

CHALLENGE



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Boston Anti-Racists Fight Fascists, Again



In the battle against fascism, every member of the working class has a role to play. Choose communism as the solution to this capitalist system in crisis.

BOSTON, November 18—A thousand anti-racist protestors rallied to stop a gathering of 50 fascists at the Boston Common. This follows a similar rally in August, when 40,000 people marched from up and down the East Coast to oppose neo-Nazis like the Oath Keepers, Patriotic Prayer, and other white-supremacist militias. As part of a new generation of gutter racist organizations, emboldened by the brazenly racist Trump presidency, these groups openly advocate “white nationalism” and anti-immigrant racism. They have sent armed vigilantes to intimidate people demonstrating against police killings of Black workers.

This time the fascists were denied a permit. They came anyway, saying they had the right to assemble on the Boston Common, a large and historic park open to all. Though the rally was illegal, liberal Boston Mayor Marty Walsh showed he was squarely on the fascists’ side. Several hundred Boston police, state police and other cops came to protect the fascists. Once again, we saw how the capitalist bosses serve their own racist interests in deciding when and where to enforce their laws. Without the cops, the fascists couldn’t organize!

Death to Fascism, Power to the Workers

Members and friends of Progressive Labor Party arrived in downtown Boston just as the kkkops were leading the fascists Tremont Street to the Boston Common. We held a bullhorn rally right there on the sidewalk, just across from the “alt right” and its armed cop guard. Although we lacked the forces to physically confront both the fascists and the cops, we had a successful 30-minute rally. We were joined by people off the street, including one who stayed to the end. We distributed CHALLENGE and a leaflet titled: “Learn From History – Destroy Fascism Now!” We unfurled our anti-fascist banner and spoke on the bullhorn to receptive passersby and those on their way to protest.

Then we decided to approach the Parkman Bandstand within 100 feet of where the fascists were assembled. As we walked into the Common, we found ourselves in an armed camp, with police stationed everywhere. The bandstand was barricaded to protect the fascists from righteous working-class anger. As we arrived, and the fas-

cists began spewing their racist lies, we raised our banner and took up our bullhorn once again to drown them out. Finally the cops led the cowards out and simultaneously cordoned off most of the protesters so that we couldn’t follow. We chanted as loudly as we could: “Hitler rose, Hitler fell, Nazi scum can go to hell!” and “Death, death, death to the fascists, power, power, power to the workers!”

Before we left, we distributed more than 500 leaflets and close to 50 CHALLENGEs. We reached many people with our militant, anti-capitalist ideas on the need to smash fascist movements before they grow. At the same time, this experience showed us that we need to build up our anti-fascist forces.

Ruling Class Crises Lead to World War

As we explained at the rally, capitalist rulers from Turkey to Saudi Arabia to China to the U.S. are disciplining their own ranks because their system is in crisis and they can no longer rule in the old way. The dominant bosses, like finance capital in the U.S., use fascist groups to help them consolidate power and attempt to divide and intimidate the international working class. We made it clear that rising fascism is an essential step toward global inter-imperialist war. Capitalism cannot be reformed to stop fascism. Only communist revolution can smash the lethal profit system and end fascism and imperialist war forever.

What we must learn from history: world events today are similar to what occurred in Europe in the 1930s. In both England and Germany, large fascist movements were backed by big capitalist financiers. In England, working people crushed the black-shirt fascists in the streets. In Germany, they fought the Nazis but lost the street battles. The German Communist Party relied on the electoral process and the dangerous illusion that fascism could be stopped by an alliance with “progressive” capitalists. That grave mistake ultimately cost the lives of 6 million Jewish people and tens of millions of others.

Today the fascists and their backers are clear in their intentions: subjugate Black, Latin, Asian, and immigrant workers; suppress and divide our class; defend the U.S. profit empire. Allowing fascists to organize has consequences. Enough is enough! As we have learned from the horrors of history, we need to stop this scum now, along with the sick capitalist system that finances and protects them! We will continue our struggle in Boston and around the world!✊

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Imperialist China Gains on U.S.

Slippery Slope to World War

When U.S. President Donald Trump descended upon Asia in a twelve-day tour spanning five countries, it marked a turning point for the ascendance of China, the relative decline of the U.S., and their sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry. While Trump declared that “America is back” (The Guardian, 11/17), it was more wishful thinking than reality.

Trump’s attempts to appease his alienated working-class base with a hard line on trade and North Korea ring hollow. China’s growing economic, military, and political might are propelling it forward, while the U.S. desperately tries to hold on to its once-dominant position. As history has taught us, most recently in World Wars I and II, the top dog imperialist will never relinquish its power willingly. The tension between China and the U.S. will continue to intensify amid rising fascism in both nations. The inevitable outcome will be world war.

Workers everywhere must reject all forms of racism and nationalism used by Trump and other capitalist rulers to divide our class and mobilize us to fight and die in the bosses’ wars for control of resources and markets. Workers have just one international class interest: to smash the profit system everywhere. Exploitation on the job, decaying infrastructure, capitalist death care and miseducation, and the rotten culture that oppresses us all stem from this system. Only communism will abolish nations, wages, money, and profits.

U.S. Grows Pathetic, Rising China Forebodes War

The China/U.S. power struggle was on full display during Trump’s trip. While the U.S.-led Asian Pacific Economic Summit was unfolding in Vietnam, the Chinese were countering at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Jakarta. The Filipino press praised Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang, who “got things done [at ASEAN] in areas that matter: trade and security above all. He strengthened economic ties with the region while practically silencing protests over China’s militarization of the South China Sea” (The Rappler, 11/16).

The Los Angeles Times (11/9) bemoaned the fact that “[n]owhere in Trump’s tour, however, have any of those leaders entered into serious negotiations or made significant concessions.” Some of China’s minor trade concessions, for which Trump was quick to claim credit, were already in the pipeline. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, an important ruling class figure, admitted that the concessions “achieved thus far are pretty small.” Of the roughly 15 “deals” announced by Trump, most are nonbinding memoranda of understanding that may never materialize (The Japan Times, 11/10).

