occupation imaginable, in the private

and public sector. For more than a century, the Teamsters have been a public voice for the rights and aspirations of working men and women and a key player in securing them.

Although this article is good in dealing with the struggle of an important sector of the working class, it ignores the historically backwards role of the Teamsters bureaucracy. As just one example, we should remember the attempt of Teamsters to undermine the United Farm Workers in California in the 1970s. — TMLU.

PSC Votes to End Sanctions against Cuba*

Whereas, starting in 1960, the U.S. has imposed an increasingly severe economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba, which was intensified by Donald Trump in 2017; and

Whereas, the U.S. blockade often prevents the purchase of necessary educational materials, desks, books, technology which are essential for the teaching-learning process, and even basic resources for building repairs in the schools; and

Whereas, the U.S. blockade has severely restricted collaboration on scientific and medical research that interferes with the potential of saving lives in the face of this pandemic, including Cuba's development of four vaccines against Covid-19; and

Whereas, the Professional Staff Congress is an academic union at the City University of New York, a university with the most diverse student body in the U.S., which has educational exchange and solidarity programs with Cuba, restrictions on travel and exchange harm our students and faculty, as well as U.S. and Cuban faculty and students more broadly; and

Whereas, the PSC has worked against U.S. unilateral sanctions since 2018; and

Whereas, for 29 consecutive years the General Assembly of the United Nations has voted overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution in favor of lifting the U.S. embargo against Cuba; and

Whereas, despite punishing sanctions, Cuba is a country that prioritizes education and spends 13% of its GDP on universal public education, the highest of any nation; and

Whereas, current U.S. policy undermines the solidarity that Cuba has shown with oppressed communities globally and in the U.S.; and

Whereas, Cuba is providing free medical education to low-income students in the U.S., particularly students of color in underserved communities who are unable to afford medical school; and

Whereas, Cuba has a long history of providing international medical aid and healthcare to the peoples of the world, and the Henry Reeve International Brigades were decisive in the fight against Ebola and have stepped forward in many epidemics around the world, including dengue fever, HIV/AIDS, swine flu and hepatitis; and

Whereas, since the outbreak of Covid-19, Cuba has sent 3,700 health workers in 52 international brigades to 39 countries overwhelmed by the pandemic, with requests for assistance from many more countries; and

Whereas, the pandemic has shown that international cooperation is essential for public health, and Cuba has led the way with its medical internationalism and solidarity; and

Whereas, the U.S. has consistently worked to undermine the progress demonstrated above in the educational and medical areas; and

Whereas, shortages and economic hardship caused by U.S. sanctions and the resulting social tensions are used as a pretext for intervention and regime change; and

RESOLVED, that the PSC calls on the Biden Administration and Congress to end the devastating 61-year economic, financial and commercial blockade, as well as travel restrictions on U.S. residents to Cuba and Cuban citizens to the U.S. as so many other unions have done; and

RESOLVED, that we call upon the AFT to educate and mobilize all members and students against these inhumane and unjust policies; and

RESOLVED, we call on the PSC to bring this resolution to the AFT convention, demanding that they reverse their support for U.S. sanctions against Cuba.

**PSC has 30,000 members [educators in the City University of New York]. It's a New York City local of the AFT. The resolution will be taken to the 2022 AFT Convention for ratification.*

Privatization, the Unions and Medicare Advantage

In 1955 33% of all wage and salary workers were unionized in the U.S. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics by 2020 it had steadily dropped to 10.8%. The purging of militant left wing union leaders in the 1950's was an important factor. Another major factor has been the outsourcing of industrial production to low wage countries like China and Bangladesh . This policy has been supported by both the Democratic and Republican Parties, the political instruments of the ruling Wall Street oligarchy.

Public sector unions representing state and municipal workers such as teachers and hospital workers account for around 35% these employees but there is a growing attack on these workers as well. Particularly vulnerable are public sector retirees who can't strike because they are not working. Many states have "right to work" laws which make it illegal for public sector unions to strike such as the Taylor Law in NYS, supposedly a bastion of public sector unions. Why aren't unions trying to repeal it?

Privatization of the public sector of the economy such as the public schools is growing. Charter schools and Medicare are examples. This is supported by sell out union leaders. The Municipal Labor Committee which is controlled by these union leaders has placed all NYC and NYS retirees under the privatized Medicare Advantage plan without any input from the rank and file. Teachers are penalized if they want to remain in the former Medicare plan. The Medicare Advantage Plus" (MAP) plan does offer all the coverage of the former regular Medicare which was seriously inadequate as it did not cover dental, hearing and eye problems – three medical problems most seniors suffer from.

But who really benefits from privatizing the public sector? The governments of NYC and NYS benefit because they no longer have to contribute to Medicare thus saving \$600 million annually. The unions leaders benefit because they can include Medical benefits in their contract negotiations and avoid improving other benefits. And of course, the insurance companies benefit. But since the bottom line of a privatized Medical plan is to make a sizable profit, what would stop those who control MAP from raising the premiums and deductibles and reducing the coverage in the future?

