The ongoing violence against Indigenous women and girls is genocide, and it must be stopped

MMIWG
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Reclaiming Power and Place - the long road to justice: page 7
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Testifying at the Inquiry, Gladys Radek was one of the most powerful voices in the struggle for truth and justice.

Trump’s Huawei ban: U.S. fear of competition

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Wage cutting in Ontario
Doug Ford’s Conservative government has proposed legislation to cut the wages and salaries of provincial employees, with widespread negative consequences for all workers across Canada.

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Tories vs. Bill C-262
Conservative Senators are holding a filibuster against Bill C-262, “An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

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The struggle in Sudan
The Sudanese military is using violence to crush the popular movement to achieve full civilian government. But across the country, the people are fighting back with protests and strikes.

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Freeland does it again
Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland has stepped up her attacks against governments resisting US domination, this time by closing the Canadian embassy in Venezuela.

Page 9
The Communist Party of Canada (Ontario) condemns the Ford Government’s proposed legislation that will slash public sector workers’ wages, benefits and pensions and seeks to eliminate the right of free collective bargaining in Ontario.

This is now the front entrance of an all-out assault on the living standards and democratic rights of the people of Ontario.

On June 5, the Conservative Government of Ontario announced legislation that, if passed, will apply to 1 million public sector workers across the province and push the working class as a whole further into poverty. What is being called “wage restraint” legislation is in fact a massive cut to wages, benefits and pensions right across the board. The so-called “Protecting a Sustainable Public Sector for Future Generations Act” caps all increases in compensation in the public sector at 1% for at least three years. If inflation remains the same as in 2018, this is over a 4% cut.

While the Conservatives say this is a temporary measure, its effects will be felt for many years to come as it applies to any collective agreements that are negotiated over the next three years and would apply for the three years following.

The Ford Government is pushing its anti-worker agenda by pretending that the government has been too generous in the past. In fact, more than two decades of brutal austerity in the public sector in Ontario pasted by both previous Tory and Liberal governments have fallen far behind inflation. Workers today have significantly lower living standards than they did twenty-five years ago.

This legislation is an axe held above the heads of teachers, education workers and health care workers who are currently entering bargaining. It tramples the rights of all workers and unions in Ontario to free collective bargaining and is a danger to workers across the country. The Ford government has already put in place anti-democratic legislation to try and smash student unions and student organization. If this is allowed to pass, the next step could be “right-to-work” legislation as we have seen in many U.S. states.

This legislation also sends a message to the private sector that it is open season on wages and living standards across the board. The class nature of this government has been clear for more than a year now. It has cancelled the minimum wage increase meaning a transfer of wealth from Ontario’s lowest-paid workers to business in the order of 1.3 million dollars. It has rammed through legislation that will open the door to mass privatization of healthcare. It has attacked public education by forcing through cuts that are resulting in the slashing of 25% of high school teachers and the classes they teach. The Tories are looting the province of Ontario and facilitating the looting of the bank accounts of working people by employers and land lords.

The good news is more and more people have understood we cannot wait for the next election, and that we need action now to block these measures and stop this government. The massive high school walkouts and rallies to protect public healthcare and stop education cuts have put tens of thousands into the streets. Now it is the time to build a People’s Coalition, with labour at its core, to build towards mass action like The Days of Action against the last Conservative government in Ontario that could have brought down the Harris government had they continued. The Communist Party of Canada (Ontario) pledges to redouble efforts to build on this resistance to Doug Ford’s corporate agenda.

Provincial Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada (Ontario), June 10, 2019

The Fund Drive, and a note from the Editor

By Kimball Carlow

This year is the 27th annual People’s Voice Press Fund campaign, building on its origins going back decades. Every revolutionary newspaper in capitalist countries depends on the support of readers, either through their own personal contributions, or by taking part in a wide range of fundraising activities.

One such event took place on June 1 in Edmonton, at the Ukrainian Hall which has been home to the progressive Ukrainian community in the city since its fitting since Edmonton was where I began my life in radical journalism, starting as a volunteer on campus newspapers, especially the Pendulum which published in the early 1970s. It’s true that my official retirement as PV Editor is indeed on the near horizon. This is the 48th edition of People’s Voice since March 1993, and number 481 (July 1-31) will be the last on my watch. My sendoff will be capably filled by Dave McKee, who brings fresh energy and ideas, including an overhaul expansion of PV’s social media outreach. I will still do some writing and editing for PV, but as of the end of June, things will be different, and I look forward to a better work-life balance, as they say.

The Edmonton dinner was to raise part of Alberta’s quota for the PV Fund Drive, and it brought in over $700, as part of the $2260 raised towards our $50,000 Press Fund Drive target since our previous issue. That takes us to a current total of $30,827 or 61.6% of our goal.

Quebec remains in first place, with $430 (86%) of their $500 target raised. Ontario is now second, with a current total of $19,150 towards their target of $40,000, or 48% of their $84,000 target. Quebec has been too generous in the past. The estimation of the province was that it was going to be a $30,000,000 shortfall of the $600 million in the province. However, with $385, or 64.1% of their $600 quota, Alberta is now at $1421, or 80.7%, and then Saskatchewan, with $350, or 80.7%, and then Saskatchewan, with $350, or 80.7%, and then Saskatchewan, with $350, or 80.7%

The annual Walk-A-Thon organized by our supporters in Surrey always brings in over $4000. This year, the event is on Sunday, August 25, at the Bear Creek Park parking lot at 140 St. & 88 Ave. Please send in your cheque now by cheque, or donate online if you prefer. E-transfers can be sent directly to peoplesvoice.ca/donate. PayPal, by visiting http://

Contribute online at peoplesvoice.ca/donate.

Here’s my contribution to the PV Fund Drive!

Enclosed please find my donation of $ to the 2019 People’s Voice Press Fund Drive.

Name
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Send your contribution to: People’s Voice, 706 Clark Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3J1

Vancouver on June 15, 5:30 pm, at the Victoria Drive Community Hall, 2026 E. 43rd Ave. The evening will feature a tribute to the centenary of the Winnipeg General Strike, plus live music, and a delicious international dinner. Get tickets at the door for just $20 (or $12 for students or unemployed readers); ph. 604-254-9362 for details.

