From Europe to South America and from Asia to Africa, the profit system is in crisis. The inherent callousness of capitalism is catching up to the bosses. As we review 2019, recent events between bosses and workers across the world demonstrate how the system is further moving towards fascism. Inter-imperialist rivalry between fascist factions give the communist international working class a chance at burning the whole thing to the ground and smashing the system for good.

**Big Fascists vs. Small Fascists**

This year, PLP stressed the use of Big Fascist and Small Fascist to raise the consciousness of workers: to deeply analyze the results of competing factions within the ruling class. The main-wing finance capitalists, or Big Fascists, representing the big banks and multinational oil companies, are committed to maintaining U.S. control over the oil-rich Middle East. The main-wing bosses realize they’re not nearly prepared for an all-out war with growing superpowers China and Russia. First, they’ll need to force unity and discipline upon their own class, hence the looming impeachment of current, openly racist and unhinged president Donald Trump. The main wing will need, for their war purposes, to build a rainbow coalition of a mass patriotic, multiracial, fascist movement within the working class.

As of late, they are pushing environmentalist moves like the Green New Deal, led by new liberal misleaders like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and war-mongering wolf like Elizabeth Warren to crush their domestic rival bosses. Meanwhile, the big auto bosses have opened up their own front against Trump and his Small Fascist backers, including the Koch Brothers, whose empire relies on oil within the U.S. borders.

We’ve also seen French President Emmanuel Macron proclaim that we must “save the Amazon,” followed by lame-duck German Chancellor Angela Merkel calling for a renewed effort to fight climate change. Meanwhile, France remains Europe’s second largest consumer of energy after Germany.

It all falls down

The old liberal world order, dominated by the U.S. ruling class since World War II, is under siege. The question of who is a ride-or-die ally of the U.S. is getting harder to answer. As the Empire falls, its allies—from France, Italy, and Germany to Saudi Arabia—are hedging their bets.

Russian President Vladimir Putin followed up on missile system sales to Iran and Turkey by offering a similar deal to Saudi Arabia (Reuters, 9/16/19). In June, Putin declared that Iran would not be alone if attacked. Clearly, the Russian bosses are also willing to play both sides and ready to capitalize on U.S. weakness.

In September, Saudi Arabia’s state-owned Abqaiq and Khurais oil processing plants were attacked, disrupting five percent of global oil production and pushing rival imperialists closer to World War III. The latest conflicts in the Middle East demonstrates the deteriorating influence of a fractured U.S. ruling class. Under President Donald Trump, who fronts the priorities of more isolationist domestically oriented bosses, the U.S. has undermined the G-7 by opting out of the Paris accords.
NATO summit exposes tensions and divisions

Beneath its surface unity, the 70th anniversary summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in London exposed the tensions and divisions between the U.S. bosses and the European capitalists. While the U.S. rulers openly view NATO as a tool to protect and advance their imperialist interests, the European rulers historically relied on it as a line of defense against the Soviet Union (and now Russia), and to protect them in the next world war.

The interests of the capitalist rulers are not only opposed to those of the working class, but are usually secured at our expense. As the rulers grab for their maximum profits, workers suffer from racism, sexism, wage exploitation, and imperialist war. The bosses’ relentless competition and their brutal oppression of workers will continue until nations are abolished under communism.

Big & Small Fascists clash over NATO

The splits between the two wings of the U.S. ruling class were obvious at the NATO summit. Both the Big Fascists (finance capital imperialists) and the Small Fascists (bosses who make most of their money from domestic business) are complaining that the U.S. bears an unfair share of NATO’s financial burden. With U.S. President Donald Trump leading the charge, the Small Fascists have gone a step further, calling into question the usefulness of the post-World War II alliance. The Cato Institute, funded heavily by the Kochs, the Small Fascists, concludes that the U.S. is no longer a threat to U.S. interests, and that NATO is therefore obsolete (Cato Institute, 12/5/19).

To try to maintain their international dominance, the Big Fascists need to keep their multinational alliances in place. The New York Times reports that the Big Fascist’s leading mouthpiece, calls NATO the “most successful military alliance in history” and indispensable for U.S. national security (NYT, 7/8/18). At the moment, despite Trump’s calls for retrenchment, the Big Fascists are winning this fight; the Pentagon recently committed an additional 20,000 troops to European defense (Foreign Affairs, 12/3/19).

