

Fascist Killers Strike in Charlottesville



Anadolu



Kelly/Daily Progress; Facebook (inset)



Fascist terror in Charlottesville. Left: White-supremacists march on University of Virginia campus, August 11. Right: Next day, Nazi drives car into counterprotesters, injuring 19 and killing Heather Heyer.

For Labor/Black Mobilizations to Stop the Fascists!

AUGUST 21—As the August 17 Spartacist League statement printed below underlines, the growing outrage against the fascists needs an organized expression based on mobilizing the social power of the multiracial working class. The day after we issued the statement, we learned that Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) in the Bay Area had unanimously passed a resolution on August 17 calling for the union to march against a fascist rally in San Francisco's Crissy Field on August 26. The motion resolved to "march to Crissy Field to stop the racist, fascist intimidation in our hometown and invite all unions and antiracist and antifascist organizations to join us."

We welcome this call. Other unions and all opponents of racist terror should mobilize with the ILWU on August 26! The Spartacist League and the Partisan Defense Committee will be mobilizing a contingent emphasizing that for labor to bring its power to bear against the fascist terror gangs, it must be mobilized on the basis of its own independent strength—not as an adjunct to the Democratic Party politicians who are trying to get the fascist rally banned by the federal government. Unfortunately, the Local 10 leadership is pushing the efforts of the Democratic Party administration of San Francisco and Democratic Congressional leader Nancy Pelosi to get the rally banned, with Local 10 president Ed Ferris telling KPFK on August 18, "I am hopeful that they'll just deny this permit."

As we warn in our statement: "Don't buy into the delusion that the capitalist state is going to protect you against the fascists! Its cops are the central perpetrators of violence against black people and the oppressed in this society. State bans on the fascists can and will be used against the left and any

perceived opponent of the capitalist state, its cops, courts, prisons and military." It is precisely the trade-union bureaucracy's reliance on the "benevolence" of the state of the capitalist class enemy and its subservience to the Democratic Party that has for decades sapped the power of labor, setting the stage for the devastation of wages, benefits and working conditions.

With consummate hypocrisy, Pelosi denounced the fascists in Charlottesville, declaring, "The perpetrators of this violence insult our fundamental American values." Racial oppression and the brutal subjugation of black people at the bottom of society are the cornerstones of the American capitalist order. And that order—with its routine violence against working people and the oppressed at home and its imperialist atrocities against the masses of the world—is administered and enforced by the Democrats as well as the Republicans.

As Jeffrey St. Clair aptly put it, the U.S. has "entered the time of mock outrage" (counterpunch.org, 18 August). After howling their moral indignation at Trump's

condemnation of "both sides" in Charlottesville, the Democrats and their media mouthpieces quickly turned around and are *now doing the same thing*. From the *New York Times* to the *Washington Post* and CNN, story after story has pointed to the "violence" of antifa activists. An editorial in the *New York Daily News* (20 August) calls on "calmer voices on the left" to "disavow" antifa, who are denounced for "unprovoked violence" and being "bent on initiating conflict" in Charlottesville.

The purpose behind such statements is to lay the basis for even more intense state repression against anti-fascist activists. When tens of thousands came out in Boston on August 19 to protest a fascist provocation, Democratic Party mayor Marty Walsh declared, "It's clear today that Boston stood for peace and love, not bigotry and hate." For their part, the Boston cops attacked crowds of anti-fascist protesters and arrested at least 33 people. **Drop all charges now!**

The bourgeois rulers and their state are opposed to any and all manifestations

of militant opposition to their decaying order. The working class must be imbued with class hatred against the capitalist exploiters and oppressors, against the parties and politicians that administer the capitalist order, against the capitalist system itself that gives birth to the fascist race-terrorists. **No illusions in the capitalist state or Democratic Party! Mobilize labor/black power to stop the fascists!**

* * *

Waving the Confederate flag of slavery and brandishing the swastika of Hitler's Nazis, fascist stormtroopers armed with assault rifles, clubs and brass knuckles descended on Charlottesville, Virginia, last weekend. They came looking for blood and they got it. Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old woman who had come out to protest these racist terrorists, was murdered by a Nazi-lover who drove his car at high speed into a group of anti-fascists. Nineteen of the many others who were hit were hospitalized, some with critical injuries. A black hip-hop artist, Deandre Harris, had his skull cracked open by a club-wielding gang of fascist thugs. The night before, a torchlight parade of hundreds of white-supremacists chanting, "You will not replace us," "Jews will not replace us" and the Nazi slogan "blood and soil" marched onto the University of Virginia campus and surrounded and pummeled a small group of young protesters who were chanting "black lives matter."

The fascists are the shock troops for racist genocide—the creation of an all-white America where black people, immigrants, Jews, Muslims and other minorities do not exist. This program was written in the blood of Charlottesville. Would-be *führer* Richard Spencer boasts of scoring a "moral victory in terms of a show of force." Matthew Heimbach, leader of the Traditionalist Worker Party—whose thugs stabbed, slashed and clubbed anti-fascist protesters in Sacramento last June—brags: "We achieved all of our objectives." Emboldened, racist terror gangs are mobilizing for

continued on page 6



Reuters

Boston cops menace anti-fascist protesters, August 19.

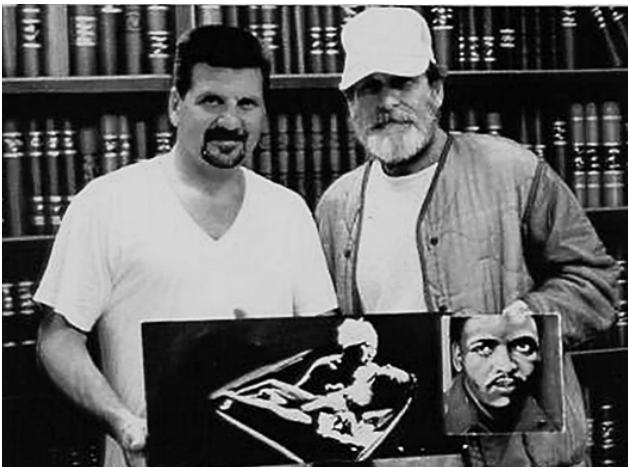


Stop Prison Torture of Tom Manning and Jaan Laaman!

Over the past several months, the Federal Bureau of Prisons has been intensifying its decades-long vendetta against class-war prisoners Tom Manning and Jaan Laaman. As punishment for their unwavering support for the struggles of the poor and oppressed and their opposition to U.S. imperialism, Laaman and Manning, the last two members of the Ohio 7 still in prison, were deprived of necessary medical attention, isolated in solitary and threatened with transfer to draconian “supermax control” units. For the racist capitalist rulers, this is an attempt to silence forever these courageous individuals who continue their political activism from behind the walls of America’s dungeons.

Prison officials marked Laaman’s birthday on March 21 by throwing him into the Secure Housing Unit of USP Tucson—i.e., solitary, where he still remains locked up in a six-by-nine-foot box 23 hours a day. Laaman’s “offense” was to issue two statements: his eulogy for radical attorney Lynne Stewart, who died on March 7 (which was broadcast on Prison Radio as “Farewell Thoughts to My Friend, Lynne Stewart”), and a statement of support for the March 8 International Women’s Day protests, “Day Without a Woman Strike” (which was printed in *NYC Anarchist Black Cross*).

The Partisan Defense Committee—a legal and social defense organization



Jaan Laaman and Tom Manning at Leavenworth federal prison.

associated with the Spartacist League—recently learned that a letter Laaman wrote in May to notify the PDC of the repression he was facing never made it through the prison censors. That month, prison officials cited him for “misuse of phone” and rescinded his phone “privileges” for six months. They are now pushing for his transfer to a Communications Management Unit—lockdown units that severely restrict all communication with those outside. As Laaman noted in a recent letter to the PDC, “As you are aware, I have been observing and speaking on world and national events for decades—so this is a new and unprecedented attack on me and my First Amendment rights.”

