

## Yellow Vest Protests Rock France



Maxppp

## The Working Class Must Lead Fight Against Capitalist Government

We print below a translation of a December 6 leaflet issued by our comrades of the *Ligue trotskyste de France*, section of the *International Communist League (Fourth Internationalist)*. It was first distributed two days later in Paris to Yellow Vest protests, so called because protesters wear vests that vehicle owners are required to possess for use in the event of a breakdown.

The increase in fuel taxes imposed by the Macron government has inflamed anger that had been accumulating for a very long time. Introduced in the name of an “energy transition” [away from fossil fuels], these regressive taxes hit all working people. Their sole purpose is to restore the rate of profit of French imperialism, which is in sharp decline relative to its competitors. The struggle of the Yellow Vests against this grossly elitist measure is in the interest of the working class. The government has unleashed its machinery of repression against this movement: Hundreds have been injured and hundreds more arrested. We demand the **immediate release and the dropping of all charges against all those arrested!** Faced with the popularity of the Yellow Vests, which increased greatly after the crackdown, President Macron tried to defuse the anger by suspending and then canceling the new taxes. This was correctly perceived as offering mere crumbs.

Socially and politically heterogeneous, the Yellow Vests are independent of the trade unions and of working-class parties. They include workers (mostly employees of small companies, where unions don’t exist), a mass of pensioners driven into poverty and many small artisans and self-employed tradespeople. The movement has drawn up a list of demands that has expanded well beyond the issue of fuel. These demands, some of which are supportable and others purely reactionary, reflect the petty-bourgeois leadership of the mobilization. Having no independent class interests, the

**Cops attack Yellow Vest protesters in Valence, France, on December 8. Macron government’s fuel tax hike has sparked nationwide protests by petty bourgeoisie, working class.**

petty bourgeoisie oscillates between the two fundamental classes of capitalist society, the bourgeoisie and the working class.

The labor movement must seek to take the lead of the protests in order to turn them against the real culprit: capitalism. It is the working class that through its labor produces profits, the *raison d’être* of capitalism. Only the working class has the power to cut off the flow of profits by stopping work; it alone has the historic interest to overthrow capitalism and replace it with workers power.

Many Yellow Vests perceive only the multiple betrayals of the trade-union bureaucracy [e.g., the leaders of the CGT, CFDT and FO union federations]. Laurent Berger of the CFDT openly supports the government, and CGT leader Philippe Martinez called for a vote to Emmanuel Macron last year—a betrayal, even when the opposing candidate was [National Rally leader] Marine Le Pen. The CGT leadership has turned its back on the Yellow Vest mobilizations. On December 1, the nationwide demonstration against unemployment called by the CGT in Paris ended up marching in the opposite direction from

the Yellow Vest protest! But the unions do not consist merely of their pro-capitalist leaders! They are the elementary organs of defense of the working class. Without the unions, workers are atomized, powerless individuals against the capitalists and their state, which is an apparatus of organized violence—with its cops, judges and army—that serves to ensure capitalist rule.

The indifference or outright hostility of many Yellow Vest protesters toward the trade unions also reflects in part the weakness of the unions. This is a result of the systematic anti-union attacks waged by Macron and his predecessors, including the social-democratic Socialist Party, which culminated last spring in the liquidation of the railway workers’ *statut* (special status)—hard-won rights offering a level of job protection, decent retirement and pay. But every day new sectors of the working class are taking up the fight against the government. Dockers and refinery workers are planning strikes next week, and the CGT and FO have talked about an open-ended truckers strike starting Monday, December 10. These workers have enormous social power, which could also inspire railway

workers to ram Macron’s “reform” of the national railway down his throat. This fight can put a swift end to the government’s plans to slash the health care system, pensions and unemployment insurance in 2019.

What is needed is a **class-struggle leadership in the unions**, as against the bureaucrats who have embraced the idea that French capitalism must “modernize” to keep up with its competitors. Martinez & Co. would simply prefer that this happen without the workers being crushed too much, if possible. Well no, it’s not possible. It takes fierce **class struggle** to extract or defend even the slightest concession from the capitalist bloodsuckers.

### For a Class-Struggle Program!

The fight for a class-struggle leadership in the unions goes hand in hand with the struggle for a new party, a multiethnic and multiracial revolutionary vanguard workers party, a party that is the **tribune of the people**. In this way, the working class can take the lead in the struggle of all the oppressed to overthrow the capitalist system, advancing its own slogans and class perspective in opposition to the bourgeoisie and its government.