What U.S. unions should be pushing is a national socialized single payer health system in which everyone is covered for all medical problems and is free of charge. It would be funded by the general tax base. The ultra-rich would have to pay higher taxes or the military budget could be reduced. Many countries already have this system such as Canada and Europe. Actually we already have a free medical system that covers all medical problems in the U.S. It is run by the Veterans Administration. It is no wonder that including profit seeking insurance companies results in a more expensive and inadequate health care for Americans.

Tom Siracuse

Secretary of the Manhattan Green Local of the Green Party

This is the only thing we have seen on this by any left group. Although more work needs to be done on this, it is a very good start – TMLU.

A Year of the Biden Administration in the Midst of Serious Conflicts



Joe Biden has concluded his first year in office under complex conditions. There are more people in the US who disapprove of his work than in favor, 56% versus 43%. Right now, only 28% of people in the US want Biden to run for re-election in 2024, including 48% of Democrats.

He promised changes in international policy and a progressive social policy on the domestic level, but the results of the latter have not been seen. On the international level, Biden has taken different paths from those of Donald Trump in some respects, although the purposes are the same: to affirm the US as the main imperialist power on the planet.

To that end, the White House has striven to mend its relations and agreements with its "traditional allies" of the European Union and NATO, mainly in order to confront the Russia-China bloc, although these agreements do not eliminate the inter-imperialist contradictions among the Western powers. The results can be seen, the conflicts, the bitter and threatening declarations between the US, Russia and China are becoming more frequent and the tones

higher; moreover, there are winds of war in some parts of the planet as a result of the sharpening of these contradictions.

In the confrontation with China, Biden has paid more attention to Latin America, historically considered as its backyard, since, in recent years, the region has become a destination for investments and loans [in billions] from China. Biden has set out to regain its position.

The problems of the U.S. economy are not simple; it is facing an inflation of 7%, the highest in recent years, which is causing discontent among the population and concern in high financial circles.

The United States is today, and continues to be, the scene of an acute political confrontation between forces that, in essence, do not differ in terms of their purposes of strengthening the economic, political and military power of that country, to dominate the world, but differ in the mechanism of how to achieve it. Imperialism has not lost its nature.

Neither King Nor Subjects! The Legacy of Spain: 500 Years of Genocide, Slavery, Racism and Colonialism

Communist Workers
and Students for
Social Change



POR UN MUNDO LIBRE DE EXPLOTACIÓN

**NO AL RACISMO, FASCISMO,
MACHISMO, CAPITALISMO,
COLONIALISMO**

¡LA CLASE OBRERA NO TIENE FRONTERAS!

Trabajadoras y Estudiantes Comunistas por el Cambio Social



Communist Workers and Students for Social Change repudiates the presence of the King of Spain and his legacy of violence, racism, genocide and extermination of the peoples of the Americas and the Caribbean, which led to the slavery of two continents: Africa and the Americas. In the name of civilizing they destroyed ancient civilizations, in the name of a "good god", they murdered and colonized millions of indigenous people, in search of gold and spices, expand their domains and imposed their Catholic religion.

After committing genocide against the indigenous people, they were forced to find a substitute for indigenous labor, using African slave labor, promoting the Eurocentric ideology of racist supremacy, although race had not previously been recognized as the basis of slavery. It was the representative of God on Earth, Bartolomé de las Casas, the first ordained priest in the Americas, who proposed African slavery, since according to him, the Taino indigenous people were more assimilable to Christianity than the Africans.

We communists denounce the "visit" to Puerto Rico of the King of Spain, Felipe VI. Like the statues of Juan Ponce de León, Christopher Columbus and other symbols of Spain's rule in Puerto Rico and the Americas, they symbolize for us the legacy that we are still experiencing of colonization, wage slavery, racism and violence at the hands of Spain for 400 years and of the United States for the last 124 years. One should remember that Puerto Rico was handed over by Spain to U.S. imperialism as spoils of war in 1898 in the Spanish-American War.

The presence of the King of Spain is an anachronism. The French, bourgeois democratic Revolution was against monarchical parasitism. The colonial mentality of our politicians and their analysts is reflected in paying homage to a representative of Spain who comes to that position by inheritance, who was not even elected by bourgeois democratic processes.

The demolition of the statue of Juan Ponce de León is a symbolic act against everything that the "visit" of the King of Spain represents. We must remember that we are a Country/Nation, (although the pitiyanquis [Yankee-lovers] of the government deny it) forged by the three cultures, indigenous, Spanish and African, which makes us Boricuas. And anyone who feels Puerto Rican should be outraged by the presence of the King, who represents chauvinism and the patriarchal system that did not exist before the arrival of the Europeans. As part of our struggle we must eliminate the symbols of exploitation, colonialism, racism and genocide. Let us remove the statues of the Spanish colonizers and the sculptures of the Presidents of the United States. Let us rename our buildings and avenues. Roosevelt Avenue should be renamed Betances Avenue, the Ferré Express should be the Corretjer Express. When in the United States they tear down the statues and monuments that glorify the Confederates who defended slavery and racism, in Puerto Rico the lackeys of the Yankee government defend and restore monuments that symbolize oppression, colonialism and slavery, such as the statue of Juan Ponce de León torn down by a group of citizens in protest at the arrival of the so-called King of Spain.

