

Update

THE WORKER

July 24, 2014

Newspaper of the Workers Party, U.S.A.

Vol. 28, Number 10

Neither Demagoguery Nor Military Blackmail Can Stop the Liberation Struggle of the Palestinian People!

**End the Blockade of Gaza,
Now!**

**There Must Be a Palestinian
State!**

On July 23, John Kerry went to Israel in an ostentatious display of U.S. backing amid Israel's stepped up killing, starving and besieging of Palestine. The official purpose of Kerry's visit was to show willingness to engage in "talks" with the Palestinian Authority in Gaza.

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, Kerry said, "My message is the same for Israelis and Palestinians: Stop fighting, start talking and take on the root causes of the conflict so that we are not at the same situation in the next six months or a year."

Kerry stopped short of offering to change the U.S. government's promise that any Palestinian Authority, Arab government or institution that opposes U.S. dictate will face war.

Nor did he offer to amend his previous statements that before the Obama administration and Israel will even talk with any Palestinian civil administration it must: 1) renounce resistance to Israeli occupation and aggression and 2) respect and honor "previous agreements and treaties."

Kerry further spit in the face of the Palestinian people by refusing to acknowledge the existence of their demand and internationally recognized struggle for an end to the blockade of Gaza.

In short, Kerry is pretending to offer to facilitate "talks" while simultaneously pretending that there is nothing to talk about.

According to Kerry, the Palestinian people have no rights, not even the right to resist Israeli occupation, not even the right to live free of siege and starvation.

What then does Kerry want the right-less Palestinians to talk to him about?

Turning truth on its head and blaming "uncompromising" Palestinians for the failure of illegitimate peace talks is part of the U.S.-Israeli strategy to deny the Palestinian people their sacred national rights, especially

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Only the Political Economy of the Working Class Can Lead the Way Out of the Crisis

Below, we summarize the first part of a speech presented by Michael Thorburn at the October 25, 1999 meeting of the Chicago Branch of the Workers Party.

For some time now, governmental leaders have been advertising "globalization" – based on the "free flow" of international capital – as a "new economic era" which will insure world prosperity. This process of globalization is generally characterized as a "technological revolution" arising from

such things as advanced communications systems, an international division of labor, etc.

But such advertisements for "globalization" and the "free flow of capital" cover over the main thing. Today, capital is a social relation in which the means of production – the very tools needed by human beings to secure their material existence – are owned by a few while the vast majority of people are reduced to the status of wage-slaves for these capitalist owners of the means of pro-

duction.

"Globalization" arises from the struggle of the biggest monopolies and capitalist states to extend these social relations of exploitation and domination – their ownership of the means of production – over the entire world. "Globalization" means that countries and continents are put up for barter and domination. The demand for the "free flow of capital" is a demand for the surrender of economic and political sov-

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Political Economy of the Working Class

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ereignty, is the program of international finance capital for gobbling up the resources, the economic infrastructure and the very lives of the peoples of other countries. Today, in the conditions of deepening economic crisis, the “free flow of international capital” is part of the program of the big monopolies to come out on top – to continue their ferocious struggle for the economic domination of other countries as well as to defeat their competitors. In fact, as history shows and present reality confirms, capitalism can only “resolve” the struggle of competing capitalists for domination through war.

Workers in the U.S. must keep in mind that this entire struggle for world-wide domination rests, in the first place, on the most thorough exploitation of the American workers. . . .

The capacity of capital to expand and to “create wealth” rests on one and only one thing – the exploitation of the workers. Capital expands by soaking up the surplus labor of the workers. And the workers go into the factories owned by the capitalists, not through their own free will or choice, but because, under capitalism, they have been separated – by force of arms – from the tools necessary to create their own subsistence. They cannot secure their livelihoods without selling their labor-power as a commodity to those who have monopolized society's means of production.

Human beings are often characterized as “tool-creating animals” and indeed this capacity is one of the most important and distinguishing characteristics of the species. By using science to create and use tools, humans are able to transform, to humanize, nature not merely adapt to it. By creating tools humans are able to provide themselves with food, shelter and other means of subsistence and advance more and more from the realm of necessity to the realm of freedom. Tools – the means of production with which hu-

mans create their material conditions of existence – are a fundamental part of the foundation of human civilization.

Over thousands, in fact hundreds of thousands of years, humans have mastered the laws of the natural world and created a vast machinery of production which, when set in motion by human labor, is capable of producing an abundance for all. But capitalism has forcibly separated the great mass of humanity from these tools. As a result, we can only subsist by selling our ability to work to the capitalist exploiters.