In June, Tom Manning wrote a letter notifying the PDC that he had suffered a grand mal seizure in March. The first prison “medical” personnel on the scene declared it a drug overdose. The seizure left Manning unconscious for four days. When he was able to request that prison officials perform a forensic trail test to prove it was not an OD, and, more significantly, to find out and treat what caused the seizure, they scoffed, “Do you know how expensive that would be?” Manning was finally given an MRI, which shocked him with the news that he had a *second* brain tumor. Prison officials never told him that a 2012 MRI had revealed an earlier tumor. Manning also learned that he had two vertebrae compressing his spinal cord.

The prison officials’ response to his dire medical condition was to throw him into solitary. The specious reason was that he received a political journal, *Flood Gate*, calling for prisoners to revolt. As Manning told the PDC, such unsolicited journals are sent to him all the time. On May 24, he was transferred from Butner Medical Center to solitary at Butner Correctional Center. In recent interviews, former Ohio 7 prisoner Ray Levasseur, who was released on parole in 2004, pointed out that Manning is wheelchair-bound and in need of physical therapy, which he is unlikely to get in solitary. Levasseur emphasized the horrific condition facing his comrades: “Solitary is hell in a very small place.” Last week, Manning was finally released from solitary and transferred to a federal prison in Hazelton, West Virginia.

The PDC has written protest letters denouncing the cruel and vindictive treatment of Laaman and Manning. The Ohio 7 are committed radicals with a long history of opposition to racism and imperi-

alism. They were involved in civil rights work in the South, defense of prisoners’ rights and solidarity actions against the South African apartheid government. In the early 1970s, they joined neighborhood defense efforts in Boston against rampaging anti-busing racists. They became members of the United Freedom Front, a radical group that in the late 1970s and ’80s took credit for bombings targeting symbols of U.S. imperialism, including military and corporate offices (see “Ohio 7: Fighters Against Imperialism, Racism,” WV No. 741, 8 September 2000).

The Ohio 7’s politics were once shared by thousands of young New Left radicals. Despairing of organizing the proletariat in struggle, these radicals decided that the road to fighting this racist, exploitative system was “clandestine armed resistance” by a handful of dedicated leftists. Like the Weathermen a decade before them, the Ohio 7 were spurned by the “respectable” left. As Levasseur bitterly observed in a 1992 statement, “Much of the North American Left suffers from myopia on this issue of political prisoners. It affects their value judgments. They place our value at nil.”

In contrast to the New Leftists, we recognize it is the multiracial proletariat, organized behind a Leninist vanguard party, that has the interest and social power to sweep away the bloodthirsty imperialist rulers. Despite our political differences with them, the SL and PDC have long defended the Ohio 7, including during a 1989 trial on trumped-up “seditious conspiracy” charges. In successfully beating back that thought-crime prosecution, the Ohio 7 won a significant victory against government efforts to criminalize leftist politics. One of their defense lawyers was Lynne Stewart. No doubt throwing Laaman into solitary for his tribute to Stewart was payback on the part of his jailers.

We have always insisted that from a proletarian standpoint, the actions of these leftist activists against imperialism and racist injustice are not crimes. These courageous fighters should not have served a day in prison and should be freed immediately.

Laaman and Manning must not be forgotten. We urge WV readers to send letters of solidarity to the following addresses:

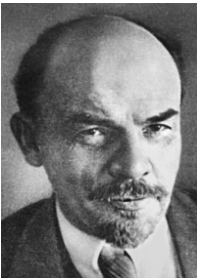
Jaan Laaman #10372-016
USP Tucson, U.S. Penitentiary
P.O. Box 24550, Tucson, AZ 85734
Thomas Manning #10373-016
USP Hazelton, U.S. Penitentiary
P.O. Box 2000, Bruceton Mills, WV 26525



TROTSKY

Slavery, Plunder and the Rise of Capitalism

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of Karl Marx’s seminal work, Capital, in which he laid bare the workings of the capitalist mode of production. In the excerpts below, Marx explains the key role that slavery, pillage and conquest played in the primitive accumulation of capital by the European powers.



LENIN

The discovery of gold and silver in America, the extirpation, enslavement and entombment in mines of the aboriginal population, the beginning of the conquest and looting of the East Indies, the turning of Africa into a warren for the commercial hunting of black-skins, signalled the rosy dawn of the era of capitalist production. These idyllic proceedings are the chief momenta of primitive accumulation. On their heels treads the commercial war of the European nations, with the globe for a theatre....

The colonies secured a market for the budding manufactures, and, through the monopoly of the market, an increased accumulation. The treasures captured outside Europe by undisguised looting, enslavement, and murder, floated back to the mother-country and were there turned into capital....

Whilst the cotton industry introduced child slavery in England, it gave in the United States a stimulus to the transformation of the earlier, more or less patriarchal slavery, into a system of commercial exploitation. In fact, the veiled slavery of the wage workers in Europe needed, for its pedestal, slavery pure and simple in the new world.

Tantae molis erat [so great was the effort required], to establish the “eternal laws of Nature” of the capitalist mode of production, to complete the process of separation between labourers and conditions of labour, to transform, at one pole, the social means of production and subsistence into capital, at the opposite pole, the mass of the population into wage labourers, into “free labouring poor,” that artificial product of modern society. If money, according to Augier, “comes into the world with a congenital bloodstain on one cheek,” capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.

—Karl Marx, *Capital*, Volume I (1867)

WORKERS VANGUARD



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No. 1116

25 August 2017

Letter

On Labor Strikes During WWI

29 July 2017

Dear comrades,

I was happy to find the quote of the week for the current *Workers Vanguard* (No. 1115, 28 July) dedicated to Wobbly hero, Frank Little, who was murdered by thugs on the order of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company in Butte, Montana, in August 1917. One of the reasons that the piece by then-Communist Party leader James P. Cannon was so powerful is that Cannon wrote from personal experience: he had worked with Little during the 1913 Duluth, Minnesota, ore-dock workers strike.

The introduction to the quote refers to the Butte copper strike as “the only mass strike in a basic industry in the U.S. during the first interimperialist world war.” But this is not true. Less than three months after the United States Congress declared war on Germany in April 1917, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) led a strike of copper miners in Southern

Arizona. The IWW demanded better and safer working conditions; the end of discrimination against union members; a flat wage scale (instead of a wage tied to the price of copper); and equal treatment for foreign and minority workers. Little played a leading role in the strike—and was demonized by the press and the government for daring to strike during the war. Little reportedly told the Arizona governor, “I don’t give a damn what country your country is fighting, I am fighting for the solidarity of labor.”

On 12 July in Bisbee, some 2,000 thugs, under the command of the sheriff, rounded up more than 1,000 men—including Little. At gunpoint, they were loaded in manure-filled boxcars and deported to the New Mexico desert and left for dead. Little found his way to Butte—to continue to fight for the solidarity of labor.

Comradely,
Jacob Zorn

WORKERS VANGUARD

NYC Transit Worker Hounded to Death by Cops, Company, Courts

Darryl Goodwin: We Will Not Forget

NEW YORK—After working 27 years in station booths across the city’s sprawling subway system, 54-year-old Darryl Goodwin was looking forward to retirement later this year. According to fellow station agents, he was a respected and popular “gentle giant” who helped “break in” and train scores of new hires. “I’ll show you the company way and I’ll show you my way,” Goodwin told them, “then you decide.” Every day, he went face to face with surly customers, cruel supervisors, cops and criminals, achieving the near impossible: a spotless work record. But in the end, Darryl Goodwin was hounded to death by the racist NYPD, the ruthless New York City Transit (NYCT) bosses

and the capitalist courts. Stressed to his limits, aggravated by high blood pressure and other health issues, Goodwin died alone in his apartment on August 11. Ten days later, some 200 transit workers, family and friends turned out to his funeral to honor him.