It is a bad joke that the mayor of San Juan and the Governor are celebrating 500 years of the city when their own masters do not recognize the more than 100-year history of our country.

We are still experiencing the legacy of capitalist-colonial slavery thanks to the colonialism of the Spanish kingdom / United States. We call on the working people, men and women of Puerto Rico to protest this visit, to show their indignation and repudiation of King Felipe VI and what his legacy of misery and exploitation represents.

Down with the Spanish crown! Down with capitalism!
Long live proletarian internationalism! Long live Communism! The working class has no borders!

Death to fascism!



Obrador's Popularity



Based on Marxism-Leninism, we communists study reality and take it not as we would like it to be, but as it really is, in order to understand and transform it. Thus, it is evident that López Obrador's popularity is still dominant among broad sectors of the masses, so it is important to identify the elements of his hegemony for the ideological struggle and our best development in the street struggle.

The simplistic condemnations of the right, characterizing it as left-wing populism, do not say much. But in AMLO his supposedly anti-neoliberal rhetoric is clear, condemning political icons such as Salinas de Gortari while maintaining and expanding his alliances with Slim [Mexican telecoms magnate, ranked for several years as the richest person in the world – TMLU], the Azcárraga family [Mexican media dynasty, owner of Televisa – TMLU] and other groups that rose precisely in those periods. That is, on the one hand he attacks some old political elites but in fact those same economic interests dictate his economic policy.

Another element of his ideological domination is the army of bots [a software application that runs automated tasks over the Internet], a maneuver evidenced even by some of his supporters. These electronic forces operate with a direct line to sectors of the government of the 4T [4th Transformation – AMLO's program to do away with

abuses of privilege – TMLU] and others on their own initiative, in order to saturate the networks, to discredit legitimate demands and maintain control of the Obradorist phraseology. Added to this, faithful to his PRI origin, López Obrador traces elements of revolutionary nationalism, which in the ideology of many older people represented the construction of a progressive national identity.

Undoubtedly, social programs, which although they are essentially based on cronyism because they do not get to the bottom of the problems, give it the capacity for mobilization and mass control. At the same time, with these programs on the surface, he alleviates some economic needs and keeps right-wing corporate groups at bay, while boycotting left-wing social organization.

On the other hand, the attacks of the fascist right make him a victim, reinforcing his role as personification of the hope for change for many, idealizing his individuality and blaming subordinates for the lack of solution to both immediate economic needs and popular reforms.

In conclusion: In this government there are no elements of real policy change, in essence it is a neoliberal government serving a faction of the financial oligarchy. But gradually many sectors are becoming clear of the substance of its anti-worker policy, of handing over natural resources to transnational projects, of subordination to imperialism and disdain for social struggles.

Encontramos este breve artículo de Lenin, escrito poco después de la revolución de 1905, por accidente. Aunque puede haber cambios en la interpretación de esto en años posteriores, nos parece muy relevante para la situación en los países capitalistas, antes de la revolución. Desafortunadamente, la mayoría de los partidos que se consideran marxistas, o incluso marxista-leninistas, no quieren enfrentarse a las críticas. Este es un problema que debemos superar si queremos construir un partido marxista-leninista genuino con raíces reales en la clase trabajadora.

Lenin: Libertad de crítica y unidad de acción*

Ha llegado a la Redacción la siguiente hoja volante, firmada por el CC del POSDR:

"En vista de que algunas organizaciones del Partido han planteado el problema de *los límites de la libertad de crítica de los acuerdos de los congresos del Partido*, el Comité Central, considerando que los intereses del proletariado de Rusia han exigido siempre la mayor unidad en la táctica del POSDR y de que ahora *esa unidad de acción política* de los distintos sectores de nuestro Partido es más necesaria que nunca, opina:

- 1) que en la prensa y en las reuniones del Partido todos deben gozar de *plena libertad* para expresar su opinión personal y defender sus puntos de vista particulares;
- 2) que en las reuniones políticas públicas los miembros del Partido no deben realizar ninguna *agitación* que esté en contradicción con las resoluciones del Congreso;
- 3) que en *tales* reuniones ningún miembro del Partido debe *exhortar a realizar acciones que contradigan las resoluciones del Congreso* ni proponer resoluciones que discrepen de las del Congreso". (Toda la cursiva es nuestra.)

Si se analiza el fondo de esta resolución, se advertirá una serie de cosas raras. La resolución dice que "en las reuniones del Partido" se concede "plena libertad" para expresar opiniones personales y para criticar (§ 1), pero en las "reuniones públicas" (§ 2) "ningún miembro del Partido debe exhortar a realizar acciones que contradigan las resoluciones del Congreso". Reflexiónese en lo que significa todo esto: ¿en las reuniones del Partido sus miembros *tienen el derecho* de exhortar a realizar acciones que contradigan las resoluciones del Congreso; pero en las reuniones públicas *no* se les "concede" plena libertad para "expresar su opinión personal"!!

