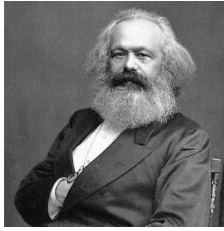


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



A Journal of Discussion and Debate



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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 June, 2022. Material should be sent in by the end of May.

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The U.S. Has No Right to Give Lessons to Putin on Invasions

The U.S. has invaded scores of countries just since World War II. It was only last year that it was forced to withdraw after its 20-year invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. It invaded and occupied Iraq, leading to immense destruction in that country. It supports Saudi Arabia in its bombing of Yemen, Israel in its occupation of Palestinian territory and India in its occupation of Kashmir. It has carried out countless coups in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. US and NATO carried out an 89-day bombing of Yugoslavia. NATO's bombing of Libya and the overthrow of Gaddafi led to the introduction of slavery in that country. The US wars in Vietnam and Korea lead to the deaths of millions in those countries. And if we go further back, the US repeatedly occupied Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and repeatedly invaded Mexico. The US war with Spain in 1898 led to the occupation of the Philippines, with millions killed, and the continued colonization of Puerto Rico, Guam and Samoa. Yet Biden wants to attack Putin for his invasion of Ukraine.

That having been said, this is no longer a unipolar world, where the US can control everything. Its main rivals are Russia and China. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is part of an inter-imperialist rivalry that can lead to World War III.

In this rivalry, all progressive forces in the US must concentrate our fire against our own ruling class. It was the US that orchestrated the 2014 coup that established a nationalist, neo-fascist regime in Ukraine. Victoria Nuland, then Assistant Secretary of State, boasted that the US spent \$5 billion dollars to instigate the coup. This regime has spent eight years bombarding the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, killing some 14,000 people there.

The US is also using the war to strengthen its hold over its European allies, particularly Germany. And Putin's invasion of Ukraine has given Germany an excuse to not open the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. This will increase oil and gas prices not only for people in Europe, but for us in the US as well – oil is already selling for over \$4 a gallon.

Putin's invasion will push the people of the Ukraine further into the arms of the neo-fascist regime in Kiev, and push the people of the Donbass into the arms of Putin.

Down with the Inter-Imperialist War!

No Support to the Neo-Fascist Ukrainian Government!

Down with NATO!

Russia Out of Ukraine!



Azov Battalion: US friends in Ukraine

Ukraine – An Analysis of an Inter-Imperialist War

To judge the character of the war in Ukraine, we must start with an analysis of the concrete situation. It is not enough to say: it is (or is leading to) an inter-imperialist war, like World War I; or it is (or is leading to) an anti-fascist war, like World War II. We must see what the factors were that led up to this war.

The International Situation

Just about every progressive person in the U.S., and just about **everyone** in the rest of the world, knows that the U.S. is the most aggressive super-power today. It has some 800 military bases in over 70 countries outside the U.S., it has 7 fleets of aircraft carriers, some 5,500 nuclear missiles, many pointed at Russia, and its monopoly corporations have billions of dollars in investments worldwide, by which it can dominate much of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

But at the same time, it is a super-power in decline. It was forced out of Afghanistan by the Taliban after a 20-year war. It has been unable to impose Guaidó as its puppet president in Venezuela. It failed in its attempt to use jihadi forces to overthrow Bashar al-Assad in Syria. And its vassal Saudi Arabia has been unable to crush the Houthi government in Yemen, despite the tremendous destruction to that country.

China as an imperialist rival

Today, China is the principal economic rival of the U.S. Depending on how you calculate it, China is either the first or second world power in terms of GDP. According to nominal figures, the U.S.'s GDP is \$23 trillion and China's is \$17 trillion. But according to PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) ranking, China's GDP is \$27 trillion while the US's is \$23 trillion.¹ China already has more monopolies among the Fortune 500 companies worldwide (data from 2021), 135 for China and 121 for the U.S. (though this includes 5 of the top 10 compared to 3 for China).² The days when China was a dependent capitalist country, mainly producing cheap clothing largely for U.S. companies, are long gone.

China is now expanding economically around the globe. Under Ecuador's phony "progressive" president Rafael Correa, since 2008 China provided over \$11 billion in loans to that country in exchange for 90% of its oil exports.³ This deal is continuing under openly neo-liberal president Guillermo Lasso (see article in this issue of TMLU, p. 16.)

China is also stepping up its capital exports worldwide. Along with Western monopolies, it is investing in coltan in Congo, mined with child labor. It is using its OBOR (One Belt One Road) initiative to expand its trade and investment around the world. It has developed the deep-water Gwadar Port near Karachi in Pakistan. Although its investment in Trieste (Italy's largest commercial port) was voided after opposition by the U.S., China's state-owned company COSCO still has controlling interest in the port of Piraeus in Greece.. COSCO and another Chinese firm, CMPort, now owns terminals in four U.S. ports, at Los Angeles, Seattle, and minority stakes in terminals in Miami and Houston, although it was forced to sell its terminal in Long Beach, California. China has now established its first overseas military base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa.

¹ <https://statisticstimes.com/economy/projected-world-gdp-ranking.php>

² <https://fortune.com/global500/search/>

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China%E2%80%93Ecuador_relations

While China is a nuclear power, its number of nuclear weapons is quite small, 350 compared to 5,500 for the U.S. This is one reason for China's alliance with Russia, which still has some 4,500 nuclear weapons. Also, China has 2.2 million active military troops, compared to 1.4 million in the U.S. and 1 million in Russia.

Russia's role in the world

Russia is a relatively weak imperialist power economically (as it was under the tsar). Under Yeltsin, much of the former Soviet Union's industrial capacity was either destroyed or sold off at bargain prices to Russian or Western oligarchs.⁴ This made Yeltsin the darling of the West. Russia has only four among the Fortune 500 companies worldwide, three oil companies and one bank, and only one (Gazprom) is in the top 100.

However, Russia is an important power in the fossil-fuel industry. In 2021, Russia was the largest natural gas-exporter in the world, the second-largest exporter of crude oil after Saudi Arabia, and the third-largest coal exporter after Indonesia and Australia. Although Western Europe received most of Russia's crude oil and natural gas exports in 2021, Asia and the Oceania region received most of Russia's coal exports.⁵

Putin has tried to reverse Russia's weakness, leading to the beginning of his conflict with Western imperialists. Although most of the world has already been divided politically among the Western powers, Russia has tried to regain a foothold in the former Soviet republics. In 1999, Russia bombed Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, an autonomous part of Russia in the North Caucasus. In 2004 Russia was at war with the former Soviet republic of Georgia over South Ossetia and Abkhazia in the South Caucasus, and in January of this year it helped the reactionary government of Tokayev in Kazakhstan militarily put down a popular revolt against rising prices of fuel and other necessities.⁶ In 2003, Russia, China, Kazakhstan and the other former Soviet republics in Central Asia formed the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which now includes India, Pakistan and Iran.

Russia and China are also trying to make deals with other countries that have a relative independence from the West, such as Venezuela, Iran and Syria. But this is not based on altruism. It is true that Russia helped Syria defend itself against jihadist forces supported by the West. But this was largely because Russia has a naval base in the Syrian port city of Tartus, Russia's only base in the Mediterranean. On the other hand, Russia and China abstained when the UN Security Council established a no-fly zone over Libya in March of 2011. This allowed NATO to bomb the country, leading to the torture and execution of Gaddafi and establishing slavery among black Africans there. Russia was unsuccessfully involved in an attempt to get a share of Libya's oil from the new government there.⁷

Thus, the world is becoming increasingly divided into two rival imperialist blocs: a still strong but declining bloc of the U.S. and the European Union, and a growing bloc led by China and Russia.