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Joining approximately 3000 people marched with the Communist Party contingent at the Winnipeg General Strike 100th anniversary parade. Four drummers, four percussionists, one drummer, the banner “Socialism or Extinction”, five large flags and then members and friends. Warm applause greeted the contingent throughout the parade. (Photo by Glen Wreggit.)

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MMIWG findings and recommendations deserve full support

Central Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada, June 6, 2019

The report issued on June 3 by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Reclaiming Power and Place, is a stunning indictment of the genocidal record and policies of settler Canadian government, and a powerful call for immediate action towards justice and equality. The Commission of Inquiry extends our solidarity to all those who courageously testified to the Inquiry over the last three years, and supports their demands for a genuine transformation of this society.

We were among those who joined the demands for the federal government to launch this Inquiry, to expose the real sources of widespread violence against Indigenous women and girls, and to help point the ways towards ending this brutality. Even as thousands of Indigenous women and girls were killed or went missing, these demands faced stonewalling from police forces, politicians, the “legal” system and most of the media, until the cries for justice became too loud to ignore.

Like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission earlier this decade, the MMIWG Inquiry helped to expose the racism deeply embedded in Canadian society, from the early days of European colonization, to present day times when traditional Indigenous territories and waters remain occupied by big corporate energy. The Inquiry’s limited budget and time frame prevented it from showing full respect for many truly lonely memories of the missing and murdered women. Despite these and other obstacles, the Inquiry heard testimony from 2,300 witnesses, largely the families of victims and survivors, and made 231 specific recommendations, from supporting Indigenous police services and overhauling current police procedures, to changing criminal codes and reforming child welfare.

As Reclaiming Power and Place states accurately, Indigenous women and girls have been the targets of genocidal policies and actions for centuries, from the early seizures of traditional Indigenous lands, to the post-Confederation Indian Act, the Sixties Scoop, residential schools, and countless breaches of human and Inuit, Métis and First Nations rights. As the report says, this led “directly to the current increased rates of violence in Indigenous populations.” Despite the cowardly denials from some quarters, this story of death, destruction and forced assimilation is indeed proof of both physical and cultural genocide against Indigenous peoples, including women and girls, and those who identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and/or asexual - who face a form of “triple jeopardy” for various forms of interpersonal and institutional violence.

Even Prime Minister Justin Trudeau initially ignored the Inquiry’s conclusion that the historical and present day violence is a form of genocide against Indigenous women and girls. Right-wing forces, including much of the corporate media, claim that the Inquiry’s recommendations are “impossible” to fulfill, proving that in the eyes of the wealthy, Indigenous people are somehow “expensive and inconvenient” and should simply cease to exist, by dissolving into the broader population. This is the mindset of those who still benefit from unchecked white racist privilege, and from the massive profits garnered from the exploitation of Indigenous lands and resources over the past 400 years and longer. The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Canada extends our solidarity to the Inquiry commissioners and staff, for completing their important task despite facing very difficult circumstances. We pledge to help circulated this important document and its recommendations as widely as possible, and to help put its recommendations into action.

Worker, union, community solidarity defeats DND privatization bid

From Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM)

Shirley Peck beat the odds. She and her union took on the Canadian military and won.

The DND (Department of National Defence) was all set to yank Shirley’s job away from her and six others last fall. Shirley, and her co-workers, and all the members of her PSAC (Public Service Alliance of Canada) union local refused to roll over and play dead. They took on the huge bureaucracy, fought to keep their jobs and won.

Shirley still works as a cleaner at CFB Greenwood, near the middle of the Annanogis Valley in Nova Scotia. It’s a union job that pays a living wage of over $20 an hour. It’s one of the best jobs in the region. The DND decided to take that job away last summer.

The seven women cleaners all thought they were working toward a full-time, permanent job in the public service. The DND decision to terminate them came just before that would become possible. The economic security offered by a full-time, permanent job in the public service was yanked away from them.

“Our union workmates and community sprang into action behind the seven women cleaners. “What made this successful is that we hit DND hard, and we hit them where it hurts, we hit them in the public eye,” says Colleen Coffey, Atlantic Regional director of PSAC, who lives in Greenwood and once worked on the base.

“We had them fast,” she says.

An electronic letter writing campaign early on had some 1500 participants, not bad for a province of 400,000. Electronic letters were sent five more copies reached the inboxes of Nova Scotia Liberal MPs. That was just the beginning.

A large rally at the base was next, some ninety workers, half the union local membership turned out at 6 AM in the morning, just when everybody was trying to get to work. Lines stretched for five kilometres, Coffey says.

“I figured there would be maybe 20 people, the cleaners and the union local executive, but there were 90,” says Coffey.

“That day was so important, that was the day the community knew, the base knew, that we meant business.”

The local MP told the workers he could do nothing to help them.

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“Then they weren’t. Our union workmates and community sprang into action behind the seven women cleaners.”

Did she think there was much hope,” says Shirley. “We just figured we were on our own.”

“The day that we were told that our jobs were yanked away from them, it was such a feeling of peace,” says Shirley Peck.

“What really bothered me was how if Greenwood could get rid of qualified cleaners and contract out the same job for a lot less money and no benefits, I mean, who will come next?”

It’s a question that hangs in the air for all government workers these days as the blind drive for privatization grips the imaginations of their employers. But, as Shirley and her workmates in Nova Scotia remind us, that mindset is never a match for union and community solidarity.

“Greenwood was the campaign that moved hearts,” said Michele Girish, PSAC’s Privatization and Contracting Out Officer. “These were people who had jobs in a small community where either you worked on the base or you knew someone who did.”

On September 26 DND backed down: contracting out cleaning services at CFB Greenwood was off the table; the seven women cleaners were to be made permanent. DND even hired five additional cleaners, to accommodate an expansion on the base.

“The day that we were told that we had won, and that we were going to get permanent jobs, it was such a feeling of peace,” says Shirley Peck.