Private ownership of the means of production is the condition upon which the exploitation, poverty and enslavement of the people rests. . . . Bourgeois political economy does everything to mystify this basic condition which forms the foundation of capitalism, because once it is brought out, no one can defend it. No one can defend – on the basis of any modern, humane or democratic notion – private property in the means of production – the right of a few to rule and to accumulate untold riches on the labor of others, by the enslavement of the great mass of humanity. . . .

New Forms of Exploitation

Over the last several years, we have already seen just what the struggle to “increase the international competitiveness of U.S. capital” means for the workers of our country. It means new and more intense forms of exploitation. It means downsizing and restructuring, the wiping out of millions of jobs. It means downward pressure on wages to the point where today the rate of exploitation is 500%. In other words, on average, a worker produces the value of his/her wages in one and half hours, while the value created during the other 6 and a half hours goes to the capitalists as profit. It means the slashing of such vital benefits as health care and pensions. It means the widespread substitution of part-time and

temporary work for full time employees.

The entire attack on social legislation – the so-called welfare reform, the privatization of health care and social services as well as the dismantling of labor legislation such as workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, laws restricting child labor and overtime, etc. – is a program for reducing the price of labor power. These laws, a product of countless struggles of the working people, not only created a minimum floor which increased the general level of wages but also forced society to recognize that workers had at least some measure of rights as human beings. This recognition gave the workers certain economic claims on society, claims on production which are guaranteed through the creation of a social sector of the economy, which to a certain limited extent restricted the political economy of capitalism and commodity production. In denying these rights and privatizing the social sectors of the economy, the capitalists are not only forcing down wages but denying that the workers have any existence, any reason to live, other than to be exploited by the capitalists if and when needed. . . .

The bankruptcy of the capitalist system is seen in the fact that in country after country economic life is grinding to a halt and the productive forces at the disposal of society are actually being destroyed.

to be continued. . .

**The Worker
Newspaper of the
Workers Party**

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Palestine

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the right to genuine self-determination in their historic homeland.

U.S. imperialism and Israeli zionism have been shown once again the unconquerable spirit of the Palestinian nation. Although the state of Israel has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians through repeated wars of expansion, although the Palestinians have been dispersed in many countries or forced to live in the prisons and under the gun of the Israeli military occupier, they have unfolded a majestic national liberation movement which has made the whole world aware not only of their national history and aspirations, but also of their unbreakable will to liberate their homeland.

Thus, confronting the reality that the downtrodden and oppressed of the whole world sympathize with and support the martyred Palestinian people, U.S. imperialism and Israeli zionism are trying to put a “human face” on their tactics. The objective is to eliminate any resistance to Israeli occupation, to eliminate any resistance to Israeli expansion, and to allow U.S. imperialism a free hand in pursuing its colonial projects in Palestine and throughout the Middle East.

In addition to pretending to offer a truce, the U.S. government and capitalist media are relentlessly misrepresenting Obama's entire relationship with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority. On the one hand, the U.S. and Israel ignore the just demands of the Palestinians. On the other hand, the U.S. and Israel claim that it is the Palestinians who are “refusing to negotiate.”

This is the perverted logic of the U.S. and Israel who – in the face of worldwide opposition to their aggression – will go to any length to turn truth on its head and confound right and wrong.

It is the state of Israel – financed and commanded by the U.S. government – which is the real terrorist and source of violence. It is Israel which has invaded and occupied Palestine and which is killing the Palestinian people and subjecting them to a continuous reign of terror.

This is what the Palestinian people are opposing. The reality which the Palestinian people recognize is that their rights and sovereignty can only be reclaimed through uncompromising struggle against the aggressive, colonial Israeli state and its sponsor U.S. imperialism.

Today, facing the aggression and fascism of U.S. imperialism, isolated and surrounded by official public opin-

ion, the Palestinian people are rebuilding the institutions of their nation – their cultural institutions, their mass organizations, their political parties, even their own government. All the efforts of the people – those under occupation and those in exile – are concentrated on one goal – liberation and the reclaiming of their sacred national rights. The dauntless struggle of the Palestinian people proves that no force will prevent them from realizing their inalienable rights.

As we salute this liberation struggle, let us vigorously step up the fight against U.S. imperialism, against its aggression and interference in the Middle East, and against its alliance with the aggressive state of Israel.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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whole new blueprint for world domination through force of arms.

Today, as U.S. imperialism is engaged in hot shooting wars across the globe it is important to reflect that U.S. imperialism remains the number one roadblock to peace in the modern world. U.S. imperialism is an aggressive, military superpower.

Today, the U.S. is trying to impose its dictate on the peoples of the world under the slogan that “might makes right.”

Today, the peoples on every continent are threatened by U.S. nuclear weapons and the U.S. has established a network of at least 500 military bases in other countries.