⁴ Of course, the Western bourgeois press calls Russian monopolists "oligarchs," while U.S. monopolists are called either "capitalists" or "entrepreneurs."

⁵ <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=51618>

⁶ Some of our lefts, who see the U.S. and its allies as the only imperialist forces in the world, can only see this as another "color revolution." Of course, in any spontaneous uprising against one imperialist power, its imperialist rivals will try to take advantage of it.

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/21/russia-increases-involvement-libya-signing-oil-deal-rosneft>

The Situation in Ukraine

The details of the situation in Ukraine and the region are quite well known. With the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the break-up of the Soviet bloc, West Germany annexed the former (East) German Democratic Republic. The U.S. made an informal agreement that NATO⁸ would not expand any further to the East, which it broke shortly afterwards. In 1999, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland joined NATO, and by 2020 11 more Eastern European countries (including the three Baltic Republics of the former Soviet Union, two of which border on Russia) joined NATO.



Ukraine is not part of Russia

For hundreds of years, Ukraine has had close political and economic relations with Russia. The Ukrainian and Russian languages are similar, as are Portuguese and Spanish, but no one would deny that Portugal is a separate nation from Spain. The USSR was formed in 1922 as a voluntary union of Republics, including Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Caucasus. Other Republics joined later. In 1921, Stalin stated: "...only recently it was said that the Ukrainian Republic and the Ukrainian nation were inventions of the Germans. It is obvious, however, that there is a Ukrainian nation, and it is the duty of the Communists to develop its culture. You cannot go against history."⁹

Whom does Putin blame for the establishment of the Ukraine as a separate Republic, with the right to self-determination? The Bolsheviks! In his speech of February 21, immediately before his invasion of Ukraine, he stated: "...modern Ukraine was entirely created by Russia or, to be more precise, by Bolshevik, Communist Russia." And later in the same speech, he said: "Lenin's ideas of what amounted in essence to a confederative state arrangement and a slogan about the right of nations to self-determination, up to secession, were laid in the foundation of Soviet statehood."¹⁰

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia provided Ukraine with inexpensive gas and oil. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yanukovych rejected IMF loan and EU association agreement "because he claimed the loan would hand over control of Ukraine's natural resources and increase the cost of living for the Ukrainian people"¹¹ and he was preparing to sign an economic agreement with Russia].

⁸ Since NATO claimed that the organization was needed to prevent the expansion of the Soviet bloc, and since this bloc no longer existed, NATO should have actually been dissolved, but this was not the logic of the imperialist powers.

⁹ <http://marx2mao.com/PDFs/StWorks5.pdf> pp. 48-49; pp. 68-69 of pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.riotimesonline.com/brazil-news/modern-day-censorship/president-putins-full-text-of-february-21-2022-speech-to-the-nation/>

¹¹ <https://www.theburningplatform.com/tag/stepan-bandera/>

Maidan and the formation of a neo-Nazi government in Kiev

In 2014, the U.S. instigated the Maidan demonstrations in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev. U.S. Under-Secretary of State Victoria Nuland bragged that the U.S. had spent \$5 billion dollars on Ukrainian NGOs to break the country away from Russia and go with the U.S.¹² The Ukrainian groups, led by neo-fascists, organized a coup that overthrew Yanukovych and put in power the government of Yatsenyuk. This regime established anti-Russian laws¹³, prohibiting the use of the Russian language in schools, government institutions and elsewhere. It declared World War II Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera a “hero of Ukraine.” Various pro-fascist militia, such as the Azov Brigade, which uses swastikas in its banners, were integrated into the Ukrainian Army. In May of 2014, reactionary elements burned the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, killing 48 people.¹⁴



In response, the population of the largely Russian-speaking Donbass formed the People’s Republics of Donetsk (PRD) and the People’s Republic of Lugansk (PRL). These republics demanded autonomy within Ukraine. 2014, the Ukrainian government signed the Accords, recognizing their autonomy and agreeing not to take military action against republics. The accords were signed with the mediation of Russia, Germany and France. But the Ukraine government never followed the accords, and for the last 8 years it has shelled the Donbass, killing some 14,000 people.



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Why we should not defend the Russian invasion of Ukraine

First, because no country has the right to invade another. Second, because Putin did not invade Ukraine to rescue the people of Donbass, but to try to regain spheres of influence in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The invasion will push ordinary Ukrainians into the arms of the Kiev fascist regime and U.S. imperialism as their “saviors” from the Russian invasion. It will allow the US to consolidate its ties with the countries of the EU, especially Germany. It will also push the people of the Donbass into the arms of Russia.

¹² See the actual video, starting about 7:20 minutes in, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2y0y-JUsPTU#t=447>

¹³ About 30% of the population of Ukraine is Russian-speaking.

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Odessa_clashes

One justification given for supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine is that if the U.S. stationed missiles there, they could hit major Russian cities in 15 to 20 minutes. This is true. But what if the U.S. puts missiles in Poland or the Baltic countries. Missiles from Estonia could probably hit St. Petersburg in 5 minutes. Then would it be alright for Russia to invade these countries as well?

Besides, our defenders of the Russian invasion are providing a justification for the U.S. blockade of Cuba in 1962 during the Caribbean Crisis.¹⁵ You cannot support what one imperialist power does and oppose another one for doing the same thing, unless you just want to support one imperialist over another.

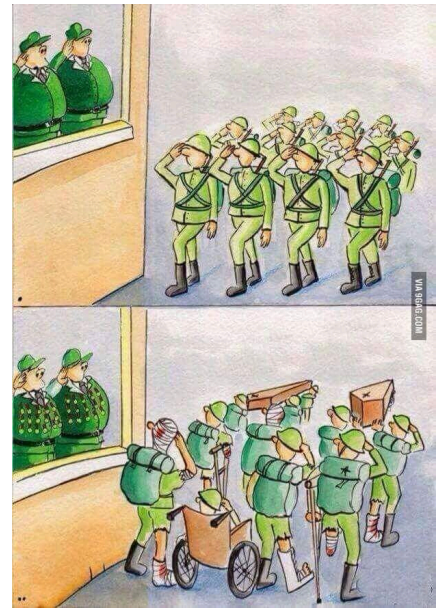
The Media and Racism

The bourgeois media, from which the overwhelming majority of the U.S. population gets its (mis)information, has been totally on the side of U.S. imperialism. There is practically no mention of the fact that Ukraine's government includes neo-Nazis, or that it has been shelling the People's Republics of the Donbass for 8 years. However, there are constant pictures supposedly showing the destruction of schools and hospitals by Russian troops as well as children and other innocent civilians supposedly killed in the Russian invasion. We say "supposedly" because we have no way of knowing where these pictures are actually from, and the U.S. has a sad history of distorting the sources of photos.¹⁶

The bourgeois media is also racist in its treatment of refugees. While it calls for aid to white Ukrainian refugees fleeing their country, it shows little sympathy towards darker-skinned people fleeing U.S.-imposed wars in the Middle East. There has been little coverage of the thousands drowned in the Mediterranean trying to get to Europe, nor about Haitian refugees fleeing the U.S.-imposed dictators in that country, or those who died of thirst in the U.S. desert after crossing the Mexican border.¹⁷

The U.S. left and the war

There seem to be four main positions in the broad US left on the war. 1) The Marxist-Leninists, who correctly see this as an inter-imperialist war. However, some of them spend equal time attacking Russia and the U.S. We are not in a "neutral" country like Switzerland or Sri Lanka. We must concentrate our fire on "our own" imperialist rulers. Lenin clearly branded World War I as an inter-imperialist war, but he did not spend his time equally attacking Germany and Britain. He concentrated his forces on exposing and overthrowing the Tsar in Russia. 2) Those who basically support the Russian invasion. They are mainly made up of Trotskyists and Brezhnevists, and generally admit that Russia is capitalist but do not recognize that it is imperialist. They see China as still socialist (or, as the Trotskyists call it, a "deformed workers' state"). There is also some who consider themselves ML who say that the U.S. is fascist, and support "non-fascist" Russia against "fascist" U.S. This position confuses fascism with imperialism,



¹⁵ This is the term used in Cuba for what the U.S. calls the "Cuban missile crisis." This is not a term that should be used by anti-imperialists, as it puts the blame on Cuba for the crisis.