“Reclaiming Power and Place,” a book published by The Canadian Labour Institute.)
End the giveaways to Big Energy

Fossil fuel extraction and exports, and Canada’s overall greenhouse gas footprint, will be a major focus of the October 2019 federal election. Advocacy groups of fossil fuel producers argue that Canada needs the economic boost provided by Big Energy projects like pipelines. Since rising carbon emissions are the primary cause for unchecked climate change, this argument is dubious on environmental grounds.

But pretending that the industry is purely a generator of economic benefits is naive at best, or totally dishonest at worst. This strategy comes with little-known economic costs, according to a study co-authored by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Natural Resources Defense Council, the K. Overseas Development Institute, and Oil Change International, a Washington-based organization focused on the transition to clean energy, shows that Canada’s dependence on a dozen local export per capital for oil and gas companies than any other G7 country, and is among the least transparent about fossil fuel subsidies.

“Fossil fuel subsidies undermine carbon pricing, work against the achievement of Canada’s climate targets, encourage more fossil fuel exploration and production, and allocate scarce public resources away from other priorities like health care, education and renewable energy,” says the report, released last summer only days after Justin Trudeau announced plans to purchase the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion, which would ship diluted bitumen from the tar sands to the west coast for export.

Every year, the federal government and some provinces pay billions in hand-outs to coal, oil and gas companies. Fossil fuel subsidies to producers total $3.3 billion annually, which amounts to paying $150 per tonne of carbon. That’s enough to pay for 44,000 hospital beds, or the retaining costs for 330,000 workers. Across the entire G7, this figure adds up to about $100 billion every year. It’s long past time to end this propping up of some of the most profitable corporations on the planet.

Labour Councils say “no” to racism

Taking a very timely initiative, thirteen labour council presidents have signed an open letter calling for the theme of Labour Day 2019 to be #UniteAgainstRacism. Released by the Migrant Rights Network (MRN) as part of their ongoing anti-racism campaign, the letter calls for the labour movement to endorse the campaign by making #UniteAgainstRacism the theme for Labour Day, and taking part in a national day of action on June 16, with about a dozen local events. Released by the Migrant Rights Network (MRN) as part of their ongoing anti-racism campaign, the letter calls for the labour movement to endorse the campaign by making #UniteAgainstRacism the theme for Labour Day, and taking part in a national day of action on June 16, with about a dozen local events.

Formed in December 2018, the MRN includes over 50 unions and community groups, pledging to build “a cross-Canada alliance to combat racism and fight for migrant justice”. The thirteen initial signatories on the letter include labour council presidents from Ontario, Alberta, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

This important campaign can play a significant role in resisting the drive by far-right, so-called “populist” forces which seek to inject racist language into the political rhetoric in the October federal election. With four million members in nearly every community across the country, trade unions are uniquely positioned to fight back, and to use the power of our members to shift the paradigm. #UniteAgainstRacism.

Given the current overall weakness of the labour fightback in Canada, it’s reassuring to see labour councils moving into the gap. We encourage readers who are also trade union members to help strengthen this campaign in your communities. Let’s use Labour Day this year to re-consult the racism and bigots who want to weaken the united power of the working class.

June 10, 2019, Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver) The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED) are deeply frustrated by recent attempts to filibuster and delay Bill C-262, An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Conservative Senators are employing wholly undemocratic procedures in an unbalanced effort to side-step the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

These actions, by an uneducated body, are entirely outrageous, undemocratic and minigalled with Canada’s commitment to Reconciliation, the Calls-to-Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the direction of the elected and accountable House of Commons, as well as to modernizing our laws and ensuring that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

With this incredible action, Conservative Senators are side-stpping the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and the continual denial of their rights and freedoms.

“The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED) are deeply frustrated by recent attempts to filibuster and delay Bill C-262, An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Conservative Senators are employing wholly undemocratic procedures in an unbalanced effort to side-step the human rights of Indigenous peoples. These actions, by an uneducated body, are entirely outrageous, undemocratic and minigalled with Canada’s commitment to Reconciliation, the Calls-to-Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the direction of the elected and accountable House of Commons, as well as to modernizing our laws and ensuring that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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Chief Terry Teegee. “The UN Declaration is a critical framework that affirms the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and establishes "minimum standards for our survival and well-being". We find it totally abhorrent that Conservative Senators are standing in the way and utilizing every effort to block the passage of legislation on this important human rights instrument”, said Robert Phillips of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "The First Nations Summit Chiefs Assembly last week passed a resolution calling on the House of Commons and every Senator to promptly adopt Bill C-262 before the House rises on June 21st. This legislation must not be allowed to die on the order paper.”

“The UNCIC is calling on all Canadians to immediately contact Andrew Scheer, the elected leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, and demand that the Conservative Party Senators stop delaying a vote on Bill C-262. The actions of the Conservative Party Senators are an egregious denial of justice and a complete disregard for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Canada’s own democratic processes”, stated Kulpicki Judy Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. “The actions and attitudes of this Conservative Party belong in the past. There is no place in this country for political parties or representatives who rely on political games to maintain a status quo founded on the ongoing suffering of Indigenous peoples and the continual denial of our basic, and internationally recognized, Indigenous and human rights.”

“Bill C-262 is about fundamental human rights. Conservative Senators politics- killing Bill C-262 is undemocratic and nothing short of an attack on human rights. Reconciliation is a responsibility for all Canadians and should not be subject to partisan politics,” said BCFED President Laird Cronk. “Workers across B.C. are蟹s for the circumvention of our human rights.”

In a time when numerous reports, exposés and court decisions are calling on the Canadian Government to address their ongoing egregious treatment of Indigenous Peoples, why is the Conservative Party of Canada continuing to deny the recognition and application of the internationally recognized human rights of Indigenous Peoples? Political representatives must be held accountable for the circumvention of our democratic rights, by undoing the processes and the continual denial of the human rights of Indigenous peoples.

