**Caucasus war concerns all of humanity**

The warfare that broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan in late September, over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, took the lives of thousands of soldiers, and hundreds of innocent civilians, on both sides. More than 20,000 more were injured. It was the most intense round of fighting since 1994, when war over the territory broke out between the former Soviet Republics.

Formal hostilities ended Nov. 9 in a ceasefire agreement by Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev, Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, and Russian President Vladimir Putin—Russian troops are supposed to guarantee the “peace.”

As Marxist-Humanists, we support the anti-war forces on both sides, like the youth who stated: “It is long due this science has been claimed as much as those proposals, with Azerbaijan retaining control of its territories that were occupied by Armenia in 1994 and Nagorno-Karabakh retaining a degree of autonomy.”

Yet this is hardly a settlement. It remains hostage to those “men in suits” who offer the world nothing but continuing war. For many reasons, the world should pay more attention to this regional conflict.

**WAR AS TRAGEDY AND CRIME**

Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as belonging to Azerbaijan, but is populated mostly by Armenians, more so since mutual pogroms in 1994 expelled hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis and Armenians from their homes.

This year’s slaughter was not based on “ancient ethnic hatreds,” but on the current intense regional conflict, today’s regional conflicts. Rather, it is a product of the prospect for regional peace that had opened with the 2018 Armenian Revolution and subsequent national election that brought Pashinyan to power.

That election shut out the parties of the Armenian oligarchs and the most militant nationalists, the Republican Party and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. Both Pashinyan and Aliyev had previously put forth reasonable positions for a negotiated settlement. Following the carnage, the current cease-fire is often claimed as much as those proposals, with Azerbaijan retaining control of its territories that were occupied by Armenia in 1994 and Nagorno-Karabakh retaining a degree of autonomy.

Yet this is hardly a settlement. It remains hostage to those “men in suits” who offer the world nothing but continuing war. For many reasons, the world should pay more attention to this regional conflict.

**PAYMASTERS AND MAD SCIENTISTS**

The Armenian oligarchs take profits from Nagorno-Karabakh, from resource extraction to organized crime, including human trafficking, drugs, and weapons. They wish to retain their political power. The Russian mafia, Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and Azerbaijani criminal groups have also profited from the regional conflict.

Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also brings in revenues from Nagorno-Karabakh by munitions sold to the regime. They wish to retain their political power. The Russian mafia, Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and Azerbaijani criminal groups have also profited from the regional conflict.

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We, Azerbaijani and Armenian youth, take the responsibility rule and the termination of viciously racist, sexist, xenophobic, homophobic regime.

The elections replaced the days of marches opposing Trump’s maneuvers to steal the election. Still, for over a week he continued his coup attempt, even after he had already failed. Busy spreading lies, the Trump administration did nothing about the COVID-19 pandemic’s skyrocketing third wave. It threatens to overwhelm hospitals and health workers and kill another 200,000 people in the U.S. and 1.5 million worldwide by March 2021.

Nevertheless, Trump amassed over 73 million votes, and would likely have won if his reign of depredation had not been destabilized by his disastrous handling of the pandemic and the Black-led multiracial revolt that spread to every corner of the country after the police murder of George Floyd.

Racism and the resistance to it permeated the election, from the Trump campaign’s appeal to white supremacy to the outpouring of Black organizing and votes, especially in places like Detroit, Atlanta, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. That outpouring was energized by the revolt.

Grave questions remained about where the U.S. and the world are heading. Even if Biden frees scientific dis ease experts from political interference, the high probability of the pandemic has already done tremendous damage, including widespread disinformation. Movements from below will be challenged to resist the calls for “unity” under the capitalist umbrella and to continue to deepen their revolt against a “return to normal.”

At the same time, Trump, Trumpism, and the far Right have not gone away. Just the tip of the iceberg is seen in the smaller crowds absurdly claiming that the election has been stowen.

**Black-led revolt exposes defeat of Trump’s racist campaign**

by Franklin Dmitryev

Spontaneous celebrations broke out across the U.S. on Nov. 7 when Joe Biden was declared the winner of the presidential election. It was the victory of the “unity” ticket that was celebrated than the defeat of Donald Trump’s grab for permanent one-party white minori

len, sometimes chanting “Stop the vote” and “Stop the count,” when the actual voter suppression was targeted at people, Black and Latinx people and Native Americans.

ASSAULTS ON VOTERS AND ELECTIONS In a country that already makes it much harder to vote than in other “democracies,” Trump and his party redoubled their multifaceted assaults on majoritarian voting and their war to disrupt and delegitimize the election, and maintain minority power with a white male capitalist facade. They showed that they were perfectly willing to destroy democracy and start a civil war in the process.

Trump was never running to win a majority, and hisİzıkstellung of even winning the electoral college without disrupting the election, despite having the advantage of the normal kinds of disenfranchisement baked into this so-called democracy from the founding.

The undemocratic electoral college—without which Trump, like George W. Bush before him, never stood a chance—stands in the Constitution by agreement of the ruling classes from the North who distrusted democracy and from the South who were defending the institution of slavery.

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, which brought the South its first taste of democracy, instituting the system of mass incarceration, in which the Democratic Party and its standard-bearer Joe Biden have been complicit.

Trump openly tried to stir up white supremacist and far-Right groups when he called on the Proud Boys to “stand by,” which they took as a call to arms. By mid-November more than isolated incidents of violence had materialized during Biden’s administration’s nonstop inflammatory lies, but that does not mean they are a spent force. The surge in far-Right organizing, activity and violence has spread to every corner of the country after the police murder of George Floyd.

Women are women are the protests’ women’s revolutionary moment

The Trump era began with massive protests and resistance against his violent racist, sexist, xenophbic regime. With encouragement from Trump and his allies like Steve Bannon and Stephen Miller, the far Right reacted with events such as the fascist “Unite the Right” march in Charlottesville.