¹⁶ For example, photos of victims of the Volga famine in 1921 were claimed to be victims of a famine in Ukraine in 1932. See Douglas Tottle's book *Fraud, Famine and Fascism: The Ukrainian Genocide Myth*.

¹⁷ See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBRwmTVVKQk>

which Lenin points out is “reaction down the line.” In practice it means uniting with the younger, growing imperialist bloc against the stronger but declining bloc. We can unite with these forces in opposing the U.S. role in Ukraine, but must oppose their position of supporting Russia. 3) The petty-bourgeois pacifists, who oppose the war and the U.S. involvement because they oppose all wars. refuses to distinguish between just and unjust wars. We should include in this group the environmentalists if they denounce U.S. fracking, which supplies Liquified Natural Gas (LNQ) to Europe and Ukraine. 4) The one force that we cannot unite with are those who basically support the U.S. in denouncing Russia. These include social-democrats such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Bernie Sanders. AOC has said: “Russia's invasion of Ukraine is indefensible. The U.S. is right to impose targeted sanctions on Putin & his oligarchs.”¹⁸ Sanders has said: “The United States and our allies must impose severe sanctions on Vladimir Putin and his fellow oligarchs.”¹⁹ We recognize that they have taken some progressive positions on reforms within the country, such as for universal health care, free university education, etc. But here they are openly supporting U.S. imperialism.

Conclusion

As the war continues, the cost to the working people of all countries will increase. At the moment, this has meant higher and gas prices for the peoples of Europe and U.S. Companies also increase prices for other commodities (as they did with Covid) and blame it on the Russian invasion. Of course, the will lead to increased deaths and destruction in Ukraine, and among Russian troops. Meanwhile, the profits of the big armament firms will rise, especially as the Biden administration received a bipartisan approval from the US House for \$13.6 billion for the war.

Most importantly, this is a prelude to World War III. The Balkan Wars of 1912 were a factor leading up to World War I; Japan’s invasion of China in 1931, Italy’s invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and Germany’s annexation of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia in 1938 were preludes to World War II. The war in Ukraine is a factor leading up to World War III. Only the firm opposition to all the imperialist powers has any chance of holding back such an inter-imperialist world war!



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¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/RepAOC>

¹⁹ <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/press-releases/news-sanders-statement-on-russian-invasion-of-ukraine/>

We reprint this article because the Italian comrades recognize that it is their responsibility to make their main attack on their "own" government in the war, even though Italy is not a major player in the conflict. This is a position that we in the United States need to learn from.

Scintilla, March 2022

Organ of Communist Platform – for the Communist Party of the Proletariat of Italy

No to our country's involvement in the reactionary war of Biden and Putin!

The Draghi government is dragging the country onto the war chariot of the US and NATO.

With this war he wants to create a diversion from the growing discontent of the working and popular masses, he wants to take part in the war in order to join into the new division of the world, he wants to restore the prestige to a decadent regime, of a suffocating economy that has led to millions of slave workers and misery.

Since the Second World War, the foreign policy of Italian imperialism has always been subordinated to the strategic objectives of US imperialism.

Italy has a crucial role in maintaining US hegemony in Europe. There are hundreds of bases on its territory available to US and NATO forces.

With Draghi, involvement in war preparations and vassalage to the US has intensified.

U.S. Secretary of State Blinken, an architect of the ongoing war, recently stated that "The partnership between the United States and Italy on virtually every issue has never been stronger, ever more important."

Formally Draghi has insisted on dialogue and the search for diplomatic solutions, but the will of the ruling circles of the bourgeoisie to play an active role in the conflict with Russia was clearly expressed by Defense Minister Guerrini who said: "Italy will play its part alongside NATO".

Italian imperialism has numerous air, naval and land assets stationed in Eastern Europe that will be involved in the event of a conflict with NATO, with disastrous consequences for the workers and the popular masses.

Even before the Russian invasion, the Air Force had deployed a squadron of Typhoon fighters and 140 soldiers to a Romanian air base near Constanta, near the Ukrainian border, to carry out patrol missions over the skies of the Black Sea.

The Black Sea, together with the Eastern Mediterranean, is the operational theater of the mission of the permanent naval force of NATO in which the Navy participates with the frigate *Fremm* C. Margottini and the mine-hunter *Viareggio*.

In the eastern Mediterranean, the aircraft carrier *Cavour*, with F-35 aircraft, has participated in recent weeks

in a naval exercise together with the US 6th Fleet, with the aircraft carrier *Truman* and the French *Clemenceau*.

In Latvia, as part of the NATO mission "Baltic Guardian" 250 Alpine and other soldiers are deployed, with dozens of tanks and tracks.

After Putin's decision to invade Ukraine, the involvement has become more direct and extensive, and therefore the repercussions that the war can bring to our people are more serious.

The government approved the decree on the "Participation of military personnel in the upgrading of NATO's arsenal."

The mission, with an allocation of about 170 million euros, is "authorized until September 30, 2022" and provides for "the participation of military personnel in NATO initiatives for the use of the high readiness force, called the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force".

For Italian soldiers, the participation of military personnel in the strengthening of the following NATO equipment is planned: devices for the surveillance of the Alliance's airspace; devices for naval surveillance in the southern area of the Atlantic Alliance; presence in Latvia (Enhanced Forward Presence).

On February 25, 2022, the Council of Ministers approved a series of urgent measures: allocation of funds to aid the Kiev army; the state of emergency to allow Civil Protection operations abroad; the increase in NATO men with new missions in Eastern Europe; more funds to the ministries of defense and foreign affairs; the extension of the aforementioned missions abroad in Latvia, Romania, etc.

On February 27, the airspace was closed to Russian aircraft.

On February 28, the government authorized the shipment of lethal weapons to Ukraine, a belligerent country: anti-tank and anti-aircraft systems (infrared Stinger missiles), light and heavy machine guns, mortars, equipment.

On March 1, in a climate of warmongering and Russophobic hysteria mounted by the regime's media, Draghi passed without debate, with a silent parliament and the "yes men" of the populist Lega [Northern League] and M5S [Five Star Movement], decrees that provide: the state of alert of Italian troops, the doubling of the air forces

deployed in Romania; other soldiers for NATO: a first group of 1400 soldiers and a second of 2000.

On the same day he presented to the Senate sanctions against Russia, which will have a negative impact on the economy and energy prices and will be heavily paid for by the working class and exploited workers.