The European ruling classes have their own splits, making them less reliable as U.S. allies. A three-year conflict over Brexit has paralyzed the British ruling class. Both the Big & Small Fascists continue to attack the working class by diverting resources into war preparations and away from healthcare, food, and education. Leaked documents show that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has pledged to Trump to increase NATO spending while privatizing services of Britain’s National Health Service, which has already faced severe budget cuts under Conservative Party governments (Independent, 12/13/19).

In Greece, the second-highest contributing member in percentage of gross domestic product (GDP, 6/25/19), workers suffered austerity measures that cut government services across the board. Though NATO claims nuclear disarmament to be one of its goals, three members—the U.S., Britain, and France—have amassed nuclear weapons, and five others, including Turkey, “share” U.S. bombs (Stratfor, 6/27/19). Workers will pay the price of any nuclear war, just as they did in the genocidal U.S. atomic strikes against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

As the bosses intensify their attacks against our class, workers around the world are taking to the streets in protest. In Britain, there were massive demonstrations against Trump, NATO, and healthcare cuts. In 2017 and 2018, thousands in Brussels confronted NATO with demands to lower military spending. Other European powers may soon be moving in the same direction.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, the U.S. retreat from Syria has left a political vacuum that Russia is looking to fill. Turkey used the partial withdrawal to attack its Kurdish rivals, provoking alarm among NATO members. France’s president Emmanuel Macron has criticized Trump’s lack of leadership and is trying to rein Turkey in (NYT, 12/2/19). In response, Trump cut short his stay in London. Germany is doing its best to keep the peace within NATO, which Europe needs to counteract Russia and potentially China (NYT, 12/2/19).

In 1949, four years after the end of World War II, NATO was founded by the United States, Canada, and ten countries in Western Europe as a political and military alliance to block expansion by the Soviet Union. Electoral victories by communist parties in Italy and Czechoslovakia, along with Soviet control of East Germany, intensified the U.S. rulers’ fears that they could lose the Cold War and their place as the world’s leading imperialist superpower.

Although the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, the U.S.-dominated NATO still aims to counter any threats to the new-29-member alliance, primarily from Russia and China. NATO currently has troops in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq, Somalia, the Mediterranean Sea, and air space over Montenegro, Albania, Slovenia, and the Baltic region (NATO, 4/25/19). While NATO claims to defend “democratic values,” it has failed to defend communist ideas, and realized it is nothing more than a tool of U.S. and Western imperialism.
Baltimore protesters crash parade; charge City of racism

When the mayor drove by organizers we boldly stepped into the street, holding the banners next to the mayor’s car. That sparked more boldness among several organizers led us to proudly stretch our banners across the entire width of the street, marching right in front of Mayor Jack Young’s car. Very loudly, so the thousands of parade watchers lining the sidewalks could clearly hear, we sang, “Hit the road, Jack, and don’t you come back no more!” We also chanted, “Enforced silence condemns police violence!”

The mayor’s community relations flunky repeatedly told us to get out of the march. We ignored him. Later Baltimore’s police chief, Michael Harrison, walked purposefully next to the mayor’s car. Undoubtedly, they were discussing whether to use their kkkops to throw us out of the parade. They apparently decided that wouldn’t look good, and the mayor was forced to endure our bold protest. In fact, when his car stopped in front of the reviewing stand, our loud chanting and singing apparently shut down part of his intended speech.

Although two-thirds of Baltimore’s population is Black, the parade was held in Hampden, a near-all-white section of the city. The crowds watching the parade were about 95 percent white. It was particularly impressive, when folks—reading our anti-racist banners, and listening to our chants—broke out into enthusiastic cheers and applause!

For days Facebook and Reddit were abuzz with highly spirited comments about our action. Some focused on the Progressive Labor Party banner about the police murder of Tyrone West. That banner says “PIT KILLER COPS IN CELL BLOCKS” and “SMASH RACISM & CAPITALISM.”

Here is a sampling of the social media posts:

“I had to admire the chutzpah of the people marching in the Hampden Christmas parade to protest police violence. They were shout-singing ‘Hit the Road Jack,’ and Mayor Jack was in the yellow car right behind them.

“The capitalist model, at its core, empowers wealth inequality and disenfranchisement of many. I’m curious … how opposing capitalism is irrelevant.”

“I ALL DID THAT THING! Nothing but mad respect for you.”

“I love this! I love you All for doing this!”

