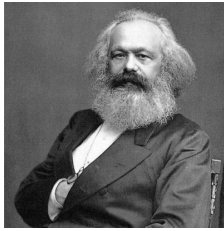


Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity



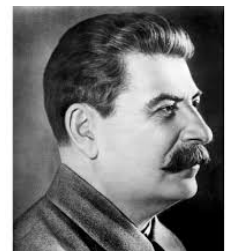
A Journal of Discussion and Debate



Vol. 5, No. 1

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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. Also, note that unsigned articles, as well as comments before articles, are mine (George Gruenthal).

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, 2023. Material should be sent in by the end of May.

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Editorial: The need for a broad journal of discussion and debate

The conditions affecting the U.S. working class are gradually worsening. There is still high inflation and there is the threat of a recession. There has been some movement among the working class, mainly in the form of union organizing and strikes (although the almost two-year-long strike of miners at Warrior Met coal in Alabama was temporarily defeated).

The revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist movement is still small and in a fragmented state. Most of the small groups are mainly concentrated on building themselves up, which is fine in itself, but there is considerable ideological and political confusion and little attempt to strive for unity or serious rooting in the working class.

As we have pointed out in the lead article in our first issue, some of the most important organizations for developing advanced workers are the various mass groups of activists, including many workers and particularly Afro-American workers, that exist in many local areas. We are referring to groups such as People's Organization of Progress in New Jersey, Black Workers for Justice in North Carolina, the Saturday Free School in Philadelphia, the Virginia Defenders, Revolutionary Road and Workers Voice Socialist Movement in New Orleans. Many of these groups have people in the leadership who consider themselves Marxist or even Marxist-Leninist. But once again there are considerable ideological and political differences among these forces, and little attempt is made to clarify and overcome these differences in order to move towards unity.

It is to these forces as well as the existing Marxist-Leninist groups and individuals that we are directing this editorial.

This is the beginning of the 5th year of publication of Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity (TMLU). The idea was to spark discussion among the forces that consider themselves Marxist-Leninist. Unfortunately, most of the organized groups have not taken part in ideological and political discussion to clarify their lines and sharpen their differences. There are a few that have indicated their interest in doing this, but so far there have been no concrete moves in this direction. We would be glad to dissolve the TMLU to take part in such a broader effort.

I would tentatively suggest certain points of unity to this end:

- 1) Recognition of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as classical historical leaders of the working-class struggle for socialism, the dictatorship of the proletariat, as a transition to communism, a classless society.
- 2) Recognition that the world is currently divided into imperialist blocs: the one led by US imperialism allied with the EU (or at least most of it), which is currently the strongest but is declining, and the other bloc led by Russia and China. This division is leading to a new inter-imperialist war.
- 3) The main force that must lead the socialist revolution in the United States is the multinational US working class, including immigrant workers as an important component, together with the liberation movements of the oppressed nations in the US, and at the head of a bloc of progressive sections of the petty-bourgeoisie. It must have the support of, and give support to, the working class and national liberation movements of other countries. In order to carry out its duty, the working class must break with all forms of chauvinism, including great nation chauvinism, which is a consequence the conditions of its existence in the world's major imperialist power.

- 4) We fight for the right of self-determination, up to and including secession, of the Afro-American, Chicano/Mexicano, native nations, native Hawaiians and native Alaskans and Aleuts.
- 5) We fight for the end to the oppression of and discrimination against women and LGBT+ people.
- 6) We fight to preserve and broaden all democratic rights, which are constantly being restricted by the capitalist class. These include the right to free speech and association, the right to bear arms, etc.
- 7) We fight for the economic rights of all working people, including the right to form unions, the right to strike (including for all public employees), the right to decent wages, for low-cost housing, and the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Besides discussion around such political points, such a journal could take up the concrete questions facing working people, including the attacks on the conditions of workers, police brutality, housing gentrification, etc. This would be a way to reach out to advanced workers to bring them into the socialist movement.

None of this would in any way prevent groups or individuals involved in such a proposed journal from carrying on their own agitation and propaganda, and carrying on their own practice. This is just a proposal for joint debate and discussion.

There are many points to be debated within this. But if we restricted ourselves only to discussions with those who already agreed with the above points, we would just be another sectarian and sterile force. There are many people and groups who consider themselves Marxist, or even Marxist-Leninist, who disagree with individual points here. For example, there are those who, openly or not, call for a state of the whole people as opposed to the dictatorship of the proletariat. There are also those who think that China (or even Russia) is not imperialist, or even that China is still socialist. These are just two of many areas of controversy.

We recognize the need for polemics in order to demarcate lines on these and other questions. While we would grant space for those with different views on the above points, we would have the right to “the last word” in the pages of our journal.

For those who are interested in taking up such a discussion, please contact us.

The “Rage against the War Machine” rally in Washington DC on February 19 was attacked by several anti-war groups as a “left-right” alliance. It was followed by another anti-war rally on March 18. This is reminiscent of the insanity in the movement against the war on Iraq, when one anti-war group had a rally in DC one day and another a week or two later. Whichever rally was larger, it is clear that it would have been better and bigger if there had been one united rally. To add one thing: I had a table for Red Star Publishers at both rallies. The “Rage” rally included the “Schiller Institute,” the successor to Lyndon LaRouche’s reactionary misnamed National Caucus of Labor Committees. Two young people wearing Schiller Institute shirts came up to the table and were glad to see the Marxist literature there. The point is only that there are many progressive people who work in reactionary organizations without knowing anything of their history.

<https://mltoday.com/behind-the-self-defeating-approach-toward-the-national-protest-against-the-war-in-ukraine/>

Behind the Self-Defeating Approach toward the National Protest against the War in Ukraine

Posted by MLToday | Mar 13, 2023

By Stansfield Smith

February 27, 2023 Dissident Voice

The Rage Against the War Machine, which stood up against the US war on Russia in Ukraine, was the first national anti-war demonstration in the capital in years. Held on February 19th, this was a groundbreaking event, showing that the anti-war movement has revived on a national scale after years of relative quiescence. Yet this success was not welcomed by some leftist anti-war activists. People may be acquainted with the issue of Libertarians as a key sponsor of the rally, and some of the views or alleged views of some of the speakers – views unrelated to the demands of the demonstration.



Underlying this are deeper causes for the conflict.

A lefty anti-war coalition?

Some consciously, some not, seek to build a “left” anti-war coalition, an anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist one. This confuses an anti-war movement with a left organization. It isolates you from possible allies. It is a myth that anti-war movements are led by leftists, a myth that anti-war movements consist mostly of leftists. Most people protest war because they are sick of war, are against new wars – not because they are leftist, but because they have human feeling. This should not be some new revelation.

Movement building means we need to win over the people. And we need committed activists and experienced organizers. Whether they hold an anti-imperialist worldview is secondary. People become anti-imperialist – if they do at all – after becoming politically active, combined with some period of study. Often they become so only temporarily, as we see today with so many on the left supporting US regime change in Ukraine, Nicaragua, Syria, Iran, Hong Kong, or Russia.

The root of these leftists’ mixed-up thinking goes back to the purge of the working class left wing from the trade union movement after World War II. US government operations drove this class struggle force out of its home base in the working class. The left has not rebuilt its natural home there, nor does it

focus on reestablishing the working class as its base. Instead, they orient to the multi-class socially progressive milieu with its nebulous relation to the means of production.

A left that exists separate from a working class left wing is homeless, cast adrift. In the socially progressive milieu, it rotates around Democratic Party voters, its liberal identity politics, and its disdain for the “deplorables.” Ironically, those who articulated that the Democratic Party is the more effective evil are living proof of the accuracy of this statement.

A left wing grounded working class would not make such foolish mistakes as not supporting the February 19 demonstration against imperialist war. Nor would a working class leftwing, in contrast to today’s left, have any greater hostility to Trump voters than to Obama, Clinton or Biden voters.



Left-right alliance?