While the army is training in combat, the government has not missed an opportunity to launch the reform of the land registry, which means more taxes and greater impoverishment for many workers; a maneuver that serves to grab the PNRR [National Recovery and Resilience Plan] funds that go to the strongest monopolies.

This is while the US/NATO bases on Italian territory are already fully operational, B-52s loaded with nuclear weapons fly over our skies and from Sigonella the "Global Hawk" drones leave for the air surveillance affected by the current international crisis.

This while military spending will reach 2% of GDP as imposed by "Uncle Sam", when funds for health care (with the pandemic raising its head thanks to the "free for all" and overcrowded public transport), for increases in wages and pensions are never found.

In fact, the Draghi government has decided to fully involve Italy in the war, trampling on art. 11 of the bourgeois democratic Constitution, to try to get its hands on a part of the booty.

In fact, a permanent state of emergency has been established to foster a policy of war that involves a heavy attack on the interests, political freedoms and collective and trade union rights won by the working class.

In fact, only the large groups of the military-industrial complex, such as Leonardo, which is soaring on the Stock Exchange, gain from this situation.

The reactionary policy of war will not solve any contradiction in Italian society, nor any problem of the workers, but it will aggravate them all. The government of the financial oligarchy, the vassal ministers of the USA, NATO and the EU, co-responsible for the current escalation is threatening the security of the Italian people.

The salvation of the working class and the popular masses does not lie in participation in the wars of robbery, in the clash between imperialist brigands, in the plundering of other peoples, but in the liberation of our country from the exploiters and oppressors.

NO to involvement in the imperialist war; for adjustment of wages, stop the dismissals, intransigent defense of living and working conditions, of the freedoms won by the working class!

Down with those responsible for the war and the impending catastrophe! Down with Draghi and his government!

Get out of NATO! Close US and NATO bases in our country!

Stop military spending! Withdraw troops sent abroad!

Let us speed up the mass struggle, the political crisis of the Draghi government, with the revolutionary perspective of a government of the workers and other exploited working people, the only ones who will save us from ruin.



The economic background of the inter-imperialist dispute



The underlying economic reasons for the outbreak of the inter-imperialist conflict between Russia and the US/NATO in Ukraine rest on the decline of the US, Japan and EU countries on the scale of imperialist economies. These economies, and therefore the hegemony of the USA, their leader country, are now threatened by China – the main 'factory of the world' – by India, and, to a lesser but not insignificant extent by other Asian countries, including Indonesia, and Latin American countries (Brazil, Mexico). In the comparison between dollar GDPs – a ranking that matters most for world finance – in 2019 the US was still ahead with \$21,400 billion against 14,700 for China, 14,000 for the EU, 5,000 for Japan, 2,900 for India.

But these figures do not do justice to the real economic potentials. If at the exchange rate in rupees a steak in Delhi costs \$2, while in New York \$10 it is clear that the Indian economy is undervalued.

Well, the so-called 'GDP at purchasing power parity' that to a certain degree measures the economic potential better, despite being an uncertain statistic because it differs depending on the method of evaluation, shows that China has already reached, and perhaps surpassed, the USA, while India is worth as much as France, Germany and Italy combined. But the biggest surprise is Russia, which comes immediately after Germany. The experience, not yet finished, of the fight against the pandemic also shows China (actually also other countries of Asia and Oceania) with a level of efficiency that seems like

another world. And this Chinese efficiency is not only in health, but also in services, technology, computers and defense, both computer and military in general.

The Biden administration has reacted to the years lost to the Trump administration in a hysterical way with an "aggressive containment plan", aimed at regaining possible allies in Asia, first of all India that has always been incited against China, and to strengthen traditional alliances with South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Australia and others.

The danger to world domination by the USA, however, also comes from Europe. The EU is an imperialist pole in the process of construction, not yet equipped with its own armed force, but proclaimed by the majority of states (and by their General Staff). That is why Biden is playing his cards to maintain and sharpen divisions. One of these cards is NATO, on which the US relies, especially the countries that joined most recently (particularly the Baltic Countries, Poland and Romania). The US has taken advantage of Brexit and, more recently, has taken from the French a large military order of "traditional" submarines directed to Australia, replacing it with one of their atomic submarines. These are quieter and more difficult to intercept and associated with the establishment of a new military alliance called AUKUS, with the United Kingdom and Australia. This is aimed, in the Pacific, to close off China in its seas, taking advantage of an island system of military bases that goes from Australia to Japan, which

is rearming and aims at the re-annexation of the Kuril Islands.

For its part, China is arming itself both at the nuclear level and with submarines and aircraft carrier fleets, two of which are already operational, which could, in turn – for now – block the South China Sea.

This has long been accompanied by intense activity of economic and political diplomacy.

China, which belongs to the WTO, has been among the promoters of the RCEP [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership] trade agreement (with the ASEAN countries, Australia and New Zealand, but without the USA) and has asked to join the revived TTIP in which the US is present.

Finally, Turkey (for now still in NATO), Iran, Pakistan and even some Gulf countries, are playing on their own.

In short, there is a framework of alliances in the process of redefining itself to the tune set by the diplomatic, commercial, military initiatives, with surprise blows from blackmail.

The attempt, desired by US imperialism, to further expand NATO by incorporating Ukraine, with the aim of encircling Russia on its south-west flank and recovering a faithful and large ally (46 million inhabitants), to be cajoled with the sound of dollars. This is so even if – in truth – for years now the population has not yet suffered under the grip of devastating misery, it was still the straw that broke the camel's back.

Russian imperialism has been 'forced' to play in advance the risky and costly card of war and invasion. The

lightning war has failed and Biden brings home the goal of closing the gas lines to Europe (North Stream 2 gas line) and also the temporary interruption of the Silk Road. Chinese goods moving by rail will have to cross the Caspian Sea in order to continue on to Turkey, lengthening the route by a few days.

At the time of this writing, developments are more uncertain than ever.

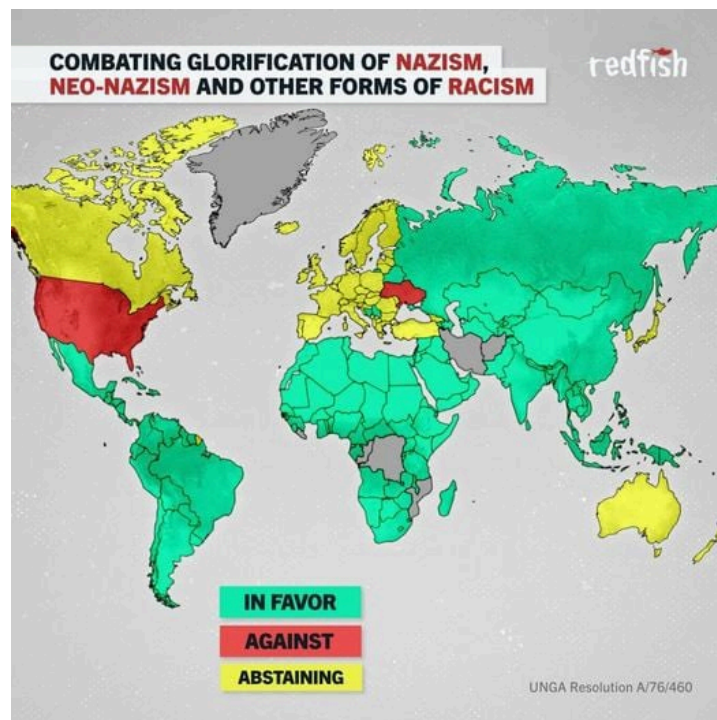
If Biden's economic goal is to involve Russia in a fratricidal and bleeding war, it is not certain that this dangerous game can continue for long.

