

You Only Run For the Border When You See the Whole City Running As Well: The Thirty-Seventh Newsletter (2018).



Dear Friends,
Greetings from the desk of the Tricontinental Institute for Social Research.
Setting in his office, Donald Trump meets with the head of his economic advisors Gary Cohn. Cohn jokes with Trump. He says, make a speech and say that the wall on the US-Mexico border is ready to be built: the materials are on hand, labour is eager. The only thing that engineers are worrying about is how to spell - over the 2000-kilometre border - the word TRUMP. Trump is not amused. He does not like jokes at his expense. He has other ideas. The caravan of Central Americans crossing south, he says, is like an invasion. Every language is the same. Immigration is the goose that lays the golden egg. He has no real interest in using the migrants as a way to make for real dollars. That is the work of the neo-fascists.

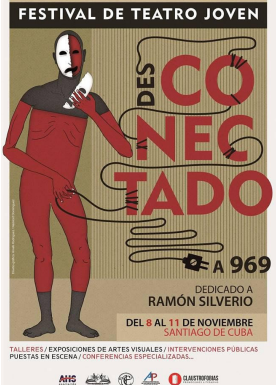


Western State, Home
No one expects this human atrocity, said former Honduran congressman Ramon Barrios, who first said that he would pay the way of people to the United States. In my report of Frontline, I told the story of the first caravan and the reasons why people decided to take their chances on the 'continent of death' northwards. Part of that story includes climate change and adverse trade deals for the small countries of Central America. But there is also a longer story of political destabilisation by US intervention - some of it going back to the 19th century - as well as the growth of a drug-belt economy that has brought more violence to places that hoped that the end of that genocide conducted by the military regimes of the 1980s would bring a period of peace. The genocide continues, as bulldozers and dams destroy the way of life for small farmers and for indigenous communities.



Western State, Home
A 19-year-old person who migrated that night, posthumously. It is as if the person on the road in these caravans or on the boats in the Mediterranean Sea are to be pitied (if you are a person of sensitive disposition) or hated (if you are a person who has forgotten what it means to be human). But the people walking or on the boats are not without their own capacities and energy, without their own sense of what they are doing and why they are doing it.

When they cross the unforgiving borders, they go to work, building homes, finding work, caring children (the picture above is by Yara A. Boubas for a series of migrant workers at their temporary homes). They care money and then turn around to send it to their families who are at home. Even in the Zaatari refugee camp in Ma'raj (Jordan), there are money transfer agencies that take cash from Syrian refugees and send it to their relatives inside Syria. The lines outside these agencies around the world suggest the immense suffering of humanity that motivates the people who are displaced.
The World Bank calculates that displaced people sent a total of \$61.3 billion in remittances to their home countries, most of them in the Global South. To put this into context, the total overseas development aid amounted to \$142.6 billion. In other words, workers who live penniless - and there are 258 million of them - send four and a half times more money to their home countries than do the wealthy states of North America and Europe. Even more scandalous, Western Union - which is worth \$5.5 billion - and its competitors take \$30 billion from the poor displaced workers.
The total annual budget for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is \$9.8 billion.
Please pause and re-read these numbers (for more on this, see my article at Newsfile).
• Total annual overseas development aid: \$142.6 billion.
• Total annual remittances from displaced workers: \$61.3 billion.
• Total fees annually plundered by money transfer monopolies: \$30 billion.
• Total annual budget of UNHCR: \$9.8 billion.