Today, U.S. imperialism and the other big imperialist powers are openly claiming that they have the right to trample on the sovereignty of countries, that only the Big Powers can decide which countries will enjoy independence and which will not, and that the peoples must accept the economic and social system dictated by

the imperialist system.

As a result, grave dangers are facing the peoples.

In this era, the people are subjected to two kinds of war: 1) wars waged by imperialism against the liberation movements of the peoples; and 2) inter-capitalist, inter-imperialist wars fought to see which robber and exploiter will control the most economic territory and empire. In both cases, the aims of imperialism are utterly reactionary and it is the working class and people – in the U.S. and throughout the world – who pay the price.

The American people must never forget the lessons of history. The American people, like the people of every country, aspire to a world of peace and friendship amongst the peoples, based on the sovereign equality of every nation. To help create such a world, let us step up our struggles, targeting the monopoly capitalist class and the imperialist system as the source of war and militarism.

On the 69th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

69 years ago, in willful rejection of “lesser” means and at a time when Japan was already a defeated power, the U.S. government chose to drop an atom bomb on the city of Hiroshima. The date was August 6th. Three days later, the U.S. dropped a second atom bomb on Nagasaki. Conservative estimates place the immediate death toll at 225,000. The damage to future generations is largely unaccounted for.

Today, amid wide-scale propaganda glorifying U.S. “deterrent power” and the Obama administration's widely advertised “responsibility to protect” doctrine, it is important to reflect that already at that time, the Truman administration was combining military aggression with political deception. The administration claimed that it dropped the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki out of military “necessity” and the “desire to save lives.” Yet even at that time it was a well known fact not only that Japan was already a defeated power, but also that *days* before the bombs were dropped, the U.S. high command expected Japan's surrender.

The historical record shows that the decision to use nuclear weapons came from the aggressive drive of U.S. imperialism to assert itself as a superpower. Even Secretary of War Stimson admitted in his memoirs that by bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the U.S. wanted to emerge from WWII with “the atom bomb ostentatiously on our hip.”

In other words, the Democratic administration of Harry S. Truman was determined to demonstrate U.S. military might to the whole world.

And indeed, for the last 69 years, U.S. imperialism has relied on its vast nuclear arsenal and its military power to extend and protect the world-wide

empire of the U.S. monopoly capitalist class.

Even before launching the so-called “war against terrorism”, U.S. imperialism carried out a non-stop counter-revolutionary assault against the peoples of the whole world in the name of “containing communism.”

U.S. imperialism set up military bases and aggressive alliances on every continent and filled the oceans and skies with weapons of mass destruction.

Every aggressive tactic was used not only to subvert socialism in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, but also to wage war against the national liberation movements.

In opposition to the demands of the peoples of the whole world who were fighting for a world of peace and friendship based on the accepted principles of sovereign equality amongst nations, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal and international affairs of other countries, as well as the freedom of international trade and navigation, the U.S. government launched savage imperialist wars against the Korean people in the 1950s and against the Vietnamese people in the 60's and 70's.

Over these 69 years, U.S. imperialism has waged *hundreds* of counter-revolutionary wars and military interventions – in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, the Philippines, the Congo, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Haiti, Libya, etc. etc. etc., and used the Pentagon war machine to prop up the most reactionary and fascist regimes in South Africa, Israel, Cuba, Chile, Iran, Indonesia, Haiti, Colombia, Nicaragua, the Philippines and elsewhere.

Time and again, U.S. imperialism threatened to use its nuclear weapons

against the peoples – in Korea in the 1950s, in Lebanon in 1958, during the Cuban missile crisis, against Vietnam in the 1970s, in Iran, and many other times.

When the Soviet Union emerged as a rival imperialist power, the U.S. and Soviet superpowers together brandished their nuclear arsenals as a means of dividing the world into spheres of influence and intimidating and threatening the peoples.

Today, at a time when the U.S. government is carrying out “the most sweeping realignment and modernization of the nation's massive system of laboratories and factories for nuclear bombs since the end of the Cold War” (LA Times 4/6/06) it is important to reflect that the end of the cold war did not usher in the era of world peace and prosperity promised by U.S. imperialism and the other Western powers.

In fact, just 10 short years later the U.S. government declared its so-called “war against international terrorism.” Within slightly more than two years, the U.S. had invaded and occupied both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Shortly after the launch of the “war on terrorism” the U.S.-backed Israeli aggressors stepped up their war against the Palestinian people and began preparing war against Syria and Iran. So too, U.S. military “advisers” were sent to direct counter-insurgency wars in Colombia and the Philippines and the U.S. stepped up its threats and pressure against the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. U.S. imperialism officially adopted the doctrine of “preventive war” including even the use of nuclear first-strikes against nonnuclear countries and proclaimed that every country must accept U.S. dictates or “be treated as a terrorist.” In short, the U.S. laid out a

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