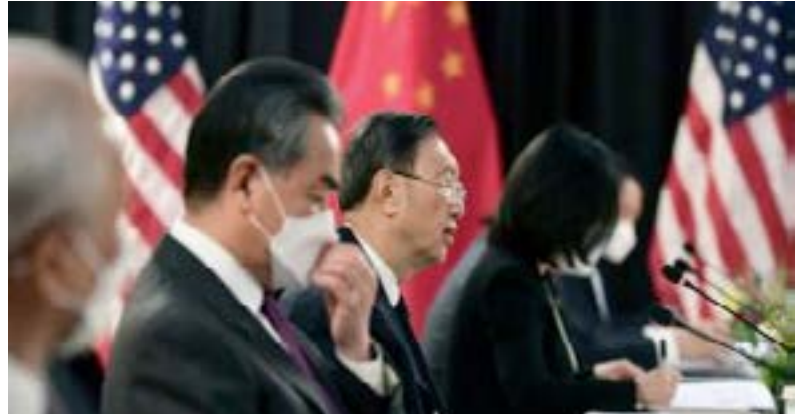


China rejects U.S.' human rights hypocrisy, points to repression of Black Lives Matter



By Casey Davidson

Top officials from China and the United States exchanged verbal blows at the Alaska Summit last week, after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan opened the session by making false and unwarranted accusations about China's governance and international affairs.

In the summit's opening remarks, Blinken accused China of threatening a "rules-based order that maintains global stability" by their actions regarding Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan; through alleged cyberattacks on the U.S.; and economic coercion in other nations. In an attempt to put additional pressure on the Chinese officials, he pointed out that U.S.-allied countries, as well as important neighbors and trading partners of China—South Korea and Japan—were also concerned.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Chinese Director of the General Commission for Foreign Affairs Yang Jiechi responded in an uncustomary way by pointing the finger back at the U.S., saying the country should address its own human rights record and stop interfering in China's internal affairs. The Chinese delegates assertively clarified that the U.S. does not represent international public opinion and that China would not be shaken by unwelcoming and threatening behavior.

The U.S. maintains a military presence in the

South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, and just days before the summit put sanctions on Chinese ministers. While the mainstream media describes these actions as essential for countering human rights violations and cyberattacks, the reality is that China has improved living conditions for its population and sustains a non-interference policy with other nations. The U.S. government's demands are in no way an effort to "maintain global stability," but rather to maintain global hegemony.

T H I S W E E K :

- **China rejects U.S.' human rights hypocrisy, points to repression of BLM**
- **Scientists alarmed over surging atmospheric methane, CO2**
- **Orban, Morawiecki, and Salvini launch reactionary international**
- **Avanza la vacunación de trabajadores agrícolas en California**
- **A virtual birthday celebration for Paul Robeson on April 9**

READ MORE NEWS AND OPINION DAILY AT WWW.PEOPLESWORLD.ORG

While the Trump administration was instrumental in hardening the U.S. approach towards relations with China, the new Biden administration appears to be relying on an illusion of U.S. moral superiority in its early dealings with China. Sullivan lectured the Chinese officials on the "secret sauce of America,"

It is uncommon for Chinese officials to publicly criticize other countries, and it is perhaps unlikely this would have resulted had the U.S. not been so aggressive in its comments.

that is, the ability to confront challenges and come out more united as a country.

In turn, Minister Yang countered that the U.S. does not have the qualifications to speak to China in such a condescending manner, especially given that the U.S. is a country with ongoing human rights concerns of its own and regularly interferes politically in nations around the world.

It is uncommon for Chinese officials to publicly criticize other countries, and it is perhaps unlikely this would have resulted under different conditions.

Yang was able to point out the hypocrisy of the U.S. at the Alaska summit, citing examples such as the repression of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Capitol riot and attempted Trump coup, and endless U.S.-led wars. The United States is no longer in a position to lecture and dictate discussions on matters of domestic concern.

A hopeful outcome of the summit was the long discussions held in private following the opening remarks. Martin Sieff, Senior Fellow at American

University in Moscow, remarked that when private meetings tend to last for longer than expected, it often means that both sides seek to understand each other and make progress. This means that rules could be established and some level of diplomacy and cooperation on shared issues such as the pandemic, climate change, and economic stability could be managed.

However, Sieff also remarked that there are concerns about whether the U.S. government will be able to change its outdated perspectives. "They are not looking at China as it is; they are looking in terms of their own past assumptions, which were not even true ten, twenty, or thirty years ago."

Scientists alarmed over surging atmospheric methane, CO2

By Climate Nexus

Atmospheric methane levels surged in 2020, a new report from NOAA shows, accelerating an increasing trend, alarming scientists, and possibly auguring a vicious cycle of global heating.

NOAA also announced global atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are higher than at any point in the last 3.6 million years. "It is very scary indeed," Euan Nisbet, professor of earth sciences at Royal Holloway University of London, told the Financial Times. About 60% of methane emissions are caused by human activity, and U.S. oil and gas operations are a major driver of recent methane pollution increases.

"Although increased fossil emissions may not be fully responsible for the recent growth in methane levels," NOAA research chemist Ed Dlugokencky said in a statement, "reducing fossil methane emissions is an important step toward mitigating climate change."