Los autores de la resolución han interpretado de manera completamente errónea la relación entre *la libertad de crítica* dentro del Partido y *la unidad de acción* del Partido. La crítica, dentro de los límites de las bases del programa del Partido, debe ser absolutamente libre (recordemos al menos el discurso que Plejánov pronunció al respecto en el II Congreso del POSDR) y no sólo en las reuniones del Partido, sino también en las reuniones públicas. No es posible prohibir tal crítica o tal "agitación" (ya que no se puede separar la crítica de la agitación). La acción política del Partido debe ser una. No deben tolerarse "exhortaciones" algunas que atenten a la unidad de determinadas acciones ni en las reuniones públicas, ni en las reuniones del Partido, ni en la prensa del Partido.

Es evidente que el CC ha definido la libertad de crítica de una manera errónea y demasiado estrecha, y la unidad de acción, de una manera también errónea, pero demasiado amplia.

Veamos un ejemplo. El Congreso resolvió participar en las elecciones a la Duma. Las elecciones son una acción muy concreta. Durante la campaña electoral (por ejemplo, en estos momentos en Bakú) no se debe tolerar *en ninguna parte* a los miembros del Partido *ningún tipo* de exhortación a *abstenerse de votar*. Durante ese período tampoco es admisible la "crítica" de la resolución sobre las elecciones, porque en la práctica eso haría peligrar el éxito de la agitación electoral. Por el contrario, en *un momento* en que las elecciones todavía no han sido fijadas, puede tolerarse que los miembros del Partido *critiquen en todas partes* la resolución de participar en ellas. Es claro que la aplicación de este principio también provocará algunas veces discusiones y malentendidos; pero *sólo* basándonos en este principio, *precisamente* en este principio, se podrán dirimir *todos* los litigios y malentendidos sin desdoro para el Partido. En cambio, la resolución del CC crea algo imposible.

La resolución del CC es errónea en el fondo y *está en contradicción con los Estatutos del Partido*. El principio del centralismo democrático y de la autonomía de las instituciones locales significa precisamente que *la libertad de crítica* es total y general, puesto que con ello no se rompe la unidad en *ninguna acción concreta*, y

que no se puede tolerar *ninguna* crítica que tienda a debilitar u obstaculizar *la unidad* de acción decidida por el Partido.

Consideramos que es un grave error del CC publicar una resolución sobre un problema de tanta importancia sin haberse discutido antes en la prensa y las organizaciones del Partido; esa discusión le habría ayudado a evitar los errores que hemos señalado.

Llamamos a todas las organizaciones del Partido a discutir ahora la resolución del CC y expresar concretamente la actitud ante ella.

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Lenin, *Obras Completas*, Tomo 13., págs. 137-139, Editorial Progreso, Moscú, 1982.

* El 11 (24) de mayo de 1906 se realizó una reunión de obreros socialdemócratas del distrito Moskovski de Petersburgo, dedicada a los resultados del IV Congreso (de Unificación) del POSDR. Lenin presentó el informe por los bolcheviques, y F. I. Dan por los mencheviques. Poco antes de finalizar la reunión se produjo una polémica entre bolcheviques y mencheviques acerca de si era admisible o no que se criticaran las decisiones del Congreso de Unificación en la prensa y en las reuniones públicas. Los mencheviques, en su afán de limitar la lucha ideológica en tomo a las decisiones del Congreso, manifestaron que la crítica sólo era admisible en las reuniones de partido y propusieron una resolución en ese sentido. Lenin presentó una enmienda, que señalaba que todas las decisiones del Congreso debían ser discutidas no sólo en las reuniones de partido, sino también "en las páginas de los periódicos socialdemócratas y en las asambleas populares". La resolución con la enmienda de Lenin fue aprobada por abrumadora mayoría de votos. En respuesta a la enmienda, el Comité Central menchevique aprobó una resolución, que Lenin critica en el presente artículo.-

Dos películas sobre el intento de revolución alemana de 1918

La primera es una película relativamente desconocida (al menos en Occidente) de 1972 de la República Democrática Alemana llamada *In Spite of Everything 1972 (Trotz Alledem)*. Se centra en el papel de Karl Liebknecht. El enlace de YouTube es:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wSx_U9qmug. Está en alemán con subtítulos en inglés.

La segunda es la película de 1986 de Margarethe von Trotta sobre Rosa Luxemburgo, disponible en: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LofL6gntN6U>. Esto es en alemán con subtítulos en español.

Joseph F. Hancock, Editor Frank Goldsmith, Editor Asociado e Internacional Abdel García, Editor Asistente, El Trabajo Diario

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XPO Logistics clasifica erróneamente y explota a los conductores con un esquema de contratista independiente diseñado para negar a los trabajadores derechos y beneficios básicos



Los conductores de camiones portuarios y ferroviarios que trabajan para XPO Logistics en el sur de California presentaron el miércoles una solicitud para formar un sindicato, estableciendo la primera elección de la Junta Nacional de Relaciones Laborales (NLRB) que involucra a conductores de camiones portuarios mal clasificados.

Los conductores que buscan formar un sindicato en XPO Logistics han sido clasificados erróneamente como contratistas independientes, una designación legal que les niega derechos y beneficios básicos como el seguro médico, la baja por enfermedad pagada, un salario mínimo garantizado y el pago de horas extras.