When Goodwin’s co-workers and friends learned of his sudden death, their deep sadness quickly mixed with anger. Goodwin’s untimely death could only be explained by what he was forced to endure after the cops arrested him on May 16 and threw him in jail overnight. He was hit with frame-up charges and then suspended without pay by the NYCT bosses, and not reinstated until late June. The NYPD

launched its vendetta because Goodwin, who was working in a booth in the bustling Columbus Circle station, did not open a subway gate fast enough for cops who were chasing an alleged shoplifter.

In fact, Goodwin was following company procedure, and opened the gate as soon as he verified who wanted access. The cops charged him anyway with obstructing government administration, resisting arrest and causing injury to a police officer (who ridiculously claimed he was cut by Goodwin’s employee badge). As the Partisan Defense Committee wrote in a July 22 protest letter to the District Attorney: “Pursuing these bogus charges is clearly a vendetta against a black transit worker who was not sufficiently servile as far as the police were concerned.”

One day before Goodwin’s death, around 50 members of Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 and other supporters at a Manhattan courtroom hearing for this case stood up in unison when Goodwin’s name was called. They were sending a clear message to the judge that Goodwin did not stand alone, that he was innocent, and that all the charges against him should be dropped. This act of solidarity was a repeat of what happened at his first court hearing on June 29 (see “Drop All Charges Against Darryl Goodwin! NYPD Targets Transit Worker,” WV No. 1115, 28 July). But this time Goodwin was too ill to make it to the courthouse. The turnout showed not only that Goodwin was a beloved co-worker, but also that his persecution struck a chord among many transit workers, who are all too familiar from personal experience with the NYPD’s arrogance and brutality.

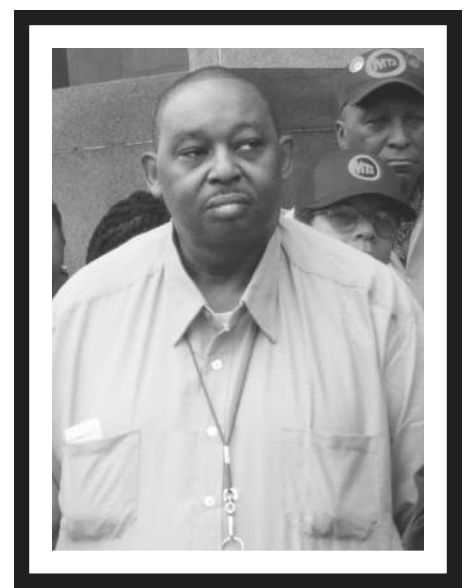
When it was announced at the June 29

court hearing that Goodwin was going back to work, his fellow workers cheered. The real story is that Goodwin, financially desperate to get back to work and afraid that the company could take away his entire pension if fired, agreed to a penalty of some 60 days without pay. This is how the transit bosses’ system of “plantation justice” works.

In an online statement mourning Goodwin’s death, the vice president of Local 100’s Stations Division, Derrick Echevarria, stated, “We believe this unwarranted arrest had an underlying affect on his demise. Darryl was stressed out and working a lot of overtime to recover the wages he lost. He should have never been arrested.” This is absolutely true. It also underscores how the NYCT bosses worked in lockstep with the NYPD to crush this black transit worker. The union statement noted that the TWU and Goodwin’s family will work to have his name cleared. We join them in demanding: *Clear Darryl Goodwin’s name!*

Responding to pressure from below, TWU Local 100 officials made some minimal efforts to defend Goodwin. But several workers told *Workers Vanguard* that they were angry that the union did not pay for his lawyer and let the company financially strangle and blackmail him. The cops went after Goodwin just for doing his job. Contrary to what Local 100 officials claim, such brutality is no aberration; it’s what the cops routinely do as the enforcers of racist capitalist rule.

We will not forget Darryl Goodwin and what the cops, the company and the courts put him through. TWU Local 100 must fight to ensure that what happened to him never happens again! ■



WV Photo

Facing 80 Years for Protesting Trump’s Inauguration

In Donald Trump’s America, the penalty for leftist protest could well be life behind bars. Thousands hit the streets of Washington, D.C., on January 20 to protest Trump’s inauguration. Amid an orgy of police violence, more than 200 were arrested and slammed with felony riot charges carrying jail sentences of up to ten years and \$25,000 fines. But these frame-up charges were not enough for the vindictive ruling class. On April 27, prosecutors piled on eight new felony charges—including urging to riot, conspiracy to riot and destruction of property—while also charging three additional protesters. Filed at the behest of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for D.C., the fiefdom of notorious racist and defender of the Confederacy, Jeff Sessions, these charges carry jail terms of up to 80 years. It is in the vital interest of the labor movement and all opponents of state repression to protest this legal witchhunt and demand: *Drop all the charges!*

Now, Sessions’s Department of Justice (DOJ) is trying to learn the identities of everyone who visited disruptj20.org. Claiming this website was used to organize “a violent riot,” the DOJ is demanding that the web hosting service DreamHost turn over 1.3 million visitor IP addresses, in addition to contact information, photos and email content of thousands of people. This fishing expedition would expose untold numbers to the prying eyes of government prosecutors, setting them up for legal victimization.

On June 21, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on behalf of those charged. The suit detailed how detainees were held for hours without food or water or access to toilets. Two of the plaintiffs, Shay Horse and Milo Gonzalez, described the cops yanking their testicles and sticking fingers into their rectums while laughing. “I felt like they were using molestation and rape as punishment,” Horse said later. “It felt like they were trying to break me and the others.” In addition to the threat posed by state prosecution, many

of the defendants have been “doxxed” by fascists—their names and addresses have been plastered all over the web. Meanwhile, those charged are facing mounting travel and legal expenses and, in some cases, job losses.

Facing massive prison terms, several of the defendants have been pushed into pleading guilty to lesser charges. At the same time, more than 130 defendants assisted by anarchist support groups like Dead City Legal Posse have, in a show of solidarity, pledged to reject any potential plea deals and to refuse to rat out any of their codefendants.

It is clear that the Trump administration is trying to muzzle dissent—to intimidate and silence black people, minorities, leftists and workers seeking to protest or in any way challenge this deeply racist, exploitative capitalist order. But the “fight the right” anti-Trump forces, in both their “peaceful, legal” and anarchist garb, at bottom aim to bolster the fortunes of the Democratic Party as some kind of “lesser evil.” The Democrats represent the same repressive capitalist system—witness Bill Clinton’s mass incarceration of young black men and Barack Obama’s mass deportation of immigrants.

We seek to mobilize the working class at the head of all the oppressed, independent of all capitalist parties and in opposition to the capitalists and their state. In “Defend Arrested Anti-Trump Protesters!” (WV No. 1104, 27 January), we underlined: “As the Trump presidency unfolds in all its viciousness, protests against it will continue, as will state violence and repression. Anger against poverty and racial and sexual oppression must be given an organized political expression aimed at breaking the hold of the Democratic Party over workers, women and minorities. We fight to build a revolutionary workers party that can lead the struggle to get rid of the entire capitalist system.” ■

JUST OUT!

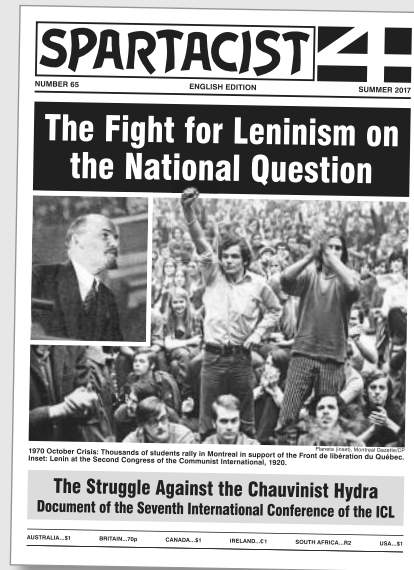


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Down With NAFTA, U.S. “Free Trade” Rape of Mexico!

The following article is translated from *Espartaco* No. 47 (August 2017), newspaper of our comrades of the Grupo Espartaquista de México.