What is necessary is a massive wage increase across the board, with a sliding scale to offset inflation. To combat unemployment, we need a massive reduction in working hours, with no loss in pay, in order to get all the unemployed hired and to spread the work among all available workers. It is necessary to extend the wages and working conditions wrested by the unions in the largest companies to all subcontractors, as well as to posted and temporary workers and to fixed-term employees, who are hired on the cheap in order to set workers against each other. [Posted workers are migrant workers within the European Union (EU).] There is a direct link between a struggle for such demands and a fight to organize the unorganized and forge **industrial unions** that bring together in a single organization all the workers of a given industry. It is with these slogans that the unions can be revitalized.

*continued on page 2*



Sipa

**Striking CGT trade unionists block entrance to Total biodiesel refinery in southern France, November 22.**



(continued from page 1)

The issue of posted workers raises the need for class struggle to put an end to the EU, whose directives serve as a battering ram in every member country, including France and Germany, to destroy the gains of all workers. The EU is a reactionary and unstable capitalist alliance that mainly benefits the German and French imperialists against their rivals, the United States and Japan. *Down with the European Union and the euro!*

This issue also raises the need to fight for *full citizenship rights for all who have made it here*. This is a vital measure for the unity of the working class in France and therefore for its potential for struggle. The Yellow Vests demand that asylum-seekers be treated well, but they also raise demands about them that are worthy of Le Pen, such as the deportation of rejected asylum-seekers and the detention of asylum-seekers in refugee camps overseen by the UN, that den of imperialist thieves and their victims. Counterposed to these anti-immigrant demands, we say: *No deportations!*

The capitalists can be expected to oppose our demands by shrieking that they are unrealistic and impossible. If capitalism cannot satisfy demands that are vital to the very survival of the working class and the oppressed, then let it perish!

## Down With University Tuition Fees!

In big cities and in many working-class neighborhoods with a large number of people of North African and sub-Saharan

African origin, the cops and gendarmes have been attacking high school students with clubs and tear gas. These attacks occur just as they begin to join the demonstrations in solidarity with the Yellow Vests and in protest against Macron's racist system of selection for university admission called "*Parcoursup*." *The labor movement must defend the youth of these neighborhoods! Down with Vigipirate [police and military "anti-terror" operations]! Down with the racist "war on terror"!*

The government just announced off-handedly a **tenfold** increase in university enrollment fees for foreign students. This is a first step toward generalizing such increases and denying youth from poor families access to higher education. And this is happening even as France is already one of the most unequal countries in the developed capitalist world as far as education is concerned! ***For free, quality public education available to all and adequate living stipends! For open admissions to higher education!***

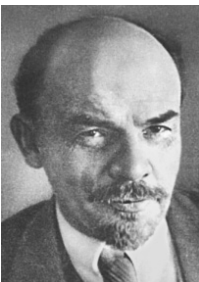
## Cops and Fascists: Enemies of Working Class, Yellow Vests

At the December 1 protest in Paris, the cops, according to their own figures, launched 37,000 gallons of pressurized water and 13,500 grenades of various types on some 10,000 protesters! This intense repression shows the role that the cops play: They are the guard dogs of capital, part of the core of the capitalist state. When the Yellow Vests demand “that substantial means be allocated to the *justice system*,” the *police*, the gendarmes and the army,” they are asking for the means of repression that will be used against themselves!



## TROTSKY

*disappear with the realization of a classless communist society in which scarcity has been eliminated.*



# LENIN

## Communism and Religion

*Friedrich Engels, in his 1878 book Anti-Dühring, observed that religion serves both as solace for the miseries produced by class society and as an ideology justifying class domination. Marxists counterpose a materialist view of the world to religious obscurantism and other forms of idealism. Against the notion that religious belief could be dispelled simply through rational argumentation, Engels explained that religion will only*

All religion, however, is nothing but the fantastic reflection in men's minds of those external forces which control their daily life, a reflection in which the terrestrial forces assume the form of supernatural forces....