The February 19 anti-war demonstration was dubbed a “left-right” alliance, a term first used by left supporters of US regime change in Syria. These left apologists for the “Syrian Revolution” smeared opponents of that military operation as allied with “fascists” in a “red-brown” alliance. Now this has been picked up by some left opponents of the US war on Russia to attack a demonstration against the present imperial war.

A reality check is in order. People who attack demonstrations against US imperial wars are the ones who are reactionary, not the people who organize the demonstrations. That has always been the case.

Fortunately, many of these have called another anti-war rally on March 18, even if not for the best of reasons.

The demands of the Rage Against the War Machine rally were: Not One More Penny for War in Ukraine; Negotiate Peace; Stop the War Inflation; Disband NATO; Global Nuclear De-Escalation; Slash the Pentagon Budget; Abolish the CIA and Military Industrial Deep State; Abolish War and Empire; Restore Civil Liberties; and Free Julian Assange.

While it is not clear what is meant by “left” and “right,” the demands of the rally are directed against the national security state, the actual government of this country. If you confront it, then you are not supporting it, and we are on the same side.

Why did some lefty people set up a litmus test on other issues unrelated to the Rage Against the War Machine demands to determine who should be allowed to participate? If you want to weaken a

movement, that is what you would do. Shun people who hold dissimilar beliefs on issues unrelated to the demands of the demonstration? That is a definition of sectarian.

A demonstration gives us the opportunity to explain our anti-imperialist message to other participants. If we don't use that opportunity, then we don't do our job.

School of Americas Watch protests at Fort Benning



SOA Watch organized annual rallies outside Fort Benning against US military intervention and murder in Latin America. The protests were staged and funded by different orders and groups of the Catholic Church. Most participants came from Catholic orders and schools. These are organizations opposed to women's right to choose, opposed to LGBT rights. Were the SOA Watch rallies a "left-right" alliance we should attack instead of joining? Attack the protests for being a platform legitimizing anti-woman and anti-gay groups?

The "Left-Right" Alliance Fred Hampton Built



Fred Hampton and Bobby Lee of the Chicago Black Panthers showed how class-conscious activists work with seemingly hostile groups. In the late 1960s these Panthers helped create a Rainbow Coalition of poor blacks, Puerto Ricans, and southern whites to fight for fair housing, economic equality, and against police brutality. The whites, Young Patriot Organization (YPO) was based in Hillbilly Harlem,

in uptown Chicago. They wore the Confederate flag as their emblem, and many were racist. But like blacks and Latinos, the Young Patriots and their families experienced discrimination – being poor and from the South. Fred Hampton tolerated YPO members wearing their Confederate flag patches at meetings and rallies. It came to take on a new meaning within the Rainbow Coalition. The YPO began wearing the Confederate flag with black power symbols and slogans. Despite the racial divisions, the BPP and YPO found common cause in the fight against their oppression. Through their joint work, the Young Patriots cast off their white supremacy views, including the Confederate flag. They saw they had in much common with the Black Panthers and Latino Young Lords. This is but one example of people, focused on taking on the imperialist power structure, overcame their “left-right” divisions and worked together to fight their common oppressor.

Medea Benjamin

Medea Benjamin, a sensible and highly respected anti-war activist, no sectarian, had this to say about Rage Against the War Machine:

“Many people have asked me why I am not speaking at the Rage Against the War Machine rally in DC on Feb. 19. Here’s why:

I supported the Rage Against the War Machine Rally from the time of its conception and I support it today, even though I will not be one of the speakers because the organization I have been associated with for 20 years, CODEPINK, urged me not to speak...

So why do I support the rally?

Because I am heartbroken by a war that is causing such death and destruction in Ukraine.

Because I have real fears that this war could lead us into World War III or a nuclear confrontation.

Because both political parties are complicit in giving over \$100 billion to Ukraine to keep this war going.

Because the Biden administration is pushing this war to weaken Russia instead of promoting solutions.

Because we urgently need as many voices as possible, from a broad variety of perspectives, to speak out so we can be much more effective at pressuring Congress and the White House to move this conflict from the bloody battlefield to the negotiating table. The future of our world stands in the balance.”

Those are the key issues. To emphasize: on the anniversary of Ukraine war, the two nuclear superpowers are in combat. The US government states it remains committed to driving Russia out of the Ukraine; Russia says defeat threatens its very existence. Recall Biden said a year ago that US and European sanctions would make Russia leave Ukraine. The war has only escalated since then. Where will it lead?

Tulsi Gabbard began her speech with the day in January 2018 when Hawaiians were warned on their cell phones “Ballistic missile inbound. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill.” To think the leaders of the US and Russia will not blunder into a nuclear war, given all the previous incidents over the years, reveals a naïve faith in our leaders.

To refuse to work with “the right” to avoid Ukraine becoming a nuclear war is mind-boggling in its stupidity. The Libertarians show their approach is not so sectarian.

Those who brought us Rage Against the War Machine recognized if we are to defeat the non-stop imperial war machine that rules over our lives, we must work with all people possible under its boot. Until we all do, we defeat ourselves.

Stansfield Smith, *Chicago ALBA Solidarity*, is a long time Latin America solidarity activist, and presently puts out the *AFGJ Venezuela Weekly*. He is also the Senior Research Fellow at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs.

The Communist Workers Platform (CWP) is one of the groups that split from the Party of Communists USA. Though we only know them from a couple of brief conversations with one of their leaders during the recent anti-war marches in Washington DC, there are a number of positive things to be said about them. They are enthusiastic about the need for socialist revolution; they see the necessity to root themselves in the working class; and they are developing in-person study circles instead of over the internet (which would leave them open to surveillance by the state). Furthermore, they expressed interest in publication with others of a journal for ideological and political discussion, which we have been proposing since the beginning of Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity.

They also see the war in Ukraine as an inter-imperialist war (see their text below). However, they apparently see the imperialist powers in contention as Russia and Ukraine. First, this leaves U.S. imperialism, our main enemy, off the hook. The U.S. is not even directly mentioned in their leaflet. And a (military) intervention by NATO is only mentioned as a future possibility, although NATO, and especially the U.S., is already providing Ukraine's regime with practically all its weapons.

This incorrect view, seeing Ukraine as an imperialist power instead of a dependent country, seems to come from a similar line by the Communist Party of Mexico (PCM), with which they have close connections. The PCM considers Mexico as an imperialist power (because it has some minor investments in the U.S.) rather than country heavily dependent on U.S. imperialism.

We hope the comrades of the CWP will reconsider their position.

<https://newworker.us/international/the-imperialist-war-in-ukraine/>

The Imperialist War in Ukraine

by [Member of CWPUSA](#), November 27, 2022



The imperialist war in Ukraine is not going well for Russia. The blitzkrieg which kicked off this conflict has dissipated into a stalemate, with many of their initial territorial gains having since been reversed. Russian military superiority has collapsed in the face of rampant equipment shortages, a crisis likely exacerbated by the ongoing sanctions. The recent mobilization of “reservists”, already an absurdity given their numerical advantage, has so far only succeeded in damaging morale on a national scale. Moreover,

the flood of Russian citizens fleeing conscription has resulted in labor shortages and even triggered a refugee crisis, heightening tensions between Russia and its neighbors in Central Asia. The time for a quick victory is over, and with the infamous General Winter approaching on the horizon, the Russian imperialists seem anything but prepared for a long war.

As bad as the situation is for Russia, the outlook for Ukraine is not much better. Though they have managed to reclaim much of the territory they lost at the start of the year, the costs have been severe. Russian artillery and air strikes have destroyed billions of dollars worth of housing and infrastructure and forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country. There is no telling yet how many people have been killed as a result, but whatever that number is, Ukraine will doubtlessly be recovering from this conflict for decades to come. Of course, the war must end before recovery can begin, and even with the surprise reversal of the Russian forces, the chance of even an armistice remains slim, let alone an outright victory. Indeed, the only real hope the Ukrainian forces have for such a victory is an intervention by NATO, an event that would be catastrophic for all of humanity.