The demonstrations this past month were larger still. Trump is not a militant, determined leader. It is the women’s protests that they threaten the government because they represent the people’s anger and disgust at how the P4G has been moving Poland towards fascism—the illegal stacking of the Constitutional Tribunal court with party hacks being just one example. Poland’s leaders recognize a revolutionary moment when it appears. That is why—under the pretext of the

**Polish women’s revolutionary moment**

by Terry Moon

While what is happening in Poland may not be a revolution, it most certainly is revolutionary. Women are leading a movement that is not only protesting the Catholic Church’s inhuman attack on women’s freedom, but is as well mounting a deep challenge to the fascist-leaning Polish government.

For over two weeks, beginning on Oct. 23, 100,000 (PiS) party leader, Jaroslaw Kaczyński, who revealed his fanatical position in 2016: “We will strive to ensure that even pregnancies which are very difficult, when a child is sure to die, is severely deformed, and with the mother giving birth so the child can be baptized, buried, and have a name.” That cruel attack at controlling women’s lives led to one of the largest demonstrations in Polish history.

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1. “I THINK, I FEEL, I DECIDE” By Terry Moon, “Poland’s leader recognize a revolutionary moment when it appears. That is why—under the pretext of the

2. Poland Is Trying to Make Abortion Dangerous, Illegal, and Impossible,” by Madeleine Branche, The Nation, Jan. 8, 2020. (Note: “Abortion” and “suspected illegal medical procedures” are defined as “abortion” under Polish law.)

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p. 5 Philosophic Dialogue: Perspectives on Marx’s Humanist Essays

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**Letters**

U.S. and Russian imperialism are allied to both sides

“Human power is its own end” — Karl Marx

**Philosophic Dialogue: Perspectives on Marx’s Humanist Essays**

The war against the genocidal Iranian regime as it slaughters tens of millions of Armenians, and Nagorno-Karabakh, including human trafficking, drugs, and weapons. They wish to retain their political power. The Russian mafia, Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and Azerbaijani criminal groups have also profited from the regional conflict.

Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also brings in revenues from Nagorno-Karabakh by munitions sold to the regime. They wish to retain their political power. The Russian mafia, Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and Azerbaijani criminal groups have also profited from the regional conflict.

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*THEORY / PRACTICE*


**EDITORIAL**

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ASSAULTS ON VOTERS AND ELECTIONS In a country that already makes it much harder to vote than in other “democracies,” Trump and his party redoubled their multifaceted assaults on majoritarian voting and their war to disrupt and dele

**Editorial**

**Polish women's revolutionary moment**

continued from p. 2

COVID-19 pandemic—they pulled out all their tricks, calling for radical change. Their strategy was to take a wing fascism.” Kazanczyk screamed at opposition lawmakers, “You are destroying Poland. You are exposing a lot of people to death, you are criminal!”

**Fear of Revolution Leads to Repression**

Not satisfied with siccing the police on women protesters, he called on his followers to defend churches “at any cost.” Thus, on Oct. 28, the neo-fascist All-Polish Youth attacked women in Wroclaw, Poznan and Bialystok. Fellow fascist Robert Bukiwicz1 said his followers would “fight with full self-defense” and the “moral and national guard” to confront what he dubbed “neo-Bolshevik revolu-
tionaries.” He continued, “If necessary, we will crush them with our boots.”

The results were that women protesters were kicked and thrown, thrown at cars and hit by heavy police force. On Oct. 30, after seven days of protests and fearing that the situation would get out of control, Poland’s right-wing government recalled the police into the streets and allowed the police to take all action.

As of Nov. 21, 2020, so unstoppable were the women that they forced the government to indefinitely postpone most of the law. The demonstrations lasted for two weeks—with over a million in the streets each night—creating the largest outpouring of people since the collapse of Communism in 1989.

Marta Lempart, a member of “the grassroots women’s movement Ogrodnik Stroak Kobieta” (OSK, or All-Polish Women’s Struggle)2 said, “I think it is a whole backlash against a patriarchal cul-
ture against the state, against the state, against the fun-
damentalist religious state, against the state that treats women really badly.” OSK is also demand-
ing that states end violence against women as well as women, universal healthcare, the separation of church and state and the independence of the judi-
cial system. It also recognized the need to fully in-
vestigate all of these incidents in different areas of 
their lives, possibly as an act of collective memory.

**Women Keep on Fighting**

The President’s feeble proposal made the women 3. Poland relies police riot as pro-abortion protesters continue for three months talking about different incidents in differ-
ent sections and layers [of society].” Speaking out against 
these issues. Hopefully, there will be a future investiga-
tion into how some groups men into committing sexual 
violence. This book is already very influential, and Taylor 
is creating many new programs for healing survivors and educating the public in all to continue to review and have input into the study.

Review: Women Are Blamed for Everything

by Adele

Dr. Jessica Taylor had worked with girls and women subjected to male violence and sexual abuse for 11 years in the criminal justice system, domestic violence and rape crisis centers, and health systems before writ-
ing Women Are Blamed for Everything: Exploring the Vic-
tim Blaming of Women Subjected to Violence and Trauma (Lulu.com, April 15, 2020).

A survivor herself, she was horrified at how each victim was always blamed in some way al-
though it was never her fault, even internalizing self-blame. The male perpetrator usually received blame and a light sentence if he received one at all.

This book, her thesis for her PhD in Psychology, draws upon previous studies to examine the many origins of victim blaming. It also draws upon her study asking female survivors opened-end questions about their reac-
tions to various examples of sexual assault. She inter-
volved some of the participants and allowed them all to continue to review and have input into the study.