We have seen repeatedly that in existing bourgeois society men are dominated by the economic conditions created by themselves, by the means of production which they themselves have produced, as if by an alien force. The actual basis of the religious reflective activity therefore continues to exist, and with it the religious reflection itself. And although bourgeois political economy has given a certain insight into the causal connection of this alien domination, this makes no essential difference. Bourgeois economics can neither prevent crises in general, nor protect the individual capitalists from losses, bad debts and bankruptcy, nor secure the individual workers against unemployment and destitution. It is still true that man proposes and God (that is, the alien domination of the capitalist mode of production) disposes. Mere knowledge, even if it went much further and deeper than that of bourgeois economic science, is not enough to bring social forces under the domination of society. What is above all necessary for this, is a social *act*. And when this act has been accomplished, when society, by taking possession of all means of production and using them on a planned basis, has freed itself and all its members from the bondage in which they are now held by these means of production which they themselves have produced but which confront them as an irresistible alien force; when therefore man no longer merely proposes, but also disposes—only then will the last alien force which is still reflected in religion vanish; and with it will also vanish the religious reflection itself, for the simple reason that then there will be nothing left to reflect.

—Friedrich Engels, *Anti-Dühring* (1878)

# Chicago Charter School Strike



WV Photo

**December 4:** Members of Chicago Teachers Union picket outside Acero school building during nation's first strike against a charter network. Some 500 teachers, whose students are predominantly Latino, are fighting for pay parity with their public school counterparts. As we go to press, union officials announced a tentative settlement.

Cops, prison guards, customs officers and security guards should have no place in the workers' trade-union federations (including the CGT and SUD). They are not workers!

A well-known fascist, Yvan Benedetti, head of the ultra-Pétainist Œuvre française (which was banned in 2013), was spotted on December 1 wearing a yellow vest near the Arc de Triomphe, where he took a few well-placed punches to the face. If the working class truly takes up the fight under its own banner and there is a possibility that the cops might prove insufficient, the bourgeoisie will not hesitate to unleash its extra-parliamentary shock troops, the fascist thugs, against the working class. The whole purpose of the fascists is to physically annihilate the workers movement and carry out racist pogroms—and the French bourgeoisie is prepared to do anything to maintain its class rule. The working class must mobilize at the head of all the intended victims of the fascists to drive them back into their holes before they can grow.

## Environmentalism and Fuel Taxes

For years, the left, infatuated with the “fight against global warming,” has been repeating the argument for fuel taxes. Global warming does exist, and human activity undoubtedly plays a role in it. But when Macron’s capitalist government claims to be concerned about it, this can only be to boost Peugeot as the automaker prepares to launch production of hybrid vehicles in 2019, while filling the state coffers in order to finance new gifts to the bosses.

At its recent congress, the “eco-communist” French Communist Party definitively dumped the hammer and sickle in favor of an emblem featuring...the leaf of a tree. As for the New Anti-Capitalist Party (NPA), it discusses with the utmost seriousness the need for “degrowth” (cutting consumption and production), even as the workers and the poor are able to put less and less food on the table. Thus, at the NPA’s most recent congress the “Anti-Capitalism and Revolution” tendency, though itself less “green” than the Olivier Besancenot clique, pushed a “transitional anti-capitalist program, focused on challenging the use of polluting forms of energy.”

The labor movement will be able to develop plans to mitigate the impact of global warming only within the framework of a socialist economy on a world scale, after taking power and committing to greatly reducing global poverty through a *qualitative increase* in the productive forces. (See “Capitalism and

## CORRECTION

The article “Free Ed Poindexter!” (WV No. 1145, 30 November) incorrectly stated that Chicago Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton was 20 years old when assassinated by the cops. He was 21 years old.

Global Warming,” WV Nos. 965 and 966, 24 September and 8 October 2010.)

## Against Bourgeois Populism, We Need a Leninist Workers Party!

Today, the labor movement finds itself marginalized for the first time in a mobilization of this magnitude against the government. If that does not change, the political winners may well be the bourgeois populists, who are the *enemies* of the working class, be it the fascistic racists lined up behind Le Pen or the supporters of [the left-wing France Unbowed's] Jean-Luc Mélenchon. Mélenchon has insisted for years that his movement defends the interests of "the people," which is an attempt to disappear the division of society into two fundamental classes.