The prospects are grim. On the one hand, we have a potentially years-long war resulting in the devastation of both countries, the imperialists on both sides making off with whatever profits and territorial gains they can get away with. On the other hand, we have a possible escalation into a general war between nuclear powers, a war not even the imperialists would live to benefit from. As remote a possibility as it may seem, however, there is another path open for us. While some continue to preach the “progressive” role played by one or the other imperialist power, the actions of both the Putin and Zelenski regimes at home—cracking down on communist organizations and labor unions, and uplifting the forces of fascism to unprecedented heights—have revealed their true class character. This is a war, not for liberation from Nazism or for defense from “eastern hordes”, but for the redivision of markets. We have seen this before, we know where it leads. The war between imperialists must be converted into a war between classes, a war for socialist revolution. If only the organized working class of both countries—of all countries—can seize the moment and fulfill our historic role, the path to true peace will be opened to all of us.

What is behind Local Law 97?

There is a new law in New York City calling for large buildings to switch to electric power over the next few years. This is supposed to be to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. This all sounds good, but then one must ask the question: How is electricity produced in New York State? After all, electricity does not grow on trees.

A quick check on the internet, from the U.S. Energy Information Administration¹, shows that almost half (46%) of electricity in New York State is generated from natural gas, a fossil fuel. Nuclear power provides another quarter (25%) of the state’s electricity. Renewable energy provides about three-tenths (30%) of the state’s electricity. So with the new law, about 70% of New York’s electricity will still come from non-renewable resources. What is the point of that? This is a question that none of the newscasters touting the new law do not bother to ask.

¹ <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=NY#:~:text=Natural%20gas%2C%20nuclear%20energy%2C%20and,90%25%20of%20New%20York's%20electricity.>

L.A. workers: “Our interest is with all workers of all nations”

By [Editor](#) on [March 23, 2023](#)

By June Vass, Red Phoenix correspondent, California.

Last week at Los Angeles City Hall, anti-capitalist workers gathered to demand an end to U.S. involvement in the proxy war in Ukraine and a complete dissolution of NATO in the name of proletarian internationalism. The March 17 event marked one year since the first demonstration organized by Roofers Union Local 36 in opposition to the inter-imperialist conflict. Participants held signs, banners, and flags, while union manager Cliff Smith delivered a speech over a sound-track of supportive car horns from the busy streets of downtown’s Friday afternoon traffic. Smith’s speech is reproduced below.



Cliff Smith with Roofers & Waterproofers Local 36 and supporters.

Local 36 held the first public action against the war, demanding the end of the war in Ukraine now. The Russian attack should stop now, NATO should be dissolved now, and a substantial dialogue must be held.

NO TO THE IMPERIALIST WAR! NO U.S. INVOLVEMENT!

No US soldiers outside the country’s borders. Close all foreign US-NATO military bases.

Workers must and will intensify the struggle for disengagement from NATO and US imperialist alliances. As workers our interest is with all workers of all nations. We support workers everywhere and will never support the owners, the capitalists of one country, against the workers of another country. We will never promote workers fighting other workers. Russia is capitalist. Ukraine is capitalist. EU, NATO, US — all capitalist. The conflicts between these countries are capitalist conflicts, for resources, for position, for markets, for strategic position. None of this is in the interest of the working class.

We demand peace. And as workers in America, we focus our demand on the American government, the American military. In the last year the U.S. has sent \$46 billion of U.S. public money to Ukraine in military assistance. What has been accomplished? Not only is extending the war and escalating it destroying Ukraine, but it is disrupting the world economy. Energy costs and food costs have exploded due to shortages from the war. These price increases in gasoline, heating oil, basic food — eggs, meat, grain — undermine workers' living standards across Europe, the U.S. and worldwide.

Now the U.S. government is trying to bring down prices by raising interest rates to slow the economy. This also is a direct attack on workers' standards. A mortgage or credit card loan is now more expensive. Slowing the economy will kill jobs and create unemployment, and bring down wages, hurting workers. Another result of rising interest rates is that banks who are invested in government bonds now have less value as bond prices fall. Two of these banks just collapsed last week and were taken over by the government. Workers will pay for these bailouts and guaranteed deposits. These are the largest bank failures since the Great Recession of 2008 and the financial panic is just beginning. But the oil companies and others made record profits while they raised prices.

Why is the strategy to weaken Labor? Why does the government not limit corporate profits? Why not tax the rich and these companies' profits? If the U.S. has \$46 billion extra why is there still not clean drinking water in Jackson, MS, or Flint, MI? Why are trains going off rails spilling toxic chemicals in Ohio? Why are teachers and service workers in Los Angeles threatening to go on strike? How come Roofers have to fight to get a raise doing the most dangerous work around? The U.S. government does not care about Ukrainian workers any more than it cares about American workers.

Congressman Conor Lamb last year told the NABTU Legislative Conference that “we are in a race in real time to make sure that Vladimir Putin is not supplying Europe with coal and oil and natural gas, but to make sure that it's us instead.” This is the motive: to protect U.S. corporate profits. Not Ukrainian people or American people. When the railroad unions voted to strike last year for paid sick days, president Biden and the Democrats and Republicans voted to make the strike illegal. The government interfered in the negotiations and imposed a contract on them that benefited the companies against the workers. Then Marty Walsh quit as Labor Secretary and took a million dollar position with the National Hockey League Players' Association.

The AFL-CIO is collaborating with the government to cheerlead this war for the capitalists. When congressman Lamb admitted it was for oil companies, Liz Shuler was in the front row giving a standing ovation. This is why Shuler and the AFL-CIO tell Local 36 we can't affiliate to the World Federation of Trade Unions, which stands with workers internationally, against capitalism and imperialism. They told us we can only affiliate to the ITUC, which split from the WFTU in the Cold War and has the government stamp of approval. But Luca Visentini of the ITUC was arrested and forced to resign for corruption, money laundering, and bribery. He admits to taking \$50,000 in payoffs. The money came from Qatar so the AFL-CIO affiliated ITUC would stay quiet, look the other way while immigrant workers died building the World Cup. The WFTU defended the workers and attacked the corrupt Labor leaders.

The demonstration tomorrow includes the demand “U.S. hands off Haiti.” The Peace in Ukraine Coalition includes The People's Forum and ANSWER Coalition. Last year these groups held a People's Summit at Trade Tech to protest the Summit of the Americas. Local 36 was invited to be a sponsor and approved for a Vendor's literature table, for which we paid the fee. We had a flyer in solidarity with garment workers in Haiti, attacking Levi's exploitation, and U.S. government interference, demanding U.S. hands off Haiti. The People's Forum and ANSWER Coalition folks attacked Local 36 for supporting Haitian workers. They forcibly expelled us from the

Liberals and Social Democrats are conditional allies against fascism. But we see AOC promoting military recruiting in Bronx high schools and we know that when push comes to shove, the working class can only rely on itself and working-class militancy to lead the fight against capitalism and imperialism. Social democracy, liberal radicals, and professional activists will always flip and side with opportunism, no matter what slogans they chant.



Stop food stamp cuts!

March 2, 2023 Struggle-La Lucha Baltimore bureau



SLL

Photo: Sharon Black

Food stamp benefits are being reduced across the board on March 1, with 42 million seeing cuts ranging from \$82 to \$328 a month per household. Seniors could see reductions from \$281 to as little as \$23 per month.

The emergency increase of food stamp benefits enacted during the COVID-19 pandemic was ended, effective March 1, by Congress and signed into law by President Biden last December.

The cuts will include the restart of eligibility determination for food stamps, Medicaid, and other social benefits, which was halted in March 2020 when the Trump administration declared that the COVID pandemic was a national emergency. Hundreds of thousands of households and individuals will be cut off every month, with millions cut by the end of the year.

The reduction in food stamps (officially called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP) actually began on Feb. 1, when 18 states began the cuts as soon as it was legally possible.

The numbers affected on March 1, state by state, are painful. The top 16 include: California, 2.93 million people; New York, 1.61 million; Texas, 1.34 million; Illinois, 1.06 million; Pennsylvania, 1.04 million; North Carolina, 813,000; Michigan, 705,000; Ohio, 673,000; Massachusetts, 629,000; Washington, 518,000; Virginia, 470,000; Oregon, 416,000; Alabama, 393,000; New Jersey, 388,000; Maryland, 360,000; and Wisconsin, 347,000.