Taylor describes following in the footsteps of radical 
women protesters around the world who have been fighting around the world for women’s rights. She mentions the All-Polish Women’s Struggle (OSK) in Poland, the Women’s Defense League in Peru, and marched in the capital, Lima, to protest the government’s acquittal of a rapist. The court claimed the woman could not have resisted rape because her red underwear meant she was “prepared or willing” to have sex with the rapist. Many protesters wrapped red underwear around their legs, and some held signs with photos of the judge. Signs read, “Listen, update judges. Don’t use your underweare to justify rape” and “Lace is just lace, it’s not an insin-
ation.” Protestors chanted the song “A Rapist in Your Path,” which includes the lyrics, “The fault was not mine, nor was it your turn. I was, instead, a victim of patriarch-
archy is a judge that judges us for being born.”

Due to the efforts of a volunteer research team, the Forgotten Women of Wakefield Project, Mary Heaton received a Blue Plaque in November. It is a British his-
torical marker linking a location with a famous person, event or building. Since most plagues celebrate men, the Project is dedicated to making the number of women’s plagues achieve parity with them by 2028. After Heaton 
interrupted a vicar’s sermon, calling him a thief for not paying her father in his daughter’s music lessons, a court judged her “insane.” Her plaque is in the site of a former lunatic asylum where she spent most of her incarcer-
ation, lasting the remaining 41 years of her life. Project member Sarah Fick submitted a list of “Women were deemed dangerous and insane in the 1930s for all sorts of reasons, none of which could be used to do with their 
actual mental health but... with the lack of their perceived ‘womanly attributes.’ ” Heaton copied with this trauma by creating her own art therapy and memoir workshop of writing describing her life, now in a collection at the Men-
tal Health Museum.

In 2015 in Sicily, Osas Eghion started the organization Women of Benin City to support survivors of prostitution, most of whom, like herself, were trafficked to the cap-
ital of Palermo from the Edo state of Nigeria. Since then, the number of women trafficked has doubled. Most are forced to sew all day long to earn a pittance that they will pay off a debt supposedly owed to traffick-
er, not report them to police, and obey their “mamas” (favela madams). They are told harm will come to them or their families if they break their oath. Eghion gained their trust when she got a traditional priest to curse the traffickers, which was announced on posters in Palermo. She said many Italians want to help but are hindered by the loss of humanity it’s not really just about abortion, it’s a protest about the church and state and the independence of the judi-
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tal Health Museum.
After a game of chicken that cost more than $200 million, workers in California balked and approved Proposition 22. Uber and Lyft put in place a new system for independent contractors that would give workers more control over their work schedules and payment. The new system, which was approved in a referendum vote, is a significant victory for workers who have been fighting for better pay and benefits for years.

#SavethePostOffice rally on Aug. 22, 2020, in front of the Old Post Office

Workers oppose China’s forced labor camps

In late September, the House of Representatives responded to agitation from labor unions and human rights groups demanding action against China’s incarceration of its Uighur population in Xinjiang for anti-Muslim incitement, among Western supporters of Uyghur rights or within the U.S. They are even against China’s treatment of the Uighur population in Xinjiang for anti-Muslim incitement.

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act

In October, drivers in San Francisco sued for a

Lyft driver Edán Alva told

Lyft had threatened drivers and passengers that they

classified workers under state law.

Lyft put drivers in peonage

Lyft driver Edán Alva told

Union is worse than the administration. A union
the compulsory contribution from the techs is stupid and guar-

independent contractors, workers are more likely to be

In the second half of the payroll tax, levied on anyone who is

The New York Times reports that the Chinese government is using

even though his allegiance is to one-party rulers for life

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What is philosophy? What is revolution?

to tailored the State or “committee.” Rather, let us never forget the principle: “the Individual is the social entity” and society must never again be counterposed to the Individual.

II

Marx had spent something like 45 volumes in expressing his thought in dialectics of revolution. He had spent a lifetime leaving a legacy that was the very opposite of an heirloom. Instead, the grass was always greener somewhere else, and the thought became the ground for all future revolutions that would be filled out anew by those who “made” the 1905 Revolution—Lenin, Luxemburg and Trotsky. And, above all, it was the basis of revolution.

Comes World War I, and the shock of the simultaneity of imperialist war and socialist betrayal is so overwhelming that one and one...—Lenin says, if I could have been so misled and considered that betrayor... I will never forget the principle: “the Individual is the social entity” and society must never again be counterposed to the Individual.

It could not have possibly been an accident that Marx, in 1917–18, is in the process of revolution, and being responsible to history, which Trotsky counterposed his slogan “peace without an annexation” and “mobilizing the proletariat for a struggle for power” to Lenin’s “turn the imperialist war into civil war” which Trotsky rejected. What was even worse was Trotsky’s rejection of Lenin’s statement that the defeat of your enemy is the lesser evil.

Theoretical differences are not “liquidated” just because, in fact, revolutions are quite contrary. Once the heat of the battle, the deviations from Marxism first come to plague you. The truth is that the theoretical difference reappears in a most horrible form exactly when the next, objective situation arises. You must then dig for new philosophy, new revolutionary thought, because they are never out of context of both international crisis and national crisis. It is the power of thought, in the concrete, that it is total, it is multidimensional, and at no time is the Individual made just

It sounds so abstract, so easy to say, with Hegel, that philosophy is the “thinking study of things” (para. 2). It surely sounds oversimplified to say, at one and the same time, that revolution is a supreme form of human thought. But thought is all that philosophy claims as the form proper to her process.” (para. 5). When, however, you begin to dig for new philosophy, new revolutionary thought, it is not thought and not activity, he can conclude in that very same introduction.