The interests of “the people”—what irony! Mélenchon’s supporters campaigned in 2017 for “environmental planning,” demanding a “commitment to end diesel fuel.” As faithful defenders of capitalist institutions, they are now trying to channel popular anger into new elections. As a Yellow Vest protester put it, “We are asked to choose between two evils” (*l’Humanité*, 3 December). This is the role of elections under capitalism: to decide once every three or six years which member of the ruling class should sit in parliament to “represent” and trample on the people.

The Yellow Vests chant, “Macron resign,” but if the working class does not take the lead in the struggle to overthrow capitalism, Macron’s resignation would result in his replacement by one of his clones, or by one or another populist demagogue. The deep social crisis cries out for a new, revolutionary leadership of the working class. We are fighting to build such a party on the model of the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Trotsky, who led the first victorious proletarian revolution, in Russia in October 1917. Reforge the Fourth International! ■

[illegible]

**Publication of the  
Ligue trotskyste de France**

**No. 226, December 2018**  
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# DSA Pledges Allegiance to Racist U.S. Capitalism

# A Socialist Future Requires Workers Revolution

The following article is based on a forum given by Paula Daniels in Chicago on October 27. Part One appeared in WV No. 1145 (30 November).

## PART TWO

The Democratic Party is falsely seen as the defender of workers, black people and the little guy, but it is the party of slavery, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Vietnam War—a party of capitalism and imperialism no less than the Republicans. The fear elicited by the Trump administration has deepened attachment to the bourgeois liberalism of the Democrats. The Women’s March against Trump’s inauguration, which I call the “million white ladies march,” was a pep rally for the Democrats, an opening shot for their “resistance.” Many there raised the slogan of the failed Hillary Clinton campaign, “I’m with her,” while others touted Bernie Sanders as an alternative.

Sanders tapped into the economic despair felt in society and energized a layer of youth and workers disaffected with the Wall Street Democrats. But he is nothing but a capitalist running dog for U.S. imperialism. His record says it all. He advocates taking strong measures against Chinese imports and is unequivocal in his anti-Communist China-bashing. He has regularly voted for military funding for wars and occupations, like NATO’s war on Serbia in 1999; sanctions against Iraq before the 2003 invasion; and the post-9/11 Afghanistan war. Sanders voted for Bill Clinton’s draconian 1994 crime law.

The argument that Sanders popularized a socialist agenda is about as absurd as the claim that Marie Antoinette ran on a workers and peasants platform. (She got another platform altogether, didn’t she?) A *CounterPunch* article (31 January) by Nick Pemberton gave a far more honest assessment of the Sanders campaign than others aside from WV: “Bernie is here to save capitalism and imperialism. Bernie is here to save the Democratic Party, the CIA, and the FBI. He is here to return us to the days of prosperity. He is here to save us from our decline.... Bernie is desperately trying to plug the holes in the sinking ship known as American Empire.”

Many Sandernistas flocked to the new game in town, the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). Since Sanders declared his candidacy, the DSA has grown from roughly 5,000 members to now over 50,000, getting a big boost after Trump’s election and again after the electoral victory of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in New York’s Democratic primaries. One might describe the DSA’s politics as the same garbage in a new pail, but the pail is not new at all. The DSA, whose history is rooted in anti-Communism, has from its founding been attached to the Democrats. Its “lesser evil” electoralism is the same rusty trap that has served to ensnare radical youth and workers in the Democratic Party.

The DSA’s political godfather was the late Michael Harrington, a protégé of Max Shachtman, who had split from Trotsky-

ism in 1940 and eventually became a full-fledged apologist for U.S. imperialism during the anti-Soviet Cold War in the 1950s. Harrington earned his stripes as a leading member of the Socialist Party (SP). He and his cronies were State Department socialists, working with the John F. Kennedy and the Lyndon B. Johnson administrations in the 1960s as they were waging war in Vietnam. At the height of radical

out of that “stinking corpse.” Post-Harrington, the DSA continues to promote “the left wing of the possible,” which means strengthening the Democratic Party by backing so-called “progressives” who claim to be for certain reforms and expanded social programs. But transforming the Democratic Party into an instrument for working people and the oppressed is the most utopian thing I can imagine.

## Democrats: Other Party of Exploitation, War



Incoming Democratic NY State senator Julia Salazar, who plays prominent role in DSA effort to refurbish image of Democrats, with other elected officials and labor bureaucrats in Queens, November 14.

protest and the New Left, Harrington was pushing “realignment” of the Democratic Party and wanted to see the liberal George McGovern win the presidency in 1972.