Congress cut food stamps as food price inflation is spreading, with no sign of letup. Food at home prices rose by 11.3% in 2022. Eggs led the way, up 32.2%. Cereals and bakery products were up 15.6%; meats, poultry, and fish were up 8.1%; dairy was up 14%.

At a Feb. 27 protest of the food stamp cuts in Baltimore, the Peoples Power Assembly, the Matthew Henson Neighborhood Association, the Unemployed Workers Union, and others demanded that the cuts be reversed immediately and that the food stamp program be expanded due to the continuing inflation crisis.

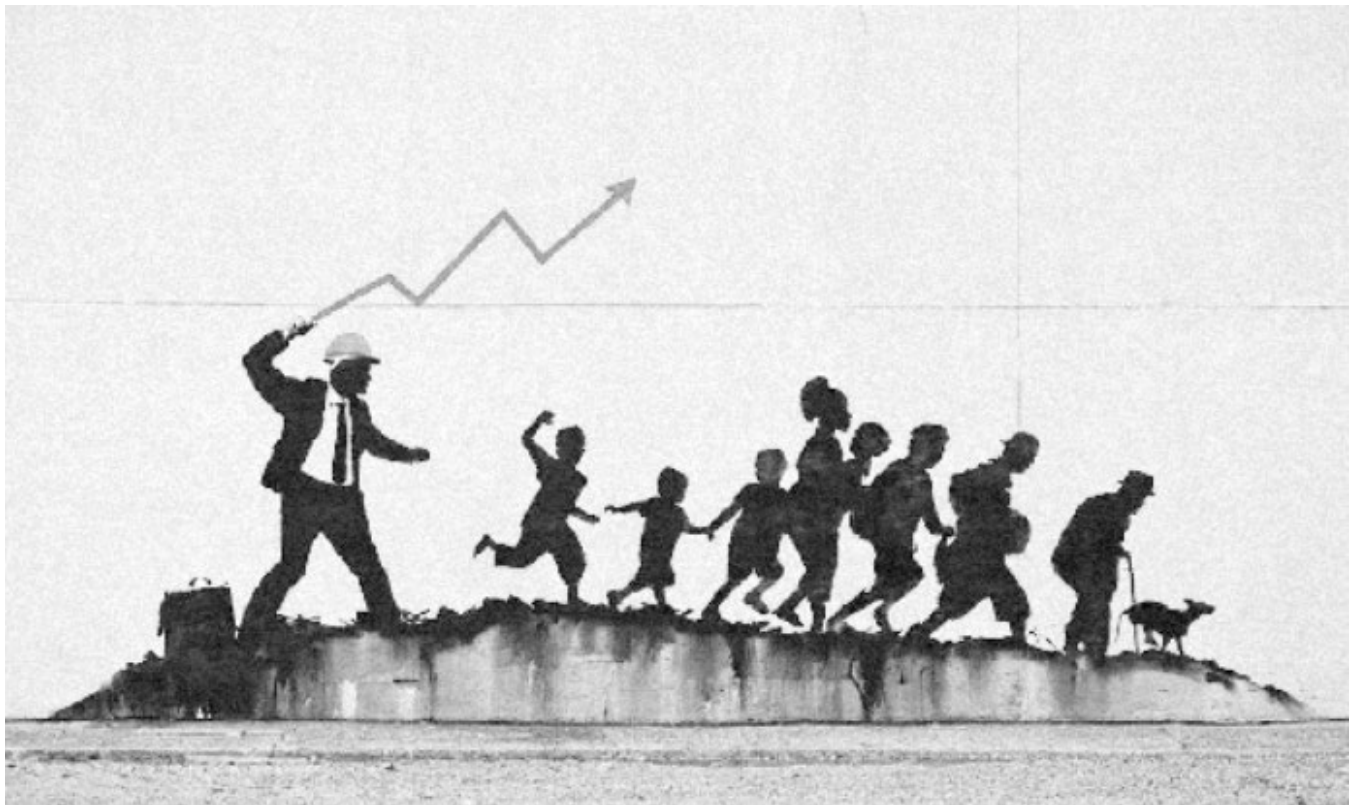
Dr. Marvin “Doc” Cheatham, Matthew Henson Neighborhood Association and civil rights advocate, said: “The federal government must address this crisis, but local, state, and city governments can and must act too. Everyone from the mayor to the governor can and must find the resources to keep people from starving and suffering!”

The Rev. Annie Chambers, Douglas Homes housing advocate and Peoples Power Assembly organizer, declared: “They can find \$100 billion for the Ukraine war, but nothing for the people. This is an outrage! Food stamps must be extended, not cut.”

Baltimore is already hard-hit by “food deserts” (neighborhoods with little or no access to affordable, nutritious food) and what activists are calling “Baltimore food apartheid.”

Groups have banded together in a campaign to “End Food Apartheid in Baltimore.” They are demanding that the food stamp program be expanded, including lowering requirements to allow seniors and low-wage workers more access.

The campaign has called for rolling back prices, including enacting a people’s control board that has the power to freeze and rollback prices, and enacting stiff penalties for price gougers.



Cop City: Racist police terror continues in Atlanta

March 4, 2023 Lev Koufax



Pro-

testers march in Atlanta following the police murder of Manuel ‘Tortuguita’ Terán.

Almost three years ago, two Atlanta police officers executed Rayshard Brooks, an unarmed 27-year-old Black father of two, in a Wendy’s parking lot. In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, the two cops were fired and charged with murder. The Atlanta Black community reclaimed the Wendy’s as a community center and proposed the construction of a Rayshard Brooks memorial.

Unfortunately, the Atlanta stormtroopers raided the Wendy’s site in 2020 and violently cleared the community encampment there. Any plans for a memorial or community center were scrapped.

Pouring salt in the wound, racist cop Garrett Rolfe, who fired the shots that killed Brooks, was reinstated in May 2021. Just over a year later, in August 2022, Georgia prosecutors dropped all charges against Rolfe and his partner, Devin Brosnan.

This string of racist and reactionary actions taken by the Atlanta city and Georgia state governments, along with their allies in the mainstream media, continue to enact an agenda aimed at stifling anti-racist dissent and increasing surveillance of oppressed communities.

As part of this reactionary agenda, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced in April 2021 a plan for a brand new \$90 million, 85-acre police training facility on what has been a public forest for decades. Several months later, the Atlanta City Council rubber-stamped the plan.

Even in the face of severe opposition and sustained protests, the city has forged ahead with construction of what has been dubbed “Cop City.”

Cold-blooded execution

On Jan. 18, 2023, the police and officials demonstrated just how far they would go to secure the site for what is really a domestic military base. In short, they would kill to do so.

That day, a Georgia State Trooper executed a queer environmental activist of color, Manuel Esteban Paez Terán (known by the nickname Tortuguita.)

Terán was involved in a two-year effort by local activists to organize forest sit-ins against the training center's construction. For Terán's dedication to anti-racism and anti-capitalism, the Atlanta police shot them 13 times.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation has kept the facts under lock and key, making the community and Terán's family question the "official" narrative that they fired upon police first. There is no reason to believe that account.

Based on all those who knew Terán, they were a fervent pacifist dedicated to the preservation of the planet's natural wonders. Nonetheless, the GBI has depicted them as a violent lunatic aimed at murdering police. Per usual, the police narrative does not pass the smell test.