Russia, if not adequately supported by China (which for now has not shown its cards), is risking financial collapse. Regardless of this, the EU is in serious difficulty: gasification plants cannot be built in a few days, and it will also take time to build up an adequate transport of gas by ship.

Meanwhile, the large-scale revival of inflation (already 6% on an annual basis in Italy) could create, for already heavily indebted economies following the pandemic, an unprecedented financial instability, which would certainly not stop at Europe.

The gigantic plans for the financing of 'ecological' conversion and industrial restructuring of information technology (Industry 4.0) to try to counter the Chinese advance could be skipped.

The nightmare of a worldwide collapse of the imperialist economy is real, and the widening of the conflict into a new world war is one of the possibilities.





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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

¡UNA HERIDA PARA UNO ES UNA HERIDA PARA TODOS!

LT EDITORIAL: Thanks to Mike Elk and Payday report (PAY DAY REPORT) for their excellent coverage of the Amazon workers' struggle. The main lesson learned from this organizing drive in Staten Island is the difference between class-oriented trade unionism and class collaboration. These Amazon workers, led by their President, Chris Smalls, organized from the inside. The workers were the organizers. The tired old methods of organizing from the outside where workers have no say in how their union runs are over. Workers understand that if you want to win, the fat cats can't be relied upon. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE AMAZON WAREHOUSE WORKERS! This is a refreshing change in the direction of the U.S. labor movement. As Frederick Douglass reminds us: "You can't make an omelet without breaking an egg".

Labor Establishment Caught Off Guard by Staten Island Union Victory

Today's Amazon union victory in Staten Island has caught many in the labor establishment by surprise.

After two years of organizing, Amazon Labor Union won a groundbreaking union election in Staten Island by a vote of 2,654 to 2,131. The win will likely inspire more workers to organize at the retail behemoth.

Many organizers thought it was impossible to organize in Staten Island, particularly after last year's 2-to-1 union drive defeat in Bessemer, Alabama.

Amazon Labor Union was a small independent union formed by rank-and-file workers who crowdfunded their organizing budget during the pandemic.

In the past, much larger unions with larger budgets have failed to organize at Amazon, leading many labor leaders to stumble in figuring out what happened.

"Laughing at PR pitches offering me established union presidents [for] insight on the Amazon warehouse victory," remarked American Prospect Executive Editor David Dayen on Twitter.

So why did the union at Amazon in Staten Island succeed when others didn't?

Unions are often seen as big bureaucracies, leading some workers to distrust them. Many unions have pre-set programs and organizing approaches that leave workers feeling as though the organizing program is being imposed on them instead of developing it themselves.

However, Amazon Labor Union was an independent union formed and organized by the very workers seeking to unionize. Many workers in the Amazon union drive felt like they were running the union since they formed it. By feeling a sense of ownership over the union's direction, many workers were willing to take risks to organize on behalf of the union that they felt that they owned.

"We started just a few of us in a tent and we've broken the glass on what people thought was possible," Amazon worker Madeline Wesley said at a press conference today. Amazon Labor Union acted like a real union before the vote. They went on wildcat strikes over safety issues. They won legal reinstatement for several workers who were fired. Finally, they got New York State Attorney General Letitia James to investigate labor abuses and speak out on behalf of workers at Amazon's warehouse in Staten Island.

This stood in sharp contrast to the failed campaign at Amazon in Bessemer, Alabama, which was defeated by a 2-1 margin last April.

Now, the independent Amazon Labor Union may grow the size of their union even more.

The Amazon Labor Union has scheduled more union elections at three other Amazon warehouses in Staten Island for late April. Amazon Labor Union Vice President Derrick Palmer also told More Perfect Union that the union had received contacts from workers at warehouses in 18 states.

Given the difficulty the warehouse workers in Staten Island will have in reaching a first contract, a national movement will likely be required to force the company to agree to a union contract.

Bessemer Alabama Amazon Workers Continue Struggle to Unionize

The second Bessemer Alabama Amazon workers and Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) labor board union vote will be counted starting on March 28th. It comes as a result of the National Labor Relations Board ruling that Amazon's anti-union actions in the 2021 union campaign, was in violation of laws in the National Labor Relations Act.

When looking at the challenges and meaning of the Bessemer Amazon union campaigns, It's important to have a long view of organizing labor in the South. Transnational corporations like Amazon are attracted to the South, because of the low wages, its anti-union laws and the racist divisions in the working-class.

The 75% Black worker majority at the Bessemer Amazon warehouse in 2021, gave many in the labor and social justice movements a glimmer of hope, that the Bessemer workers union campaign amidst the Black Lives Matter climate, might become a spark for organizing labor across the South.

With the technological changes in production and the US and international supply chain, Amazon has emerged as a 21st Century core industry in the US national and global economy. It was prepared to do whatever was necessary to crush the Bessemer Amazon union vote, even if its actions were in violation of the law.

It did not matter that newly elected President Biden released a public press statement expressing support for the right of workers to unionize (even though it did not explicitly endorse the Amazon pro-union campaign and vote). It reflects the growing dominance of corporate power over all levels of US government.

During the last two months leading up to the 2021 Bessemer union vote, national solidarity actions in support of the Bessemer union vote were held in 50 cities and 20 states across the US. These actions were responding to a call for holding a National Day of Action in Solidarity with Bessemer Amazon worker's union vote, made by the Southern Workers Assembly (SWA). The SWA is a network of developing local worker assemblies and industrial and sector unity councils, helping to build an infrastructure for organizing social movement unionism in the South.

Self-organized rank-and-file committees in Amazon warehouses and delivery centers, organizing groups like Amazonians United and some labor union interests in organizing in Amazon, became more visible, as the breath of national solidarity for Bessemer began to show itself. The Queens and Staten Island New York Amazon workers' independent union initiatives and the Starbucks union campaigns are part of this growing and expanding rank-and-file social movement.

They are engaging in concerted actions, fighting around issues and winning improvements in working conditions. A recent first multistate walkout took place involving night shift Amazon workers in two delivery stations in New York and one in Maryland, demanding a \$3-dollar an hour wage increase.

Several estimates of high Bessemer Amazon worker turnover since the 2021 union vote, indicate that nearly half of the 6000 workers eligible to participate in this 2022 union vote, are new employees. This makes a mainly union card signing and mobilizing for labor board votes organizing approach more difficult, especially when it is a single workplace campaign and against a behemoth corporation like Amazon, the 2nd largest corporation in the US with 1.1 million employees.

Whatever the outcome of the union vote, the Bessemer Amazon union campaign has helped to highlight the importance of making organizing Amazon, one of the major priorities for rebuilding the strength of the US national labor movement, and for organizing labor in the South. Win or lose the union vote, a social movement unionism is developing among Amazon workers and workers in other industries, that the Bessemer Amazon workers should maintain their organization, join and help to expand it throughout the South.

Developing a rank-and-file workers organizing infrastructure not dependent on achieving employer recognition through labor board union votes, is a major part of organizing social movement unionism that is critically important for organizing labor in the South and nationally.

Victory to the RWDSU-led Amazon Workers March 28th Union Vote!