This divergence between idea and reality is a foe-

dive force of the analytic understanding in particular. Yet strangely in contrast with this philosophical depth, its own dreams and half-truths though they are, appear to the understand-

ing, something true and real, and pride itself is the subject of the kind who takes it and who wants to prescribe to the philosophies of revolution. Then, of course, you realize why, when Hegel is speaking of philo-

sophic depth on the basis of the highest theoretic as well as practical point of view, the Hegelian philosopher and activist, Marx, practiced Hegel’s Idea of freedom by realizing it in a concrete freedom...thermore, Hegel had not found articulation that was easy uni-

after Phenomenology of Mind, and after the Science of Logic, put Hegel’s idea of freedom as the moving and creating principle” of Hegelian philosophic depth. Marx was more specific and shouted out loud revolution in thought. The truth is that Hegel’s dialectic,...” of politics. As if the world had waited on it to learn how it ought to be, and was not! (para. 8)

And that same paragraph further stresses that “the Idea is not so feeble as merely to have a right or an obliga-

tion to exist without actually existing.” It could not have pos-

sed, was more serious, was more experienced to help the war—turn the imperialist war into civil war,” I will never forget the principle: “the Individual is the social entity” and society must never again be counterposed to the Individual.

Perhaps I should not have asked only what is philoso-

phy? What is revolution? What is anti-imperialism? Does the taking of low-level personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and designating them as CIA agents shock the American public? How is this what we are fighting for?

Concrete, in the Hegelian sense of the synthesis of diverse elements into a whole that is both new and valid, would show that by no means coincidentally, the occupation of the Embass-

ary Constitution. Yes, the masses are anti-imperialist, but Marx didn’t say that just because the masses were anti-feudal and the bourgeoisie was leading a revolution against feudalism, the masses were anti-imperialist, and all masses should fol-

low the bourgeoisie. Quite the contrary. He said: We were with the bourgeoisie because it was the first act of overthrowing fe-

dualism, but now count us out. Not only that. It is high time to deepen and draw the strictly proletarian tasks that, without doubt, still remain. (for a new analysis of Europe’s revolutions; and 2) the new forces, in this case the peasant communists, are never out of context of both international crisis and national crisis. It is the power of thought, in the concrete, that it is total, it is multidimensional, and at no time is the Individual made just

1. Paragraph 2 of Logic in Hegel’s Encyclopedia of the Philosophic

Editor’s note: This Political-Philosophical Letter appeared in the October-November 1920 #6004-6012 issue of Petrograd Soviet of Workers’ and Soldiers’ Deputies during Russian Revolution, March 1917.
New perspectives on Marx's Humanist Essays

By Raya Dunayevskaya

Marxism and Freedom

So opposed is Marx to anyone who thinks that the idea of communism can be overcome by changes in the sphere of distribution, instead of reorganization in the sphere of production, that he shows his communism to be only the other side of the private property exponents. No other generation can understand the early Marx as we can, for in our generation bears on its back the fully capitalist nature of this epoch—"anti-capitalism," known as Communism, or One-Party State totalitarianism. Marx warned, back in 1844, "We should especially avoid evoking a living being into existence, in an abstraction opposed to the individual. The individual is the social entity." This is where the essence of human subjectivity is. Marx was living in the study of human development, both in different historic periods and in the most basic Man/Woman relations. He was one who understood and that he moved from a philosophy to an empiric, scientific, and anthropological one. Marx's philosophy was revolutionary, because the subjectivism of capitalism's colonialism was intensifying. The question was how total must be the uprooting of existing society and how new the relationship of theory to practice. The openness of Marx (Marc) was to anticipate the possibility of new human relations, not as they might come through a mere "updating" of primitive communism's equality of the sexes, as the aromatics, but as Marx sensed they would burst forth from a new type of revolution.

"Private Property and Communism" in the trilogy of revolution

Three Marxist-Humanist works by Raya Dunayevskaya

Philosophy and Revolution

The three central essays of the 1844 Manuscripts—Alienated Labor, Private Property and Communism, Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic—marked the birth of a philosophy of human activity, an integrity of philosophy and economics destined to be known as Marxism. The essays on economics—Labor, Private Property and Communism—make clear that it was not only Hegel whom Marx was "standing right side up" or, more correctly, transcending. It was also classical political economy, as well as "quite vulgar and unthinking "communism"—the logical expression of practical politics. Marx sought to understand the nature of state and property as a whole. There is a recognition of the power of love in a state of existence, such as not merely your "inorganic nature." How does love become a full human reality (regardless of gender)?

The essence of woman is not motherhood or caring. There is a recognition of the power of love in a state of existence, such as not merely your "inorganic nature." How does love become a full human reality (regardless of gender)?

It is a move from the empirical, scientific, and anthropological one. Marx's philosophy was revolutionary, because the subjectivism of capitalism's colonialism was intensifying.
ELECTION BATTLES, REACHING FOR THE FUTURE, AND THE PULL OF THE PAST

The N&L article “Trotsky’s election battles concentrate system’s myriad crises” is an important contribution to the understanding of the interplay of different crises and events. The article provides a rich tapestry of information that sheds light on the various conflicts and challenges faced by the Trotskyites and the broader working-class movement.

The Trotskyites were committed to the idea of a world revolution, and they saw the election as an opportunity to build support for their perspective. The article highlights the different strategies and tactics employed by the Trotskyites, as well as the various challenges they faced.

The article also provides insight into the broader political and social context in which the Trotskyites were operating. The author notes that the Trotskyites were part of a larger movement of working-class organizations, and that their struggle was part of a larger struggle for social justice and equality.

In conclusion, the article offers a valuable contribution to our understanding of the Trotskyite movement, and it provides important lessons for today’s political activists. The Trotskyites were committed to a world revolution, and they saw the election as an opportunity to build support for their perspective. The article provides insight into the broader political and social context in which the Trotskyites were operating. The author notes that the Trotskyites were part of a larger movement of working-class organizations, and that their struggle was part of a larger struggle for social justice and equality.