When fighting against racism and capitalism boldness is vital. As communist Frederick Engels said: “Surprise your antagonists while their forces are scattering, prepare new successes, however small, … rally those vacillating elements to your side which always follow the strongest impulse, … force your enemies to a retreat before they can collect their strength against you; in the words of Danton, the greatest master of revolution- ary policy …, de l’autocé, de l’autocé, encore de l’autocé!” which means, boldness, boldness, and more boldness! This is true in the fight against police brutality, against racism, and against capitalism.

It’s also important to understand that the capitalists control state power. Electoral politics cannot defeat capitalism. Electoral politics cannot take us to working class power and communism. After all, revolution is not on the ballot.

BCC Students: “They say cut back, we say cut back!”

BCC Students declared they will back next semester. All of them ready to continue to fight next semester. All of them responded enthusiastically to this. BCC students declared they will back next semester to carry on the fight against these racist budget cuts and tuition increases. PLP members will be there every step of the way, helping to lead the fight to build confidence and militancy, and helping to make communist ideas a prima ry part of the working-class struggle at CUNY. We have a world to win.

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Colombia Strike against Uribe: workers need to build a communist movement

BOGOTA, DECEMBER 18—On November 21, Colombia started experiencing its most massive mobilizations of the last several decades. These demonstrations have filled the streets of the big cities and all of its municipalities. They have continued in the form of “cacerolazos” (workers demonstrations where they bang on pots and pans) that sprout everywhere. Many of these are led by female students and workers. This demonstrates the massive rejection of the state government of Duque - Uribe, its corruption and economic policies.

The workers also demonstrated against the government for its complicity in the selective killings of more than 600 social leaders, indigenous extermination and widespread racist violence.

The day before the mobilization there were dozens of raids on the homes of strike participants. This strategy of intimidation ultimately only served to further stoke the rebellion and increase the flow of protesters. ESMAD’s (the Colombian riot police) strong clashes and attacks on women and protesters left more than 800 detaineis, 50 raids, 4 murders and more than 300 wounded. The rulers increased their tried and true criminal policy: create fear and sell security.

During the first night of the national strike in Cali and the second night in Bogotá, the bosses imposed a curfew. This fascist measure had not been taken in the capital in more than four decades. Cities were militarized and an atmosphere of panic was created for alleged looting of residential complexes. People reported having captured some looters who said they received 50 thousand pesos to loot. The objective was to show the military as heroes, saviors, while sowing fear and relating it to the strike.

In other neighborhoods of the city, the cacerolazos defeated the curfew in practice. On the third day, workers retook the streets overcoming their fear. This served as a great experience since the workers need to get rid of their fear in order to face these bosses’ attacks.

Peace between social classes, serves criminal bosses! This was the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) slogan that we chanted and that was well received by the masses. The media, trade union bureaucracy and reformist politicians insist on pacifism as a principle of the strike and a large majority of protesters have accepted it. But the fact that these protests are peaceful does not mean that we must remain passive in the face of continuous aggressions, detentions and beatings. In order to defend ourselves against the criminal attacks of our class enemies, we must organize mass revolutionary violence. These attacks will not end as long as capitalism exists. The bosses need to minimize our living conditions because they need to maximize their profits.

As long as they have the power they will continue to fire us, cut our wages, our pensions, and our health care and educational services. The workers will continue fighting against these cuts. That is why we have the urgent need to organize ourselves in a revolutionary international communist party, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). Then workers can lead a communist revolution to abolish capitalism. In that way, we can form a new communist society where what we produce ourselves goes to fulfill our basic needs, to abolish capitalism. In that way, we can form a new communist society where what we produce ourselves goes to fulfill our basic needs.

Progressive unions banned

General Zia ul Haq banned the right to unionize in 1984. Before that, union activities were managed by the state to spread unrest and a war-like situation among the different student’s organizations in mid 80s. This was to show that students were creating unrest in the campuses therefore it was imperative to ban their politics. Religious and pro-capitalist student organizations used to attack the members of progressive student organizations. At that time, these religious student organizations used to spread fundamentalism in the campuses to produce the support for the U.S. in Afghanistan, which was difficult for them in the presence of the strong progressive student’s organizations. This ban was just for progressive students organizations because rightists were functioning in the campuses and also using all the resources of universities for their own activities.

Anti-progressive, anti-communist

More than 12 student organizations decided to hold rallies, including the Progressive Students Collective and Student Action Committee. Their demands include the restoration of students unions, raising awareness about the existing educational crisis in Pakistan and against the harassment at the campuses, tuition fee hike, lack of hostel and laboratory facilities, and religious fundamentalism in the campuses. Overall, students are demanding a conducive educational environment, which cannot be a possibility under a system that is based on exploitation and inequality. Capitalism can never provide that.