By Saladin Muhammad,
Member of the SWA Coordinating Committee

March 8, 2022

International Day of Working Women

Communist Workers and Students for Social Change – Puerto Rico

The working woman in the face of the current health crisis



We commemorate one more year of International Working Women's Day. It is recognized as the starting point for the celebration of this day on March 8, 1857, a date that marked the beginning of a series of demonstrations and collective demands of working women. That day in New York City hundreds of women from a textile factory took to the streets to protest low pay and terrible working conditions. That demonstration culminated with 120 women dead from police repression. But it was in 1910 when the II International Conference of Socialist Women was held, in Copenhagen, Denmark, where March 8 was declared International Working Women's Day. The proposal was unanimously approved by more than 100 women from 17 countries. Since then we commemorate this day in different parts of the world.

With this writing we emphasize how working women have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is no doubt that the current health crisis has ruined the lives of everyone, but especially that of working women as a super-exploited gender.

We highlight some data from a report from Oxfam, Time for Care, published in January 2020, which points out that we are facing a crisis that has exacerbated the great inequalities and injustices that fundamentally fall on women.

The report pointed out at the beginning of the pandemic that the heavy and unequal responsibility of home care work that falls on women would perpetuate both economic inequality and gender inequality. The privileged few who would keep their jobs and work from their homes, would have to do both their homework, but also to attend to the education of children due to the closing of schools and to take care of other needs that would no longer be provided in society due to the closure of public and private offices, and low provision of services due to Covid. Does this look familiar?

Another group of women severely affected by the pandemic are those on the front lines of the coronavirus; primary response workers such as nurses, hospital support workers, teachers, and caretakers to

those sick at home. In countries like Mexico, for example, women represent 78% of the health and education sector. (INEGI, 2012). Most of these women do not count on labor protections, nor health care, to survive a pandemic of this scale; however, they have been first to respond. Just as in Mexico, in other countries and Puerto Rico it has been the same.

The report emphasized that the measures taken by the countries that imposed a lockdown and curfew to avoid infection, made those women more vulnerable to victims of male chauvinist violence as they had to live together in lockdown with the aggressor in a place that was no longer safe, with no immediate line of support and services. There has been an increase in cases of sexist violence and femicide in almost every country. In Puerto Rico, according to data from the Office of the Women's Prosecutor, the number of victims of domestic violence to whom services were provided doubled in the months following the pandemic compared to the first two months of the year. The Gender Equity Observatory recorded 11 femicides in that same period, of which at least four were linked to domestic violence.

Other data cited by the report is that the majority of women working in the informal sector suffered and are suffering from a lack of clients during the pandemic. According to the World Bank, six out of ten working women in Latin America work informally. This takes place in the markets, the street, the kiosks and the food carts.

One sector mentioned in the report is that of domestic workers. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), in Latin America there are more than 14 million women working in paid domestic work and, like other human rights organizations, they point out that domestic work is one of the worst. These workers, besides being exposed and at the risk of infecting themselves and their families, have lost their only livelihood as a result of the pandemic, making their families even poorer. Another example is of textile workers. In Central America, 263 thousand of these live in free-trade zones. They represent 58% of the total workforce in this sector (Oxfam 2015 data).

For them job pressure escalated during the pandemic and thousands lost their jobs or saw their scarce income reduced due to the pandemic measures.

We want to emphasize two final facts that are undoubtedly more than scandalous: the first, every four seconds, one of the ten richest men in the world makes \$58,000. In this same fraction of time, someone on the planet dies because of poverty. These are the two faces of inequality; two poles getting farther apart, according to the latest Oxfam report, *Inequalities Kill*, January 2022. The report states that while during the first two years of Covid-19, 160 million people were condemned to poverty and 99% of humanity saw their economy deteriorate, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos; the co-founder of PayPal, Elon Musk, and the creator of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, among others, saw the zeros in their bank accounts multiply.

Second: globally, women are over-represented in the economic sectors most affected by the pandemic. If the presence of men and women in those sectors was completely equal, 112 million women would no longer have a high risk of losing their income or jobs. (Oxfam).

All these examples of inequality are the result of living in a capitalist society based on sexist and racist inequality and exploitation, exacerbated by this current health crisis which affects the working class, without a doubt the most affected, and especially working women. The coronavirus has aggravated poverty, but the really lethal virus is the virus of capitalism.

Today we continue to commemorate this day, recognizing that still with all the concessions that have been won, it is not enough to settle for immediate demands if there is no qualitative change in this society, which engenders a system of exploitation for both women and men. Only the unity of the two genders and the unity of the class will be able to abolish the conditions that generate the exploitation and super-exploitation of women, and transform this society in a qualitative way into a communist society.

There are some who think that China is helping “progressive” governments, particularly in Latin America and Africa, to develop their countries. However, this article shows that China also works with neo-liberal governments, not for development, but like all imperialists, for the profits of its own monopolists.

En Marcha #1989, February 9 to 15, 2022

Central Organ of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador

Lasso cements dependency on China

Before his trip to China Guillermo Lasso [the openly neo-liberal president of Ecuador] spread the lie that he would propose to the government of that country the unlinking of Ecuadorian oil from the payment of the debt, but that after the visit: nothing, he did not achieve anything. In his trip through China in the first week of February, Lasso expected to establish negotiations to bring investments of \$10 billion US that, as is known, would lead to increased dependence on that country and a greater exploitation of the workers.



The government of Rafael Correa, which constantly talked about sovereignty, made a contemptible link of oil production to the payment of about \$2 billion US out of a total of \$5 billion US for loans requested from China.

According to the *People's Daily*, the official media of the Chinese government, in the joint statement signed by its top representatives, there is no mention of the debt negotiation, as was boasted about until before January 31. The neoliberal government of Ecuador urgently needs to have resources, even leaving aside its demagogic defense of nature with the doubling of oil exploitation with the subsequent expansion of the oil zone. Thus, it is emphasizing negotiating with China, which would allow 'the renewal of debt quotas, and the guarantee of oil as part of those financial instruments', according to Juan Carlos Holguín; in this way it was expected to obtain about \$400 million US a year.

The government, in an apparent independence from US capital and government, is resorting to the 'benevolence' of the Chinese imperialist government, which is asserting control and greater dependence on sectors such as mining and oil. In order not to appear with empty hands, it has decided to ingratiate itself and offer the Chinese business community the public telecommunications company CNT and Banco Pacífico, which today ranks in second place as one of the best among the rest of the institutions for sale to a foreign bank.

The sell-out by the neoliberal government has no limits, establishing its policy of privatization of solvent public companies, the property of the Ecuadorian people.

New York City – Homeless & Covid Restrictions

The new Mayor Eric Adams is increasing attacks on the poor and homeless. Adams, a former police captain, is reinstituting police “anti-crime” units, using publicity around some notorious killings as an excuse. Such units were responsible for the killings of Eric Garner and Amadou Diallo.

During the pandemic, restrictions were imposed to throw homeless people out of the subway, primarily by eliminating 24-hour service. Although this service has been restored, new rules have been instituted against the homeless, such as prohibiting sleeping or lying down in subway stations or in trains. Now one can be evicted from the subway system for these “violations.”

The police are teaming up with social workers and other mental health professionals to try to convince people to go into the shelters. But at the end of March, when there were some 650 “engagements” with homeless people **each day**, only 312 people accepted space in the shelters. This shows the terrible nature of the shelter system, where people are frequently robbed or beaten, including by the guards. The shelters have been described as one step above (or even worse than) prison.

Adams is also destroying homeless encampments in the city. He had the hypocrisy to call it “inhuman” for people to live in cardboard boxes on the street. Of course little or nothing is done to provide people with decent, low-cost housing, as the gentrification of housing in New York continues unabated. And Adams will certainly not allow the homeless to stay in his residence of Gracie Mansion, or in luxury hotels or condominiums.