On top of insisting that Mexico would pay for his anti-immigrant wall, the racist demagogue Donald Trump spent a large part of his presidential campaign spewing that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) “has benefited Mexico more” and that he would pull the

ESPARTACO

U.S. out of the “worst treaty in history.” On April 26, the now Commander-in-Chief of U.S. imperialism announced that instead he seeks to “renegotiate” the treaty to make it even more advantageous for the U.S. [The first round of talks to revamp NAFTA began on August 16 in Washington.] The truth is that in a little more than two decades, NAFTA has meant an increase in profits and power for the American rulers and their lesser Canadian business partners, intensifying the superexploitation of workers and the misery of peasants in Mexico. After the White House announcement, the lackey [Mexican president] Enrique Peña Nieto congratulated himself, bragging, “Today we have a great window of opportunity to update this free trade agreement and we will try to do it for the benefit, growth, development and competitiveness of North America.”

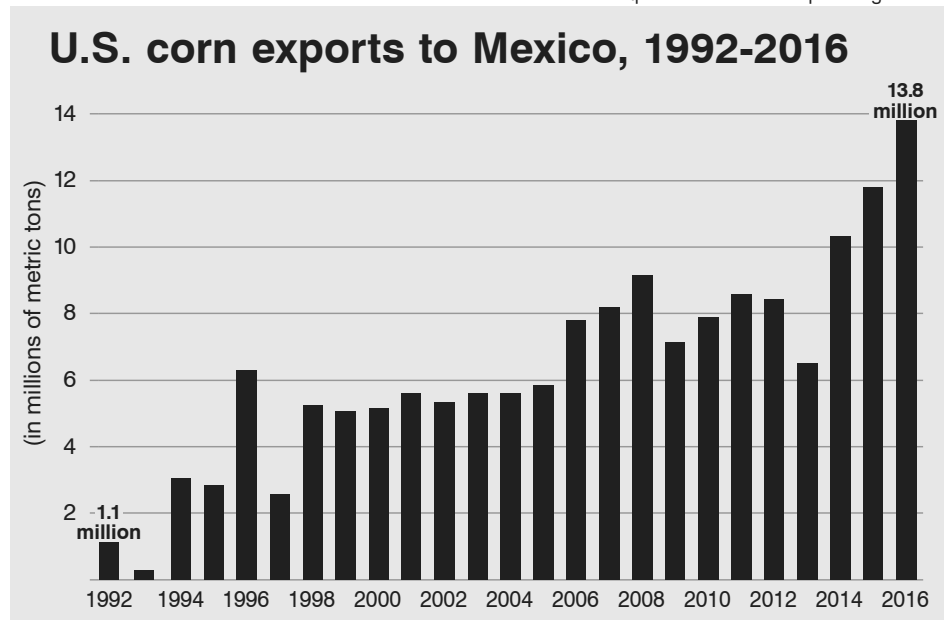
With the misfortune of sharing a border of more than 3,000 kilometers with its northern neighbor, Mexico is the main neocolony of the U.S. Mexico is a manufacturing exporter *because* it is an enormous importer *of capital*. In 2015, American investments in Mexico reached almost \$93 billion. In 2016, trade between the two countries totaled an estimated \$580 billion—a figure surpassed only by U.S. trade with China and Canada. The famous U.S. “trade deficit” with Mexico (\$55.6 billion in 2016), which Trump keeps prattling about, is mainly due to exports by American companies with operations in Mexico. This includes Ford and General Motors, huge monopolistic corporations which take their enormous profits back to their own country. The Mexican economy is also tied to the imperialists through government loans: by 2015, the combined repayments of and interest on foreign public debt (together more than \$516 billion) totaled *seven times* the amount of this debt in 2000. We say: **Repudiate the debt!**

The fundamental purpose of NAFTA was to allow the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie to recover some of its competitiveness vis-à-vis its more thriving rivals, Germany and Japan (with which, as an aside, the U.S. has *even bigger* trade deficits than with Mexico). Facing an economic decline in the U.S., Trump is attempting, among other things, to restrict some exports to the U.S.; to further reduce the Mexican public sector in favor of private imperialist capital; to submit disputes to U.S. courts; and to restrict the ability of participating countries from devaluing their currency. As seen in the example of Greece and other dependent countries within the European Union’s bloodsucking imperialist consortium—tied to the euro for the benefit of German capitalists—this last measure would be a blow by the U.S. to Mexico’s sovereignty



Tens of thousands march in Mexico City to protest price hikes of basic food items, January 2007. NAFTA has devastated Mexico’s agriculture, causing skyrocketing rise in cost of living as country is increasingly forced to import grain.

WV Graph. Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture



and would threaten the exploited and oppressed masses with even greater hunger and misery.

Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, is widely perceived in Mexico as an ally and counterweight to the deranged Trump. But Canada is an imperialist power in its own right, although

imperialist governments of the U.S., Canada and Mexico! Independence for Quebec!

Interimperialist Rivalries and Neocolonial Plunder

Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism, characterized by the formation of monopolies, the export of finance

Mexico: For a Workers and Peasants Government!

of less magnitude and subordinate to the U.S. The brutality and greed of the Canadian mining industry, especially in Latin America, exposes the complete fraud of Canada as a benevolent power on the world scene. Its “multicultural” pretenses are nothing but a facade to cover the fact that anglophone Canada, with Trudeau at the head, forcibly subjugates francophone Quebec, a whole nation, inside its borders. And NAFTA allows both the American and Canadian bourgeoisies to increase exploitation of *their own working classes*, dividing the workers of different nations by telling them demagogically, “They are stealing our jobs.” What is needed is internationalist working-class struggle: **For joint class struggle against the cap-**

ital and the redistribution of the world among a handful of powers with their armies and flotillas defending their interests—including through wars to redivide the world. As V.I. Lenin taught us:

“Typical of the old capitalism, when free competition held undivided sway, was the export of *goods*. Typical of the latest stage of capitalism, when monopolies rule, is the export of capital....

“As long as capitalism remains what it is, surplus capital will be utilized not for the purpose of raising the standard of living of the masses in a given country, for this would mean a decline in profits for the capitalists, but for the purpose of increasing profits by exporting capital abroad to the backward countries.”

—*Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1916)

The signing of NAFTA was part of a worldwide imperialist offensive sparked by the counterrevolutionary destruction of the USSR in 1991-92, a huge defeat for workers that shaped the world in which we live today: a world in which arrogant U.S. imperialism views itself as omnipotent and circles the world, missiles in hand, confident that it will find no real opposition. Absent the USSR, the once powerful “common enemy,” economic rivalries among imperialist powers have come to the fore.

From the beginning, we Spartacists have opposed NAFTA. It is not enough to “renegotiate” it; *what is needed is to bring it down!* At the start of the treaty’s negotiation under the government of [Mexican president] Carlos Salinas and George Bush senior in 1991, the Grupo Espartaquista de México, the Spartacist League/U.S. and the Trotskyist League of Canada, sections of the International Communist League, issued an internationalist declaration in opposition (printed in *Espartaco* No. 2, Summer-Fall 1991). [See “Stop U.S. ‘Free Trade’ Rape of Mexico,” WV No. 530, 5 July 1991.] The declaration explained:

“Far from ‘freeing’ trade internationally, the pact is aimed at setting up a private hunting preserve for the American imperialist bourgeoisie, their Canadian junior partners and their lackeys in the Mexican ruling class. Already at the time of the First World War, Lenin noted that the narrow limits of the capitalist nation-state had become a fetter on the development of the productive forces, producing a struggle over redivision of the world. The various ‘common markets’ in no way overcome this, but instead intensify interimperialist rivalries. We Trotskyists, communists, struggle for the economic integration of the world on a socialist basis. But the FTA [NAFTA] is a reactionary move toward global trade war (and from there to a shooting war). The trade pact with Mexico is U.S. imperialism’s answer to the Fourth Reich and Japan Inc.”