Anti-progressive are not happy. Among many allegations leveled against the fighting students was that they were “driven by foreign powers” and were “being misused for someone’s vested interests.” Eyebrows were also raised over how people from all walks of life turned the country red—red clothing, holding red posters, raising full-throated slogans against the system, and waving red flags.

Red Scare is still prevailing in Pakistan; after the march, all the TV channels (mouthpieces of bosses) are talking to curb these reds.

Student-worker solidarity

In these marches, we saw a unity between workers and students, which is threatening to the bosses. A united working class can that rise up against unemployment, exploitation, and terrorism, and can organize to build a revolutionary communist movement to destroy the capitalist system.

It is up to PLP to recruit workers and students to a communist outlook and a lifetime of communist organizing. These student struggles to unionize can be schools for communist politics. Read CHALLENGE as part that schooling.

Pakistan students fight to unionize

PAKISTAN, DECEMBER 18—Thousands of students marched with red flags on the streets in fifty-one cities across the country demanding to form student unions. Progressive Labor Party is striving to bring more people close to our communist politics. A worker-student alliance is a building block of a pro-communist idea.

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**Great fur workers general strike of 1926**

In 1926, a communist-led 17-week strike of 12,000 New York City fur workers fought and won significant reforms beating back the bosses’ association, the cops, Mafia gangsters, thugs, and the reactionary International union leadership. They were led by Ben Gold, a member of the Communist Party and leader of the union’s N.Y. Joint Board. The very next year the fur industry bosses were disregarding the gains won by the workers. Gold had to organize the workers to strike again. They did and they won again.

Gold went on to organize many more strikes. Many of them were successful. So the workers won the 40-hour, five-day workweek, a 10 percent raise, 10 paid holidays and more. Then they went on strike again and again to maintain their gains. Today workers around the world are still protest- ing and striking for a decent life. However it is only when the international working class organizes to take power and destroy capitalism with commu- nist revolution, that we can finally free ourselves from this capitalist nightmare.

It all started on January 23, when over 6000 workers attended a mass union meeting and au- thorized a strike. The head of the bosses’ asso- ciation, called these demands a “conspiracy” to “Bolshevize” (spread communist ideas in) the fur industry. At a January 30 mass meeting Gold de- clared, “All the forces of the union must be cen- tered for this effort.” A sea of hands went up to volunteer for a General Picketing Committee. The bosses urged workers to reject their leadership and defeat the “Communist conspiracy.” Instead, the workers voted by over 90 percent to author- ize a strike. This was a good time to talk about a government totally controlled by the capitalists. A government that would violently attack the work- ers. A government that had to be overthrown by a communist-led working class. Instead the commu- nists were running and even winning elections for some low-level government positions.

**Mass picketing beats back scabs, gangsters, cops**

The strike began on Feb. 16. The General Picketing Committee of 1,000 kept out scabs and strikebreakers. The strike was an historic struggle by U.S. workers. Over 10,000 strikers marched through the fur district. The cops charged, but the workers maintained solid ranks, beating back the police, scabs and hired thugs. The cops repeated their attacks on every march. But the unity of these communist-led, Jewish, Black and Greek, women and men working class brothers collectively face. The struggle to build a mass communist movement on our area campuses continues.

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NEWARK, NJ, NOVEMBER 9 — More than 40 multicultural friends and members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in the greater New York City area gathered for the annual College Conference. The conference aims to bring students, workers, faculty and staff together each year, and the main topic this year was the growth of fascism on campuses and how to fight it.

Speakers and workshop discussions were or- ganized so that all conference participants could learn from one another how to build a mass move- ment across our campuses uniting, students, fac- ulty, and workers. A key message for a mass fighting PLP on every campus to fight back against increasing “austerity” and to smash racist and fasc- ist repression with communist revolution!

**Envisioning communist education**

The conference began by inviting participants to think about what education might look like if the working class ran the world under commu- nism. Participants were inspired by the idea of a system that could help everyone to succeed, and questioned how differently universities would be structured in a world run by the working class — or if they would exist in their current form at all. Ideas flowed about breaking down the racist and sexist divisions between mental and physical la- bor, the power of education through collective working class struggle, and what apprenticeships and collaborations might look like among workers with different experiences and skills sets.

While we recognized that we could not know how the needs of a worker-led communist world would change education, this stimulating discus- sion revealed many of the problems working class youth face fighting for an education under capi- talism. This set the stage for the panel of speakers discussing struggle and fightback on their cam- puses.