TPP Failure a Sign of U.S. Decline

As the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations went forward without Trump, his absence had little real effect. Shortly after Trump left Japan, the country’s finance minister made clear that there would be no trade deal with the U.S. (Reuters 11/6/17). With Japan at the helm, the trade ministers forming the TPP-11, the trade pact’s remaining signatories, announced that the agreement would be revised to proceed without the U.S. (L.A. Times, 11/9). This will force Trump to play a weak hand when trying to negotiate trade concessions that could have been obtained through the TPP (Huffington Post, 11/7).

The main wing of the U.S. ruling class is furious with Trump’s “disengagement” from trade deals like the TPP, which had the full support of Barack Obama, a more reliable bosses’ agent. In the British Daily Mail (11/14), Nicholas Lardy, a Peterson Institute expert on the Chinese economy, blasted Trump’s pull-back:

World’s Bosses Can Offer Nothing for Workers

From the point of view of the international working class, Trump’s Asia trip was a disaster:

The biggest humanitarian crisis in Asia today is the mass murder and forced relocation of hundreds of thousands of starving Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Buddhist rulers have persecuted the mostly Muslim Rohingya people for centuries. Since the military takeover in 1962, the government has excluded the Rohingyas from citizenship. They need official permission to marry and have limited access to education, jobs, and residency. Of course, China’s One Belt One Road initiative has exacerbated this crisis. Not a peep was uttered about these atrocities by racist Trump, Xi, or any other capitalist bosses.

Trump praised Phillipines President Rodrigo Duterte’s “unbelievable job on the drug problem.” This is the same Duterte who said, “Hitler massacred three million Jews. Now there are three million drug addicts (in the Phillipines). I’d be happy to slaughter them.” The U.S. bosses’ relationship with the Phillipines is rocky, as the historical U.S. ally aligns more closely with China.

The Asia trip was trumpeted as a U.S. diplomatic offensive to hem in North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. However, neither Russia nor China agreed to any measures against North Korea beyond those already agreed upon (Politico, 11/14). And the chairwoman of the ruling party in South Korea, Choo Mi-ae, told a Washington think tank that the U.S. should “under no circumstances” take any military action against North Korea without the express consent of the South Korean government.

The failure to make any new significant trade deals or forge new alliances to constrain China are both clear signs of the decline of U.S. power in Asia.

[The Chinese] are gaining strategic importance and geopolitical influence in the region ... [Trump] can talk about Indo-Pacific blah, blah, blah, but we’re not engaged in trade, we’re not negotiating any new trade agreement with any country in the region.

A weakening and volatile U.S. equates to a slippery slope to war with China.

China’s Bosses: Unity & Fascism

Compare ruling class sniping at Trump to this assessment of the Chinese bosses’ unity coming out of the so-called Chinese Communist Party Congress one month ago:

The supersizing of Xi’s power comes as Beijing steps up efforts to go global ... Xi doesn’t tweet, boast about his IQ or make geopolitical threats he’s not prepared to back up. What he does do is beat economic growth expectations year after year, steadily increase China’s market share and play the long game ... (Japan Times, 10/31).

Xi Jinping, who easily won a second term as general secretary of the Chinese “Communist Party”, pledged that he would make China a great power by 2050 (South China Morning Post, 11/16). In fact, it may happen sooner, with China already “the second largest economy by official exchange rate, the largest manufacturing country and the largest trading nation in the world.” It also has one-third of the world’s billionaires (BBC, 10/19 and Center for American Progress, 4/27).

Speaking at a “China Power Conference” organized by the ruling class think tank, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the senior

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APHA

HOTBED OF STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIST POLICE TERROR

ATLANTA, November 8—The annual American Public Health Association (APHA) convention in Atlanta, which drew 12,000 attendees, was again a hotbed of struggle over racism. Led by members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and many young public health students and workers, the fight to pass two anti-racist resolutions became headline news (see letter, page 6).

Five Fightbacks and Counting

One resolution, proposed for the fifth time, called upon the United Nations to take responsibility for causing the massive cholera epidemic in Haiti, and also to take action and pay for public health and sanitation measures to stop it. This resolution had been passed in 2016 by a 94 percent margin, but it was for one year and the goal this year was to fight for it to be a permanent policy.

Despite the overwhelming support by workers last year, the policy board again gave it a negative rating this year. Every year these policy arbiters make new and often contradictory demands for changes to the resolution, but ultimately could never be satisfied because their disagreements are actually political. The racist reality is that they don't care about workers' lives in Haiti, and the APHA leadership doesn't want to ruffle the UN.

Last year another resolution, to declare racist police violence a public health problem, was also passed temporarily, despite a negative review from the APHA leaders. They were forced to suspend their own rules to avoid a floor fight. The arbiters made suggestions for changes, all of which were answered by the ten young authors of the resolution, but they still rejected the end product.

Exposing Racist Hypocrisy

At a well-attended hearing open to all, 95 percent were strongly in favor of the resolution. Still, members of the Medical Care section who had endorsed both resolutions still raised certain objections to the resolution. One member agreed with the statement that "police are agents of so-



cial control" but said "you can't say that." The PLP member said it was the truth and we should say what is true.

Before the final vote about 75 members demonstrated loudly in front of the convention center, with chants such as "No APHA silence in the face of police violence." Many then entered the hearing room as the debate proceeded. But this chance to call out the police and seriously attack racism was too much for the timid APHA leaders, who like to maintain cozy relations with Democratic politicians and law enforcement. They cut off debate and engineered a defeat by conservative delegates and many "liberals" who were afraid to take a stand against the police.

Young Anti-Racists Undaunted

Ten young public health students who co-authored the resolutions also presented sessions on police violence, racism, and on the conditions in Haiti. They attended other sessions where they leafleted and raised questions. The defeat did not discourage them because they realized that they had raised the issue of racism with thousands and exposed the cowardice and hypocrisy of the APHA leadership.

PLP members participated actively in writing these resolutions and building the struggle around them. In addition, we distributed 1,000 fliers which supported the resolutions but also explained that equitable and excellent health care is impossible under capitalism, because of the constant drive for profit in this system. We gave

out CHALLENGE and held our annual breakfast to discuss our politics, our history of activity in APHA for decades past, and discuss the focus for next year. In many sessions we spoke from the floor about racism and capitalism. In so doing we cemented relationships with our young co-authors and made several new contacts.