The First Nations Leadership Council is comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. The BC Federation of Labour represents over 500,000 members from affiliated unions across the province.
Labor leader Leo Gerard recently wrote an article, "The Untold Story of Trump's "Bloomberg" Economy," that circulated widely on the Internet. Gerard is the President of the United Steel Workers of America, an industrial union once a leading force in the pro-Cold War, anti-left CIO, the last major expression of labor militancy in the US. The historical essay is a notable compendium of indicators that track the status of American labor over the last half century. His essay lists many telling facts and figures that document the economic decline of the millions who constitute the working majority of the population.

Gerard shows that workers labor longer and make less with every passing year. At the same time, the wealthy are growing more prosperous. In a one-word, one Gerhard cannot seem to find in his vocabulary, workers suffer growing "exploitation.

Gerard's "untold" story has been told many times before. But as a comeback story, the chronicle of the dire straits of most working people, Gerard may be without peer. And it is a story of the struggles of working people, Gerard is without answers. Just as he cannot utter the word "exploitation," the Steelworkers are sneaking through decades that have seen Democratic Congresses and Democratic presidents, who have eagerly evicting the social gains and material conditions of US working people.

To acknowledge this fact would require Gerard to look beyond the Republican Party as arch-villain and recognize that the Democratic Party also contributes to the anti-worker trend. He would need to challenge the facile, deceptive Democratic Party claim of parsimony for the sake of labor. This he cannot do. Instead, it's the fault of the right-wingers. If only we could return to a non-existent age when institutions were friendly to labor. "Just like the administration and the Supreme Court, right-wingers in Congress groveled before corporations and the rich," Gerard exclaims.

It's hard to square Gerard's disdain for corporations with the fact that USW recently mobilized baseloads to defend the US Steel Corporation against indignant citizens facing life-threatening pollution. When the corporation's pollution-control equipment was damaged in a fire, allowing dangerous pollution to spew forth in the environs of the company's Clairton works, Gerard's union brought counter-demonstrators to confront the angry neighbors forced to choke on the pollutants.

Meanwhile, the ever oxymoronic Liberal Party stand in the way of the unions. Gerard mention the role of unions leaders -- "partners" and with no taste for a democratic demands for class confrontation, capital discarded the partnership and mounted an unbridled offensive against workers.

Broad democratic union leadership, allergic to confronting their corporate "partners" and with no taste for a fight, the result was the rout that Gerard documents so well.

The NDP was undermined by leaders "partners" and with no taste for a confront the angry neighbors forced to choke on the pollutants. Indeed, the union has sought partnership over confrontation since it surrendered to Cold War imperatives.

The union also joined "right-wingers" in the Trump administration to defend corporate interests in last year's tax revolt.

But Gerard does not mean to conspire to keep the workers from wingers in Congress groveling before corporations.

Nowhere in his essay does Gerard mention the role of workers' solidarity, union militancy, or activism in defending the gains of workers. Nowhere he does mention the workers' greatest weapon against corporate power and for improving their conditions, the strike. Nowhere does he address the responsibility of union leaders to rally workers and their friends and neighbors to directly confront corporate power in the workplace and in court, a trend as well as in the courts and in the election booths.

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Meanwhile, the ever oxymoronic Progressive Conservatives have become a prisoner to the deceptiv Viktorian-era dungeon on Quidi Vidi Lake, a national park facility, and a new regional hospital in Corner Brook (which had been promised by the Danny Williams administration to be built according to at least one of their candidates), expansion of public transit, gay equity legislation, and oddly enough, shared a commitment of $25 a day daycare with the PC platform, which they said would be affordable daycare. Of course affordable in the PC definition is approximately $25 a day, which is also well above the federal poverty line under $32,500. There was no mention of whether such a system would be affordable for workers. How Gerard did he ultimately forced out of the party in order to save face when the province was forced to cut the gains of workers. Nowhere they traded class confrontation, capital discarded the partnership and mounted an unbridled offensive against workers.

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The union also joined "right-wingers" in the Trump administration to defend corporate interests in last year's tax revolt. But Gerard does not mean to conspire to keep the workers from wingers in Congress groveling before corporations.

Nowhere in his essay does Gerard mention the role of workers' solidarity, union militancy, or activism in defending the gains of workers. Nowhere he does mention the workers' greatest weapon against corporate power and for improving their conditions, the strike. Nowhere does he address the responsibility of union leaders to rally workers and their friends and neighbors to directly confront corporate power in the workplace and in court, a trend as well as in the courts and in the election booths.

Newfoundland and Labrador held its general election on May 17. When the Dwight Ball Liberals claimed a narrow majority in the election on May 17, it seemed unlikely that the opposition parties would make much headway. But in Newfoundland's current political landscape, the Liberals had mass support, but neither the PC nor NDP appeared to be able to spark the electorate, and the new NL Alliance “non-party” failed to make an impression.

Indeed, the election seemed to catch the other parties off guard, and none ran a full slate of candidates. The Conservatives ran in thirty-nine of forty districts, but in only one managed to get names on the ballot and little else. The NDP only managed to run in fourteen districts. And the Alliance, being new and with few resources, ran in only nine districts.

Meanwhile, the ever oxymoronic Liberal Party stand in the way of the unions. Gerard mention the role of unions leaders -- "partners" and with no taste for a democratic demands for class confrontation, capital discarded the partnership and mounted an unbridled offensive against workers.

Broad democratic union leadership, allergic to confronting their corporate "partners" and with no taste for a fight, the result was the rout that Gerard documents so well. The NDP was undermined by leaders "partners" and with no taste for a confront the angry neighbors forced to choke on the pollutants. Indeed, the union has sought partnership over confrontation since it surrendered to Cold War imperatives.

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Celebrating the lives of Marx and Connolly

From Irish Socialist Voice, June 8, 2019

Over the weekend of May 12-13, the Communist Party of Ireland and the Connolly Youth Movement celebrated the lives of two great thinkers and activists, Karl Marx and James Connolly.

Dr. Stephen Nolan gave this year’s James Connolly Memorial Lecture, under the title “The Continued Relevance of Karl Marx,” to a packed house. The lecture marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Marx. (The full speech can be viewed at https://redsonthe.net/)

The meeting was chaired by Laura Duggan, who opened the proceedings with a quotation from Jean-Paul Sartre: “Marxism remains the philosophy of our times because it coincides exactly, and beyond the circumstances which created it.”