**What we do counts!**

A State of the World speech from a PL’er then set the tone of struggle and fightback from work- ers around the world in the midst of a period of sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry among groups of capitalists and the growing reality of deadlier wars. The panel of speakers gave inspiring and de- tailed reports of struggles on New York and New Jersey campuses — from the strike movement at Rutgers University to the struggle to defend un- documented students from deportation at the City University of New York, struggles document- ed in previous issues of CHALLENGE.

These reports were also connected with the State of the World speech in that the conflicts within the capitalist class of the U.S. and around the world framed the significance of each struggle within an international context. They showed the potential of how building a fighting PLP on these campuses can eventually influence the course of global events, and put emphasis on the reality that each new CHALLENGE reader we win, each anti- racist struggle, each fightback on each campus that we organize today — they all count. Each one counts because they build a Party that will move millions to build the mass revolutionary move- ment we need to smash capitalism.

**Workshops: education to organize and fight back**

The workshops that immediately followed fo- cused on these questions: who are our class en- emies on campus? How do we organize potential class enemies on campus? New friends of the Party stepped up to help each workshop group collectively ana- lyze the roles of local politicians, campus adminis- trators, disciplinary rules for students and faculty, financial aid, and campus police. These are all a part of the capitalist state, and they try to control students and faculty. We discussed and applied the philosophy and science of dialectical mate- rialism to connect our individual and particular experiences and struggles with the systemic and general pressures our working class sisters and brothers collectively face.

A big part of these workshop discussions fo- cused on selling and building a mass readership of CHALLENGE on each campus. CHALLENGE is not like any capitalist newspaper; it is our col- lective organizer. It summarizes and shares the experiences of working class fightback around the world, and teaches us all how to build a PLP capa- ble of organizing within an international context. Not only responsible for every racist and sexist attack on each campus, but also for every imperi- alist war and every forced migration of workers around the world.

By the time we reassembled as a large group we share what we learned, it was clear that every- one from our new friends to our traditional fighters were inspired and educated. We concluded with sharper plans for continuing the struggles on our campuses, and how the efforts of those present left to join other friends and comrades at the celebration din- ner of the Bolshevik Revolution in Brooklyn. The struggle to build a mass communist movement on our area campuses continues.

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desafio.challenge@gmail.com

www.plp.org

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

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Walk Out on Inequality

On October 25th, students from the John Jay Camero School staged an energetic protest against funding inequities and school segregation within the campus.

The walkout was the second of a series of protests planned by Teens Take Charge, an organization which claims they will continue these walkouts at different schools until Mayor Bill De Blasio and school chancellor Richard Carranza meet their demands.

Here is what two of the teen protestors had to say:

“I thought it was powerful because there were students from all of the schools there. We were united in our anti-racist call for equity. This unity isn’t encompassed by our school or our individual schools, but we did it anyway. One drawback was how tightly controlled the rally was. We were there to create ruckus and change, but it was too tightly controlled and not everyone got a chance to say what they needed to say. It was obvious that we weren’t really in charge.”

“It was exciting to see all the schools unite against segregation and racism, all put away, but there were faults within it. Adults dictated the flow of the walkout and even cut off my friend and I in the middle of chanting because it wasn’t the scheduled chant that they had planned on. The walkout was also scheduled during one school’s lunch period, the schools were mostly filled with the bulk of funding, which defeated the purpose of the walkout. They are the school that gets more resources and yet they did not have to risk any sort of punishment because the walkout was not during their lunch period, but if the students were more in control of the walkout then it would have been much more successful.”

During the protest, we decided that they should stop waiting for politicians to solve the problems of capitalism. She asked them instead to look to each other for the answers in creating an educational system that would be truly equitable and anti-racist.

Impeachment Editorial

The otherwise excellent CHALLENGE editorial on the bosses’ impeachment proceedings (See 12/19/19 issue) should have put more emphasis on how the liberal wing of the ruling class (the Big Fascists) are using the hearings to promote U.S. nationalism and patriotism sentiments. Allow a woman who are “heroes” who testified and are being touted by the liberal bosses’ media? FBI agents, career diplomats from the Roosevelt-Eisenhower years, ranking national security and military officers, etc. and don’t forget the “whistleblower”, an agent for the bosses’ terrorist CIA. These “heroes” are devoted to keeping U.S. imperialism at the head of the pack of capitalists vying for worldwide supremacy. They are opposed to the “Fortress America” foreign policy strategy of President Donald Trump (and the Small Fascists who back him).