Dado que la legislación laboral federal prohíbe a los contratistas independientes formar un sindicato, empresas como XPO clasifican erróneamente a los trabajadores como contratistas independientes para negarles ese derecho.

Al solicitar la elección del sindicato, los conductores de XPO están desafiando su clasificación errónea, argumentando que deberían ser considerados correctamente como empleados con derecho a unirse en un sindicato.

"Mis compañeros conductores y yo estamos orgullosos del trabajo que hacemos cada día para mantener la cadena de suministro en movimiento y proveer a nuestras comunidades. Hoy, estamos

orgullosos de dar el siguiente paso para formar un sindicato que nos dé voz en el trabajo y luche por mejores salarios y beneficios", dijo Domingo Avalos, un conductor de XPO en las instalaciones de la compañía en Commerce. "Nuestra empresa, XPO Logistics, intenta silenciarnos ignorando nuestra demanda de un sindicato y manteniéndonos mal clasificados como contratistas independientes. Pero cuando consigamos nuestro sindicato, obligaremos a XPO a escuchar, porque sabemos que juntos nuestra voz es más poderosa que la de cualquier gran empresa."

Los conductores también presentaron el miércoles una acusación de práctica laboral injusta alegando que la práctica de XPO de clasificar erróneamente a los conductores como contratistas independientes - cuando, en realidad, son empleados - interfiere con el derecho de esos conductores a organizarse y, por lo tanto, viola la ley laboral federal.

La elección del sindicato se produce cuando XPO Logistics acordó recientemente pagar cerca de 30 millones de dólares para resolver dos demandas colectivas presentadas en nombre de cientos de conductores de camiones portuarios y ferroviarios mal clasificados que trabajan en los puertos de Los Ángeles y Long Beach, alegando que la empresa les pagaba menos del salario mínimo. En todo el mundo, XPO es conocida por mantener unas condiciones de trabajo deficientes, por participar en el robo de salarios y por fomentar una cultura de discriminación por embarazo, discriminación de género y acoso sexual. En Europa, algunos conductores se han visto obligados a vivir en sus camiones durante meses.

La semana pasada, los conductores de XPO que querían formar un sindicato enviaron una carta a su

empresa exigiendo el reconocimiento de su sindicato. XPO Logistics, una empresa con un largo historial de explotación y de destrucción de sindicatos, no ha reconocido hasta ahora voluntariamente la demanda de los conductores. Los cargos por prácticas laborales injustas contra XPO también alegan que la empresa ha violado su obligación de negociar, impuesta por el gobierno federal, al negarse a reconocer y negociar con el sindicato que sus conductores han elegido.

Los conductores de camiones portuarios y ferroviarios de XPO que pretenden formar un sindicato representan eslabones esenciales de la cadena de suministro del país, moviendo mercancías desde los astilleros, el puerto de Los Ángeles y el puerto de Long Beach. Los conductores con base en las instalaciones de XPO en Commerce y San Diego buscan unirse a los Teamsters a través del Local 848 de los Teamsters, con sede en el área de Los Ángeles, y el Local 542 de los Teamsters, con sede en San Diego.

"Durante años, XPO ha liderado la carrera hacia el fondo que hemos visto en todo el sector del transporte por carretera, eludiendo o directamente ignorando la ley en nombre de los beneficios empresariales y los dividendos para los accionistas", dijo James P. Hoffa, Presidente General de la Hermandad Internacional de Camioneros. "La única manera de enfrentarse a una empresa que infringe la ley como XPO es negociar con la fuerza de un sindicato. Los Teamsters se enorgullecen de apoyar a los valientes conductores de toda California que se están uniendo para exigir el respeto, el salario y la dignidad en el trabajo que merecen."

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Sobre la Hermandad Internacional de Camioneros:

Los Teamsters son el sindicato más grande y diverso de Estados Unidos. Los Teamsters son conocidos por ser los campeones de los conductores de mercancías y de los trabajadores de los almacenes, pero han organizado a los trabajadores de prácticamente

todas las ocupaciones imaginables, tanto en el sector privado como en el público. Durante más de un siglo, los Teamsters han sido la voz pública de los derechos y las aspiraciones de los trabajadores y trabajadoras y un actor clave para garantizarlos.

Este artículo trata correctamente de la lucha en un sector importante de la clase trabajadora, pero ignora el papel histórico retrógrado de la burocracia de los Teamsters. Debemos recordar, por ejemplo, el intento de Teamsters de socavar a los United Farm Workers (Unión de Campesinos) en California en los 1970s. – TMLU.