Meanwhile, some Covid restrictions have been relaxed: one can now eat indoors, go to gyms, movies, theaters and museums, without having to show proof of vaccination. However, people are still being fired from their jobs for not being vaccinated, although this restriction has been lifted for professional athletes and entertainers. Why? This is not just so that Kyrie Irving can play home games for the Nets, but because he and other professionals bring in money to big corporations, such as Barclays Center, the owners of the Yankees and Mets, or Carnegie Hall.

New York State – Gov. Hochul’s Measures to Improve the Economy

Governor Kathy Hochul has made some changes to “revive” New York’s economy. For one thing, she is expanding gambling, allowing companies to build three new casinos in New York City. Unfortunately, the Hotel Trades Council, which represents gaming workers, has gone along with this. They must know that it will provide a minimal number of new jobs, since not only slot machines need no workers but now also many blackjack tables are run with only virtual dealers. Hochul is also allowing on-line gambling, which of course provides no jobs. Hochul also wants to make it easier for restaurants and bars to get liquor licenses. Well, at least there will be a few new jobs for social workers dealing with the problems of gambling and alcohol addiction!



It takes 5 cops to arrest one handcuffed man in the subway. He must have been guilty of some heinous crime such as jumping the turnstile!



LT EDITORIAL: Gracias a Mike Elk y Payday report (PAY DAY REPORT) por su excelente cobertura de la lucha de los trabajadores de Amazon. La principal lección aprendida de esta campaña de organización en Staten Island es la diferencia entre el sindicalismo de clase y la colaboración de clase. Estos trabajadores de Amazon, dirigidos por su presidente, Chris Smalls, se organizaron desde dentro. Los trabajadores fueron los organizadores. Los viejos y cansados métodos de organización desde el exterior, donde los trabajadores no tienen voz en el funcionamiento de su sindicato, se han acabado. Los trabajadores entienden que si se quiere ganar, no se puede confiar en los peces gordos. FELICIDADES A TODOS LOS TRABAJADORES DE LOS ALMACENES DE AMAZON Este es un cambio refrescante en la dirección del movimiento obrero estadounidense. Como nos recuerda Frederick Douglass: "No se puede hacer una tortilla sin romper un huevo".

La clase dirigente laboral sorprendida por la victoria del sindicato de Staten Island

La victoria del sindicato de Amazon hoy en Staten Island ha cogido por sorpresa a muchos de los trabajadores.

Después de dos años de organización, el Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon ganó una innovadora elección sindical en Staten Island por 2.654 votos a favor y 2-1 en contra. La victoria probablemente inspirará a más trabajadores a organizarse en el gigante minorista.

Muchos organizadores pensaron que era imposible organizarse en Staten Island, especialmente después de la derrota del año pasado en Bessemer, Alabama, por 2 a 1.

El Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon era un pequeño sindicato independiente formado por trabajadores de base que financiaron mediante crowdfunding su presupuesto de organización durante la pandemia.

En el pasado, sindicatos mucho más grandes y con mayores presupuestos no lograron organizarse en Amazon, lo que llevó a muchos líderes sindicales a tropezar para entender lo que sucedió.

Me río de los lanzamientos de relaciones públicas que me ofrecen los presidentes de los sindicatos establecidos [para] una visión de la victoria de los almacenes de Amazon", comentó el editor

ejecutivo de American Prospect, David Dayen, en Twitter (<https://twitter.com/ddayen/status/1509944462394355714>).

¿Por qué el sindicato de Amazon en Staten Island tuvo éxito cuando otros no lo tuvieron?

Los sindicatos suelen ser vistos como grandes burocracias, lo que lleva a algunos trabajadores a desconfiar de ellos. Muchos sindicatos tienen programas preestablecidos y enfoques organizativos que dejan a los trabajadores con la sensación de que se les impone el programa de organización en lugar de desarrollarlo ellos mismos.

Sin embargo, el sindicato de Amazon fue un sindicato independiente formado y organizado por los propios trabajadores que pretendían sindicarse. Muchos de los trabajadores que participaron en la campaña sindical de Amazon sintieron que dirigían el sindicato desde que lo formaron. Al sentirse dueños de la dirección del sindicato, muchos trabajadores estaban dispuestos a correr riesgos para organizarse en nombre del sindicato del que se sentían dueños.

"Empezamos unos pocos en una tienda de campaña y hemos roto el cristal de lo que la gente creía que era posible", dijo la trabajadora de Amazon Madeline Wesley en una rueda de prensa hoy.

El sindicato de Amazon actuó como un verdadero sindicato antes de la votación. Hicieron huelgas salvajes por cuestiones de seguridad. Consiguieron la reincorporación legal de varios trabajadores despedidos. Finalmente, consiguieron que la fiscal general del estado de Nueva York, Letitia James, investigara los abusos laborales y hablara en nombre de los trabajadores del almacén de Amazon en Staten Island.

Esto contrasta con la fallida campaña de Amazon en Bessemer, Alabama, que fue derrotada por un margen de 2-1 el pasado mes de abril.

Ahora, el sindicato independiente Amazon Labor Union puede aumentar el tamaño de su sindicato aún más.

El Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon ha programado más elecciones sindicales en otros tres almacenes de Amazon en Staten Island para finales de abril.

El vicepresidente del Sindicato de Trabajadores de Amazon Derrick Palmer también dijo a Más Sindicato Perfecto que el sindicato había recibido contactos de trabajadores en almacenes de 18 estados.

Dada la dificultad que tendrán los trabajadores de los almacenes de Staten Island para alcanzar un primer contrato, es probable que se requiera un movimiento nacional para forzar a la empresa a aceptar un contrato sindical.

8 de marzo de 2022

Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora

Trabajadores y Estudiantes Comunistas por el Cambio Social – Puerto Rico

La mujer trabajadora ante la crisis de salud actual



Conmemoramos un año más del Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora. Se reconoce como punto de partida para la celebración de este día el 8 de marzo de 1857, fecha que marcó el comienzo de una serie de manifestaciones y reclamos colectivos de las mujeres trabajadoras. Ese día en la ciudad de Nueva York cientos de mujeres de una fábrica de textiles salieron a la calle para protestar por bajos sueldos y pésimas condiciones de trabajo. Aquella manifestación culminó con 120 mujeres muertas a manos de la represión de la policía. Pero fue en 1910 cuando se celebró la II Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres Socialistas, reunidas en Copenhague, Dinamarca, donde se proclamó el 8 de marzo como el Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora. La propuesta fue aprobada por unanimidad por más de 100 mujeres pertenecientes a 17 países. Desde entonces en diferentes partes del mundo conmemoramos este día.

Con este escrito enfatizamos en cómo se ha afectado la mujer trabajadora por la pandemia de Covid-19. No hay duda que la crisis sanitaria actual ha trastocado la vida de todos y todas, pero sobre todo la de las mujeres trabajadoras como género super explotado.

Destacamos algunos datos de un informe de Oxfam, Tiempo para el cuidado, publicado en enero del 2020, el cual señala que estamos frente a una crisis que ha exacerbado las grandes desigualdades e injusticias que recaen fundamentalmente sobre las mujeres.