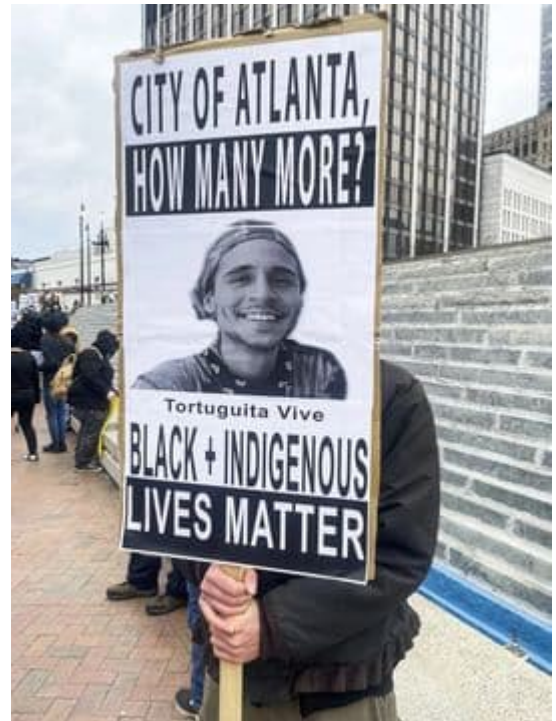
Georgia police have only escalated their efforts against the community protesting the construction of Cop City. This has included multiple raids with heavily armed officers deploying crowd dispersal weapons against all those in the forested area.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp took the outrageous steps of calling in the National Guard and charging several Cop City protesters with "domestic terrorism."

As racist police escalate their war against Black and Brown communities and the broader working class, so must the struggle for liberation maintain its efforts to uncover the capitalist system for what it is: rotten and racist at every level of society.

Stand with the Cop City protestors! Down with fascist training centers!

Justice for Rayshard Brooks! Justice for Tortuguita!



Is a Financial Crisis Looming?



In less than a fortnight, the world learned of financial difficulties in two countries, affecting different banks. The first news was of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), located in California, USA; in less than a week, the second news was known regarding the closure of the 100-year-old Swiss bank Credit Suisse; to this is added the financial difficulties of the First Republic Bank, located in San Francisco, which brought the desperate help of several banks such as Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo, which injected \$30 billion into it. In the same way, these days saw the collapse of Signature Bank, the third largest bank to collapse in US history, with \$118 billion in assets.

Imperialism and its bourgeois economists make efforts to sell the idea that the problems of these international banks are isolated phenomena, and that the main problem is the "failure of management"; therefore, they would not be carried over to the main part of the financial sector. Despite their wishes, the facts prove otherwise. Silicon Valley Bank was the bank of choice for companies that carry out technological activities and health-care companies. In four years, it accumulated \$153,000 million; to make these exorbitant incomes profitable, the bank sought a long-term investment in US treasury bonds, what seemed like a round business was falling off a cliff. The war in Ukraine, the energy crisis and rising interest rates sent bond values plummeting. To this is added the difficulties in the computer sector that led to large economic losses in companies such as Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon and Apple, causing thousands of employees to be laid off during 2022 and early 2023.

As can be seen, the relaxation of financial controls and speculation in bonds to obtain greater profits led to a propitious scenario for the fall of these banks. These facts could be the first symptoms of a new

financial crisis of global connotation, in a world in which the conditions for a new economic crisis of capitalism are incubating.

There is no doubt that the measures being taken by the Federal Reserve (FR) and the Central Bank of the European Union (BCUE) to reduce inflation are creating liquidity problems in several financial institutions. Jerome Powell, chair of the Federal Reserve, in taking the interest-raising measures, pointed out that a severe recession was necessary to keep wages low enough to keep U.S. corporate profits and thus their stock prices high. This opinion lays bare the exploitative and plundering character of capitalism.

Faced with the facts of the SVB, the FR proceeded to reduce interest rates, but this financial measure does not hide the real problems of the economy. Interest-bearing debts are growing exponentially, but the economy has not been revived and may even get worse.

What happened with these banks has set off alarms in the stock markets of the world; there is talk of bailouts to try to stop the contagion, giving millions of dollars to the bankers, to the detriment of the imperative needs of the working masses. The US Federal Reserve printed \$300 billion in a week to save failing banks and bail out Silicon Valley oligarchs. It is not for nothing that the big monopolies control the States.

Happy Orthodox Communist Easter!



Financial storms, recession and reaction

On Friday, March 10, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the sixteenth largest US bank linked to thousands of tech start-up companies around the world, included by Forbes in the list of the best North American banks for the fifth consecutive year, collapsed in just 48 hours, after its shares had lost more than 69% of their value.

The bankruptcy of SVB, which had quadrupled its size in the last 5 years thanks to start-up financing, was the second largest bank failure after that of Washington Mutual in 2008.

But it is not the only one. In the same weeks, the cryptocurrency institute Silvergate, Signature Bank, jumped and the stock of the First Republic Bank, a regional bank, sank. Other small and medium-sized banks are in the same situation as SVB.

Bankruptcy always represents the expropriation of the assets of a large number of "small fish". Big capitalists sell their shares in a timely manner. The mechanism of intervention by the state, the first defender of monopoly capital, always means an expropriation of small savers.

Despite the Fed's intervention and the opening of the international "safety net", despite Biden's reassurances, the inevitable "contagion" has arrived on the European stock markets.

There were substantial declines in bank stocks in Switzerland (Credit Swiss, close to collapse, was acquired by US Bancorp with 3.3 billion Swiss Francs thanks to the support of the Swiss central bank), Spain (Banco Santander), Germany (Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank), France (BNP Paribas). The sell-off sent the index of bank shares down in Japan.

The Milan stock exchange has burned tens of billions. MPS bank lost 35% in a month, other banks such as Unicredit and Mediolanum recorded serious losses. The close relationship of weak Italian financial capitalism with declining US imperialism has amplified the negative effects.

On March 16, the European Central Bank raised interest rates by 50 basis points.

This decision was officially taken to continue the deflationary policy with the means available to the economic authorities in the capitalist monopoly economy. But such a monetary policy, dedicated to the fight against inflation, but without control of setting prices, especially monopoly prices, is nothing but a policy of defending high finance and banking and supporting the ongoing process of concentration of capital.

Bourgeois economists say that the main cause of the current shock – which makes the financial system more unstable and anticipates a wider crisis, given the amount of financial bubbles inflated with years of quantitative easing – lies in the fact that the United States has raised interest rates in ten months from 0.5% to 4.75% to rein in inflation.

This created problems for SVB, which held long-term securities and bonds whose market value collapsed. Therefore, it had to sell them off to raise liquidity in a vain attempt to cope with the bank run, amplified by social media, leading to the declaration of insolvency and bankruptcy.

In reality, the crisis of SVB and other banks is not the result of "mismanagement" or "bad policies", but is only the tip of the iceberg of a much larger problem.

The banking and stock market crashes of these days are leading to a violent depreciation of fictitious capital with serious consequences in the sphere of production, This is heading towards a recession of no short duration in many countries and productive sectors, with mass layoffs especially in high-tech companies, reduction of wages and further push to monopolist concentration. Behind this is the gradual decrease in the rate of profit in the capitalist system, which is especially evident in the USA.

The fall in the rate of profit is an economic barrier whose action, although slowed down and hindered by countertendencies, is realized through a process evident in the long run, a "law of nature" of the present mode of production that has a historical, transitory character.

The effects of this law are amplified in the current situation which sees the coexistence of war, sanctions, inflation, pandemic, drought, economic instability, impoverishment of large layers of workers, resumption of the mass struggle of the proletariat against the capitalist offensive.

These conditions demonstrate the aggravation of the general crisis of capitalism, and on the political level lead the bourgeoisie to move from the parliamentary system to fascist methods in order to defend its class rule.

Those who see behind the crashes of these days only the conflict between policies to reduce inflation and maintain economic growth, or the deregulation of the banking sector, see the trees but do not see the forest.

Those who say "we have learned nothing from the 2008 crisis" show that they do not understand the process of reproduction of the inherent contradictions of the process of capital accumulation, which find a manifestation in credit crises. It is the conflict between the social character of the productive forces and private capitalist ownership of the means of production and exchange which recurs in a worsened form, constituting the economic basis of the social revolution destined to destroy the present relations of production and to create new ones, conforming to the character of the productive forces.

The failure is not just of the banks and US and EU monetary policy.