Resolución del CPS en oposición a las sanciones de Estados Unidos a Cuba*

Cuando, a partir de 1960, Estados Unidos ha impuesto un embargo económico, comercial y financiero cada vez más severo a Cuba, que fue intensificado por Donald Trump en 2017; y

Donde, el bloqueo de Estados Unidos a menudo impide la compra de materiales educativos necesarios, pupitres, libros, tecnología que son esenciales para el proceso de enseñanza-aprendizaje, e incluso recursos básicos para la reparación de edificios en las escuelas; y

Donde, el bloqueo estadounidense ha restringido se veramente la colaboración en la investigación científica y médica que interfiere con el potencial de salvar vidas frente a esta pandemia, incluyendo el desarrollo por parte de Cuba de cuatro vacunas contra el Covid-19; y

Considerando que el Congreso de Personal Profesional es un sindicato académico de la Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York, una universidad con el cuerpo estudiantil más diverso de los Estados Unidos, que tiene programas de intercambio educativo y de solidaridad con Cuba, las restricciones a los viajes e intercambios perjudican a nuestros estudiantes y profesores, así como a los profesores y estudiantes estadounidenses y cubanos en general; y

Cuando, el CPS ha trabajado contra las sanciones unilaterales de Estados Unidos desde 2018; y

Donde, durante 29 años consecutivos, la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas ha votado abrumadoramente para adoptar una resolución a favor del levantamiento del embargo de Estados Unidos contra Cuba; y

Donde, a pesar de las sanciones punitivas, Cuba es un país que prioriza la educación y gasta el 13% de su PIB en educación pública universal, el más alto de cualquier nación; y

Donde, la política actual de los Estados Unidos socava la solidaridad que Cuba ha mostrado con las comunidades oprimidas a nivel mundial y en los Estados Unidos; y

Que Cuba está proporcionando educación médica gratuita a estudiantes de bajos ingresos en los

EE.UU., en particular a los estudiantes de color en las comunidades desatendidas que no pueden pagar la escuela de medicina.

Donde, Cuba tiene una larga historia de proporcionar ayuda médica internacional y asistencia sanitaria a los pueblos del mundo, y las Brigadas Internacionales Henry Reeve fueron decisivas en la lucha contra el Ébola y han dado un paso adelante en muchas epidemias en todo el mundo, incluyendo el dengue, el VIH/SIDA, la gripe porcina y la hepatitis; y

Que, desde el estallido del Covid-19, Cuba ha enviado 3.700 trabajadores de la salud en 52 brigadas internacionales a 39 países abrumados por la pandemia, con solicitudes de asistencia de muchos más países; y

Que la pandemia ha demostrado que la cooperación internacional es esencial para la salud pública, y que Cuba ha liderado el camino con su internacionalismo médico y su solidaridad.

Que los Estados Unidos han trabajado constantemente para socavar el progreso demostrado en las áreas educativas y médicas; y

Siendo que la escasez y las dificultades económicas causadas por las sanciones de Estados Unidos y las tensiones sociales resultantes se utilizan como pretexto para la intervención y el cambio de régimen; y

RESUELVE, que el CPS hace un llamamiento a la Administración Biden y al Congreso para que pongan fin al devastador bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial de 61 años, así como a las restricciones de viaje de los residentes estadounidenses a Cuba y de los ciudadanos cubanos a Estados Unidos, como han hecho tantos otros sindicatos; y

RESOLVEMOS, que hacemos un llamado a la AFT para que eduque y movilice a todos los miembros y estudiantes en contra de estas políticas inhumanas e injustas; y

Se resuelve que pedimos al PSC que lleve esta resolución a la convención de la AFT, exigiendo que reviertan su apoyo a las sanciones de Estados Unidos contra Cuba.

**El CPS [Congreso de Personal Profesional – el Sindicato de los educadores en la Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York] tiene 30.000 miembros. Es un local de la AFT en Nueva York. La resolución se llevará a la Convención de la AFT de 2022 para su ratificación.*

Del Partido Comunista de España (marxista-leninista)

<https://www.pceml.info/actual/index.php/actualidad/noticias/1008-ucrania-ni-un-euro-para-guerras-ajenas>

Ucrania: ¡Ni un euro para guerras ajenas!

Redacción

QUE NO TE ENGAÑEN: en la crisis actual entre la



Rusia de Putin y Ucrania, no están en juego los intereses de los respectivos pueblos. Las amenazas de la OTAN de intervenir en el conflicto no pretenden tampoco salvaguardar los intereses de los pueblos europeos, sino reforzar la posición hegemónica de EEUU entre las potencias imperialistas. Este conflicto forma parte de la pelea entre Rusia, China, EEUU y la UE por imponer los intereses de sus respectivas oligarquías financieras en un periodo de crisis del imperialismo.

El Gobierno de coalición español, que se define a sí mismo como "el más progresista de la historia", ha decidido implicarnos en un conflicto ajeno que puede traer graves consecuencias para la seguridad de nuestro país.

Los lamentos de plañidera de los ministros de UP en el Consejo de Ministros o ante las cámaras de televisión no son más que otra excusa para encubrir su actitud de convidados de piedra cuando están en juego los intereses del capital financiero. Los mismos que consensuan la reforma laboral con la gran patronal, agachan la cabeza escudándose en su socio de coalición.

Los ministros de UP deben abandonar un Gobierno que decide actuar en otro país, siguiendo

Hoy como siempre:

**¡Ni guerra entre pueblos,
Ni paz entre clases!
¡OTAN no, bases fuera!**

órdenes de una potencia y sabiendo que con ello crea una situación de inseguridad al país que representa.