One year later, Harrington split with the SP to form the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee (DSOC). A social-democratic outfit built on mainstream bourgeois politics and anti-Communist liberalism, DSOC was interpenetrated with pro-capitalist misleaders of the trade-union bureaucracy, like some in the United Auto Workers. The DSA was formed in 1982 when DSOC merged with a ragged group of former New Leftists called the New American Movement.

In addition to being an organic component of the Democratic Party, the DSA boasts a lineage to the social-democratic Second International, although it organizationally severed ties at its National Convention last year. In a *New York Times* article (26 June 2017), leading DSAer and editor of *Jacobin*, Bhaskar Sunkara, calls for “a return to social democracy,” namely to “that of the early days of the Second International.”

It’s important to know something about the social democrats of yesterday to understand the political legacy of today’s Democratic Socialists. At the onset of World War I in 1914, the overwhelming majority of the leaders of the Second International went over to the side of supporting their “own” bourgeoisie. In response, the revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg denounced the German Social Democracy as a “stinking corpse.” The Social Democrats went on to fight against the 1917 Russian Revolution and drowned the 1919 German Revolution in blood, including ordering the fascistic Freikorps murder of Luxemburg and her revolutionary cothinker, Karl Liebknecht.

Like that movie *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, something really rotten comes

Trumpeting his ability as a black politician to shove austerity down the throats of the unions and minorities, he proclaimed, “They’ll take it from me.”

## Liberals, Not Socialists

Like a bad dye job, the DSA can’t hide its roots—it was and still is a bunch of pro-imperialist stooges. On the question of U.S. military intervention, Ocasio-Cortez is concerned that it “damages America’s legitimacy as a force for good, creates new generations of potential terrorists, and erodes American prosperity.” This is a patriotic whitewash of imperialist depravity around the globe. In terms of colonial Puerto Rico, Ocasio-Cortez recently called for the Trump administration to “invest in the Marshall Plan.” To remind you, under the original Marshall Plan coming off World War II, Washington funneled billions to prop up capitalist class rule in Europe against insurgent workers inspired by the Soviet Red Army’s victory over the Nazis.

The idea that violent, bloodsoaked U.S. imperialism can become a force for good is as dangerous as it is stupid. The imperialist rulers are the greatest menace to working people and the oppressed throughout the world. The plunder of Puerto Rico as well as the wars and occupations in the Near East and Afghanistan are just a part of the story. The U.S. Special Operations Command has conducted military operations in at least 133 countries this year. War and neocolonial domination are fundamental to imperialism, and no amount of “policy shift” can change that. To eliminate such barbarism once and for all requires victorious international workers revolution.

Many aspects of the DSA’s liberal electoral platform have resonance among both left-wing youth and workers: Medicare for all, affordable housing, a federal jobs program. These are all variants of things that the working class can and should engage in struggle for, but even such mild reforms are not going to be won by electing this or

*continued on page 4*

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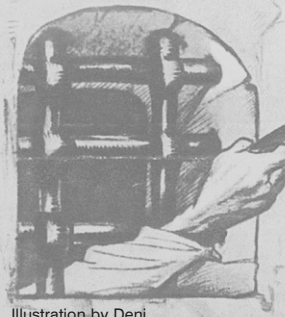


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## NOTICE

**Workers Vanguard skips  
an issue in December.**

**Our next issue will  
be dated January 18.**



Socialist Future...

(continued from page 3)

that bourgeois politician. The Democrats’ occasional voicing of these demands is purely hot air, designed to give them a “progressive” cover.

The DSA does not even pretend to attack core elements of the capitalist system, such as the private ownership of the banks. Take Ocasio-Cortez’s demand to “Curb Wall Street Gambling: Restore Glass Steagall.” Like other banking regulations, the Depression-era Glass-Steagall Act had aimed not to save the working class from debt or foreclosures but to rescue the banks by limiting their risk.

Both Ocasio-Cortez and Julia Salazar, now a New York State senator, call to “Abolish I.C.E.” Ocasio-Cortez argues that the agency has no “accountability” under Trump and that it should be replaced “with an updated INS-like structure.” Her reference is to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which used to be in charge of rounding up immigrants and destroying lives. The DSA’s calls for police accountability and the end of private prisons amount to attempting to make the capitalist state more efficient. Remember that the capitalist state is an organ of the capitalist class over the working class and oppressed—it is not neutral and can never be made accountable to those it represses. By offering up pipe dreams like police accountability, the DSA helps deflect outrage over murderous cop terror into safe channels.