Capitalist Healthcare Will Always Fail Working class

The APHA is a typical liberal organization, that claims to represent the interests of its members and be genuinely concerned about the public good. However, the leadership is really most concerned about maintaining its status and funding within the capitalist structure of the U.S. Thus they do not speak up in public for even such reformist measures as single payer health care, which is the official policy, and refuse to deal with such touchy issues as racism. PLP, on the other hand, understands that capitalism only cares about working people as a means to make profits. Maximizing the health and health care of workers cannot be a reality under capitalism, because that cost comes out of profits. Capitalist healthcare is set up to give the minimum needed to keep workers working, if that. What capitalism does do is build racism in order to super-exploit black, Latin and immigrant workers and keep us divided against one another, instead of fighting back against this murderous system. Join PLP and smash the divisions of capitalism.✊

Students Fight Fascism with Multiracial Unity

HAMMOND, IN, November 21— "If issues like racist police killings and the deportations bother you, we need you to stand up and join this rally!" Over 20 members of various student groups at Purdue University Northwest rallied against racist police terror and deportations. The goal was to show multi-racial unity in the face of injustices faced by students and their families. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades in attendance took an active role in planning and sharpening the event's multi-racial politics.

Anti-Racist Students Take Initiative

The Black Student Union, the Spanish Club, and the Social Justice Club represent the bulk of anti-racist, anti-sexist fightback at the university. The organizations came together to build unity on campus and fight racism at the time of rising fascism under President Donald Trump and growing global instability. They coordinated their efforts more collectively to draw more students, faculty, and campus workers into the struggle.

The female leaders of the groups kicked off the rally with a megaphone, shouting, "Black Lives Matter!" and "Together, United, We'll Never Be Defeated!" The protesters grabbed the attention of students socializing nearby. The students made a quick but spirited march across campus before returning indoors to give speeches.

One leader of the Spanish Club gave an impassioned speech about the termination of DACA

(Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and the deadly increase in racist mass deportations in recent years. She stressed that no human being is illegal. DACA is not enough; we must fight for our working-class brothers and sisters and smash the racist borders that divide us.

A leader from the Social Justice Club connected the racist deportations to racist police murders, calling out the capitalist system as their source and multi-racial, pro-working-class unity as the alternative.

Another leader, from the Black Student Union, called on all those in the rally to link arms as a sign of solidarity against racist and sexist attacks. He noticed that some students in the student area did not link arms and said that those who cannot turn to their neighbor and link together with them in solidarity must examine their position in the fightback.

By the end of the rally, at least twice as many people had joined in to lock arms in support of the action.

More Fightback Needed

During a potluck/open mic that took place at the university dorms after the rally, a PL'er pushed future struggle. "So, how are we going to use the momentum of this event to continue being a thorn in the side of this racist, sexist, elitist university administration?"

Although Purdue Northwest is located in a majority working-class region, an area long pun-

those who cannot turn to their neighbor and link together in solidarity must examine their position in the fightback

ished by de-industrialization and environmental racism, the university can hardly claim to serve working-class students. Administrators and trustees have annually increased tuition costs and pushed outrageous fees, while using the increased cash flow to give the campus a cosmetic overhaul and pay themselves handsome salaries.

All the while, this same racist administration marginalizes non-traditional and international students by gutting support services that might otherwise help them integrate academically and socially.

The PL'er brought up previous multi-racial student struggles at Purdue in 2012 against racist and sexist professor Maurice Eisenstein, a despicable Zionist who the "pro-free speech" administration continues to defend. Eisenstein has spewed racism against Muslim students and students with disabilities. Then, as now, the only way

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Annual Dinner Feeds Working-Class Unity, Counters Anti-Muslim Racism

NEW YORK CITY, November 22—Following the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Muslim workers around the country were targets of racist violence. Thousands were rounded up, jailed, and tortured by the government. In response, a local church began a yearly tradition of holding a “Children of Abraham dinner” in which Muslims, Christians, Jews, atheists, and others share dinner and vow to unite across religious lines. Every year, the dinner seems to get larger and we greet each other as old friends. As people entered the hall this year, they were welcomed, as they are every year, with delicious medjool dates, cheese and crackers and hummus on every table. The meal was halal in honor of our Muslim sisters and brothers.

Racist Violence in Yemen

One speaker was a member of the communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) who works for an immigrant rights organization. She described the racist situation in Yemen, where Saudi Arabia and its allies have conducted daily bombing raids and imposed a blockade of ports that prevent food and medicine from reaching people who desperately need both. Tens of thousands of the working class have died, millions face famine, and over 900,000 suffer from cholera.

And none of this would be happening were it not for the billions of dollars of weapons sold by the U.S. government to Saudi Arabia. Both the Obama and Trump administrations are responsible for this anti-worker catastrophe. The speaker said her Yemeni friends had told her about the

desperate conditions in their country. The room was silent. Then, money was collected to help relief efforts in Yemen and tentative plans made to have a rally at the Saudi consulate.

Working-Class Unity

The evening began with blessings, one from the sheikh of the local mosque and the other from a church minister. Dinner was served and working people from different faiths sat, ate, and talked together. After dinner a popular folk singer regaled us with two wonderful songs of unity and caring. Then a number of people spoke about different aspects of the struggle for unity in country whose political leadership pushes division and suspicion.

A speaker from a sister church in California talked about their efforts to offer sanctuary to undocumented immigrants. A leader of a local mosque spoke of how these dinners gave his community the courage to begin inviting people from other faith traditions to a yearly Iftar at the mosque. An Iftar is the evening meal to break the fast of the month of Ramadan. Many people from local synagogues and churches have attended this Iftar, including several of our church members. Another speaker talked of his joy at having his grandson at the dinner, and how he taught his grandson how important it is to give leadership and continuity to the struggle for multiracial unity.

The speeches were a mix of religious and political. Both emphasized the need for solidarity in a world where people often feel alone and helpless, dealing with the many problems that capi-



talism creates. And we're not alone. In addition to the woman who talked about Yemen, another speaker told of how the entire Middle East is being turned upside down—with civil wars, aerial bombings, homelessness, hunger and disease—because the masters of wealth only care about controlling oil supplies, and couldn't care less about the people there.