No es el único lugar en el que el ejército español participa en tareas de apoyo a los intereses imperialistas: hoy, unos 3000 militares españoles participan en 17 misiones en el extranjero bajo mando de otra potencia, sin que la soberanía española esté comprometida en ellas.

No es tampoco la primera vez que el ejército español se ve implicado en la agresión a otro pueblo. En 2011 participó en el conflicto de Libia, hoy dividida en dos partes controladas por Rusia y EEUU respectivamente. No debemos olvidar que el exgeneral Julio Rodríguez, exjefe del Estado Mayor de la Defensa, asesor militar del presidente del Gobierno y máximo responsable operativo de las Fuerzas Armadas españolas en la intervención de la OTAN en Libia, hoy es dirigente de Podemos.

La retirada de las fuerzas imperialistas de Afganistán en agosto pasado, tras la caída del gobierno títere de EEUU, negociada con los talibanes entrenados y armados militarmente y defendidos políticamente por las potencias reaccionarias del Golfo (Dubái, Arabia Saudí, Qatar, etc.), fue el último y vergonzoso ejemplo de la participación del ejército español en conflictos ajenos.

Con su actitud, el Gobierno prueba una vez más que incumple las tres condiciones que fijó en el referéndum de marzo de 1986 (celebrado con una abstención de más del 40%), demostrando una vez más su nulo compromiso con la verdad y con la seguridad de nuestro país. Esas condiciones significaban que 1) España no se incorporaría a la estructura militar integrada de la OTAN; 2) se prohibía instalar, almacenar o introducir armamento nuclear en territorio español y 3) se reduciría progresivamente la presencia militar de EEUU en España.

Un año del gobierno de Biden en medio de graves conflictos



Joe Biden concluye su primer año de gestión en condiciones complejas. Hay más estadounidenses que desaprueban su labor que a favor, un 56% frente a un 43%. En este momento, apenas el 28% de los estadounidenses quieren que Biden se presente a la reelección en 2024, incluidos el 48% de los demócratas.

Prometió cambios en la política internacional y una política social progresista en el plano interno, pero los resultados de esta última no se ven. En el plano internacional, Biden ha tomado caminos distintos a los andados por Donald Trump, en algunos aspectos, aunque los propósitos sean los mismos: afirmar a los EEUU como la principal potencia imperialista del planeta.

Para ese propósito, la Casa Blanca se ha esforzado por recuperar las relaciones y los acuerdos con sus «aliados tradicionales» de la Unión Europea y la OTAN, principalmente, para hacer frente al bloque Rusia-China, aunque esos acuerdos no eliminen las contradicciones interimperialistas en las potencias de occidente. Los resultados están a la vista, los conflictos, las declaraciones agrias y amenazantes entre

EEUU, Rusia y China cada vez son más frecuentes y los tonos más elevados, es más, hay vientos de guerra en algunos lugares del planeta por efecto de la agudización de esas contradicciones.

En la confrontación con China, Biden ha puesto más atención a América Latina, históricamente considerado como su patio trasero, pues, la región se convirtió en los últimos años, en destino de millonarias inversiones y préstamos provenientes de Chinas. Biden se ha propuesto recuperar espacios.

Los problemas de la economía norteamericana no son sencillos; enfrenta una inflación del 7%, la más elevada en los últimos años, que provoca descontento en la población y preocupación en los altos círculos financieros.

EEUU es hoy —continúa siendo— escenario de una aguda confrontación política, entre fuerzas que, en esencia, no se diferencian en cuanto a sus propósitos de fortalecer el poderío económico, político y militar de esa potencia, para dominar el mundo, sino en el mecanismo de cómo lograrlo. El imperialismo no pierde su naturaleza.

¡Ni reyes, ni súbditos! El legado de España: 500 años de genocidio, esclavitud, racismo y colonialismo



Trabajadores y Estudiantes Comunistas por el Cambio Social repudia la presencia del Rey de España y su legado de violencia, racismo, genocidio y exterminio para los pueblos de América y El Caribe, que indujo la esclavitud de dos continentes: África y América. En el nombre de civilizar destruyeron civilizaciones milenarias, en el nombre de un “dios bueno”, asesinaron y colonizaron a millones de aborígenes, en la búsqueda de oro y especias, expandir sus dominios e implantar su religión Católica.

Luego de cometer genocidio contra los aborígenes, se vieron obligados a buscar un sustituto a la mano de obra indígena con mano de obra esclava africana, promoviendo la ideología eurocéntrica de supremacía racista, lo cual antes no se había reconocido a la esclavitud en base a raza. Fue por virtud de su representante de Dios en la Tierra, Bartolomé de las Casas, el primer sacerdote ordenado en América, quien propuso la esclavitud africana, ya que según él, los aborígenes taínos eran más asimilables al cristianismo que los africanos.