Stephen outlined the continued relevance in the present climate of “full-spectrum domination” by monopoly capitalism—economically, politically, and culturally. He outlined the role of the media, and also drew attention to how elements of the left have contributed to the possible alternative to capitalism, in particular by social democracy.

He referred to the desert that is trade union education today, which has been reduced to the “skills agenda,” with the absence of Marx and his ideas and little or no talk of class or exploitation. He pointed out that Marx still provides the essential tool for understanding contemporary monopoly capitalism.

Stephen drew attention to the reconstitution of ruling-class power after the economic crisis of 2010. He went on to point out that Marxism is about understanding long-term historical change, while drawing on the writings of Marx in relation to Ireland and the principles and implications of capital and the savage exploitation that capitalism entails.

The 150th anniversary of the Connolly Commemoration took place in Arbour Hill Military Cemetery on May 13. The commemoration was chaired by Janelle McAteer, the main oration was given by Gearóid Ó Machail on behalf of the CPI. Alex Homits, general secretary of the Connolly Youth Movement, spoke on behalf of the CYM.

Gearóid began by declaring: “At 07:15 hours on May 12, 1916, Marxist theorist, socialist author, industrial union organiser Citizen Army founder, Commandant-General of the Dublin Division of the Republican Army and Vice-President of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, Conrado James Connolly was summarily executed by a British firing squad, just across the river, in the yard of Kilmainham Gaol.

“Born 150 years ago, on the 5th of June 1868, in the crowded Irish immigrant slum of Cowgate... James Connolly was unquestionably our greatest ever socialist theorist and practitioner.”

Gearóid went on to emphasise the continued importance of Connolly to today’s struggle and the important lessons that this generation of activists can learn from him. “Connolly’s task, ours today, was to apply and test this Marxist theory against the material conditions faced by the working class in his own lifetime. The same task remains. Our task is to set about the formidable task of the Reconquest of 21st-century Ireland. It’s the same task faced by Connolly in a new and different context... The great end goal is the same, however: we need to apply our Marxist analyses to achieve a programme and strategy for replacing capitalism. Not a programme for alleviating the worst aspects of capitalism and imperialism but a programme that recognises that capitalism has unavoidable contradictions built in to its DNA. Revolution, comrades, is a cultural, political and economic struggle for superior ideas.

“None of us are naïve about the difficulties we face in reorienting the struggles of the working class into a cohesive and ideologically driven challenge to the capitalist state. Those struggles are happening every day all around us, and we as communists must be to the fore in the people’s struggles, both defensive and offensive. The role and the contribution of the party in this period is vitally important, laying new groundwork for contact and communication with the working class and the popular masses.”

The strengthening of monopoly capital is bound to bring a further sharpening of the contradiction between captured and parcelled labour and thus a sharpening of all social contradictions. These are contradictions that arise from the built-in reproductive cycle of capitalism, co-existing extreme opacity and mass poverty, surplus and want, economic growth and unemployment, full employment and in-work poverty. These are not blips, mistakes, the product of corruption, or bad policy: they are as much a by-product of capitalism as the ecological destruction of our planet and obliteration of our natural resources.

“Working people need to understand the interconnected relations between the state, establishment political parties, and the powerful economic forces that control their lives. Workers need to understand who really runs the Government and whose interests it serves. That’s why we need to reinvigorate our education programme: to grow and develop our young political cadre that they may be enabled and empowered to lead working people in their everyday struggles.”

Gearóid finished his oration by outlining the position of the CPI, of drawing lessons from the historical experiences and legacy of Connolly, by stating: “We will continue to work with left republicans and trade unionists, in the Peadar O’Donnell Forum to analyse and dissect the class relations and imperial grip on Ireland. James Connolly was keenly aware of the nature of the oppressive structures and the importance of broad working-class unity in resisting its insidious threat to democracy, culture, independence, and sovereignty.

“He was among the first to combine the politics of anti-imperialist nationalism with international Marxism in the colonial arena. His fundamental teaching is that the struggle for national liberation is not isolated from the struggles for socialism but an integral and necessary part of it.”

Alex Homits, speaking as a young person growing up in contemporary Ireland, spoke of the experiences of many of the younger generation when he said: “It is a curious thing to commemorate a man whose ideas are so written out of the Irish history curriculum that growing up here you would think he did not exist. We exist, and the impact on Irish history and the struggle for liberation is something we continue to evaluate and feel today. Connolly redirected the historical undercurrents of Irish republicanism and in life and death energised a conflict-ridden movement with firm, concrete leadership.

“Connolly cut through the abstractions of capitalism, liberty, and independence. He determined sovereignty in the most concrete and immediate terms. He brought a new programme for an earlier political programme for the Irish Socialist Republican Party, a document with which we are familiar.

“None of us are naïve about the difficulties we face in reorienting the struggles of the working class into a cohesive and ideologically driven challenge to the capitalist state. Those struggles are happening every day all around us, and we as communists must be to the fore in the people’s struggles, both defensive and offensive. The role and the contribution of the party in this period is vitally important, laying new groundwork for contact and communication with the working class and the popular masses.”

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MMIWG finally releases inquiry report

The following are just a few of the recommendations issued by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

1.1 We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments (hereinafter “all governments”), in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and implement a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, as recommended in our Interim Report and in support of existing recommendations by other bodies of inquiry and other reports.

1.2 We call upon all governments to ensure that equitable access to basic rights such as employment, housing, education, safety, and health care is recognized as a fundamental means of protecting Indigenous and human rights, resourced and supported as rights-based programs founded on substantive equality.

1.4 We call upon all governments, and in particular Indigenous governments, to support the development of Indigenous representative organizations, to take urgent and special measures to enhance and protect the role of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people in governance and leadership.