Most of these “witnesses” attacked Trump as being either an ally of Vladimir Putin and the Russian bosses, or their unwitting dupe in Ukraine. The claim that these attacks out of former national security advisor Fiona Hill, who went after Trump and his Republican backers for promoting “politically driven falsehoods” (“perverted and propagated by (Russian intelligence) “that so clearly advance Russian interests.”

The New York Times and other liberal media thought the bosses’ attacks over how hill, an immigrant from England, upheld U.S. “principles” in the face of Trump’s attempt to destroy them. This “hero” had been fired from the Wall Street Journal, our fascist John Bolton, who would have started a war with Iran but for internal disagreement within the Trump administration. Bolton was an architect of the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, which slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Muslims in a futile attempt by the U.S. to control Iraqi oil. Did Hill at any time decry her former boss’s life-long service to a blood-soaked U.S. imperialism. Of course not.

Many Democratic Party candidates for President have already adopted the liberal media’s anti-Russia line. As the election contest goes forward, we can expect more hysteria about Russian interference in the upcoming vote. All of this will be used to build a war mentality amongst U.S. workers.

Of course Trump, his fascist backers and the Russian bosses are all shrewd manipulators of the working class. But Progressive Labor Party members have to struggle with our co-workers, neighbors and fellow students about all of the ideas contained in the edited program of the bosses: particularly the dangers of nationalism and its connection to mobilizing the population for war. As the election approaches, the liberal rulers will make its outcome more and more open fight over the U.S. maintaining its number one position in the face of challenges from China and Russia.

Internationalism vs. Indian fascist Modi

In India, millions are protesting new fascist “CAB” and “NRC” citizenship laws, and the government has killed or wounded hundreds of demonstrators. The New York Times and other liberal media will not cover strike relief. In one of the greatest acts of solidarity with the bosses, as 100 workers demonstrated against these laws, which attack not only Muslims but also workers who are labeled Dalit in India’s racist caste system, as well as other workers deemed lower-caste. They said that the fight against this racism will be a very long one that must be fought globally. As India’s working class is pushed more into poverty, these racist laws are a diversion from united class struggle. India’s Bharatiya Janata Party rose to power following the methods of Adolf Hitler, which was pointed out by several speakers. “Hitler rose, Hitler fell, racist Modi, go to hell!” was how a PLP speaker began his speech. Hitler notoriously excused racism as an essential tool of the imperialist profit system, saying that the USA was built on the deaths of 20 million African slaves. Today the United States, Indian, and the Chinese ruling classes are employing nationalism and mob racism to attack the working class to build global fascism. The most important thing to remember is that the only way workers can defeat fascism is by building a global international revolutionary. This demonstration was a good opportunity to raise these politics, and forty demonstrators took CHALLENGE newspapers.

Anti-Vaxxers defend CHALLENGE seller

On December 16, our journey began in Newark, NJ on a coach bus which consisted, of members of the Progressive Labor Party, and members of Cosecha undocumented workers movement. Our destination was the T removed. Golden and the General Strike Committee urged workers to go to a union meeting at Columbia University. The New York Times and other liberal media cover strike relief. In one of the greatest acts of solidarity with the bosses, as 100 workers demonstrated against these laws, which attack not only Muslims but also workers who are labeled Dalit in India’s racist caste system, as well as other workers deemed lower-caste. They said that the fight against this racism will be a very long one that must be fought globally. As India’s working class is pushed more into poverty, these racist laws are a diversion from united class struggle. India’s Bharatiya Janata Party rose to power following the methods of Adolf Hitler, which was pointed out by several speakers. “Hitler rose, Hitler fell, racist Modi, go to hell!” was how a PLP speaker began his speech. Hitler notoriously excused racism as an essential tool of the imperialist profit system, saying that the USA was built on the deaths of 20 million African slaves. Today the United States, Indian, and the Chinese ruling classes are employing nationalism and mob racism to attack the working class to build global fascism. The most important thing to remember is that the only way workers can defeat fascism is by building a global international revolutionary. This demonstration was a good opportunity to raise these politics, and forty demonstrators took CHALLENGE newspapers.
Big Pharma gets away with murder

Two Ohio counties won a settlement of $215 million from their lawsuit against three of the biggest drug distributors in the country (McKesson Corp., AmerisourceBergen and Cardinal Health), and drug manufacturer Teva Pharmaceuticals. All of them were charged with profiting from distribution (manufacturing) unreasonably large amounts of opioids to these Ohio communities. This is classic capitalism. Corporations (not real people) pay a nominal fine and continue their proliﬁering business. The capitalists (actual people) get away with murder, keep their wealth and continue proliﬁring. Workers get addicted, die, go to prison, etc.