Our dinner demonstrated the opposite: solidarity among people and organizing for a better world. We distribute CHALLENGE to a number of the people who attended the dinner and helped organize church events opposing racism, mass incarceration and attacks on immigrants.✶

China-U.S. Editorial

Continued from page 2

Republican Senator John Cornyn worried that China will “pose the greatest threat to the U.S.,” sooner rather than later. His two main concerns are China's state capitalist economy outpacing the U.S., and the aggressive Chinese military buildup in the South and East China Seas (Epoch Times 11/14).

Tumultuous U.S. Ruling Class

Meanwhile, the U.S. ruling class is splintering by the day. Republicans could not garner enough votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act and are struggling with passage of their shortsighted tax reform bill, which favors selfish interests of the wealthy at the expense of a growing deficit and widening inequality (NY Times, 11/16). Steve Bannon, the white supremacist loose cannon and former White House advisor, faced off against Vice President Mike Pence, with each backing different candidates in a much-publicized Republican Senate primary race in Alabama (CNN, 9/25).

The Trump- and Koch-led factions of the ruling class continue to vacillate over their relationship. Conservative billionaires are fighting Trump over infrastructure

programs, border taxes, jobs programs, and the ban on refugees and immigrants from mainly Muslim countries (Independent, 2/3). The Koch brothers at first backed the Trump tax plan, only to later withdraw their support (Vanity Fair, 11/3).

Conversely, the first term of Xi's rule was defined by a harsh disciplining of China's ruling class, with power threats to Xi drummed out of leadership or imprisoned. This approach seems to be paying both financial and political dividends.

Turn World War Into Revolution

At the end, Trump's Asia trip served only to highlight the growing challenge of Chinese imperialism to U.S. imperialist power. All the signs suggest that the current battle between the U.S. and China is leading to a catastrophic conflict. We can be certain that regardless of who emerges as top dog, the working class will continue to be exploited.

Historically, communist-led revolutions have followed world wars and the mass slaughter of our class amid the bosses' fight for profits and dominance. Today, once again, only international working class unity and communist revolution can stop imperialist war.✶

Shut Racist Spencer's Trap



BAY AREA, November 15—Over 300 students at Stanford protested anti-Muslim racist Robert Spencer. Spencer didn't learn his lesson from the first three times he was protested at college campuses this year. He founded the uber-racist journal Jihad Watch and founded the equally anti-Muslim racist and Zionist organization Stop Islamization of America. He is also a two-time bestseller at the liberal imperialist mouthpiece the New York Times.

Students lined up early to pack the room, and the antiracists filled all the seats except the ones reserved for the Stanford college Republicans and their friends.

Part way through the talk, we all stood up and walked out. Spencer and his cronies taunted the antiracists, calling them “fragile leftwing fascists.” After the walkout, students who participated and more antiracists who couldn't get into the event rallied outside.

One member and one friend of PLP encouraged students to overcome fear of administrative retaliation. The antiracist actions revealed the university bosses' racist nature by supporting the Stanford Republicans and bullying antiracist students. See full analysis next issue.✶

Learn to Fight Capitalism at College Conference

NEW YORK CITY, November 11—The ability of youth to provide leadership was on display as teachers, students and workers gathered today for PLP’s annual College Conference. Although capitalism bombards us with the message that youth are lazy, irresponsible, violent and selfish, PLP places trust in them and today a multiracial group of young people led a conference with the theme of “Smashing Borders.” More than 50 attendees brainstormed how to combat the borders designed by the bosses to separate and weaken our class (see letters, page 6).

The opening speech highlighted how capitalists use borders economically and politically. By drawing borders where they want, bosses control resources, markets and workers. Historically, borders were drawn to give the victorious bosses control over the resources of the defeated power. When the Ottoman Empire was defeated at the end of World War I, the Middle East was carved up into countries controlled by European powers. The countries of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan were created by French and British imperialists in order to control the region and to own the newly discovered oil there. Once bosses draw their borders, the workers there are trapped, unable to leave without approval from the state. Meanwhile, their profits, stolen from those workers, move freely and easily across borders, to be invested wherever the rate of profit is highest.

The speaker also pointed out that borders

have a political purpose under capitalism—to divide and weaken the working class. Along with racism and sexism, there is nationalism—the notion that workers of a particular country have more in common with, and should have political allegiance to the bosses and politicians of that country. The capitalists want us to believe that workers are different because of their “race,” ethnicity, gender, and nationality, hoping to prevent the unity of workers necessary to take back the value stolen from our labor.

Panel: From Bolshevik Revolution to the Caribbean to Today

After the opening speech, the struggle to smash borders was discussed by a panel of four speakers who described how communists have successfully fought to overcome borders over the years. The first speaker told of how a hundred years ago the Bolsheviks had made a revolution that liberated more than one-sixth of the world’s population and brought equality to the various oppressed nations that had made up the former Russian Empire. The next speaker gave a brief history of the struggles of communists in the Caribbean from the 1930s on, describing how their national fights are often linked to struggles in other countries, such as the campaign to free the “Scottsboro Boys.” The third speaker discussed how working in an immigrants’ rights group exposed the inhumanity of borders while also providing a good lesson in how we must always struggle to blast capitalist ideas wherever they appear.

Finally, the last speaker spoke of borders that became apparent when she began working at a community college as an adjunct professor. In addition to the racism, nationalism and sexism that divide us, she discovered there are also borders between full-time and part-time professors, between professors and staff and between professors and students. All of which weaken our struggle. She swiftly learned no place is free from stratification and exploitation under capitalism. Despite her delicate position as an adjunct, our comrade fearlessly promoted revolutionary politics and fought to improve conditions for students and their teachers. Over the past year, she worked with antiracist students, professors and staff to organize a conference on immigration and mass incarceration that attracted 500 students, and more recently to raise money for relief aid for Puerto Rico.

Learning to Fight

After the panelists spoke, we broke up into workshops, where we discussed how borders affect us on our own campuses and what to do about it. Students from one West Coast university told us how they were organizing mass opposition to an upcoming campus speech by a notorious anti-Islamic bigot, Robert Spencer. Islamophobia constructs borders between Muslim and non-Muslim people and is used to justify brutal U.S. wars of occupation that kill and oppress people in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan. The workshops discussed the idea that if we really are to eliminate all the borders imposed on us, we have to reach out not only to other students and faculty but also to other workers on campus and on our jobs.