In conclusion, the article offers a valuable contribution to our understanding of the Trotskyite movement, and it provides important lessons for today’s political activists.
Matter movement, a recollection of a high milestone for many in the Black revolution of freedom struggles…

John Lewis, today's Black Lives Matter movement. The 40th anniversary edition of “March: Book One” has been released. This is a graphic adaptation of Lewis’s own book, “Walking with the Wind.” The book was published in 1988 and became a bestseller.

Selena Davis and Jack White

Endnotes

1. The World Against Violence

2. The Coal Miners’ General Strike of 1949-50 and the Dialectic in Latin American Liberation

3. Rosa Luxemburg, la liberación femenina, y la dialéctica de la revolución: Tratado de avanzar el futuro $15.00

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Thank you for reading News & Letters.
**Ethiopia civil war fears**

The tension between the federal government, headed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and Ethiopia’s most northern region of Tigray has deepened in recent weeks, with a reported 10,000 people in the region estimated to have been killed in hostilities. In October, Abiy declared a state of emergency in the region, and launched a military operation against the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), which had been aligned with the previous government of Tigray. This move was seen as a significant escalation in the conflict, which has been ongoing since November 2020.

The TPLF is an organization that has been in existence for decades and has a strong base of support among the Tigrayan people. The group has been involved in several conflicts over the years, including the 2015-16 war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The TPLF has been accused of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings and arbitrary detentions, and has been involved in conflicts with other ethnic groups in the region.

The current conflict in Tigray has raised concerns about the human rights situation for those living in the region, including the possibility of further human rights abuses by the Ethiopian government or by the TPLF. The international community, including the United Nations, has called for a cessation of hostilities and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

**Maryland prisoners organize a union**

**Jessup, Md.**—I am located at North Branch Correctional Institution (NBCI) in Cumberland, Md., where the administration, staff and inmates have not found a way to cover a master slavery authority and oppressive state within the prison. Their rules and policies are constantly forced on the prisoner, but never reviewed by administrative and staff (C.O.s, nurses and medical provid- ers, and case management), until their cards are revoked.

Then they become “professional” to cover their tracks, use loopholes and re- cite the Code of Maryland Community Corrections to excuse making fraudulent rules and policies that are unjust and criminal. They want to accommodate staff and cause turmoil within the prison to control the population of prisoners. We are starting a Chapter of the Maryland Prison Labor Organization (MPLO) within NBCI to better our conditions as prisoners. The/MPLO is a labor organization that encourages the prison Industrial Complex and abolish prisons. While the prison system is still up and running, we need to agitation, mobilize, campaign, promote consciousness, and, as an inside organization, work directly with outside organizations to achieve prisoners’ rights and better living condi-

We want to survive the manipulation, no-choice psychological terror and psychological manipulation, the neglect as wards of the State and as human be-

ings, as well as excessive police brutality.

I am sending a copy of our Blueprint to help us reach seats of power to gain access to better laws and policies. We want to propagate and publicize what the prison system truly is and promote the abolition of prisons due to the harsh state of living conditions mentally and physically.

If your readers have any information on contacts in the Department of Labor and Industry for this proposed prison labor organization, please let us know.

**Maryland prisoner**

**Maryland Prison Labor Organization (NBCI Chapter)**

The Maryland Prison Labor Organization exists for the purpose of defending and preserving the rights and dignity of the incarcerated working-class men and women who are confined to correctional facilities within the State of Maryland.

Maryland’s incarcerated workers contend daily with low wages, broken promises, unsafe or unsanitary working environments, arbitrary termination, inadequate healthcare, unhealthy diet, and inhumane conditions of confinement.

As a collective and as a class, we find this set of cir-

cumstances untenable and have thus formed a mission to

*ameliorate these circumstances by securing social and eco-

nomic justice for the thousands of imprisoned laborers who have been victimized by the Department of Corrections, and who continue to endure such exploita-

tion as a consequence of the labor arrangement that per-

sists behind the walls of Maryland’s correctional facili-

ties.

We are conscious of the fact that the labor we pro-

vide is critical to the orderly and efficient functioning of the Department, and that the well-being of our realities, we, the members of the MPLO, seek the following changes to the current labor ar-

rangement for this State’s prisons:

1) Higher wages.

2) Equitable Good Conduct Credit Compensation

3) An end to Arbitrary Adjustment and Reclassification

4) An end to Oppressive Conditions of Confinement, including Excessive Restraints and Punishment, as well as Cruel and Unusual Punishment, and Abuse by Guards and Administration

5) An end to malicious social engineering prac-

tice that are meant to both maintain the prison system, foment conflict, and incite violence amongst incarcerated citizens.

6) An end to collective punishment.

7) Increased access to economically relevant vocational and technical skills training, includ-

ing that which is currently made available by the DLR.

We also seek access to state-sponsored col-

lege education.

8) Increased access to cognitive programs cur-

rently available at the prison.

9) Higher quality food and more sizable por-

tions.

For the reasons mentioned here, the Maryland Prison Labor Organization has been formed by the benefit of its members, and for that of the entire incarcer-

ated working class within the State of Maryland.

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**November 19th of May, 2019.
**

**Damage left by Trump**

*by Robert Tallantario

**Finally, with the exception of the unsubstantiated rants and revos of Donald Trump and his minions, the more productive and innovative election of 2018 and this nation’s history is over and we now have a President-elect, and what looks for the first time like a First Lady, a woman of color. The people of this nation came out in re-

cord numbers to elect Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris, not an ascendant of Black, Brown and immigrant.

This is a second term, but that Biden would receive a national mandate by winning both the popular and Electoral College votes.

**RAWMUS: ages 18 through 21.**

We live in a highly polarized nation. If Trump achieved little else during his tumultuous and divisive presidency, he has shown how proper and to watch, how even normally American believe in the myths, lies and fantasies that Trump continues to sow.