1.5 We call upon all governments to immediately take all necessary steps to provide support to Indigenous Peoples, including Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudspersons, with authority in all jurisdictions, and to establish a National Indigenous and Human Rights Tribunal. The ombudsperson and tribunal must be independent of governments and have the authority to receive complaints from Indigenous individuals as well as Indigenous communities in relation to Indigenous human rights violations and to conduct thorough and independent investigations of government sector and non-government sector violations of Indigenous rights. The ombudsperson and tribunal must be given all reasonable assistance to fulfill their mandates and must be permanent.

1.6 We call upon all governments to create specific and long-term funding, available to Indigenous communities and organizations, to create, deliver, and disseminate prevention programs, education, and awareness campaigns designed for Indigenous communities and families related to violence prevention and to protect the rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

1.7 We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, to establish a National Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudsperson, with authority in all jurisdictions, and to establish a National Indigenous and Human Rights Tribunal. The ombudsperson and tribunal must be independent of governments and have the authority to receive complaints from Indigenous individuals as well as Indigenous communities in relation to Indigenous human rights violations and to conduct thorough and independent investigations of government sector and non-government sector violations of Indigenous rights. The ombudsperson and tribunal must be given all reasonable assistance to fulfill their mandates and must be permanent.

1.8 We call upon all governments to provide appropriate, stable, and secure funding for Indigenous-centred and community-based health and wellness services that are accessible and culturally appropriate, and meet the health and wellness needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. The lack of these programs and services within Indigenous communities continues to force Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to relocate in order to access care. Governments must ensure that health and wellness services are available and accessible within Indigenous communities and when Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.

2.2 We call upon all governments to ensure that Indigenous individuals are treated with the same status, recognition, and protection provided to French and English.

2.3 We call upon all governments to that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are provided with safe, no-barrier, permanent, and meaningful access to their cultures and languages in order to restore, reclaim, and revitalize their cultures and identities. These are rights held by all segments of Indigenous communities, from young children to Elders. The programs and services that provide such access should not be tied exclusively to government-run cultural or educational institutions. All governments must further ensure that the rights of Indigenous children to retain and be educated in their Indigenous language are upheld and protected. All governments must ensure access to immersion programs for children from preschool into post-secondary education.

2.4 We call upon all governments to ensure that Indigenous and Human Rights Ombudspersons have the authority to receive complaints from Indigenous individuals as well as Indigenous communities in relation to Indigenous human rights violations and to conduct thorough and independent investigations of government sector and non-government sector violations of Indigenous rights. The ombudsperson and tribunal must be independent of governments and have the authority to receive complaints from Indigenous individuals as well as Indigenous communities in relation to Indigenous human rights violations and to conduct thorough and independent investigations of government sector and non-government sector violations of Indigenous rights. The ombudsperson and tribunal must be given all reasonable assistance to fulfill their mandates and must be permanent.

2.5 We call upon all governments to ensure that Indigenous children and youth have access to safe housing, clean drinking water, and adequate food.

2.6 We call upon all governments to recognize Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the pursuit of economic social development. All governments must support and resource economic and social progress and development on an equitable basis, as these measures are required to uphold the human dignity, life, health, and safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. All governments must support community-based supports and solutions designed to improve social and economic security, led by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This support must come with long-term, sustainable funding designed to meet the needs and objectives as defined by Indigenous Peoples and communities.

4.5 We call upon all governments to establish a guaranteed annual livable income for all Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples, to meet all their social and economic needs. This income must take into account diverse needs, realities, and geographic locations.

4.6 We call upon all governments to immediately commence the construction of new housing and the provision of repairs for existing housing to meet the housing needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This construction and provision of repairs must ensure that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people have access to housing that is safe, appropriate to geographic and cultural needs, and available wherever they reside, whether in urban, rural, remote, or
Pakistan ports sack union organizers

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) has condemned the recent sackings of eight union leaders by Hutchison Ports Pakistan (HPKP), which it described as "a flagrant violation of people's rights." The ITF demanded that the workers be reinstated and called on the government of Pakistan to ensure that the workers' rights are respected.

The ITF, which represents millions of transport workers around the world, said in a statement that the sackings were "a clear violation of the right to freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining." The ITF also expressed concern that the sackings were part of a broader trend of attacks on trade unions and labour rights in Pakistan.

The ITF said that it was "alarmed by the escalating attacks on trade unions and labour rights in Pakistan." The ITF called on the government of Pakistan to ensure that trade unions and labour rights are respected and protected.

The ITF said that it would continue to monitor the situation and would take further action if necessary.

Tokyo Olympics exploits migrants

A former Olympian and head of a human-rights group is asking the Tokyo Organising Committee to investigate worker exploitation as athletes prepare for the Olympics. Mary Harvey is the CEO of the Geneva-based Centre for the Right to Work, which is organizing a protest on Tuesday.

"We think the fight against the big business and its parties is a year-round job! Our members are always on the watch," Harvey said.

The protest comes as Japan is preparing for the Olympics, which are scheduled to begin on July 23.

About 55,000 migrant workers perform labor-intensive work in the construction industry. Harvey said that the workers are often paid less than the minimum wage and are subjected to long hours and poor working conditions.

"It's a shame that the Olympic Games, which are supposed to be a symbol of peace and harmony, are marred by such exploitation," Harvey said. "We call on the Tokyo Organising Committee to take immediate action to ensure that all workers are treated fairly and that the Games are a celebration of human rights and dignity, not a showcase for exploitation and inequality."
Canada was the second country to recognize Juan Guaido after he declared himself "president" on January 23. It has since continued to back Guaido’s attempts to oust the Maduro government and has begun to forge diplomatic relations with Guaido’s leader’s representative in the country, Orlando Viera Blanco, who has held a number of meetings with government representatives and MPs in Ottawa and Vancouver. The Trudeau administration has also followed US President Donald Trump in imposing several rounds of sanctions on the Caracas government, leading to a number of arrests. The diplomatic wrangle comes as Guaido’s team faces a setback in its efforts to replace Maduro’s diplomatic representation in Brazil. The far-right Bolsonaro government, which similarly recognizes Guaido as the legitimate Venezuelan president, had previously invited his envoy, Maria Teresa Belandria, to present her credentials at the Palace of Power, only to later inform that the invitation had been withdrawn. “I was uninvited,” she told Reuters, downplaying the political impact of the move.