At the wrap-up, students and teachers feel emboldened to return to campus and sharpen the fight against borders. We left energized to educate, and organize with other workers on campus. More than anything, we left the conference confident that the future is one of a borderless, international working class.✊

Untenured Teacher Pushes Back Against Principal’s Mistreatment

NEW YORK CITY, November 21—One of the Progressive Labor Party’s chants says, “What do we do when under attack? Stand up, fight back!” At a New York City high school where students and teachers are constantly harassed by the administration, a young, untenured teacher did just that. She also struck a blow against sexism.

When the principal observed this teacher, she had a lesson with PowerPoint slides and had to open her lesson plan on her laptop. The principle was upset that she didn’t have a printed copy of her lesson plan, and he put a letter in her file chastising her. This violates the union contract, which states that administrators may only criticize the lesson, not the format of the lesson plan. Even the Chancellor’s weekly newsletter to principals warns them not to use a school handbook to amend the contract. Attacking little things like the format of a lesson plan is one way the administration keeps new teachers intimidated and prevents them from speaking up against bad practices at the school.

Here, as at many NYC schools, students and teachers face many problems. Too many administrators have never taught, almost all the classes are overcrowded, and we have a principal who pick on untenured teachers over nonsense.

Veteran and New Teachers, Unite

The attacks are constant, but many teachers have fought back. Unfortunately, it’s mostly been the veteran teachers, who have tenure (job protection). Untenured teachers are told they have no rights and can be fired at any time, for any reason. As a result, it’s mainly veteran teachers who stand up to the administration, while those without tenure are advised to keep their heads down and be “team players.”

When this woman teacher began asking co-workers for help, she received conflicting advice. Some men, who historically fought back in the school, said to do nothing and be a “team player” because that’s what the principal likes. This reflected a degree of sexism – that a woman shouldn’t stand up to mistreatment from a male principal. However, some female teachers and one male teacher, known for being a member of Progressive Labor Party, encouraged her to fight and not quietly accept the disciplinary letter.

Despite being untenured, she wrote a short rebuttal accompanied by evidence about the principal’s wrongdoing. These daily fights over lesson plans and the general harassment by bosses at work are important because they are part of the steeling of the working class that’s necessary for struggles that lay ahead. In particular, this struggle was a small blow against intimidation and sexist ideas at work.

There are many more struggles occurring in this school that are all geared toward fighting back against an administration that pays lip service to wanting to help the students while attacking teachers and our ability to teach them. The dedication of teachers toward their students has motivated them to attend PTA meetings and build closer ties with parents. This act of defiance is an example of building fightback on the job and forging the unity of men and women necessary to fight capitalism.✊

Purdue U

Continued from page 3

that the university will be forced to take action against Eisenstein is if a significant portion of the campus students, faculty, and workers organize a protracted and militant struggle against the racist, sexist, and imperialist ideas promoted by both Eisenstein and all universities under capitalism in general.

The university bosses are quick to promote and defend racist and sexist speech because their capitalist masters use these ideas to divide working people. A revolutionary communist educational system will smash all the bosses’ non-scientific and divisive misinformation, and instead promote lifelong learning as a liberating weapon to advance the needs of the working masses.

Fight On

In the Party, we like to say “Fight to learn, learn to fight.” The fight against capitalism and for communist revolution is one that the university bosses will never teach, but remains the most important lesson that the international working-class can learn. PLP salutes these anti-racist, anti-sexist fighters at Purdue for their efforts to organize multi-racial unity in the face of fascist attacks. Obreros unidos, jamás serán vencidos!✊

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Texas: Anti-Racist Movie Night

About 65 Unitarian Universalists and friends came together at a local movie house to screen the documentary film PROFILED. After screening the three-part series Race: The Power of Illusion earlier in the year, the UU Social Justice Committee has made a commitment to educate and engage church members in fighting racism. We have scheduled regular film screenings, small discussion groups, and have taken on the responsibility of preparing a service dedicated to fighting racism.

Unitarian members and guests responded well to PROFILED. They remarked on the powerful stories of the racist violence that is still woven into the fabric of our everyday lives.

One viewer noted how racism divides white against Black workers, intensifying racism and forming a major obstacle to worker solidarity. Several viewers and committee members decided to continue discussing the historical roots of racism in the U.S.

They chose to read Lerone Bennett’s The Road Not Taken, a work specifically referred to in the documentary. In addition, proceeds from the screening were sent to UU members in Santa Monica for their legal relief fund, along with a letter of support and solidarity for the UU members who fought the KKK in 2016.

While many Unitarian members still see themselves as “allies”—not directly impacted by racism and involved in class struggle—with each action and discussion, we are showing how the fight is one and the same for an antiracist society. We will continue to fight alongside our fellow UUs, winning them to multiracial unity and the fight for communism.

★★★★★

‘I am For It’— Reflections of College Conference

The following are reflections shared by some students and professors from campuses in the South Bronx who attended the College Conference (see page 5).

The diversity of folks was great. I was really impressed. I am a college student who works the night shift as a cleaner at a local college. Although I had not slept, I made it my business to attend the meeting so I could learn more about these ideas. It was an awesome experience.

★

I really enjoyed my workshop. Students from community colleges and private colleges attended. They exchanged ideas and talked more about how to organize on their campuses. We talked about the worker-student alliance and its historic significance.

★

I have been thinking about what a world without a class hierarchy would actually look like. I am very new to the ideas of communism, but am definitely interested. I found myself engaged in the workshop and want to learn so much more. If communism is a world where we are all equal, I am for it.

★

My workshop gave me the chance to share my personal experiences about fighting racism. As an immigrant student and worker, I have dealt with a lot of hardships and discrimination, and this was a great place to reflect and talk about my experiences. I got to meet new people and hear their ideas as well. I am so glad I went.

★

It was a great experience to see many new young leaders come forward. The welcome address was given by a new student leader from the Bronx who was electric. The workshops were led by some new student leaders and they did a solid job. The panel touched on some really good points and was pretty interesting. We ended the evening with a lively Cuban dinner and got to know each other better. Power to the working class!