Today more than ever it is clear that the real limit of capital is capital itself, its limited conditions of valorization in the productive sphere, which the vandals of the financial oligarchy try to evade with stock scams and swindles of derivatives, cryptocurrencies, bonds, warrants, etc., as drug addicts in search of ever greater doses of drugs.

This does not mean that capitalism is doomed to inevitable collapse. The bourgeoisie is an unscrupulous parasite; it makes mistakes upon mistakes, crimes upon crimes, approaching its ruin, but it does not liquidate itself.

The only force capable of overthrowing this rotting system is the proletariat, capable of transforming itself from a subordinate and internal element to the current mode of production into a conscious, compact and organized protagonist of the abolition of the present state of affairs, indispensable for the transition to a higher form of society of which the socialization of the means of production and the proletarian dictatorship constitute the first fundamental stage.

The fundamental instrument of this revolution is the (Marxist-Leninist) communist party, for whose reconstruction the communists and the best elements of the working class must work. They must act together from the outset to give impetus to an intransigent proletarian class policy, aimed at reversing the consequences of the crises, placing it on the shoulders of the capitalists and the rich and preparing the conditions for a revolutionary solution to capitalist barbarism.

Political Tendencies of US Imperialism

That the US, from the Trump administration to the Biden administration, has tried and is still trying to scale back or recalibrate globalization is a fact. The explicit reason is given by the attempt to maintain its world hegemony (based on economic-financial, technological, military and media dominance), today questioned by the rise of Chinese imperialism whose development process has accelerated in recent decades to make it the world's second largest economy.

US hegemony is shaken mainly by internal factors (economic crises, falling rates of profit, excessive debt, etc.), but also by external factors. The law of uneven development and the exacerbation of the imperialist system's own contradictions – which manifest themselves in the form of trade wars and the penetration of other powers into the world market – weaken it.

US imperialism is in a prolonged process of decline in confrontation with its rivals. Its weight in world production and trade is falling. However, the strength of US monopolies is still considerable (among the top 100 in the world by turnover 35 are from the US, 18 are Chinese); the dollar, although weakened, continues to be an international medium of exchange and the world's reserve currency; the US military apparatus is by far the most powerful in the world.

US imperialism has not lost its ability to build and expand political-military alliances with other imperialist countries, Western and Eastern, in order to contain and fight its main rivals, primarily imperialist China (which has no strategic allies).

The hegemony and economic, political and military control by the United States continues to rest on these pillars; it is the most aggressive, warmongering and dangerous imperialism on the planet. With these assumptions, the Biden administration is playing its cards in the struggle for a new economic and territorial division of the world among the main imperialist countries, with their zones of influence.

It must do so before China becomes too powerful to be stopped.

With the expansion of NATO to the east, the Maidan coup and its support for the puppet Zelensky to deploy long-range missiles on Ukrainian territory, insisting on the "Russian invasion", it did everything possible so that Russian imperialism, its immediate rival and friend of China, would start the ongoing war in Ukraine, with an outcome that is not currently a foregone conclusion.

Now the Biden administration is weighing the strategic steps of escalation to keep the war going for as long as possible, including nuclear conflict. With this line of conduct it is pursuing another, no less important objective: to weaken and keep divided the main countries of the EU and to delay the process of their political-military unification, which means progress in the formation of a new, potentially rival imperialist bloc.

Another game which US imperialism is playing is the question of maintaining technological primacy (closely connected with military primacy and the development of its strategy). The game essentially concerns the production and use of chips, i.e. memory and logic circuit chips, increasingly miniaturized, and therefore increasingly powerful, used in computers, smartphones, and modern industrial and domestic technology in general.

In August last year, the US passed the US Chips and Science Act for \$280 billion to invest in research, pursue reshoring and near-sharing. In practice, the act subsidizes companies that invest in the production

of chips in the US or that in any case undertake not to supply China with the latest generation chips, measured by the density of memories in terms of nanometers, in an increasing the race up to the size of a few molecular layers (a nanometer, equal to one billionth of a meter – is the order of magnitude of atomic and molecular dimensions).

With a monopoly on these technologies, the Pentagon plans to build supercomputers that are thought to be able to handle an atomic attack and intercept the enemy's reaction, stopping it or limiting its damage.

The main multinationals in this sector (including the US Intel) operate in South Korea (alongside Samsung), Taiwan and China. The measure in question, which provides only one year for the use of US cars, is putting sticks in the works in those countries for such an important business. Significantly, in 2022 Samsung, Micron, Intel and others, as well as computer and smartphone manufacturers, have seen substantial revenue reductions of the order of two percentage points (of course also for other reasons such as closures due to Covid and hyperinflation). In order to consider the upheaval caused by the Act, it must also be borne in mind that some high-tech machines for the production of chips are from Japan, Belgium and Holland.

In the same month, the US also passed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to support electrical and digital restructuring. In practice, this means direct and indirect subsidies for the production of electric cars, batteries, power columns and other products produced in the USA or in countries that the USA unilaterally considers trusted allies or vassals (such as Italy). The total amount is almost 700 billion. A colossal figure also open to non-US multinationals, which has made some European chancelleries jump for the possible process of deindustrialization in the EU that is thus being provoked.

We also note that protectionist positions have long since taken the WTO out of play, which certainly cannot sanction a country the size of the US.

This action of US imperialism (protectionism, war in Ukraine, disruption of the EU, upheaval in supply chains in their favor) is contributing – together with other factors, such as the rise in real interest rates, the consequences of the pandemic (China has recently reopened), climate upheaval, but also to endogenous causes such as overproduction and falling rates of profit– to the slowdown of the world economy (see *Scintilla* of February 2023).

In this context, different political tendencies have formed or are being formed in the USA (as well as in the EU).

Not yet directly antagonistic parties, but certainly disputes between currents that make up a contradictory unity in movement, depending on the degrees of different positions that confront each other on globalization and the continuation of the war in Ukraine.

If in the USA the war-like tendency has prevailed so far, there is also a tendency more attentive to economic reasons, which opposes military escalation and a total decoupling from the globalization that has developed over the last three decades. This trend considers that the USA can hardly stop a massive and long-standing phenomenon without compromising the business of a large part of their corporations in a short time and without damage. And, you know, for the Anglo-Americans the saying business is business applies. This "economic" trend calls for a different approach to the world economy, which certainly takes due account of the preservation of US primacy, but without compromising the stability of the imperialist system and the growth of the world economy itself.

A sort of revision of unbridled neoliberalism, in which the imperialist system is managed while paying attention to growing global risks (including climate and health risks), to the prevention of another

economic crisis, to the security of supply chains, with a resumption of 'regulated' cooperation and multilateralism (with allies) supported by Yankee economic muscles. Secondly, it calls for less involvement in military campaigns abroad and a compromise to end the conflict with Russia on the basis of the status quo on the battlefield. In short, a strategy different from that of global chaos to defend US hegemony.

The different political tendencies of the imperialist bourgeoisie – as far as the USA is concerned, which cannot be strictly traced back to the difference between Democrats and Republicans, being of a transversal type – must be analyzed and understood in the light of the Marxist-Leninist theory of the final stage of capitalism. In reality, there are no good and bad imperialisms, just as there are no good and bad political tendencies of the imperialist bourgeoisie because, in one way or another, they represent the interests of financial monopoly capital.

By its nature, imperialism breeds exploitation, oppression and war; It is "reaction across the board" and cannot be reformed for the benefit of the proletariat. All the political tendencies of imperialism are reactionary, anti-worker and anti-communist.

The struggle of the working class and the peoples for social and national emancipation must be guided by a policy of complete class independence: this is a condition for the full realization of the strategic objectives of the proletarian revolution.

This implies putting the defense of the interests of the working class and oppressed peoples at the centre, and targeting the bourgeoisie and imperialist rule in order to ensure the victory of socialism.

Class independence does not negate, on the contrary, it presupposes the possibility and necessity of taking advantage of the inter-bourgeois contradictions that manifest themselves in the concrete historical conditions of a given country.