Justice under capitalism is an illusion and a total disaster for the working class. This settlement was reached just two weeks before the companies were to begin, a trial that could have exposed the inner workings and criminal intent of individual CEO’s (The Washington Post, 10/21). Just like racist killer cops get exonerated and put back on the street to kill again, these killer CEOs and their corporations will get a slap on the wrist and stay in business even bigger than before. In just twenty years, they caused the deaths of 400,000 people across the U.S. Capitalist justice works this way. It’s the golden rule: they who have the gold make the rules. The capitalists pay off the politicians, who then pass the laws that protect and enrich the capitalists. Justice for workers means making the people of profit and money. It means workers actually running all aspects of society for the beneﬁt of all workers, all around the world. That’s communism.

The settlement set a precedent for the other 2300 cases ﬁled by cities, states, and Native American tribes against the country against these and other drug distributors. Lawyer to lawyer negotiations are under way to come up with a “global agreement” (one that settles all the other cases), with a $48 billion payout (Washington Post, 10/21). If they are successful, these capitalist criminals would never have to go to trial or be held personally accountable. The evidence would never come out to prove that they knowingly ﬂucked the people and their bodies by selling the most addictive of all addictive products. The evidence would never come out to prove any of the things that the companies themselves argue were done. (The New York Times, 11/29).

The fresh round of social unrest question(ed) Macron’s top-down management style over stagnating wages and dwindling living standards. (The Guardian, 11/27).

A political historian said this week’s protest is “the most serious challenge France has faced since the 1968 student rebellion, when young people took to the streets to demand more liberal education and more power for workers.” (NYT, 12/11).

The government is rotten” — NYT, 12/6 — The streets of French cities were ﬁlled with anti-government demonstrators, tear gas and police. (NYT, 12/11).

Much of the country came to a halt as transport workers went on strike. Nearly half a million took part nationwide. Trains, subways and buses were canceled, schools were closed. (NYT, 12/11).

In Rennes, protesters smashed store windows; in Nantes, police pulled back with tear gas; in Lyon, scufﬂes broke out between the police and demonstrators. But behind the anger was the president himself, a former investment banker who...deemed [the French system] too unfriendly to business. (NYT, 12/11).

...A year ago,...members of the protest movement...the Yellow Vests guillotined him in effigy. (NYT, 12/11). Mourad Lafitte, a printers’ union worker,...Everybody had a right to use it. (NYT, 12/11).

The protesters are a cross-section of transport and health care workers, teachers and students, all concerned about their retirement checks. (NYT, 12/11).

The protestor said, “We’re full of rage. We want to go back to a country that is our own. We used to have a country before them, we want it back.” (NYT, 12/11).

Iran: thieves in power, no future for youth

Guardian, 12/6 — Iran’s government,...raising the price of fuel by up to three times...trigger(ed)...the largest-scale unrest in the 40-year history of the Islamic Republic. More than 200,000 people were involved in the protests...which led to 7,000 arrests,...the regime’s deadliest response to demonstrations,...including those killed...who had attacked sensitive or military centers with ﬁre-arms or knives who had taken hostages. (NYT, 12/6).

The youth have no future in this country with these thieves in power,” a protestor told the Guardian. “They couldn’t take it anymore and they were full of rage. They took it to another level.” (NYT, 12/6).

The protesters, including many from working-class neighborhoods, were brawled with security personnel... (NYT, 12/6). The ﬁrst person...killed...enrag(ed) the demonstrators...that they began to hurl rocks at the police station, tearing its fence. (NYT, 12/6). Golshan...became “a war zone...Security forces entered with heavy weapons and helicopters.” (NYT, 12/6).
Agreement on climate change, imposing tariffs on allies and enemies alike, attacking Germany’s trade surplus, and attempting to restore Russia’s membership despite its annexation of Crimea.

Chinese imperialism rising

Chinese imperialism has grown immensely in the last several decades as they’ve made strides in Africa, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. China’s checkbook diplomacy has opened rifts within the broader European Union. After receiving massive Chinese investment, Greece and Hungary defied the U.S. bosses and watered down an EU statement on Chinese aggression in the South China Sea. In addition, Italy, a G-7 member, endorsed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China’s gigantic global infrastructure project. Even more ominous, Germany, the EU’s largest economy, now has more trade with China than with the U.S. As China continues to rise at the U.S. bosses’ expense, the threat of a global military conflict looms.