Capital and weapons play part the same the grounds without care. People are laid back by the borders. It is this immobility that acts as an economic knife into the gut of the world's billions. The lack of free mobility of people facilitates lower (super-exploited) wages in some parts of the world as against others. Those who are able to cross borders, but have either no papers or have limited papers, are vulnerable to employers who super-exploit their vulnerability. In other words, on both sides of the border the displaced people will not be treated as if they were equal citizens with equal rights, wages and power working conditions.
It is not enough to talk about a wall on the US-Mexico border. Trump, like his predecessors in the US government, want to rebuke countries that refuse to acknowledge the domination of the United States over their affairs. This was the basis of the Monroe Doctrine (1823), which Trump invoked by name at the UN General Assembly a few months ago. The new phrase uttered by Trump's advisor John Bolton - the troika of tyranny - points Washington's finger at Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Trump has wanted to reject one of these countries. Now, with close allies in Brazil and Colombia, the United States will ramp up pressure against those countries and - likely - will intervene in at least one of them.
Cuba came to the United Nations General Assembly with the resolution against the US embargo of the small island nation. Since 1992, the UNGA has voted to end the embargo. This year that the UNGA has voted to end the embargo. This year that the UNGA has voted to end the embargo and 2 for it (the United States and Israel). Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla offered the rationale for the end of the embargo in his important speech at the session in New York on 1 November. It is clear that on foreign policy the world faces the bifurcation of US power and decline. It is there in its apparent - even amongst Washington's allies - for the new sanctions against Iran, for the stepped-up embargo on Cuba and for a war against Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Even Afghanistan, as I note in my report, continues to trade with Iran - despite being virtually occupied by the United States. History is against imperialism.
Meanwhile, if you are in Havana there is a Youth Theatre Festival (see above) that is dedicated to Ramon Silverio. Silverio is the founder of the E3 Mojajo Cultural Centre in Santa Clara, where there is an art gallery, a theatre, a cafe and a place for artists and LGBTQ activists to breathe. Ramon Silverio dreams of a 'world where everyone lives in harmony and respects individuality no matter if they're Marxist, Christian or gay'. The festival is the opposite of the hegemonic theatre from John Bolton.



Indians represent powerful nations or strong low-powered ones. But there is no border for wildlife, whose habitat is being rarely and swiftly snatched away. The Indian government has just given Reliance Corporation (set worth \$110 billion), owned by the Indian billionaire Anil Ambani (set worth \$2.2 billion), 467 hectares of the reserved forest land in Yavatmal to build a cement factory. Precious forest will be carved into, mineral deposits (of limestone and dolomite) will be eaten into. Local inhabitants, who live with the forest, will be slowly but surely displaced.
A Agreer named Anni and her cubs roamed the area near the future cement factory. The government said that she had killed thirteen villagers. She had to be killed. Jadupur Hanthkar's three-part series on the killing of the tiger is riveting - an essential read (part 1, part 2 and part 3). It is also tragic. Two ten-month-old cubs survive Anni. Raj Thackeray of the right-wing Shiv Sena said, 'I have learned that Anni was killed to save Anil Ambani's project. The government has sold its conscience to Ambani'.
The World Wildlife Fund has just released its chilling Living Planet Report which shows a decline in wildlife population by 68% over the past forty years. The authors of the report blame 'humanity' for increased consumption. Once more, the data here is useful but the analysis is insufficient. There is no 'humanity' by itself only classes and nations, whose some classes and certain nations dominate the agenda for the planet. Reliance Corporation wipes out the forest and puts pressure on the tiger, the village who are killed by the tiger are nobody likely for process that he beyond them. The problem here is the human failure, but the capitalist system which has made nature into a commodity and does not care at all for its existence. It is this system that drives the destruction of the Amazon Rain Forest and of the Arctic Circle. Profit is more important to this system than people.
Prime property has made us an empire, wrote a young Marx in 1844.



Remember an article we wrote on Jimmy's return to Argentina. The picture above is a preview from the dossier. Also, go back and download our Notendeblich cartoon about Amir Amin's last interview.
New work on Monday - in Rio de Janeiro, see Brazil's office will be an important seminar on Changes in the World Economy and the Challenges for Brazil with Ana Esther Cecília (UNAMA), Renato Brabo (UPR), Maria Beckmann (UPR) and Samuel Pêcherio Guimarães (former Ambassador to Moscow). You can follow the conversation at our Facebook page.
The Brazilianist monk Marcelo Barros writes from Brazil that there is no choice before us but to revive the spirit of resistance, reorganise hope and be militant in our insistence for a new world. Pay attention to him.
Weekly Tip:
Our image below is of Qiu Jin (1875-1907), a Chinese feminist, poet and revolutionary. After the founding of the feminist and nationalist journal Zhongguo nahan, Qiu Jin was appointed to head the Daqing School, an arms warehouse and military training camp for revolutionaries that was disguised as a sports school. As a martial artist, Qiu Jin trained revolutionaries along with her cousin Xu Xilin. They were both caught, tortured and executed before the Anqing Uprising. She's still remembered as one of the staff of her era.