Meanwhile, a new article on analysis by Montreal-based activist Yves Engler reveals how Canada has supported opposition parties in Venezuela, in some of the most anti-democratic, hardline elements. The Trudeau Liberals have openly backed Voluntad Popular’s bid to seize power since January, writes Engler, a long after the Democratic Unity Roundtable coalition’s obstruction of Guaido’s efforts to oust the president. Engler reports that the Liberal government has openly backed Voluntad Popular’s bid to seize power since January, and that the Trudeau administration has failed to hold it accountable for its actions.

The current political deadlock in Sudan. How did we end up here? By Ceren Sagir, UK Morning Star, June 7, 2019

Sudanese health officials have disputed the country’s death toll following deadly attacks by paramilitary gangs on peaceful protesters demanding an end to military rule.

On June 6, Undersecretary of Health Soliman Abdel Gabbar claimed 60 people had been killed since the crackdown began on June 3, including two corpses pulled from the Nile river.

On June 5, the Sudanese Doctors’ Central Committee, a group associated with the protesters, said 40 bodies had been retrieved from the Nile, with reports of possibly dozens more. The doctors’ committee also said three children — shot inside their own homes in the capital — were among a total of 106 killed.

Violent clashes erupted following attempts to clear a sit-in protest outside the military headquarters in Khartoum by the feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Thousands had been gathered there for weeks, demanding the military council hand over power to civilian authorities.

Just before the June 5 attacks against protesters the government, under the leadership of the Sudanese Communist Party, published a document highlighting the political situation in Sudan since the takeover of power by the Transitional Military Council (TMC), and the challenges facing the forces for the declaration of freedom and change coalition (FDFC). This is a slightly abridged version of the statement.

“The TMC took over power in Sudan immediately after the December 2018 general elections. The new government was formed under the leadership of the transitional military council (TMC). It was agreed to sit down with the council to negotiate anything that might be agreed to. The TMC declared itself not to be able to complete its work within five months of non-protests to the triumph of the democratic movement,” the TMC stated. “The TMC will not accept any interference by the National Armed Forces and the Security Services of the previous regime. It is one of our loyal members, friends and sympathisers. However, as we were governed by the TMC, we chose to move pragmatically and take the position that ensures the unity of the opposition under the leadership of FDFC. Through a lengthy and strenuous process, the FDFC managed to reach a deal with the TMC regarding the duration, procedures, and the composition and terms of reference of both the ministerial and the legislative councils. However, the negotiations collapsed over the composition of the supreme council of the TMC. TMC is composed of some 100 members who will be the president of the supreme council. Currently, we are facing a political crisis in the country, and the TMC’s claim that the TMC is composed of some 100 members who will be the president of the supreme council.

A few years ago, the TMC was the only group that was created in order to support the democracy movement. The TMC has failed in exercising transparency, truthfulness and effectiveness in closing the gaps with the Sudanese people and the previous regime. Security forces loyal to the previous regime are operating freely and terrorising the Sudanese people. Security forces loyal to the previous regime are operating freely and terrorising the Sudanese people. Security forces loyal to the previous regime are operating freely and terrorising the Sudanese people. Security forces loyal to the previous regime are operating freely and terrorising the Sudanese people. Security forces loyal to the previous regime are operating freely and terrorising the Sudanese people.

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Anti-communist ban intensifies in Poland

From Solidarno˙net

Anti-communist persecution in Poland has intensified as the state authorities attempt to criminalize communist activity by changes to the penal code, part of a campaign aimed at banning the Communist Party of Poland. The legal changes are also part of the persecution, such as a trial of members of the former EPP and the “Brazak” editorial board, which has lasted for about 3.5 years, despite the fact that the court to the parliament.

The amendments to the penal code, including the ban on communist activity (article 256) were made just ten days before the elections to the European Parliament last month. They mean heavier, unacceptable punishments and widening scope of punishable crimes, concerning 105 out of 360 articles of the penal code. The government presented the changes as a reaction to the ongoing pedophilia scandal among Catholic priests, but just a few amendments concern this particular crime. On May 14th, the proposed legislation was sent by judges nominated by the government to the parliament. The next day the Sejm (lower chamber) started the legislative procedure, and May 16. It was voted and passed by the Sejm. Later it was passed to the upper chamber (Senate), which added a further 43 amendments, which have been returned to be voted in the Sejm. Since the government has the majority in both chambers, no problems are expected with passing the amendments, before the new law is signed by the president. Despite a widespread opinion among lawyers that the penal code changes violate the constitution and human rights, the Constitutional Court is controlled by judges nominated by the government.

Amended Article 256 bans communist symbols and equates it with Nazism and fascism. Previously it penalised the promotion of “fascist or other totalitarian systems of the state”. Ten years ago a previous attempt to ban communist symbols with the same article was met with international and internal protests, and in 2011 it was cancelled by the Constitutional Court. However, in recent years the law was used very widely. The new version of the law bans the ideology, symbols or any other content (prints, recordings), as well as presentation and possession of any symbol of this content. The new code also increases the penalty from 2 to 3 years of imprisonment.

The Polish Communists have asked for international solidarity oppose this anti-democratic legislation.

Outside In, A Political Memoir, by Libby Davies, published by Between The Lines, 320 pages.

Review by Kimball Cariou

When the realization hit a few years ago that a big shake-up was inevitable at Vancouver City Hall, the conversation among progressive people was about one thing: who should run for mayor after Vision’s Gregor Robertson? Hands down, the popular favourite was Libby Davies, who had recently retired after 18 years as the NDP MP for Vancouver East.

It must have been tempting for Davies to contemplate being mayor of the city where she began her activist and political career while still a teenager, just a few years after her family emigrated from England. But as this memoir makes clear, she wasn’t prepared to return to the electoral arena, mostly for personal reasons.