More generally, the DSA’s program of liberal anti-racism has nothing to offer black people in this country but more of the same. One should not expect anything different from an organization that harks back to the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose New Deal coalition prominently included the segregationist Dixiecrats. The DSA, of course, also supported Obama, and I recently saw “Barack Obama Is My President” buttons for sale on its website. Obama was a Wall Street Democrat, providing a facelift for U.S. imperialism as it engaged in its depredations abroad and repressed the down-trodden at home.

The *Guardian* published a September 1 article by Sunkara called “What’s Your Solution to Fighting Sexism and Racism? Mine Is: Unions.” For this leading DSAer, reviving the unions means pressuring the Democrats to abandon their “corporate interests” in favor of “distributing wealth and power” to the working class! Arguing that “the type of anti-racism that could materially improve lives has always flowed through economic struggles,” Sunkara’s position is that a rising tide lifts all boats: if unions do well, so will all workers, including blacks and women. However, the existing labor leadership does not *actively*

combat racial oppression, or champion the rights of women and immigrants, putting workers at the mercy of the bosses’ attempts to divide them along racial and other lines. This can only weaken the unions in their economic struggles.

Since our founding, we have understood that the fight against black oppression is not simply about economic betterment. The struggle for black freedom in this country is part of the struggle of the working class as a whole, but is also *more* than that struggle. Black workers, specially oppressed and exploited over generations of degradation and humiliation, form the most conscious and experienced section



Passenger train bombed by U.S./NATO forces during Clinton administration’s war against Serbia, 1999. Bernie Sanders voted to fund this war and other bloody U.S. imperialist military campaigns.

of the class. Revolutionary black workers are slated to play a leading role in the proletarian revolution.

It was the intervention of V.I. Lenin, leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, that paved the way for American communists to make central the fight against black oppression. In an essay written in the late 1950s, James P. Cannon, the founder of American Trotskyism, explained:

“The influence of Lenin and the Russian Revolution, even debased and distorted as it later was by Stalin, and then filtered through the activities of the Communist Party in the United States, contributed *more than any other influence from any source* to the recognition, and more or less general acceptance, of the Negro question as a *special* problem of American society—a problem which cannot be simply subsumed under the general heading of the conflict between capital and labor, as it was in the pre-communist radical movement” (emphasis in original). —“The Russian Revolution and the American Negro Movement,” *The First Ten Years of American Communism* (1962)

Our goal is to build a revolutionary workers party, a party that would in its

majority be black, Latino and other minorities, acting as a tribune of all the oppressed and committed to fighting for proletarian power internationally. A key part of the work to build this party is to instill in the most conscious workers of all races, youth and the oppressed the necessity of fighting for black liberation through socialist revolution.

Reformist Sycophants

Because of the DSA’s growth after running candidates as registered Democrats, the International Socialist Organization (ISO) has been embroiled in an online debate over whether socialists should

The ISO endlessly repeats the mantra of building a “movement” to pressure the Democrats into enacting a series of reforms that will eventually lead to a more humane society. One of the ISO’s preferred vehicles for this illusory project is the small-time capitalist Green Party, which acts as a way station to the Democrats. The ISO has consistently backed Green candidates, including Ralph Nader’s presidential run in 2000, and run their own members on its ticket.

With its thoroughly bourgeois program extolling local business enterprises, the Greens’ agenda is to prettify the ugly face of U.S. imperialist capitalism. Their position is to *reduce* U.S. military spending. If the more than \$590 billion military budget were to be cut in half, that would still mean around \$300 billion to pillage the world. As Marxists, we say: Not one man, not one penny for the U.S. military!

We oppose the Greens, just as earlier Marxists in the U.S. opposed previous capitalist third parties, including the Progressive Party of Republicans Teddy Roosevelt and “Fighting Bob” La Follette and the party of the same name launched after World War II by Democrat Henry Wallace. Throughout the country’s history, the purpose of third parties offering a better deal under the profit system is to corral dissatisfaction with the two main bourgeois parties into yet another capitalist electoral vehicle.