The Devastation of the Mexican Countryside

There are approximately 20 million peasants in Mexico. Of the 5.4 million agricultural production plots, only 0.3 percent are considered “dynamic companies,” that is, large, modern capitalist farms. These kulaks [Russian term for well-off peasants], mostly in the north of Mexico, are part of a tiny handful of Mexican capitalists who have become rich thanks to NAFTA. More than 80 percent of peasants live in misery, mostly producing for subsistence, without sufficient financing, with obsolete and even ancient production techniques. On top of this, a large part of their land is not fit for farming.

As we said more than 23 years ago, the opening of trade between a backward country like Mexico and the U.S., with its technologically advanced, highly productive and subsidized agricultural industry (in 1994, American agricultural productivity was ten times higher than Mexico’s), could only mean starvation for thousands of peasants. NAFTA brought more devastation to the already impoverished Mexican countryside. In fact, Mexican agricultural products, such as tomatoes, have lost their competitiveness in the U.S. market, including compared to countries that do not have free trade with the U.S. The Mexican government, as part of its unrestrained openness to imperialism, has eliminated subsidies to small rural producers *and* urban consumers. Today,

Mexico imports basic foods such as corn and other grains, pork and beef, as well as fuel, causing a skyrocketing increase in the cost of living. Unable to compete with modern agribusiness, millions of poor peasants have been forced to abandon their land, migrating to the cities and condemned to poverty, street hawking or prostitution, or fleeing to *El Norte*.

Now a U.S. Congress subcommittee has approved \$1.6 billion to build the wall with Mexico—but of course it will be beautiful, transparent and ecofriendly with solar panels! Trump has emboldened the forces of anti-immigrant terror, from the border patrol to racist vigilantes and open fascists. But his policies are merely a more grotesque expression of those of his Democratic Party predecessors—without the “humanitarian” rhetoric. It is worth recalling that Obama deported more people than any other president in history. While NAFTA meant a steady increase in immigration, from 2007 on that safety valve closed. After the 2008 recession, anti-immigrant measures implemented by the Democratic Party government made immigration drop drastically.

Capitalism Creates Its Gravedigger

“Free competition” with the U.S. requires Mexican capitalism to carry out an increasing austerity campaign to achieve “competitiveness,” i.e., a permanent war against unions and workers’ gains. For 30 years, following demands from imperialist organizations such as the IMF and the World Bank, the Mexican capitalist government has launched an assault of “structural reforms,” seeking to extract the last drop of sweat and blood from the workers. And it is precisely the cheap labor costs and brutal working conditions in Mexico that attract the voracious capitalists from the U.S., Canada, Germany and other powers. With the recent privatization of the Mexican energy sector—whose nationalization we Trotskyists defended as a basic measure of semicolonial Mexico’s self-defense—oil has become one of the targets of “renegotiation.”

Mexico is a country of combined and uneven development, where the most primitive forms of small peasant production coexist with the latest trends in large industrial production. The auto industry has become the main source of foreign currency in Mexico ahead of oil, remittances and tourism, representing more than one-third of exported manufactured goods. Mexico is today the seventh-largest producer of motor vehicles in the world, the fourth-largest exporter of automobiles and the sixth-largest producer of auto parts. The importance of the auto industry is even greater because of its broad links with other sectors: intermediate consumer goods (steel, metal, glass, rubber, energy, etc.); vehicle distribution and sales; maintenance shops; technological research and development, etc. This has brought about a positive development, strengthening a key sector of the proletariat with enormous social power. Capitalism creates its own gravedigger.

In contrast to the peasantry—a social stratum with an interest in land as private property—the working class has no objective interest in preserving private property. Having only its labor power to sell, its interests are in the collectivization of the means of production. At the same time, the proletariat collectively produces the wealth of society, which gives it enormous social power. The working class, given its relationship to the means of production, is the *only class* with the social power to champion the oppressed masses—in particular poor peasants—in the struggle to overthrow this system of exploitation.

Permanent Revolution vs. Populist Nationalism

In the context of Trump's rabid protectionism, the bourgeois PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] has tried to position itself as the greatest defender of NAFTA. One of its leaders and founding



Reuters

Mexican president Peña Nieto with Trump at the G20 summit in Hamburg, July 7.

members, Carlos Navarrete, declared: “When we opposed NAFTA last century we didn’t anticipate what that could mean—and, today, what a paradox—think the left has to defend the validity of NAFTA.” Leaving aside the idea of the PRD being supposedly “left,” this party *never opposed NAFTA* but only wanted agriculture renegotiated to make it less unfavorable. This is also the basic position of Morena [Movement for National Regeneration], the party of Andrés Manuel López Obrador [AMLO]. Although conceding that NAFTA is not a “panacea” or “salvation” of Mexico, AMLO has made it clear that he favors free trade and would lead the renegotiation of the treaty if he became president. Morena is a *bourgeois* party that wants to be seen as an alternative for change in the face

pation can only be fulfilled through a proletarian revolution that destroys the bourgeois state and establishes the dictatorship of the proletariat supported by the peasantry—a workers and peasants government—based on the collectivized means of production. The revolution must be extended internationally, especially to the advanced countries. An international planned economy is the only way to eliminate the scarcity and misery faced by the overwhelming mass of humanity today.

For a Class-Struggle Union Leadership!

Trade unions are the necessary first line of defense against capitalist attacks. Unions in Mexico—which organize powerful sectors of the working class, but encompass only about 13 percent of the



Reuters

Democratic president Bill Clinton signs NAFTA into law, December 1993.

of the discredited PRD and the growing discontent of the poor masses.

The PRD and Morena represent a nationalist wing of the Mexican bourgeoisie seeking to return to an old version of populism under the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]. They want to lean on the proletariat in order to renegotiate the terms of their own subordination to imperialism. In underdeveloped capitalist countries such as Mexico, the weak national bourgeoisies are incapable of breaking with the imperialists, to whom they find themselves tied by a thousand threads. Nationalist populists and craven neoliberals disagree only on how to administer the system of capitalist exploitation they are committed to defending. Above all, the bourgeois nationalist politicians fear the force that is capable of putting an end to the imperialist yoke: the working class.

Bourgeois nationalism—the notion that everyone in the same nation should unite to “advance” the country—is the ideological glue used by capitalist politicians and their trade-union lieutenants to keep workers tied to their exploiters. But the bourgeoisie and the proletariat have counterposed interests. Bourgeois nationalist ideology seeks to separate Mexican workers from their real allies: workers in the rest of the world. *Break with the bourgeois PRD and Morena!*

We Spartacists base ourselves on the perspective of Leon Trotsky's permanent revolution, vindicated by the events of the 1917 Russian Revolution. The aspirations of workers and peasants for democratic and national rights and social emanci-

workforce—have been weakened by a series of defeats. Many of these defeats took place without a fight being waged, notably the destruction of the SME electrical workers union. Unions are also divided by the loyalties of their leaderships, which are bound to different, competing bourgeois parties. Today's union leaders are the transmission belt of bourgeois ideology, tying the workers to their class enemies and spreading the suicidal lie that the bourgeois state—which exists to defend an exploitative and oppressive system—is an impartial agent.

It is not necessary to elaborate on the craven PRI union bureaucracies. As for the supposedly “independent” bureaucrats of the National Union of Workers (UNT) and the New Confederation of Workers (NCT), linked to the PRD and/or Morena, they signed an oh-so-moving statement with American and Canadian unions asking for a trade agreement that would lead “to a sustainable development, tenable and widely shared in all North America.” Their goal is to “achieve a new trade model that puts the people of the world and the planet above corporate profits.” But, as Lenin wrote in *Imperialism*, “If capitalism did these things it would not be capitalism; for both uneven development and a semi-starvation level of existence of the masses are fundamental and inevitable conditions and constitute premises of this mode of production.”