Anybody who thinks that being a progressive elected politician is a cushy job should read this book, whether you give a pretty accurate look at how things work, from the grassroots level, up to municipal politics and then Parliament. Libby Davies got into the fight to improve the lives of poor, working class people in Vancouver, joining the Downtown Eastside Residents Association (DERA). By the age of 20 she was a rising star among a group of dynamic community organizers. One of the people she drew into DERA was a much older Bruce Erikson, who had a reputation for raising tough, controversial conditions in the rooming houses and bars along East Hastings Street. Davies’ description of the early struggles of DERA and the growth of the Committee of Progressive Electors (COPE) into a strong political contender is fascinating. So is the tender depiction of her relationship with Erikson, despite the objections of some who thought he must be “exploiting” her. Starting in 1982, the two were elected to several terms on Vancouver City Council, becoming a powerful political team until his tragic death from cancer in 1997. After that year, still suffering from this loss, Davies was elected the NDP MP for Vancouver East.

It wasn’t the last time Davies ignored conventions, as she did later in Ottawa, surprising herself by courageously speaking in Parliament about her relationship with a woman (her partner Kim Elliot), during the debates over equal marriage rights. Through it all, Libby Davies won a strong reputation for speaking the truth without fear and putting the interests of working people first.

Outside In, by Libby Davies

Ten years after her family emigrated from England. But as this memoir makes clear, she wasn’t prepared to return to the electoral arena, mostly for personal reasons.

Whether intentionally or not, those who write the Communist Party out of the record do a disservice to the struggle for socialist change in Canada. That’s an unfortunate flaw in this very powerful book.
about Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

7.1 - We call upon all governments and health service providers to recognize that Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, including 2SLGBTQQIA people - are the experts in caring for and healing themselves, and that health and wellness services are most effective when they are designed and delivered by the Indigenous Peoples they are supposed to serve, in a manner consistent with and grounded in the practices, worldviews, cultures, languages, and values of the diverse Inuit, Métis, and First Nations communities they serve.

10.1 - We call upon all governments and service providers to fund and support greater awareness of 2SLGBTQQIA issues, and to implement programs, services, and practical supports for 2SLGBTQQIA people - that include distinctions-based approaches that take into account the specific needs and safety for 2SLGBTQQIA individuals and groups.

The crisis in Sudan....

in the region, several visiting countries, speaking in the name of people and entering into shared and common agreements and policies on behalf of the people of Sudan in addition to receiving financial and logistic support from some of these said countries, unlawfully. The TMC has virtually declared itself the legitimate government of Sudan and is acting as one.

The TMC is actively attempting to break the unity and patience of the people of Sudan and their voluntary leadership, the FDFC, by using several dubious and their voluntary leadership, the FDFC, by using several dubious

people who are homeless, near homeless, dealing with food insecurity, or in poverty, who are perpetrators of violence or have been subjected to sexualized violence and exploitation. All governments must ensure that shelters, transitional housing, second-stage housing, and services are appropriate to cultural needs, and available wherever Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people reside.

4.8 - We call upon all governments to ensure that the unity and funding are put into place for safe and affordable transit and education, by using several dubious and their voluntary leadership, the FDFC, by using several dubious and their voluntary leadership, the FDFC, by using several dubious and their voluntary leadership, the FDFC, by using several dubious

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Trump’s ban on China’s Huawei: Fear of competition

By Ian Goodrum, People’s World

Seems like the United States doesn’t just make washing machines or pork rinds – it’s in the hostage-taking business, too. At least that’s what it looks like after President Donald Trump’s Department of Commerce announced that China’s Shenzhen-based tech giant Huawei would be put on the “Entity List,” a list of firms legally prohibited from trade with the US based on – well, based on whatever reason the president pulls out of thin air.

Pretty smart way to run a global economy. But with such a move thrown at a single company’s way, you might be wondering what all the fuss is about. The answer is as predictable as it is simple. Germany, Britain, and other countries in the European Union were recently considering Huawei-based infrastructure for their 5G wireless networks. Adoption of this technology would put a “Sputnik moment” for Chinese tech. Trump showed then he had no interest in playing by any set of rules but his own, and the punitive tactics against that company showed the rest of the industry it had to prepare for a similar assault.

By stockpiling components and dedicating more resources to building operating systems and chipware of their own, Huawei and others took steps to protect themselves from the inevitable. Recent moves singling out Huawei show the prudence of such strategy – and not just at an enterprise level. National policy to safeguard domestic companies has proven quite wise, given the current hostile climate.

To say nothing of what this does to US tech’s credibility. By following Trump’s lead, Google has shown its true colours. Many lamented the company’s exit from the Chinese mainland, wondering what possible reason there would be to keep a transnational colossus like Google from operating. Well, now we know – the second the US government asked it to enact an explicitly political demand, it did so without hesitation.

Imagine if the Chinese tech industry had totally relied on Google software and applications, and the US government asked it to enact a similar assault. By stockpiling components and dedicating more resources to building operating systems and chipware of their own, Huawei and others took steps to protect themselves from the inevitable. Recent moves singling out Huawei show the prudence of such strategy – and not just at an enterprise level. National policy to safeguard domestic companies has proven quite wise, given the current hostile climate.

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This belligerent move gives us an opportunity to re-evaluate the supposedly benevolent nature of US tech. Saturated by a media storm slandering their competitors, it’s easy to forget US internet behemoths do the bidding of their government on a regular basis. Facebook conspired with the National Security Agency for its PRISM surveillance program, and Amazon built a computing cloud for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Google joined PRISM around the same time as Facebook, but its relationship with intelligence gathering agencies goes even deeper; it is the product of CIA and NSA research grants. So it’s abundantly clear a Google or Facebook given free rein to operate would be something of a “fox in the henhouse” – albeit one that keeps its hunger in check long enough to build a customer base among the chickens.

But that’s not the only wrinkle in this story. As these companies move into new markets, they sap burgeoning domestic rivals of their innovative oomph. They leverage economies of scale to dominate and drive smaller “underdogs” becoming synonymous with the services they provide.

In so doing, they grow into gargantuan hyper-monopolies, wielding a level of influence previously only held by large countries. Ultimately, they answer to their home nations – in this case, the United States – functioning as “soft power” organs while claiming nominal autonomy.