★★★★★

PLP leadership at APHA

The struggle at the American Public Health Association over police violence was inspiring, as many young activists were engaged from across the country. Working with the Black Caucus of Health Workers in a forum on police brutality in 2015 started the ball rolling as several new militant young public health students jumped into the resolution process. Last year a young PLP member suggested having a rally, which was a great success and contributed to the temporary passage of the resolution. This year there were no



Rally against racist police terror at APHA

questions about having a rally at the convention and new fighters played a leading role while a seasoned PL member diverted the convention center security and police’s attention. At the opening session, the APHA plays the Star-Spangled Banner. Like at the NFL football games, PLP members and friends took a knee, much to the delight of those around them! During the preliminary hearings on Haiti and police violence resolutions PLP members sharpened the audience’s understanding of the barriers raised by the Joint Policy Committee in moving progressive resolutions forward.

In the Governing Council hearings the APHA leadership resorted to lies and innuendos to discredit the resolution to the larger membership. One member of the executive council said that the police violence resolution contradicted 21 other APHA policies. When challenged by a PLP member he could not name a single policy and the PLP member encouraged him to go back and do his homework before talking further with the activists. We also struggled with liberals, both Black and white, who disagreed with the resolution. Mostly though, they want to continue to work closely with the police and not antagonize the Trump racists. PLP will continue to expose the role of the police under capitalism as agents of social control for the ruling-class. For four years we have put out a special “Challenge” explaining more about capitalism, the anti-racist struggle and the need for communism. We have an expanded group of public health students and workers meeting with the party around these ideas. Winning more students and professionals to understand this analysis will move the struggle forward even more and open the door to revolutionary action.

★★★★★

A Visit to a Friend in Prison

This weekend, some comrades and I went to pay a visit to a young friend in prison. Micah is skinny man in his early twenties who was attending college and always full of jokes. Across the cafeteria table on his designated seat, he looked like a uniformed student whose peace was stolen from him. We talked over sour candy and Sun Chips.

I have never been to this prison before, but the atmosphere was familiar. We were greeted with metal detectors, a morning dehumanization process Black and Latin students go through daily before class. From the interrogation lights, the tiles and lines across the floors, chairs, colors of the walls, to the rules and behavior, prison felt like school. The too-young Black, Latin, and white faces in the cafeteria could easily be mistaken for a high school cafeteria. Both schools and prisons are ruled by intimidation, laws and violence. Schools prepare a section of working-class kids to be prisoners and de facto slaves—to assume the position. Both attempt to rob the potential of fightback, militancy, and working-class creativity. If youth are willing to break the bosses’ racist laws for individual motivations, do they pose a higher threat to the bosses’ system? Are they more likely to break the bosses’ laws for the whole working class? How threatened the bosses must feel, that even when they have our youth locked up, they continue to tear away at the prisoners’ dignity.

Micah said, “We watch over ourselves. We don’t need the guards. I thought I had to be scared of the inmates. In reality, it’s the correctional officers.” Even in the grimmest corners of capitalist decay, working-class collectivity prevails. The prisoners do not tolerate stealing

from other inmates. When PLP says the workers will rule society, it just means we will have the decision-making power, and we will choose what’s best for our class as a whole. Inmates watch out for each other against the threats of the guards.

Don’t get me wrong. Class-consciousness today is low and prisoners are no exception to the dark night. Micah gets harassed for not being “Black enough” and for his high literacy skills. But he has learned to stand up for himself, make friends, and still keep his sanity. Someone stole his copy of revolutionary poetry by Langston Hughes. He saw that as a good thing. He is sharing his copy of *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander.

Justice will be restorative under communism. To say the least, the working class, through collectives, will seek to rehabilitate and reincorporate offenders into society. We live in a world where the president robs families of their livelihoods by deporting them back to deadly conditions like in Haiti and El Salvador, yet it’s our class who are called derogatory names like “criminals” and “convicts.”

Next time we go visit, we’ll bring Micah another copy of Langston Hughes’ revolutionary poetry.

★★★★★

NFL Protests, Olympics, and Need for Multiracial Unity

In the article “NFL Take-a-Knee Protests,” about NFL players protesting racism, an important part of the description of the current and historical struggle in sports was left out:

Currently, various white athletes have taken stands in support of their Black brothers’ actions. At the 1968 Olympics, on the medal stand, silver medal sprinter Peter Norman—a white Australian, in solidarity with sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos—wore a badge in support of the Olympic Project for Human Rights. After the final, Smith and Carlos told him what they were going to do. He said, “I’ll stand with you.” Carlos said he expected to see fear in Norman’s eyes. He didn’t: “I saw love.” Norman attached the badge, as a symbol of anti-racism, to his tracksuit before mounting the podium.

Both Smith and Carlos were punished by the U.S. Olympic Committee, under pressure from the International Olympic Committee and its pro-Nazi American president Avery Brundage. Norman, although his medal was not stripped, suffered ostracism and severe criticism in his native country, still engaged in its “White Australia” policy discriminating against aborigines. When Norman died in 2006, Smith and Carlos were pallbearers at his funeral and spoke eulogies. As is often the case AFTER the death of a fighter against racism and injustice, in 2012 the Australian government recognized Norman for his athletic achievements and Olympic protest with an “Apology” passed by the Australian Parliament.

Norman is an example of an individual white person standing in solidarity with his Black brothers, against racism. Progressive Labor Party has participated in and led countless multi-racial actions against racism. When describing such fightback, whether current or historical, we should always emphasize multiracial unity as it is the only way to defeat racism.

★★★★★

Vietnam History: Rebellion in the Military

In a previous issue (11/8), we described the mass rebellion of soldiers and sailors against the imperialist U.S. invasion of Vietnam, and pointed out that's one huge omission from the recent Ken Burns PBS series on the Vietnam War, which the bosses' press has been pushing as a 'true history' of the era.

The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) played an important role in that rebellion, and many of our members were among the rebellious soldiers. Starting in 1966, a year after our Party was formed, we sent members into the armed forces, sharply rejecting the then-popular pacifist ideology of draft evasion. We correctly understood that was a way out for only a few, while the military was based on a draft of mostly working-class youth.