Since the beginning, the U.S. AFL-CIO bureaucracy has denounced NAFTA from the point of view of protectionist chauvinism, mobilizing against Mexicans who "steal American jobs." On June 12, the

AFL-CIO issued a statement in favor of the complete renegotiation of NAFTA and presented to Trump's government its own "recommendations." Among these, they ask that the "Buy American" policy be respected and call for sanctions against the "manipulation" of currency and for strengthening "rules of origin" for automobiles and auto parts. Therefore, these venal and racist bureaucrats direct their attacks against Mexican workers instead of directing them against the imperialists, the ones responsible for the exploitation and oppression of the American working masses. In fact, the AFL-CIO trade-union bureaucracy is a key component of the Democratic Party and calls to vote for this capitalist party, which is just as imperialist as the Republicans, instead of mobilizing the class struggle necessary to defend the living standards of workers.

As communists, we struggle to strengthen the organization of the working class, for the unionization of all workers and for the defense of existing unions against any attack by the bourgeois state. The *political independence* of the workers' movement against the bosses' state and parties is our guiding principle in the fight to replace the current pro-capitalist leaderships with class-struggle ones. While union struggle can beat back assaults on workers' conditions, it cannot on its own put an end to exploitation. To win this war, the fight must be for workers' power under the leadership of a revolutionary party that arms the proletariat with the understanding and consciousness of its own class interests as part of the struggle for the emancipation of the working class and all the oppressed from capitalist slavery.

For Proletarian Internationalism!

In Mexico many wrongly see the U.S. as one reactionary and imperialist, homogeneous mass, a view derived from bourgeois nationalism. But the United States is a class-divided society. The working class and the oppressed in Mexico and the U.S. have a common interest in socialist revolution. Our comrades in the U.S. fight to mobilize the multiracial working class, with its powerful black and Latino components, in opposition to the designs of Yankee imperialism. They struggle for full citizenship rights for all immigrants as a concrete way to create bonds of solidarity between U.S. and Mexican workers, with the perspective of class struggle against the bourgeois Republican and Democratic parties. The fight of the Mexican proletariat against its domestic capitalist exploiters and neocolonial plunder is necessarily intertwined with the fight for workers power in the United States, the heart of world imperialism with millions of workers. The International Communist League strives to build national sections of a reformed Fourth International, world party of socialist revolution, that will organize and educate the working class in the spirit of intransigent hostility to imperialist depredation and capitalist rule. ■

[illegible]

Fascists...

(continued from page 1)

their next provocations in cities across the country from Boston to the Bay Area.

The guns that the fascists were carrying in Charlottesville are aimed at every black person, Latino, union militant, leftist and anyone else they see as an enemy of their drive for a “racially pure” America. Since Trump’s election, there has been an increase in racist murders, attacks and provocations. The ultimate aim of the fascists is to destroy the workers movement, including the unions and the left. It was no accident that a noose appeared twice on the Oakland docks this May, a calculated and deadly threat against the majority black longshore workforce. When the ILWU longshore workers walked off the job to protest the lynch rope, they gave a small taste of the power that must be mobilized to crush the fascists.

The outrage against the fascists needs an organized expression: a disciplined, militant and military mobilization of the social power of the multiracial working class. It is this power that is feared and hated by the bosses, their kept labor lieutenants in the trade-union bureaucracy and capitalist politicians of all colors and genders. The working class has the power and objective interest not only to stop the fascists but also to overturn the whole capitalist system that spawns these vermin. This is why the bosses keep the fascist killers in reserve, to be unleashed when the capitalist social order is threatened by an insurgent proletariat.



NurPhoto

Fascist thugs attack black hip-hop artist Deandre Harris in Charlottesville, August 12.

Republican and Democratic politicians alike are now trying to lull any outrage over Charlottesville with cynical condemnations of white supremacy and racial hatred. Beware the crocodile tears of your exploiters and oppressors! Their entire capitalist system is based on racial oppression, the increasingly brutal exploitation of labor, joblessness, poverty and starvation, and the mass murder of millions around the globe.

The bourgeois media, which has railed against antifa “extremists” who have tried to stop the fascists, now pontificates against Trump’s grotesque apologies for these racist killers. That Trump is a raving racist who has coddled and encouraged the fascists is hardly news. But what about the other representatives of American imperialist rule who are now denouncing the fascists? Former Democratic Party president Bill Clinton weighed in early with a tweet decrying the “hatred, violence and white supremacy” in Charlottesville. This from the man who rode into the Oval Office making a point of going to witness the execution of a brain-damaged black man and when in power probably did more to destroy the lives of the black working people and poor than any president since World War II. The politicians’ oceans of hypocrisy are in the service of obscuring the inherently racist nature of capitalist America.

Virginia’s Democratic Party governor, Terry McAuliffe, took to the pulpit of a black church in Charlottesville to tell the fascists to “go home” proclaiming,

Drop All Charges Against Anti-Fascist Protesters!

California

The following protest letter to the Sacramento County District Attorney was issued by the Partisan Defense Committee on August 16. The PDC is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defense organization which champions cases and causes in the interest of the whole of the working people. This purpose is in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League.

The Partisan Defense Committee protests the arrest and prosecution of Yvonne (Yvette) Felarca, Porfirio Paz and Michael Williams. All three face multiple felony and misdemeanor charges for defending themselves and others against the fascists of the Traditionalist Worker Party and the Golden State Skinheads who stabbed, slashed and clubbed anti-fascist protesters at

the state Capitol in Sacramento on June 26, 2016. In their own words, these fascist terrorists had come armed to carry out a “fight to the death.” At least seven people, including Felarca, were stabbed, two of them hospitalized with critical wounds.

Over a year later, Felarca was met by a dozen police officers when she exited a flight in Los Angeles on July 18, handcuffed, thrown in jail and charged with felony assault, rioting and incitement to riot. Paz and Williams, who were also thrown behind bars, face similar charges. The transparent purpose of these outrageous charges is to intimidate any who would mobilize in defense of themselves and all the intended victims of these growing gangs of fascist thugs.

The Partisan Defense Committee demands that all charges against Yvette Felarca, Porfirio Paz and Michael Williams be dropped immediately.

“You are not wanted in this great commonwealth.” Actually, Virginia was the birthplace of American slavery and the seat of the Confederacy. It took a bloody Civil War, with 200,000 black troops, guns in hand, to smash the chains of black chattel slavery. But the promise of black freedom was soon betrayed by the Northern bourgeoisie, which allied with the Southern propertied classes against the aspirations of the black freedmen. No less than the Klan terrorists that arose to suppress the newly freed slaves, the fascist gangs today seek to reverse the verdict of the Civil War.

Barack Obama, under whose reign joblessness, poverty and rampant cop terror against black people flourished, now obscenely preaches that the fascist killers “can be taught to love.” This idiotic, and ultimately suicidal, notion finds expression among black preachers and liberals, from the NAACP to the Southern Poverty Law Center, which argues that “every act of hatred should be met

with an act of love and unity.” Joining this chorus of “love and unity” are the International Socialist Organization (ISO) and the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), several of whose supporters were injured in Charlottesville.

In early June, the ISO and DSA called a “Portland Stands United Against Hate” rally in response to a fascist mobilization that came on the heels of the murder of two men who had intervened to stop a racist assault on two young women—one black, one Muslim—by a white-supremacist. While gun-toting militia thugs mobilized to defend the fascists and cheered police attacks on antifa activists with chants of “blue lives matter,” those at the ISO/DSA rally were singing, “We are gentle, angry people.” A “Bay Area Rally Against Hate” is now being called several blocks away from an August 27 fascist rally in downtown Berkeley. Advertised as a celebration of non-violence and solidarity against the white-supremacists who “try to intimidate us and incite violence,” it is promoted as an opportunity “to speak to each other about the world we want.”

No amount of singing and hand-holding in the name of non-violence is going to stop the violently racist fascist terrorists. Such actions reinforce the lie that racist terror is anathema to “American values,” serving to channel outrage against the fascist murderers into support for the “kinder, gentler” Democrats. The Democratic Party mayor of Berkeley is promising to investigate “all legal means” to

shut down the fascists’ rally. Across the Bay in San Francisco, Democratic Party mayor Ed Lee and Congressional Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein are demanding that the federal government ban a rally by Patriot Prayer, the same outfit that organized the fascist provocation in June in Portland.