Los comunistas denunciaremos la “visita” a Puerto Rico del Rey de España, Felipe VI. Al igual que las estatuas de Juan Ponce de León, Cristóbal Colón y otros símbolos del dominio de España en Puerto Rico y América, simbolizan para nosotros el legado que aún vivimos de colonización, esclavitud asalariada, racismo y violencia a manos de España durante 400 años y de Estados Unidos los últimos 124 años. Cabe recordar que Puerto Rico fue entregado por España al imperialismo norteamericano como botín de guerra en el 1898 en la Guerra Hispanoamericana.

La presencia del Rey de España es un anacronismo. La Revolución Francesa, democrática burguesa, fue en contra del parasitismo monárquico. La

mentalidad colonial de nuestros políticos y sus analistas se refleja al rendir pleitesías a un representante de España quien llega a esa posición por herencia, y ni siquiera fue electo por procesos democráticos burgueses.

El derribamiento de la estatua de Juan Ponce de León es un acto simbólico contra todo lo que representa la “visita” del Rey de España. Debemos recordar que somos un País/Nación, (aunque los pitiyanquis del gobierno lo nieguen) forjado por las tres culturas, indígena, española y africana, lo que nos hace ser boricuas. Y todo aquel que se sienta puertorriqueño debe sentirse indignado con la presencia del Rey, que representa el chauvinismo y el sistema patriarcal que no existía antes de la llegada de los europeos. Como parte de nuestra lucha debemos eliminar los símbolos de la explotación, el colonialismo, el racismo y el genocidio. Eliminemos las estatuas de los colonizadores españoles y las esculturas de los Presidentes de EEUU. Renombremos nuestros edificios y avenidas. En lugar de la Avenida Roosevelt que se nombre como la Avenida Betances, que el expreso Ferré sea el Expreso Corretjer. Cuando en EU se llevan a cabo derrumbes de estatuas y monumentos que glorifican a los confederados que defendían la esclavitud y el racismo, en Puerto Rico los lacayos del gobierno gringo defienden y restauran monumentos que simbolizan la opresión, el colonialismo y la esclavitud, como la estatua de Juan Ponce de León derrumbada por un grupo de ciudadanos en protesta por la llegada del llamado Rey de España.

Es una burla que el alcalde de San Juan y el Gobernador celebren los quinientos años de la ciudad cuando sus propios amos no reconocen la historia más que centenario de nuestro país.

Aún vivimos el legado de la esclavitud colonial-capitalista gracias al reino español / colonialismo norteamericano. Hacemos un llamado al pueblo trabajador, hombre y mujer puertorriqueños a protestar esta visita, a manifestar la indignación y repudio al Rey Felipe VI y lo que representa su legado uno de miseria y explotación ¡Gracias por nada! ¡Abajo la corona española! ¡Abajo el capitalismo! ¡Viva el internacionalismo proletario! ¡Que viva el Comunismo! ¡La clase obrera no tiene fronteras!

¡Muerte al fascismo!



La popularidad de Obrador



Desde el marxismo-leninismo, los comunistas estudiamos la realidad y la asumimos no como quisiéramos que fuera, sino como realmente es, con el propósito de comprenderla y transformarla. Así, es evidente que la popularidad de López Obrador se impone aún entre amplios sectores de masas, por lo que es importante identificar los elementos de su hegemonía para la lucha ideológica y nuestro mejor desarrollo en la lucha callejera.

Las condenas simplonas de la derecha caracterizándolo como populismo de izquierda no dicen mucho. Pero en AMLO es clara su retórica pretendidamente antineoliberal, condenando íconos políticos como Salinas de Gortari mientras mantiene y amplía sus alianzas con los Slim, los Azcárraga y otros grupos que se encumbraron precisamente en esos periodos. Es decir, por una parte ataca a algunas viejas élites políticas pero de hecho esos mismos intereses económicos le dictan la política económica.

Otro elemento de su dominación ideológica es el ejército de bots, maniobra evidenciada incluso por algunos de sus simpatizantes. Estos contingentes electrónicos operan con línea directa de sectores del gobierno de la 4T y otros por iniciativa propia, para la saturación en las redes, desprestigiar denuncias legítimas y mantener el control de la fraseología obradorista. Sumado a esto, fiel a su origen priísta López

Obrador remonta elementos del nacionalismo revolucionario, que en la ideología de muchas personas mayores representaba la construcción de una identidad nacional progresista.

Sin duda también los programas sociales, -que si bien son esencialmente clientelares porque no van al fondo de los problemas-, le aportan capacidad de movilización y control de masas. A la vez, con estos programas en la superficie alivia algunas necesidades económicas y mantiene a raya a grupos corporativos de derecha, mientras boicotea la organización social reivindicativa de izquierda.

Por otro lado, los ataques de la derecha fascista lo convierten en víctima, reforzando su papel de personificación de esperanza de cambio para muchos, idealizando su individualidad y culpando a los subordinados de la falta de solución tanto de necesidades económicas inmediatas como de reformas populares.

Concluyendo. En este gobierno no hay elementos de verdadero cambio de política, en esencia es un gobierno neoliberal que sirve a una facción de la oligarquía financiera. Pero gradualmente muchos sectores van teniendo claridad del fondo de su política anti obrera, de entrega de recursos naturales a los proyectos transnacionales, de subordinación al imperialismo y desdén frente a las luchas sociales.