In the same way, a policy of class independence of the proletariat presupposes the need to exploit the inter-imperialist contradictions, to weaken the domination of the power identified as the most dangerous, to open up spaces and to strengthen the front of the workers' and popular forces.

Taking advantage of these contradictions in no way implies fighting one imperialism so that another can take its place, or supporting one imperialist political tendency to counter another, equally imperialist one. It is the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat and the struggle for the liberation of the peoples that must be supported and upheld, so that they may progress constantly!

Of course, in order to develop this independent class politics, it is necessary to have the tool that embodies the independence of the proletariat from the bourgeoisie on all levels: the Communist Party.

Trump's criminal indictment, relations between the financial oligarchy and diversion

Sector I of the capitalist economy (producer of the means of production), represented by J. Biden, wants to put D. Trump in jail, because they are on the campaign trail and want to use this person, among other things to win votes in the next elections and also to settle accounts with sector II (producer of consumer goods) through its representative, Trump.

During the time that he governed, Trump modestly affected the interests of sector I, because he made a change to the imperialist economy that governed this sector, by limiting the exports that had been predominant for more than three decades in the US, and imposing production for domestic consumption, disrupting agreements that represented profits that the other sector developed while it was in government.

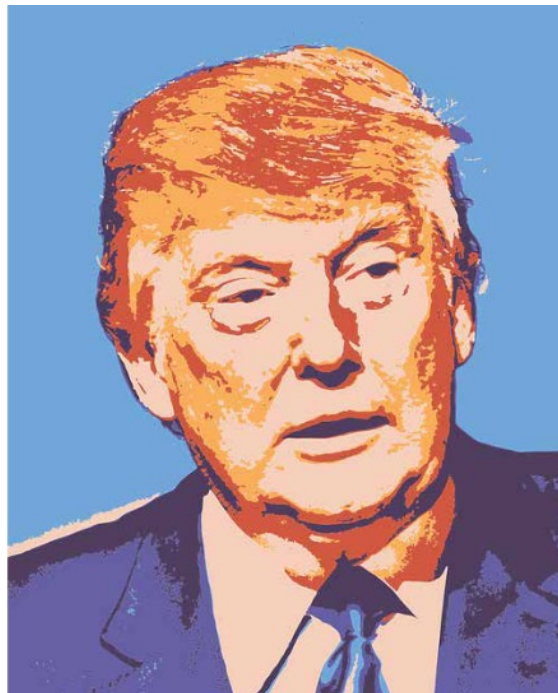
That is, Trump favored the "national" oligarchy, pressuring large capital of his country to return to the US, and not take their profits elsewhere. He sharpened his differences with China with the Trade War and got closer with Russia. They even accused him of having allowed Russia to interfere in the elections that gave him the presidency. In addition, he exalted the chauvinist-fascist expressions inside and outside that led to the assault on the Capitol to reject Biden's victory for the presidency.

The two oligarchic sectors of the US economy are imperialist and fascistic; they have their own peaceful and violent contradictions, which is why they making criminal indictments of Trump. However, both are enemies of the peoples of the world. They are only two sides of the same coin.

The formal accusation to prosecute Donald Trump are ridiculous and morbid. He is accused of bribing a porn actress to keep silent about his relationship with her. It is a spectacle in the electoral context, a diversion and a settling of accounts between them, which also seeks to distract the masses from the real and serious problems facing that country. These are leading its people to pay the costs of the war in Ukraine, of inflation, the increase in the price of goods, of an economic depression that bringing about a new, devastating economic crisis.

Imprisoning Trump will not change US domestic and imperialist politics; the Democratic and Republican Parties will remain the two main political organizations of the financial oligarchy. The most they can do is to increase their differences even more, but without taking them to the extreme where the intervention of the working masses will throw away the bipartisanship that has always governed to the detriment of the people of the US.

Today the task of the working masses of that country is to reject and mobilize against the war, not to play the game of a trial of Trump, but rather to continue the street demonstrations, raising the forms of struggle and organization to put an end to the monster at home.



I met Carolyn when I worked with PLP in the late 1960s (though I never joined). She was one of the most dedicated and honorable people I knew. Although we did not remain in touch, I saw her again after one of the last meetings of the Left Forum. I remember her saying that that she was not surprised by the living conditions in the Philippines, as she had experienced similar conditions (if not quite as severe) in the U.S. South. She was a sincere fighter for the working class internationally.

<http://www.plp.org/challenge/2023/3/4/carolyn-antiracist-communist-till-the-end.html>

From *Challenge*, the Revolutionary Communist Newspaper of the Progressive Labor Party, March 15, 2023

Rest in Power, Carolyn

Antiracist & communist till the end

Carolyn Eubanks, longtime Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member, died in her home in the Bronx at the age of 80. Despite her advanced age, Carolyn was brimming with life. A tireless antiracist fighter and communist leader till the end, Carolyn spent the last week of her life volunteering at La Morada's mutual aid soup kitchen, showing up at the courthouse to support the family of Raymond Chalusant, a young worker murdered by a NYC corrections kkkop, and attending a political event at the CUNY graduate center.

Antiracist upbringing

Born in North Carolina to a working-class family who worked in a local company mill, Carolyn often credited her upbringing with setting her on the path to becoming a communist. Despite growing up in a racist Southern town during the Jim Crow era, her parents instilled in her antiracist working class values. Racist language was banned in their home. She witnessed capitalist oppression firsthand—the differential treatment given to the children of workers and bosses in the mills in school and in the town. Carolyn's mother insisted she learn arithmetic to calculate her wages correctly, because the mill bosses could not be trusted.

In 1958 when the Soviet Union Launched Sputnik the U.S. bosses passed the National Defense Education Act which sent thousands of young people, including Carolyn, to college on scholarships to study math and science. Carolyn always credited the Soviet Union for her college education and her route out of the company town. After graduating from the University of North Carolina she joined the Peace Corps, spending two years in the Philippines, where she saw the effects of imperialism and the ways large U.S. multinational corporations exploited workers around the world....

[To read the full article, please follow the link above]



Conocí a Carolyn cuando trabajé con PLP a fines de la década de 1960 (aunque nunca me integré en el PLP). Ella era una de las personas más dedicadas y honorables que conocí. Aunque no nos mantuvimos en contacto, la vio otra vez después de una de las últimas reuniones del Foro de Izquierda. Recuerdo que dijo que no estaba sorprendida por las condiciones de vida en Filipinas, ya que había experimentado condiciones similares (si no tan severas) en el sur de los Estados Unidos. Fue una luchadora sincera por la clase obrera a nivel internacional.

Desafío, 13 de marzo, 2023, periódico comunista revolucionario del Partido Laboral Progresista

Descansa en el poder, Carolyn Antirracista y comunista hasta el final

Carolyn Eubanks, miembro del Partido Laboral Progresista (PLP) desde hace mucho tiempo, murió en su casa en el Bronx a la edad de ochenta años. A pesar de su avanzada edad, Carolyn rebosaba de vida. Incansable luchadora antirracista y líder comunista hasta el final, Carolyn pasó la última semana de su vida como voluntaria en el comedor de beneficencia de ayuda mutua de La Morada, presentándose en el juzgado para apoyar a la familia de Raymond Chalusant, un joven trabajador asesinado por un policía racista de un correccional de Nueva York y asistir a un evento político en el centro de posgrado de CUNY.

Crianza Antirracista

Nacida en Carolina del Norte en el seno de una familia de clase trabajadora que trabajaba en una fábrica de una empresa local, Carolyn a menudo atribuye a su educación el haberla puesto en el camino para convertirse en comunista. A pesar de crecer en una ciudad sureña racista durante la era de Jim Crow, sus padres le inculcaron valores antirracistas de clase trabajadora. El lenguaje racista estaba prohibido en su casa. Ella fue testigo de primera mano de la opresión capitalista: el trato diferencial dado a los hijos de los trabajadores y jefes en las fábricas, en la escuela y en el pueblo. La madre de Carolyn insistió en que aprendiera aritmética para calcular correctamente su salario, porque no se podía confiar en los jefes de las fábricas.