What is sad and frightening is how vehemently angry many Trump advocates have become. People seem to abandon reason, then become an obstinate and angry many Trump advocates have become. People

BELIEVE TRUMP OR YOUR LYING EYES

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**Love is the dumm killer. Stop protector Jackie Lacey**

Los Angeles—After several weeks of protests by Black Lives Matter (BLM) against Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey, she failed to win a third term in the March 2020 special election. She was forced a runoff with former San Francisco D.A. George Gascon in the Nov. 3 election, which Lacey lost.

On Nov. 4, hundreds gathered outside the Hall of (In)Jus-
tice as relatives of victims who were killed or injured took the stage flanked by signs that read “Jackie Lacey: Gone!!” Lacey’s inaction, the signs continued, also face protesters’ anger if she didn’t live up to his promises to hold police accountable.

**PROTESTS WENT FOR YEARS**

The weekly protests began several years ago with 40 to 100 activists as more Black and Brown victory protest violence were added weekly. Every Wednesday afternoon, BLM protested outside Lacey’s office at the downtown Los Angeles Hall of Justice.

The African-American District Attorney had not prosecuted any LA police or County Sheriff officers in the killings of hundreds of unarmed Black and Brown people. Not surprisingly, a large part of Lacey’s $7 million election fund was donated by the police union.

The weekly protests, led by LA-BLM co-founder Meli-
a Abdallah, organizer activist Akili and Paula Minor, in-
cluded chants of “Jackie Lacey must go!” and the pouring of water on plants in memory of victims killed by police as their name was chanted by protesters. Akili stated: “Police get away with murder.”

Lacey does not prosecute them.” A few of the many victims include: Wackoshi Wilson, Brother Africa Keunzel, Enzell Ford, Jesse Romero, Jonathan Hart, Hipolito Gonzales and Eric Rivera.

**THE PAIN OF MANY FAMILIES**

Relatives of the victims attended weekly protests and ex-
pressed their grief as well as anger. They were joined by com-
munity members, Black, Brown activists, SKAL, New homeless activists, LA Commu-

nity Action Network members, Asian, Latino, Indigenous, organi-
zers and others.

Throughout the years of pro-

tests, 500 members showed up to hear their pain: Caesar Rodrigues’s mother: “He was murdered by Sheriff Ford’s brother ‘Jackie Lacey’ My Black brother’s life mattered.”

John Horton’s mom: “Everyone! Keep coming to support each other” Wackoshi Wilson, a victim of police stated that Wackoshi died of suicide by hanging. It’s impossible that she hanged herself.” Helen Jones, mother of John Horton: “We don’t want to be white.”

At a BLM “Count Every Vote” march on Nov. 7, several thousand Black, White, Brown and Asians, wearing Red T-shirts and the taking of solidarity and unity for Biden, carried signs as they marched from Pershing Square to City Hall. A leading banner read: “Jail Kill Cops—more cops—more”

In a new society, every human being of any race would have equal opportunities to work and live and determine society’s policies that affect their own lives. Every per-
son would be allowed to develop their individuality while engaging in both mental and physical labor in a society without racial and class antagonism.

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**Lyle Walker**

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**LUCILLA'S DUMM KILLER CHEER LEADER: STOP PROTECTOR JACKIE LACEY"**

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**Benno**

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**NEWS & LETTERS – www.newsandletters.org NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020**
Trump's immigrant policies challenged

‘Remain in Mexico’ policy goes to Supreme Court

The “Remain in Mexico” policy, in which border guards physically prevent asylum seekers from approaching the border, has been contentious and is currently pending before the Supreme Court in 2021. The policy, intended to deter asylum seekers—many of whom are fleeing extortion, rape and murder—from making an appointment months into the future which will be dismissed due to reasons of political expediency in their case. In the meantime, they must remain as undocumented foreigners in Mexico, at risk of extortion, rape and murder.

The court will also review Trump’s executive order declaring a state of emergency, in which he diverted monies from other areas of the budget to pay for border wall construction. Both cases will be too late, too late to contain any damage to human rights, assuming that an incoming Biden administration can reverse these policies. The court’s rulings might only be useful as legal precedent against any possible future administration that tries to mimic Trump.

Efforts to find parents of separated immigrant children continue

Before the family separation policy on the border went into effect nationwide, eventually leading to protests and a popular outcry, there had been a 2017 program operating exclusively in El Paso, Tex. About 1,000 families were separated that year in El Paso, and now according to a legal brief filed in San Diego on Oct. 6, the parents of 545 (later updated to 660) children still have not been found. The parents were deported long before court ordered the practice halted in 2018 and the state’s whereabouts must be recorded. In a horrifyingly purposeful move, the Trump Administration lacked any kind of plan to keep track of the deported parents before they were actually ordered to make one.

A steering committee made up of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Justice in Motion, and other non-governmental organizations have acted as court-appointed monitors in an attempt to locate the parents at the expense of the federal government. The passage of time and complications due to pandemic travel have made it very difficult. The parents may be in hiding, as they face the same dangers and challenges that they originally fled.

According to the status report filed by the ACLU and the administration, the parents of 75 of the children are likely contactable but have not yet been reached. Of the 178 children with parents whose likely location is determined but without a method of contact; and the remaining 283 children and parents—were not located so far.

Some of the parents who were contacted opted to have their children stay with sponsors in the U.S. (other relatives or foster homes). Sabrina Rojas Weiss, an expert on immigration, said that most undocumented parents are desperate to make sure their family is safe. Sometimes it takes the form of communities filing writs of habeas corpus. Other times, direct action: blocking construction along railroad lines; sit-ins; marches and other demonstrations. The Resistance is working to break a brake on this form of private/state capitalism.

The COVID-19 reality

Mexico is in deep trouble with the pandemic. Multiple states have introduced stricter guidelines with cases and deaths at high levels. In many of the maquiladoras near the U.S. border lines are long. Non-essential factories are supposed to be closed, but remain open in violation of the law.