Cyber fascism is also on the rise in China as things as big as artificial intelligence and as small as various phone apps like “Study the Great Nation” are pushing ruling-class ideas. Additionally, China’s building a social credit system that will not only track your financial status but also calculate “honesty” and “patriotism.” Fresh out of a Black Mirror episode, workers’ scores will determine if they can get on an airplane, use a high-speed train, or be allowed to purchase “luxury items.” (South China Morning Post, 3/26/19).

Similar to the U.S. “Big Brother” methods, China’s bosses have installed surveillance cameras, monitored online discussions, and sent thousands of undercover cops to spy and keep a close watch of families of Uighurs to prevent any rebellion. More recently, China’s bosses have deployed facial recognition software to racially profile the Uighurs and track their movements. This “automated racism” (NYT, 4/14/19) has also been extended to other parts of China. Furthermore, Google is under attack for pulling out of a contract with the U.S. military while continuing to partner with China in developing artificial intelligence research.

It’s even clearer that the U.S. bosses’ powers are waning, as seen through the failure of Juan Guaido’s staged presidency takeover in Venezuela. The coup backed by U.S. bosses was not well received by Venezuelan oil bosses as they rather planned to welcome two more Russian imperialist generals with supplies to support the government of president Nicolas Maduro.

No matter the region, capitalist bosses are only loyal to the capitalist class moves that benefit themselves. It’s best that the international working class takes note and chooses our working-class brothers and sisters over individualism and capitalist exploitation.

A strike wave!

Many workers and students are pivoting toward anti-capitalism and criticizing liberalism and pink tides more sharply as a wave of strikes has struck the globe. Wherever they are, workers are fighting back.

Starting the year off in France, a multiracial movement of high school students put forward some of the most antiracist and class-conscious ideas in the movement.

In Haiti, anger at ruling class thievery has sparked the sharpest and most sustained anti-government demonstrations in years.

In China, thousands of “mass incidents” with Chinese workers, educators and students are erupting each year, especially on college campus and small towns outside the city.

Education workers have protested against racist working conditions, without hesitation against newly elected liberal mayor, Lori Lightfoot.

Young people are striking for climate change with school walkouts in Europe, Chile, India, Kenya, South Africa, New Zealand and dozens more.

Across the Midwest and South, nearly 50,000 General Motors workers went on strike and members of the United Auto Workers are pushing for international class solidarity at Labor Parades and meetings. Transit workers in D.C. and youth in NYC are fighting back against working conditions, police brutality and skyrocketing transit fees.

Protesters in Newark and New York City are lead-infested water, new jails, gentrification, and the ongoing housing crisis.

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Workers fought the growing fascist conditions against undocumented youth and workers, including tracking system of licenses and the bondage of captives.

PLP pushes forward

There will be more strikes to come. The world under capitalism is a vicious cycle of blood sucking politicians, fightback from workers, following more parasitic politicians looking to benefit off of the work of working class fighters.

In 2020, politicians of all colors of the political rainbow will be ready to march out in the streets and among workers just to get likes and votes. Though it is a dark night of class struggle, still workers will fight back and reveal the truth underneath the cloak.

Progressive Labor Party is here to arm strikers with communist ideas and build an international Party for workers’ power. Comrades in Chicago, Haiti, Colombia, NY, NJ, Baltimore, Texas and Mexico continue to build a working-class base fighting in the class struggle. This year, we’ve held communist schools and projects in Colombia, Mexico, Texas, Pakistan, and more.

In a climate of intimidation and fear, antifascists and communists still work to create an atmosphere of fightback. Throughout each of these strikes and protests is a thread of learning how to practice communism in action.

It is the job of communists to help build a fighting and growing Party that includes workers from all reform struggles. Reforms do not lead to revolution. We implore workers to continue calling out the fascists, Big and Small, as PL’ers spread revolutionary communist ideas and leadership. If we don’t, the working class will be funneled into dead-end political options: passivity, electoral politics, cynicism, and increasing fascism.

In 2020, we’re looking forward to continuing the fight, joining in struggles for a better world for workers and putting communist ideas in action with our summer projects and leadership efforts. Let’s turn the bosses’ imperialists wars into an international class war for communism.

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