En 1958, cuando la Unión Soviética lanzó el Sputnik, los patrones estadounidenses aprobaron la Ley de Educación para la Defensa Nacional que envió a miles de jóvenes, incluida Carolyn, a la universidad con becas para estudiar matemáticas y ciencias. Carolyn siempre le dio crédito a la Unión Soviética por su educación universitaria y su ruta fuera de la ciudad de la empresa. Después de graduarse de la Universidad de Carolina del Norte, se unió al Cuerpo de Paz y pasó dos años en Filipinas, donde vio los efectos del imperialismo y las formas en que las grandes corporaciones multinacionales estadounidenses explotaban a los trabajadores en todo el mundo....

¿Se avecina una crisis financiera?



En menos de quince días, el mundo conoció de dificultades financieras en dos países, que afectan a diferentes bancos. La primera noticia fue la del banco Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), ubicado en California, EEUU, en menos de una semana, se conoció la segunda noticia respecto al cierre del centenario banco suizo Credit Suisse, a esto se suma las dificultades financieras del First Republic Bank, ubicado en San Francisco, y que traería el auxilio desesperado de varios bancos como Bank of America, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase y Wells Fargo, que inyectaron 30.000 millones de dólares. De la misma manera, en estos días se dio el colapso del Signature Bank, el tercer banco más grande en colapsar en la historia de los EE. UU., con \$ 118 mil millones en activos.

El imperialismo y sus economistas burgueses hacen esfuerzos por vender la idea que los problemas de estos bancos internacionales son fenómenos aislados, y que el principal problema es el «fallo de gestión», por lo tanto, no serían extrapolables al grueso del sector. Pese a los deseos, los hechos demuestran otra cosa. El Silicon Valley Bank era el banco elegido por las empresas que realizan actividades tecnológicas y empresas de salud. En cuatro años acumuló 153.000 millones de dólares, para rentabilizar estos ingresos exorbitantes, el banco buscó una inversión a largo plazo en los bonos del tesoro norteamericano, lo que parecía un negocio redondo fue cayéndose por un despeñadero. La guerra de Ucrania, la crisis energética y la subida de los tipos de interés hizo desplomar el valor de los bonos. A esto se suma las dificultades en el sector informático que llevaron a grandes pérdidas económicas en empresas como Google, Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, generando que miles de empleados fueran despedidos durante el 2022 e inicios del 2023.

Como se puede observar, la flexibilización de los controles financieros y la especulación con los bonos para conseguir mayores ganancias generaron el escenario propicio para la caída de estos bancos. Estos hechos podrían ser los primeros síntomas de una nueva crisis financiera de connotaciones globales, en un mundo en el que se están incubando las condiciones para una nueva crisis económica del capitalismo.

Es indudable que las medidas que están tomando la Reserva Federal (RF) y el Banco Central de la Unión Europea (BCUE) para reducir la inflación están generando problemas de liquidez en varias instituciones financieras. Jerome Powell, presidente de la Reserva Federal, al tomar las medidas de alza de los intereses señaló que era necesaria una recesión grave para mantener los salarios lo suficientemente bajos, como para mantener altos los beneficios de las empresas estadounidenses y, por tanto, el precio de sus acciones. Opinión que desnuda el carácter explotador y expoliador del capitalismo.

Frente a los hechos del SVB, la RF procedió a reducir las tasas de interés, pero ese manejo financiero no oculta los problemas reales de la economía. Las deudas con intereses crecen exponencialmente, pero la economía no se reactiva e incluso puede ir a la baja.

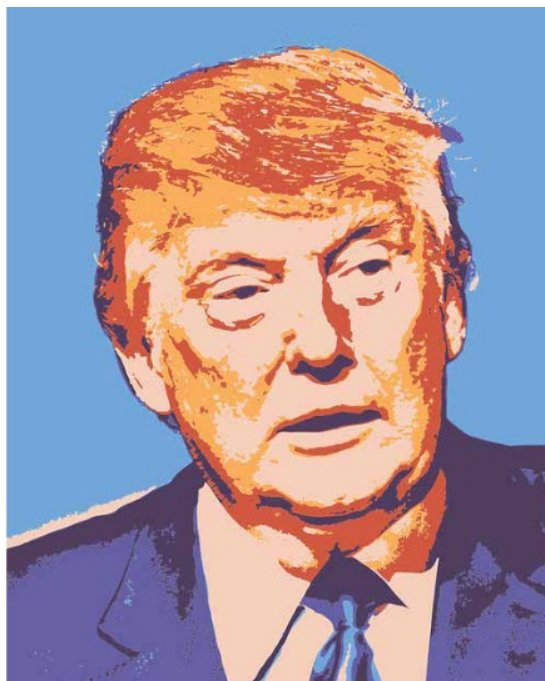
Lo ocurrido con estos bancos ha encendido las alarmas en las bolsas de valores del mundo, se habla de salvatajes para tratar de frenar el contagio, entregando millones de dólares a los banqueros, en detrimento de las necesidades imperiosas de las masas trabajadoras. La Reserva Federal de EE. UU. imprimió 300.000 millones de dólares en una semana para salvar bancos en quiebra y rescatar a los oligarcas de Silicon Valley. No en vano los grandes monopolios controlan los Estados.

El proceso penal de Trump, ajustes entre la oligarquía financiera y entretenimiento

El sector I de la economía capitalista (productor de medios de producción) representado en J. Biden, quiere llevar a la cárcel a D. Trump, porque están en campaña electoral y quieren usar a este personaje -entre otras cosas para ganar votos en las próximas elecciones y también ajustarle cuentas al sector II (productor de bienes de consumo) a través de su representante que es Trump.

Trump durante el tiempo que gobernó afectó medianamente los intereses del sector I, porque le dio un giro a la economía imperialista que gobernaba este sector, al acotar las exportaciones que habían sido predominantes -por más de tres décadas en EE.UU., e imponer la producción para el consumo interno, trastocando acuerdos que representaban ganancias que el otro sector desarrollaba mientras estuvo en el gobierno.

Es decir, Trump favoreció a la oligarquía “nacional”, presionando a grandes capitales de su país para que regresaran a EE.UU., y no llevaran sus ganancias a otros lados, agudizó sus diferencias con China con la Guerra Comercial y se acercó más con Rusia, que hasta lo acusaron de haber permitido a estos participar en las elecciones que le dieron el triunfo presidencial. Además, exaltó las expresiones chovinistas-fascistas en su interior y hacía fuera mismas que las llevó al asalto al Capitolio para rechazar el triunfo de Biden en la presidencia.



Los dos sectores oligárquicos de la economía estadounidense son imperialistas y fascistoides, tienen sus propias contradicciones pacíficas y violentas, por eso llevan a Trump a juicio penal, pero ambos son enemigos de los pueblos del mundo. Solo son dos caras de la misma moneda.

Las denuncias formales para procesar a Donald Trump, son ridículas y morbosas; se le acusa de sobornar a una actriz porno para silenciar su relación con ella. Es un espectáculo en el contexto electoral, un entretenimiento y un ajuste de cuentas entre ellos, que también busca distraer a las masas de los verdaderos y graves problemas que enfrenta ese país, que está llevando a su pueblo a una a pagar los costos de la guerra en Ucrania, de la inflación, el encarecimiento de las mercancías, de una depresión económica que tiene en la puerta una nueva crisis económica que puede ser devastadora.

Encarcelar a Trump no va cambiar en nada la política interna e imperialista de EE.UU., los Partidos Demócrata y Republicano seguirán siendo las dos principales organizaciones políticas de la oligarquía financiera. A lo más que pueden llegar es confrontar más sus diferencias, pero sin llevarlas al extremo en que tengan la intervención de las masas trabajadoras y tiren el bipartidismo que siempre ha gobernado en perjuicio del pueblo estadounidense.

Hoy la tarea de las masas trabajadoras de ese país, es rechazar y movilizarse contra la guerra, no caer el juego del juicio contra Trump, y más bien seguir en la movilización callejera elevando las formas de lucha y organización para terminar con el monstruo en casa.