Living conditions are often forced to work under unsafe conditions. Several wildcat strikes have occurred. Still maquiladora capitalism marches on. Meanwhile, President AMLO parades around the country, most often without a preventive mask—a wonderful example for the country.

The Zapatistas

A new wave of Communications have been issued by the Zapatistas. They have made a statement that has been closed since COVID-19 struck Mexico. They report on their situation now that they are coming to the conclusion of the most important resistance along with the Congress Nacional Indigena against the Federal government developmentalist projects.

Biden is pushing through his plan to travel to the five continents beginning with Europe this coming Spring. They will be reporting on their work in Mexico, their determination to be, not objects or victims, but living, developing people, determined to be free. This is an example of the Zapataistas unique concept of inter-nationalism.

The Marxists-Humanists Theory of State Capitalism: selected writings by Raya Dunayevskaya

This collection of 17 writings by Raya Dunayevskaya, founder of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S., contains a selection of her writings from her original analysis of Russia as a state-capitalist society in the early 1940s to writings on the global phenomenon of state-capitalism from the 1940s to our era.

"Raya Dunayevskaya's essays on the nature of capitalist and Soviet societies are full of the kind of scholarly insights and political wisdom that no one interested in these topics can afford to ignore. A mind-stretching exercise for those willing to risk it!" —Bertil Ohmann

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Nationalism is an example of the Zapatistas unique concept of inter-nationalism.

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Postal Service Workers Quietly Resist

"By Rachel 7. Spoken by Aislinn Pulley from Black Lives Matter Chicago at 228 S. Wabash, #230, Chicago, IL 60604. Subscriptions are $5 a year (bulk order of 5 or more copies, 25c each) from News & Letters, 228 S. Wabash, #230, Chicago, IL 60604. NEWS & LETTERS – www.newsandletters.org NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

\[\text{Image 224x847 to 593x1032} \]

\[\text{Image 612x565 to 784x679} \]

\[\text{Image} \]

The events in Kenosha cast a harsh light on the reality of pereversions of the democratic process that not only the Republican nor the Democratic Party wants to acknowledge. Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man, was brutally shot in the back seven times in front of his young children on Aug. 23, paralyzing much of his body. This new–abortion rights, workers’ rights, the right to organize–made clear by the United States Postal Service strikers. The long-term effects of 50 years of suppression and repudiation of 2008’s financial crisis are with us still. The movement to the left is alive, but not moving fast enough to tame the potentially revolutionary forces.

RETURN TO NORMAL vs. REACH FOR FUTURE

The opposition to Trump is an uneasy mixture of those who want simply to keep the Roberts Court in place and those who recognize that the battle is not only one of first negation but within that negation, the positive movement toward the new, toward full liberation, emerging out of the first negation. The idea brought to the fore by this year’s revolts is the necessity for a new system—or the milder “define the police”—was not on the ballot, but many police reform and oversight measures were.

The closest to partially defunding the police was Measure J in Los Angeles County, called “Reimagine LA County.” It requires 10% of unrestricted general funds to go to services such as housing and mental health programs, police training and policing. Several states loosened drug laws, which, like the whole criminal injustice system, are used in racial and class warfare. Other movements also fueled the organizing that led to voter turnout that defeated Trump in states he won in 2016: Black in Georgia, Native Americans in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Georgia; Native American in Wisconsin and Arizona; and every where else, including 38 states where the vote against Trump was more than 10% against Trump. That also defeated a reactionary Trumpite senator in Washington and two more in Georgia into runoffs in January.

The ideology brought to the fore by this year’s revolts is the necessity for a new system—or the milder “define the police”—was not on the ballot, but many police reform and oversight measures were.

However limited such measures may be, this election revealed a huge swing away from the pro-police, pro-prison orthodoxy before which both Republicans and Democrats have marched for decades. The Biden campaign sought to harness the millions who organized for Black Lives Matter or for reunification of the seething parts of an over-militarized and super-rich country. That includes creative acts of resistance by postal workers during DeJoy’s Changes with Eye on Election and radical ideas from below got funneled into state laws passed by 80% of voters. The energy unleashed by that and other movements will continue from San Diego to Kyle, Texas. In Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Georgia; that includes civilian forms of oversight such as police officer protector Jackie Lacey,” p. 8.)

The notion of “defund the police” is a self-creating disorder,” as Hegel put it. The battle over family separations, the climate crisis, the Women’s Marches, the election revealed a huge swing away from the pro-police, pro-prison orthodoxy before which both Republicans and Democrats have marched for decades. The Biden campaign sought to harness the millions who organized for Black Lives Matter or for reunification of the seething parts of an over-militarized and super-rich country. That includes creative acts of resistance by postal workers during DeJoy’s Changes with Eye on Election and radical ideas from below got funneled into state laws passed by 80% of voters. The energy unleashed by that and other movements will continue from San Diego to Kyle, Texas. In Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Georgia; that includes civilian forms of oversight such as police officer protector Jackie Lacey,” p. 8.)

The notion of “defund the police” is a self-creating disorder," as Hegel put it. The battle over family separations, the climate crisis, the Women’s Marches, the House with the most extreme climate action plan of any presidential candidate is coming from the left. But commit-
### Detroit voters speak truth to power

Underlying the joyous celebrations by mostly Black Detroit voters of the results of the 2020 election is a steady determination to hold on to nationwide power—and turn an old normal into a new one, but to face the realities of racism, police brutality, economic disaster and a broken health-care system, for a better future. People writing, posting and speaking for themselves express this best.

![Detroit voters speak truth to power](https://example.com/detroit-voters-speak-truth-to-power)

**From InSight**, a nationally-recognized Detroit artist: “White Republican Challengers are trying to inmediate and challenge the votes. Republican Trump Court 119 Superfluous was the several surrounded and entered buildings, cut up and try to start, chanting, ‘Stop the vote, stop the vote.’ The Orange Man is losing the presidency in Michigan and his FOX Super Spreader’ Super Losers are losing their minds. Let’s stop the vote.”