Don’t buy into the delusion that the capitalist state is going to protect you against the fascists! Its cops are the central perpetrators of violence against black people and the oppressed in this society. State bans on the fascists can and will be used against the left and any perceived opponent of the capitalist state, its cops, courts, prisons and military. And beware those treacherous liberals like the ACLU who go to bat for the fascists’ right to rally for genocide in the name of “free speech.” Fascism is not about speech; it is about racist terror! Every “free speech” victory the fascists score in the courts only whets their appetite for greater violence.

Nor will confrontations by small groups of anti-fascist militants stop the fascist gangs. While the antifas have demonstrated real courage and determination in action, their politics are simply the street-fighting face of liberalism and moral suasion. Incredibly, many are now saying that Charlottesville was a victory! The anarchist *It’s Going Down* website boasts that “anarchists and anti-fascists were in Charlottesville to shut down a nazi rally, and they did.” In fact, the Nazis successfully rallied Friday night, laying the groundwork for Saturday’s carnage, including the murder of Heather Heyer. That day, the fascists’ rally was shut down only after

McAuliffe declared a state of emergency, sending in the National Guard and ordering the cops who had allowed the fascists to get away with their murderous assaults on protesters to close down the “Unite the Right” rally site. This did nothing to stem the fascists’ violence and bloodshed.

What is needed is to mobilize the *class hatred* of the multiracial working class. Standing at the head of all the intended victims of fascist terror, labor has the power to drive these racist thugs and killers off the streets. The idea that the union movement would flex its muscle in its own defense much less in defense of the growing ranks of the dispossessed doubtless strikes many as a utopian pipe dream. Responsibility for this can be laid squarely at the doorstep of the trade-union misleaders, who for decades have allowed the unions to be hacked to pieces while turning a blind eye to the mounting attacks against black people, immigrants, the poor and oppressed.

The labor bureaucrats’ accommodation to the rulers’ onslaught flows from their allegiance to American capitalism and to its political parties, particularly the “lesser evil” Democrats. The only “action” taken by the AFL-CIO leadership in response to Charlottesville was for its president, Richard Trumka, to resign his seat at the table with many of the wealthiest CEOs of U.S. capitalism on Trump’s manufacturing council! It is its own statement of the cravenness of the labor bureaucrats that Trumka was shamed into making this meaningless gesture by the resignation of several CEOs before him.

But there are union battalions that could have been mobilized in Charlottesville, from workers in the Norfolk shipyards to longshoremen in Southern ports. Their social power lies in the fact that their labor is essential to the functioning and profitability of American capitalism. The majority black membership of these unions in turn could have provided a critical link to mobilizing the black masses behind the power of labor in struggle against the fascists.

As we wrote in “‘Alt-Right’ Fascists: Shock Troops for Racist Genocide” (WV No. 1115, 28 July) in the lead-up to Charlottesville:

“Labor can and must be organized to smash the fascists. The potential for such action was shown in a small but real way by the labor/black mobilizations initiated by the Spartacist League and Partisan Defense Committee to stop Klan and Nazi provocations in several cities in the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s. Through flexing their muscle in massive, multiracial mobilizations against the fascists, the workers will come to recognize their power as a class. What must be done is to build a revolutionary workers party that will wield that power to finally fulfill the promise of black freedom and emancipate all the exploited and oppressed. It will take nothing less than a third, socialist American Revolution to break the chains of racist capitalist rule and bury the fascist gangs for good. *For labor! black action to stop the fascists!*” ■

SPARTACIST LEAGUE/U.S. Local Directory and Public Offices

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North Korea...

(continued from page 8)

weeks of the war, U.S. bombers destroyed irrigation dams that provided water for three-quarters of the North’s food production. The war ended in a stalemate. But the U.S. refused to sign a peace treaty or recognize the North, and has since then maintained a massive military presence in the South while subjecting North Korea to decades of military pressure and economic sanctions.

Washington’s latest threats came only days after the UN Security Council unanimously voted to approve crippling new sanctions against North Korea after it launched two intercontinental missiles last month. The sanctions, criminally supported by the Chinese Stalinist regime, are themselves an act of war and aim to cut off a third of North Korea’s export revenue and to force Pyongyang into submission by reversing the modest economic growth the country has experienced over the last several years. **Down with UN sanctions against North Korea!**

Whether under Republicans or Democrats, U.S. imperialism’s policy toward the North has always been to foster counterrevolution on the road to overturning the gains of the 1949 Chinese Revolution. Trump’s bellicosity, and his unpredictability, raise the prospect of nuclear Armageddon in the Far East. But Obama also threatened to attack the North, including with nukes, having several times sent B-2 bombers over the peninsula. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system that the Trump administration provocatively installed in South Korea earlier this year had been in the works for months, going back to the Obama regime.

Like China, North Korea is a bureaucratically deformed workers state where capitalist class rule was overthrown. Capitalist/landlord rule was toppled in North Korea by armed forces acting under the protection of the Soviet Army following World War II. The establishment of proletarian, collectivized property relations freed the northern half of the country from imperialist domination. At the same time, both the Chinese and North Korean workers states have been ruled since their inception by nationalist, Stalinist bureaucratic castes that exclude the working class from political power.

It is vital for the international proletariat, not least in the U.S., to stand for the defense of North Korea and China against the predatory U.S. rulers, their Japanese allies and their South Korean underlings. The overturn and expropriation of capitalism in these countries are historic gains for the international working class. Their unconditional military defense against



U.S. Air Force

U.S. bombs harbor in North Korean city of Wonsan, 1950.

imperialist attack and capitalist counter-revolution is integral to the cause of world socialist revolution.

Such defense necessarily includes these countries having nuclear weapons and delivery systems to deter imperialist attack. There is much that is bizarre and unsavory about the dynastic, mythologized, bureaucratic rule of Kim Jong Un and his predecessors. But Pyongyang’s drive to secure nukes is a rational, essential policy of self-defense, not least against the U.S., which openly threatens a nuclear “first strike” against its perceived enemies. It is welcome that the North has gone some way toward developing a credible nuclear deterrent. If not for such a deterrent, the U.S. would have already bombarded North Korea, as it has so many countries in the Near East and elsewhere.

In the wake of the U.S.’s latest threats, North Korea announced that it is planning to launch by mid August several missiles designed to land in the waters around the island of Guam in the Pacific. It is U.S. imperialism that has put Guam under threat. Andersen Air Force Base was key to U.S. aerial operations during the Korean War and is used today for bombers flying over the Korean Peninsula. Guam itself was captured by the U.S. imperialists over a century ago in the Spanish-American War and has remained a colonial territory since. **U.S. forces and bases out of Guam! For Guam’s right to self-determination!**

An August 10 editorial in China’s state-run *Global Times* stated that Beijing would “prevent” the U.S. from overthrowing the Pyongyang regime, while also noting that “China will stay neutral” if North Korea fires at the U.S. first. Beijing’s policy regarding North Korea is

premised on the futile Stalinist pursuit of “peaceful coexistence” with world imperialism. While it remains North Korea’s only ally, China has repeatedly pressured North Korea to stop its development of nuclear weapons. Time and again, it has voted for UN sanctions against the North, even if it does not fully implement them. Beijing’s collaboration with Washington against Pyongyang harms the defense of the Chinese workers state itself—the ultimate target of the U.S. imperialists. Capitalist counterrevolution in North Korea would bring U.S. forces right to the Chinese border, hugely intensifying the imperialist military threat.

Key to the defense of the deformed workers states is the fight for workers

political revolution to sweep away the nationalist ruling bureaucracies. This is part of our perspective for the revolutionary reunification of Korea—through socialist revolution in the South and political revolution in the North. The struggle to replace the Stalinist misleaders with governments based on workers democracy and revolutionary internationalism must be linked to the extension of proletarian power to the centers of world imperialism—West Europe, Japan and the U.S. imperialist colossus. Vital to this fight is the creation of Leninist-Trotskyist parties as sections of a reformed Fourth International.