PLP understood that those working-class soldiers could be—needed to be—won to anti-imperialist, communist ideas—and to turn the guns against the bosses. This was one of the lessons of the Russian Revolution, in which a key aspect was winning the Czar's army to communist revolution.

Here we present what Ken Burns left out: the struggles of working-class soldiers, with communists among the leadership, against the imperialist war and the military's officers and 'lifers.' While this is the experience of one comrade and his unit in the spring of 1973, it is a good sample of what took place in hundreds of units—and it was enough to scare the military brass. As one counter-intelligence officer testified before the House Internal Security Committee: "Other organizations were being overshadowed by...PLP in the 6th Army."

We had been distributing literature explaining the class nature of racism and the need for multi-racial unity against the brass for six months, [including] 50 CHALLENGES per issue.

My company had been out in the field for three days. The foxholes we had been ordered to lay down in had been turned into swimming pools by the incessant rain. We were all angry as hell.

Some of us had been trucked back to the barracks. Our Captain 'All-swine' Alwine ordered us to get haircuts before returning to camp. Nobody wanted to. Many Black soldiers complained that nobody on base knew how to cut their hair. Following their lead, white soldiers also refused.

The lifers immediately split us into two groups, one Black and one white. They ordered us into trucks. A few of us organizers scurried between them. Then it happened. All the Black soldiers got out of their truck and boarded the truck with their white buddies. Hugs and 'power' handshakes were exchanged as well as heartfelt vows to fight the brass together. We commandeered the truck, kicked the lifers off and sped back to camp.

It was night when we arrived. Our comrades had built small fires to dry themselves as they stood watch on the perimeter. We went from blaze to blaze, picking up more soldiers as we went. After circling the camp, we headed for the captain's headquarters.

He must have seen us because he sent the chaplain out to run interference. The chaplain told us we were violating God's word. We told him to go to the place where God is reputed not to be... He left in a hurry!

We caught the captain in his tent (he later would run out the back when he saw us coming). More than 50 of us, Black, Latin and white, presented our list of anti-racist demands: no bad discharges, no job discrimination, no riot control 15s (punishment without trial-ed.), no racist slurs



from lifers, no genocidal war and, of course, no haircuts. We retired to the heated officers' tent — no more wet foxholes for us!

The commanding lieutenant of my platoon, a recent ROTC grad, ordered us out to the perimeter. One GI (soldier) asked him where he hailed from. 'Idaho' replied the 'lieuy.' The GI shot back, 'Where I come from we eat people from Idaho!' The 'lieuy' left — for good.

I will never forget the camaraderie of those days. The grandeur of these rank-and-file soldiers uniting to fight the racist brass surpasses every Hollywood war epic.☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Capitalism maintains apartheid in South Africa

NYT, 10/24 — The end of apartheid was supposed to be a beginning....More than two decades later, Ms. [Judith] Sikade, 69, lives on the garbage-strewn dirt of Crossroads township, where thousands of black families have used splintered boards and metal sheets to construct airless hovels for lack of anywhere else to live.

"I've gone from shack to a shack," Ms. Sikade says. "I'm fighting for everything I have. You are still living in apartheid...."

...For black South Africans, who account for three-fourths of this nation's roughly 55 million people....Apartheid has persisted in economic form....An official unemployment rate [is] reaching 28 percent....In the aftermath of apartheid, the government left land and other assets largely in the hands of a predominantly white elite....

...Less than half of the working age population is officially employed....Large swaths of the black population remain hunkered down in squalor on land they do not legally own. Those with jobs often endure commutes of an hour or more on private minibuses that extract outsize slices of their paychecks.

"We never dismantled apartheid," said Ayabonga Cawe, a former economist for Oxfam...."The patterns of enrichment and impoverishment are still the same...."

In...[Ms. Sikade's] community, people are still cooking over coal fires and breathing in fumes. Children run barefoot on paths littered with broken glass....

"Where's the freedom?" Ms. Sikade said, anger rising in her voice. "Where are the changes?"

...Ten percent of all South Africans — the majority white — own more than 90 percent of national wealth....Some 80 percent of the population — over-

whelmingly black — owns nothing at all....

"The A.N.C.'s [African National Congress's] primary objective was inclusion into the existing system," said Moeletsi Mbeki, deputy chairman of the...Institute of International Affairs. "They wanted themselves to be part of the capitalist economy."

U.S. bosses want 'Dreamers' to die for U.S. imperialism

NYT, 11/9 — ...While deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan....more than 100 immigrant troops have made the supreme sacrifice in combat....From 2006 to 2011...45,700 immigrants...[were in] the American military....

The United States faces...growing pressures on "our" armed forces. Those forces are stronger when they embody...a large pool of...young people able to adapt to changing threats....We need legislation that will provide a pathway to citizenship for those immigrants who...are serving or have served in the military....That kind of policy will help the military recruit new service members and improve readiness....

...The importance of recruiting immigrants into...[the] military has only increased...because fewer and fewer young Americans are eligible to serve....

More than 800 so-called Dreamers...are now serving in the armed forces....

...More than 109,000 immigrants...since Sept. 11, 2001, have become citizens while wearing the uniforms of the United States military.... [which] will be the better for it.

Nazi-Developed Chemical now in food, air, water

NYT, 10/29 — ...A common pesticide...[in] a class of chemicals developed as a nerve gas by Nazi Germany, is now found in food, air and drinking water.... It damages the brain and reduces I.Q.s while causing tremors among children....[and is]also linked to lung cancer and Parkinson's disease....

This chemical, chlorpyrifos,...Dow Chemical Company's Nerve Gas....may be inside you: One 2012 study

found...it...in the umbilical cord blood of 87 percent of newborn babies tested.

...The Trump administration is embracing it, overturning a planned ban...in the works for many years....

Dow's Nerve Gas Pesticide will still be used on...crops that end up on our plate....Fruit and vegetable...levels of this pesticide [are found]...up to 140 times the limits seemed safe....a nationwide echo of what was permitted in Flint [Mich.]....

...The \$800 billion chemical industry lavishes money on politicians and lobbies its way out of effective legislation....The chemical industry lobby...is today's version of Big Tobacco....[It] called for requiring flame retardant chemicals in couches, to 'save lives,'...an industry hoax...to increase sales of flame retardants — whose principal effect seems to be to cause cancer....