**From a non-partisan election challenger:** “In all three polling locations in Northwest Detroit, the poll workers were universally serious about respecting every vote...”

**From a non-partisan election challenger:** “They started chanting, ‘Stop the vote, stop the vote.’ But I tell you, the City of Detroit election team...didn’t engage. They weren’t provoked, they didn’t cower...They kept us encouraged. So when the chanting was going on, they got on the mic to say, ‘Stay focused, keep working.’ And we did...We were determined that we were going to do our jobs, and we did...”

**From BridgeDetroit.com:** “Inside Detroit’s election: Black women’s stories of the count and the mayhem.”

**From BridgeDetroit.com:** “I’m Curt The Hurt and I approved this message!!!”

**From The Detroit News:** “GOP, listen to me. Noah warned the people in the days of the flood and said, ‘Therefore I will...’”

**From The Detroit News:** “I’m Curt The Hurt and I approved this message!!!”

**From The Detroit News:** “But I definitely feel more aware of how important the right to vote is and how voter suppression is still very real...We know the history...”

**From The Detroit News:** “I want to represent and understand to really own our power and our voice and how we are game-changers.”

### Young Action by Buddy Bell

A viral video taken by a bystander of Nigeria’s Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) shows officers shooting a car from a young man in early October, the 60th anniversary of Nigerian Independence. The video sparked youth marches around the country and traffic to the pre-existing Twitter hashtag #EndSARS. On Oct. 9, a teenager was shot dead in Lagos by a police officer in uniform while shouting, “SARS Kill, SARS Rape, SARS Extort, End SARS Now,” an indictment of the squad’s long-term abuses of young protesters. The protest arrived at an international documented 82 cases of torture since 2017.

**From The New York Times:** “We’re supposed to check in on students,” a student instructor in a week-long strike for higher pay said. “They welcomed us, they were excited to have someone to talk to...”

**From The New York Times:** “They wanted to deepen this, but people were doubting their actions...”

**From The New York Times:** “At least 50 student residential advisors (RAs) at Cornell University reported orientation meetings on Aug. 19, protesting the increased workload and work hazards they were expected to face in the COVID-19 era while not being paid for...”

**From The New York Times:** “I’m going to call the angry white mob that you see in the streets...”

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**From The New York Times:** “I want to represent and understand to really own our power and our voice and how we are game-changers.”

### Indigenous protect the forest, land and water

**Veracruz, Mexico—**Several months ago, a friend and I left Mexico City on our bikes and went south to explore the country. We traveled to Coatepec, a small town south of Xalapa, capital of Veracruz. Coatepec flourished in the early 20th Century due to its production of cotton, henequen and even more recently, avocados and honey. However, due to changes in the 1970s, most of its inhabitants have moved to the towns of Xalapa, capital of Veracruz. Coatepec flourished in the 19th Century when it was a major center for the production of salt, sugar and tobacco. In the late 19th Century, the town was a major center for the production of salt, sugar and tobacco. In the late 19th Century, the town was a major center for the production of salt, sugar and tobacco.

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### Latin America Notes

**by Eugene Walker**

**Chile—**On Oct. 25, the Chilean masses delivered a decisive “No” to the last attempt by the imperialist puppet, the dictatorship of Sebastian Pinera, to be re-elected President. The real election changes the players on the field but too many of us from having our voices heard, and votes counted. On Monday, we will get back to work because we know this election changes the elections on the field but too many of us from having our voices heard, and votes counted. On Monday, we will get back to work because we know this election changes the elections on the field but too many of us from having our voices heard, and votes counted.

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**Bolivia—**The presidential election held this past Oc- tober delivered a massive repudiation of the right-wing forces that had taken over the government when Evo Morales was forced into exile in 2019. The overwhelming victory of MAS (Movement for Socialism) candidate Luis Arce must be credited to the powerful social movements that refused to bend under the attacks of the government of Jeanine Añez. Evo Morales and his former Vice President García Linera have rightfully returned to power to forge a more fully liberatory direction?

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**ISIS in Mozambique**

In early November, terrorists linked to Daesh, the “Islamic State,” beheaded up to 50 villagers, men, and boys, in Cabo Delgado, a northern province of Cabo Delgado. Called al-Shabab by local residents, the insurgency that began in 2017 with machetes and barefoot fighters has escalated with radicalized arms and foreign trainers who were driven out of Iraq and Syria. The conflict has created over 400,000 refugees in a region already marked by food shortages and health crises.

In response to the gruesome attacks by these ISIS-linked terrorists, the Mozambican security forces have also begun to commit atrocities. As Amnesty International reported in September, there is evidence of torture of prisoners, including rape, amputations, and dismemberment of alleged ISIS fighters, extrajudicial executions, and mass graves.

**ATTACKS ON LAND AND SEA**

In recent months, the group has managed to capture, and sometimes hold, a number of important towns. This includes Mocimboa da Praia, close to the offshore natural gas fields, which the group has declared to be its own capital. Of the two main towns, there are no way to break the endless cycle of capital accumulation and war.

**WOMEN AND YOUTH TAKING THE LEAD**

There is huge participation by women as demonstrators and protest leaders. Women have spoken out against the three branches of the Thai patriarchy that control the country’s institutions: the military, the monarchy and the Buddhist church.

**ABOLISHING MALE SUPREMACY**

As for Freedom and Democracy, a political alliance that has helped spearhead the government’s anti-retaliation rallies in Bangkok, noted: “The male supremacy society has not changed since 1947 (coup) that needs change. Women are not taking the back seat. They are the front line.”

- Gerry Emmett

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**Who We Are And What We Stand For**

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