El informe señaló al principio de la pandemia que la pesada y desigual responsabilidad del trabajo de cuidados que recae sobre las mujeres perpetuaría tanto las desigualdades económicas como la desigualdad de género. Las pocas privilegiadas que conservarían sus trabajos y trabajarían desde sus casas, lo tendrían que hacer a la vez que sus tareas del hogar, pero además atender la educación de los niños por el cierre de escuelas y suplir otras necesidades que ya no proveerían en la sociedad por el cierre de oficinas públicas y privadas, y escasa prestación de servicios debido al Covid. Esto les parece familiar?

Otro grupo de mujeres afectado grandemente por la pandemia son aquellas en la primera línea del coronavirus; las trabajadoras de respuesta primaria como las enfermeras, las trabajadoras de apoyo en los hospitales, las maestras, y aquellas que cuidan a las enfermas y enfermos en casa. En países como

México, por ejemplo, las mujeres representan el 78% del sector de salud y educación. (INEGI, 2012). La mayoría de estas mujeres no cuentan con las protecciones laborales, ni de salud, para sobrellevar una pandemia de esta escala, sin embargo, han sido las primeras en responder. Así como en México, en otros países y en Puerto Rico ha sido igual.

Se destacó en el informe que las medidas adoptadas por los países que impusieron un encierro y toques de queda para evitar el contagio, hicieron más vulnerables a aquellas mujeres víctimas de la violencia machista ya que tuvieron que convivir encerradas con el agresor en un lugar que ya no era seguro, sin línea inmediata de apoyo y servicios. Esto ha visto un aumento en casos de violencia machista y de feminicidios en casi todos los países. En Puerto Rico, según datos de la Oficina de la Procuradora de la Mujer, el número de víctimas de violencia doméstica a las que brindó servicios se duplicó en los meses siguientes a la pandemia con relación a los primeros dos meses del año. El Observatorio de Equidad de Género registró 11 feminicidios en ese mismo tiempo, de los cuales, al menos cuatro fueron vinculados a violencia doméstica.

Otro dato señalado por el informe es que la mayoría de las mujeres trabajadoras en el sector informal sufrieron y sufren por la merma en los clientes durante la pandemia. Según el Banco Mundial, en América Latina seis de cada diez mujeres que trabajan lo hacen en la informalidad. Esto sucede en los mercados, en la calle, en los kioscos, en los carritos de comida.

Un sector mencionado en el informe es el de trabajadoras domésticas. Según la Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT) en América Latina hay más de 14 millones de mujeres que trabajan de forma remunerada en trabajo doméstico y al igual que otras organizaciones de derechos humanos, señalan que el trabajo doméstico es uno de los de peor calidad. Estas trabajadoras, además de estar expuestas y en riesgo de contagiarse y contagiar a sus familias, han perdido su único sustento por consecuencia de la pandemia, empobreciendo aún más a sus familias. Otro ejemplo, es el de las trabajadoras textiles. En Centroamérica, 263 mil de estas viven en zonas francas o maquilas. Ellas representan el 58% total de la fuerza laboral en el

sector (dato de Oxfam 2015). La presión laboral se agudizó para ellas durante la pandemia y miles perdieron sus trabajos o vieron reducidos sus escasos ingresos a causa de las medidas por la pandemia.

Queremos destacar dos últimos datos que sin duda son más que escandalosos: el primero, cada cuatro segundos, uno de los diez hombres más ricos del mundo gana 58 mil dólares. En esta misma fracción de tiempo muere alguien en el planeta a causa de la pobreza. Estas son las dos caras de la inequidad; dos polos cada vez más alejados, según el último informe de Oxfam, Las desigualdades matan, enero 2022. El informe señala que mientras durante los primeros dos años de Covid-19, 160 millones de personas fueron condenadas a la pobreza y el 99% de la humanidad presenció cómo su economía se deterioraba, el creador de Amazon, Jeff Bezos; el cofundador de PayPal, Elon Musk, y el creador de Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, entre otros, vieron multiplicarse los ceros de sus cuentas bancarias.

Segundo: a nivel mundial, las mujeres están sobrerrepresentadas en los sectores económicos más afectados por la pandemia. Si la presencia de hombres y mujeres en dichos sectores fuese totalmente equitativa, 112 millones de mujeres dejarían de tener un riesgo elevado de perder sus ingresos o empleos. (Oxfam).

Todos estos ejemplos de inequidad son el resultado de vivir en una sociedad capitalista basada en la desigualdad y explotación machista y racista, exacerbada por esta crisis de salud actual y que afecta a la clase trabajadora, sin duda la más afectada, y de forma particular a las mujeres trabajadoras. El coronavirus ha agudizado la pobreza, pero el virus realmente letal es el virus del capitalismo.

Hoy continuamos conmemorando este día, reconociendo que aún con todas las concesiones que se han ganado, no basta con conformarse con reivindicaciones inmediatas si no hay un cambio cualitativo en esta sociedad, que lo que engendra es un sistema de explotación tanto en la mujer como en el hombre. Solo la unidad de los dos géneros y de la unidad de clase será capaz de abolir las condiciones que engendra la explotación y super explotación de la mujer, y transformar esta sociedad de forma cualitativa a una sociedad comunista.

Hay algunos que piensan que China está ayudando a los gobiernos "progresistas", particularmente en América Latina y África, a desarrollar sus países. Sin embargo, este artículo muestra que China también trabaja con gobiernos neoliberales, no para su desarrollo, sino como todos los imperialistas, para las ganancias de sus propios monopolistas.

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Órgano Central del Partido Comunista Marxista Leninista del Ecuador

Lasso remacha dependencia con China

Guillermo Lasso previo al viaje a China difundió la falacia de que planteará al gobierno de ese país, la desvinculación del petróleo ecuatoriano del pago de la deuda, pero que concluida la visita: ‘naranjas’, no consiguió nada. Lasso preveía en su periplo por China en la primera semana de febrero, establecer negociaciones para traer inversiones por USD 10 mil millones que, como es conocido, derivaría en el aumento de la dependencia del país y en una mayor explotación de los trabajadores.



El gobierno de Rafael Correa que se llenaba la boca de soberano, dio paso a la deleznable vinculación de la producción petrolera para el pago de alrededor USD 2 mil millones de un total de USD 5 mil millones por préstamos solicitados a China.

Según el Diario del Pueblo, medio oficial del gobierno chino, en la declaración conjunta suscrita por los sus máximos representantes, no hay mención alguna sobre la negociación de la deuda, como se alardeaba hasta antes del 31 de enero. Al gobierno neoliberal de Ecuador le urge disponer de recursos, incluso dejando de lado su demagógica defensa de la naturaleza con la duplicación de la explotación petrolera con la subsecuente ampliación de la franja petrolera, de ahí su énfasis en negociar con China, lo que permitiría ‘la oxigenación de cuotas de la deuda, y estas garantías que tiene el petróleo dentro de esos instrumentos financieros’, según Juan Carlos Holguín; de esa manera se proyectaba obtener unos USD 400 millones al año.

El gobierno, en una aparente autonomía respecto de los capitales y gobierno estadounidense, acude a la ‘benevolencia’ del gobierno imperialista chino, afirmando el control y una mayor dependencia en sectores como la minería, el petróleo. Para no presentarse con las manos vacías, ha decidido congraciarse y ofertar al empresariado chino la empresa pública de telecomunicaciones CNT y el Banco Pacífico, que hoy resalta su segundo lugar como uno de los mejores entre el resto de entidades para la venta a un banco extranjero.

El entreguismo del gobierno neoliberal no tiene límites, ratificando su política privatizadora de las empresas públicas solventes, de propiedad del pueblo ecuatoriano.