The capitalist order in its imperialist epoch has thrown the planet into continual wars and occupations in order for the imperialist powers to extend their domination of the globe. And, once again, it is threatening humanity with nuclear holocaust. As Marxists, we look to the multi-racial American proletariat to bring down the U.S. imperialist beast from within. The same ruling class that threatens nuclear war against North Korea is also waging war on the livelihoods of working people and the oppressed in the U.S. What is desperately needed is class struggle against the capitalist rulers, both to defend the interests of workers at home and to hinder the ambitions of U.S. imperialism abroad. The Spartacist League and our comrades in the International Communist League aim to win the most conscious layers of the working class to the understanding that what is necessary to put an end to exploitation, oppression and imperialist slaughter is the overturn of the capitalist order in the U.S. and internationally through workers revolution. **Defend North Korea! Down with U.S. imperialism! ■**

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Durham...

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in front of the sheriff’s office to “confess” to having pulled down the statue. They were refused entry, but deputies executed warrants against Aaron Caldwell, Raul Jimenez and Elena Everett, arresting them on the spot. An eighth activist with an open warrant, Taylor Jun Cook, turned himself in later that day. Meanwhile, the fascist scum, taking their cue from the state’s persecution, have ominously been targeting WWP on social media.

In an interview with *Democracy Now!* (16 August), Thompson explained she helped take down the statue because it is a symbol of “white nationalism” and noted that she has received death threats on Facebook from fascists. She went on to say, “Anything that emboldens those people and anything that gives those people pride needs to be crushed in the same way that they want to crush black people and the other groups that they target.” Four days after the statue was toppled, rumors circulated of a KKK march in downtown Durham. In response, hundreds came out to counter them, and the Klan didn’t show.

As we wrote in “Confederate Monuments: Tear ‘Em All Down!” (WV No. 1113, 2 June), monuments to the Confederate slaveowners who were defeated in the Civil War “represent a racist affront to black people and serve as rallying points for resurgent racist terror.” We have many programmatic differences with the reformist, pro-Democratic Party politics of Workers World Party, which earlier this year pointed to Cooper’s gubernatorial victory as an example of “the power” of the oppressed “to influence the political landscape” (workers.org, 28 March). But we vigorously defend WWP and all those who participated in this act of basic public sanitation in Durham.

Black oppression is the bedrock of American capitalism. It took a bloody Civil War, the Second American Revolution, to destroy black chattel slavery. It will take a third, workers, revolution to put an end to wage slavery and achieve the promise of black equality. The Spartacist League is committed to building the revolutionary workers party—one that is 70 percent black and minority—necessary to sweep away the racist capitalist order. **Finish the Civil War! For black liberation through socialist revolution! ■**

WORKERS VANGUARD

Hands Off North Korea!

AUGUST 22—We print below an August 12 statement by the Political Bureau of the Spartacist League/U.S., section of the International Communist League, in defense of North Korea against the U.S. imperialists' war threats. Since then, Washington's rhetoric has somewhat ebbed. However, the military threats against the North have not. Last week, Vice President Mike Pence made clear, "All options are on the table."

On August 21, the U.S. began massive military exercises in South Korea. Dubbed Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, these war games involve tens of thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops and include plans for assassinations of the North Korean leadership in the event of war. The North Korean government has denounced this provocation. On August 15—the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of the Korean Peninsula from Japanese imperialism—it declared that it would continue to monitor U.S. moves in the region before deciding whether to fire missiles into the waters off the U.S. colony of Guam.

* * *

In their drive to destroy the North Korean bureaucratically deformed workers state, the U.S. imperialist warmongers are taking the world to the brink of nuclear war. On August 8, Donald Trump threatened North Korea with "fire and fury like the world has never seen," adding yesterday that the U.S. military is "locked and loaded" for war. While Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has tried to downplay the administration's saber rattling, Defense Secretary James "Mad Dog" Mattis doubled down, declaring that North Korea risked "the end of its regime and the destruction of its people."

Washington's war rhetoric is no idle threat. The U.S. has almost 25,000 troops across the border in South Korea, on top of another 50,000 in Japan. Later this

Crazed U.S. Imperialists Threaten Nuclear War



U.S. Air Force

August 8: U.S. bombers, escorted by Japanese fighter jets, conduct air drills near Korean Peninsula. Bombers took off from Andersen Air Force Base in U.S. colony of Guam.

month, U.S. and South Korean forces are planning massive military exercises in yet another provocation against North Korea. On August 10, U.S. and Japanese troops began an 18-day live-fire military exercise in Hokkaido. The Japanese imperialists are the historic colonial occupiers of the Korean Peninsula, and have long sought the counterrevolutionary destruction of the North. After Trump made his "fire and fury" remarks, the chief cabinet secretary in Japan, Yoshihide Suga, declared, "Our government approves of that stance." *All U.S. forces out of South Korea and Japan! Down with the U.S.!*

Japanese imperialist axis against North Korea!

The U.S. and its allies paint North Korea's development of a nuclear arsenal as a dangerous threat. In fact, the real danger to the world's masses is U.S. imperialism. The U.S. threats against North Korea come on the anniversary of the 6 August 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, followed three days later by the bombing of Nagasaki. Not only is the U.S. the only country to have ever used atomic weapons, it also came close to using nuclear weapons in the 1950-53 Korean War—hindered mainly by the Soviet Union's own nuclear arsenal.

In that war, which was carried out under the auspices of the United Nations, the U.S. attempted to crush insurgent workers and peasants in the South and to overturn the social revolution in the North. It slaughtered three million Koreans and nearly a million Chinese soldiers, whose intervention was instrumental in turning the tide against the U.S. and other imperialists. The peninsula was devastated, with 18 of the country's 22 largest cities largely or totally obliterated, including North Korea's capital Pyongyang, which was flattened. In the closing

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Leftists Tear Down Confederate Statue

Durham, North Carolina

Eight leftists, many of them members of Workers World Party (WWP), were arrested in Durham, North Carolina, last week and slapped with outrageous felony charges—including incitement to riot—for pulling down a statue of a Confederate soldier. Erected at the instigation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1924 and paid for with public funds, the statue was a vile celebration of the Jim Crow segregation enforced by the Democrats and the lynch-rope terror of a resurgent Ku Klux Klan. Until it was brought down, it stood for nearly a century in front of the old Durham County Courthouse. North Carolina's liberal Research Triangle, which includes Durham, and its many universities are littered with monuments to the slavocracy. Those arrested for ridding this majority-black city of the statue have done black people, immigrants and the working class a real service. We demand: *Drop all the charges now!*



Toth/Herald-Sun

Workers World Party supporters and other protesters celebrate after toppling Confederate soldier statue, August 14.

Drop All Charges!

The Confederate Soldiers Monument was toppled during a protest rally called by WWP on August 14. Outraged by the deadly fascist rampage in Charlottesville

two days earlier, which ended in the murder of Heather Heyer, more than 100 people turned out in solidarity with the anti-fascists who confronted the storm-

troopers in Virginia. Urged on by the crowd's chants of "No Trump, No KKK, no fascist USA," Takiyah Thompson, a 22-year-old black student at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and WWP member, climbed a ladder and slipped a long strap around the statue, while other protesters pulled it off its pedestal. Video of the protest went viral, as Democratic governor Roy Cooper chastised the activists, tweeting, "The racism and deadly violence in Charlottesville is unacceptable but there is a better way to remove these monuments."

Sheriff Mike Andrews, also a Democrat, swore a vendetta against the protesters, telling the press, "No one is getting away with what happened." Deputies quickly made good on the threat, arresting Thompson after a press conference at NCCU on August 15. Two other WWP members, Dante Strobino and Ngoc Loan Tran, were pulled out of a courtroom hearing for Thompson the next morning and arrested. A fourth protester, Peter Gilbert, was arrested that afternoon after deputies searched his address. The homes of several other WWP members were also raided. On August 17, up to 300 supporters lined up

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