The ISO is another group spawned from the broth of anti-Communism. Its political forebears were renegades from Marxism who refused to defend the Chinese and North Korean bureaucratically deformed workers states during the Korean War. Later, they did their utmost to assist the U.S. imperialists in Cold War II and cheered the destruction of the Soviet workers state in 1991-92. In 2008, the ISO hailed Obama’s election as “transformative.”

You can’t inch your way to socialist consciousness through the Democratic Party, just like capitalism doesn’t inch its way to socialism. There is nothing good about strengthening the party of the class enemy. We attract youth and workers who want to break with the Democrats and find a road out of the misery of capitalism.

Our comrades have been won to the program of Lenin and Trotsky through reading and experience, political fights and debates. We cannot guarantee that a revolutionary situation will occur in our lifetime. But the social contradictions are there, and when such situations occur, they develop very quickly. I’d like to end with a quote from the SL/U.S. Programmatic Statement (2000):

“The proletariat is the only revolutionary class in modern society. Only the revolutionary conquest of power by the multiracial working class, emancipating the proletariat from the system of wage slavery, can end imperialist barbarity and achieve the long-betrayed promise of black freedom. We seek to build the Leninist vanguard party which is the necessary instrument for infusing the working class with this understanding, transforming it from a class *in itself*—simply defined by its relationship to the means of production—to a class *for itself*, fully conscious of its historic task to seize state power and reorganize society.”

We Spartacists are ready and willing, now. And we are looking for a few good communists to join us. ■

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

- Website: www.icl-fi.org • Email address: vanguard@tiac.net
- National Office: Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10116, (212) 732-7860
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- This subject index covers issues of *Workers Vanguard* published during 2018, from issue No. 1125 (12 January) through the end-of-the-year issue No. 1146 (14 December). During this time, *WV* was published biweekly except for three alternate issues in June, July and August and skipping the last issue in December.
- The fullest listing is by SUBJECT. Subject headings are arranged alphabetically. Entries are listed chronologically with two exceptions: all entries comprising a series are listed together immediately following the first entry of the series; corrections immediately follow the relevant entry. An asterisk (\*) after the page location of an entry indicates that a correction follows. Corrections to articles from previous years indicate the issue number and date of the corrected article in brackets.
- Entries are listed under subject heads. In some cases, subject heads are broken down into subcategories. These subcategories are listed immediately after the initial subject head and preceded by a dot (•). The numbers following each entry headline give the issue number, date and page number(s) for the article. Thus:  
Victory to COSCO Port Workers!, #1137, 27 July (8, 7)  
means the headline of the article, issue No. 1137, dated 27 July, beginning on page 8 and continuing on page 7.
- No entry is listed twice; refer to cross-references for guidance in locating the subject head for particular articles. Cross-references are of two types: those following the word “see” deal centrally with the subject head; those following the words “see also” are related articles. Subject heads in cross-references are separated by a semicolon, while subcategories of subject heads are separated by a comma. Thus:  
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means that articles about Iran can be found by going to the subject head **UNITED STATES** and looking under the subcategory **International Relations**. Related articles can be found by going to the subject head **YEMEN**.
- Individuals mentioned in articles are usually not a subject

heading unless the article is primarily about the given person. Foreign political organizations are generally cross-referenced to their appropriate countries, while U.S. political organizations are listed under their organizational names.

- Articles relating to foreign countries are listed under geographical headings and not normally under any other subject heading. Articles relating to Israel and the Occupied Territories will be found under the subject head **ISRAEL/PALESTINE**. Articles that deal centrally with U.S. foreign policy will be found under **U.S.: International Relations** or under the relevant geographical heading, for example, **CHINA**.
- Articles under the *Class-Struggle Defense Notes* (CSDN) masthead are by the Partisan Defense Committee, a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defense organization associated with the Spartacist League.
- Articles which were translated into Spanish and appeared this year in *Suplementos en español de Workers Vanguard* are followed by (WVesp). A complete list of the *suplementos* appears on page 7.
- Articles which appear in Spanish within the pages of *Workers Vanguard* are cross-referenced under Spanish-Language Articles.
- Abbreviations used in entries are:
  - C: Correction
  - CSDN: *Class-Struggle Defense Notes* article
  - E: Editorial Note
  - L: Letter
  - R: Review
  - S: Series
  - YSp: *Young Spartacus* article
  - W&R: *Women and Revolution* article
  - WVesp: translation published in *Suplementos en español de Workers Vanguard*
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