...Toxic chemicals are lowering men's sperm counts....By 2060, a majority of American and European men could even be infertile....Trump's most enduring legacy may be cancer, infertility and diminished I.Q.s for decades to come.

China's capitalism: 500 million earn less than \$5.50 a day

NYT, 11/1 — Even as Chinese cities have turned into playgrounds for the nouveau rich...nearly 500 million people,...40 percent of China's population, live on less than \$5.50 per day, according to the World Bank.

...Kerry Brown, a China scholar at King's College London [said]...."The Communist Party has created billionaires...and yet there are still a lot of poor people. That seems to be a massive contradiction...."

Under [President] Xi Jinping, who has played up an image as an Everyman....[his] plan is more about making headlines than bringing lasting change to poor communities....

...There are more than 200 million rural migrants in Chinese cities, where many struggle to receive education, health care and other benefits because the local government does not consider them residents. Some fall into unemployment or bad health and live in squalid conditions.

BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION CENTENNIAL SERIES

THE EPIC BLACK SEA REVOLT



1919 Soviet Poster reads, “Long live the three million red army”

This is the part of an extensive series about the Bolshevik Revolution and the triumphs, as well as the defeats, of the world communist movement of the 20th century. We welcome your comments and criticisms, and encourage all readers to discuss this period of history with their friends, classmates, co-workers, family, and comrades.

In the pamphlet, *The Epic of the Black Sea Revolt* (1932), the French Communist André Marty reveals that the “war to end all wars” did not cease after 1917. (André Marty was one of the leaders of the revolt of the French sailors in 1919 and was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Pardoned in 1923, he became a member of the Communist International, and at his suggestion the Soviet Union supported the Spanish Republic against the fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War 1936-9.)

Capitalist nations around the world and white armies continued to besiege the U.S.S.R. The revolts of French sailors represented one aspect of an immense world-wide movement against the aspirations of many imperialist countries.

Contrary to a popular legend, the “Black Sea Revolt” was not confined to mutinies of the crews on the French warships sent to the Black Sea in 1919. These included rebellions of the French troops stationed in the Southern Ukraine and the Crimea, as well as mutinies of French sailors on ships outside the Black Sea and in French ports.

To every soldier, the armistice of November, 1918, had meant that at last the imperialist war was over! But towards the end of 1918, the Allied troops, by virtue of a special clause in the Armistice of November 11, had virtually replaced the German occupation troops in the Ukraine and in the Crimea. On December 18, 1918, the 156th Division dispatched from Salonika disembarked at Odessa. French soldiers there were engaged in severe fighting at the side of Russian White officers against Ukrainian soldiers. The shooting and the cannonade were distinctly heard on board the warships lying in the roadstead ready for battle. The continual skirmishes that followed the landing, and then the departure for a new front opened the eyes of the soldiers, “In France the war has ended, but here we are starting it all over again against a people’s republic!”

At the same time news filtered through to the soldiers and sailors about the powerful rebellions in France from men who had been on leave, from letters and from the new recruits about the workers’ problems there: unemployment and high cost of living, a rising wave of strikes for bread and progress, demonstrations against French PM Clemenceau’s military dictatorship and against the military intervention in Russia.

The French soldiers and sailors saw before them the very soldiers of the Bolshevik Revolution, whose inspiring revolution was rousing the masses of the people in France.

Russian and French Soldiers Unite

On their front, the Russian soldiers were committed to the practice of convincing enemy troops that they had become counter-revolutionaries. They concentrated their efforts on the most decisive factor, the French Army and Navy. These soldiers and sailors learned from the Bolshevik pamphlets—published in French—a remarkable knowledge of the everyday needs and demands of the French on the ships and in their trenches. The men came to realize that the Bolsheviks were actually defending their interests. The Bolsheviks explained what the October Socialist Revolution was, what it stood for, and what it meant for the workers of the whole world. Soon, French soldiers in Odessa protested vehemently when Russian workers were being led to prison.

The occupied zone extended from Tiraspol,

in the Ukraine, and skirted the entire coast of the Black Sea. Protests began with the soldiers refusing to march. On January 30, a battalion of the 58th Infantry was marched with the object of seizing Tiraspol. The 58th abandoned the battle and turned protests into action by taking the artillery with them and cutting its telephone communications.

On April 5, Odessa was evacuated. Whole units left the city singing the Internationale. It became necessary to send the entire French army it back to France.

Marty was arrested on April 16 at Galatz (Rumania), together with three other sailors who had worked out a plan for seizing the ship. That plan was sabotaged later.

Soldiers, Sailors Rebel

A revolt broke out on board the dreadnought (type of battleship) *France*. The next day, the crews of the sister ships, the *France* and the *Jean-Bart*—the latter the flagship of the Admiral—gathered on deck singing the Internationale, and hoisted the red flag on the bowsprit. Almost at the moment when the red flag was hoisted on the main mast of the *France*, the troops which had been landed from the ships left the forts and made their way to the shore. When they arrived at the quay, the sailors singing “Down with the tyrants and the war!” flung their ammunition boxes into the sea. In the days that followed they forced the squadron to depart from Sevastopol.

Demonstrations of sailors and soldiers took place in the city of Toulon. The crew of the dreadnought *Provence*, the flagship of the First Admiral, refused to set sail for the Black Sea. The demands were: “Liberation of all the mutineers of the Black Sea, cessation, of the war of intervention in Russia, immediate demobilization.” The government could not stem this fast movement except by a mass demobilization, by hastening to disarm many warships, and by recalling from Russia all the ships and the forces of intervention.

One fact is beyond dispute. As a result of the Black Sea Revolt, French imperialism was compelled to relinquish its stranglehold on the October Revolution. Then the masses of sailors, soldiers and workers rose in France—not only against the criminal designs of the French imperialists, but also against the official Social-Democratic leaders who had prostituted themselves to the bourgeoisie since 1914: the “Right” Socialists, the “Centre”, and the “Lefts” of the type of Paul Faure, as well as the trade union traitors.

For the international working class the Black Sea Revolt remains an example of what can be done by the power of the working class to demolish an imperialist state machine.☺

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