Methane is a far more potent heat-trapping gas than carbon dioxide, and scientists are worried global warming could be triggering accelerated methane releases from tropical wetlands and melting Arctic permafrost. "Our path to net zero

is obvious, challenging, and necessary," Martin Siebert, a professor at the Imperial College London, told The Guardian, "and we must get on with the transition urgently."

As reported by The Guardian:

Professor Simon Lewis, from University College London, said: "It is easy to forget just how much and just how fast fossil fuel emissions are affecting our planet.

"It took over 200 years to increase the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by 25%, and just 30 years to reach 50% above pre-industrial levels. This dramatic change is like a human meteorite hitting Earth."

But he added: "If countries make plans now to put society on a path of sustained and dramatic cuts to emissions from today, we can avoid ever-rising emissions and the dangerously accelerating impacts of climate change."

Atmospheric methane levels surged in 2020, accelerating an increasing trend, alarming scientists, and possibly auguring a vicious cycle of global heating.

Political center crumbles as Orban, Morawiecki, and Salvini launch reactionary international



By Morning Star

Christians come in many different colors, from communist and socialist red to conservative blue and fascist brown.

All can interpret passages in the Bible to justify their political policies, although it sounds especially discordant when self-proclaimed followers of the “prince of peace” preach stridently in favor of weapons of genocidal mass murder.

Viktor Orban, Mateusz Morawiecki, and Matteo Salvini proclaim the commitment of their Hungarian, Polish and Italian parties to “Atlanticism, freedom, family, Christianity, sovereignty, and opposing anti-semitism.”

Theirs is a project of elephantine gestation. It has been talked about for three years as the Fidesz party of Prime Minister Orban has encountered growing criticism of its illiberal views from the conservative European People’s Party in the EU parliament.

The articles of faith recited by Orban, Morawiecki, and Salvini in Budapest, indicate that they constitute an unholy trinity of diehard reactionaries.

Their adherence to Atlanticism signifies a resurgent enthusiasm for a new cold war, although it is not yet clear against whom. The Polish and Hungarian prime ministers are rabidly in favor of rewriting history — even if that means whitewashing home-grown nationalism and fascism — in order to demonize all things Russian and communist.

Salvini, on the other hand, recognizes in Putin a fellow anti-liberal and anti-communist

authoritarian with whom business can be done.

For their part, the ruling parties in Hungary and Poland can see the opportunities for economic development in their countries offered by China’s Belt and Road initiative. Their lack of enthusiasm for joining the anti-China offensive launched by the U.S. and British governments raises the question: what do they mean by Atlanticism, beyond the visceral anti-communism they share with most other Nato powers?

It is clearer what Orban, Morawiecki, and Salvini have in their minds when they talk of freedom, family, Christianity, and sovereignty. Far from the kind of Christianity which views all of god’s children as equal, as sisters and brothers, our profane triumvirate believe in the sanctity of a white Europe, free from what they regard as the modern-day plagues of mass immigration and Islam.

They want their countries to be free and sovereign in the sense that they can ignore the European Convention on Human Rights and the tenets of international humanitarian law.

In any event, they represent a growing threat to democratic rights, peace, and benign internationalism. The left must take note and strengthen its alliances with genuine liberals, democrats, and progressive Christians.

As Aneurin Bevan used to say: “We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the road. They get run over.”

Christians come in many different colors, from communist and socialist red to conservative blue and fascist brown.

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL CONTACT

contact@peoplesworld.org

A virtual birthday celebration for Paul Robeson on April 9

By Special to People's World

Paul Robeson (1898-1976), actor, singer, athlete, and civil rights activist, is the inspiration for The Robey Theatre Company and the man from whom The Robey gets its name.

On Friday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. PDT, The Robey will hold a virtual birthday celebration for Paul Robeson. This is the first of the projected annual celebrations commemorating Paul Robeson.

The Robey Theatre Company's Producing Artistic Director, Ben Guillory, will make welcoming remarks about the artistic and historical importance of Robeson on the occasion of his 123rd birthday.

Randy Ross, Ph.D., has written a short theatre piece, *Essie's Paul*, about Robeson and his wife, Eslanda (Essie) Cardozo Goode Robeson, which will be performed by actors Chauntice Green and Jah Shams.

The party continues with documentary film footage of Paul Robeson.

Ben Guillory and Melvin Ishmael Johnson will have a conversation with Mary Louise Patterson (daughter of William Lorenzo Patterson) and Susan Robeson (granddaughter of Paul Robeson, pending availability) about the lives of Paul Robeson and William Lorenzo Patterson and their impact on the Civil Rights Movement and their relevance to all of our lives today.

Ben Guillory and Danny Glover will present the Paul Robeson Award to Los Angeles City Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas in recognition of his longtime contributions to the artistic, cultural and civic life of Los Angeles.

Avanza la vacunación de trabajadores agrícolas en California

BY DAISY NGUYEN AND
OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

La batalla por contener la devastación causada por el coronavirus en el centro de California llega a la frontera con México, donde a los trabajadores migrantes que se dirigen al norte para las cosechas de lechuga, brócoli, zanahorias y otros cultivos se les ofrece la vacuna contra el COVID-19 apenas ingresan a Estados Unidos.

California está vacunando a los trabajadores agrícolas buscándolos donde viven y donde trabajan, protegiendo a una población golpeada en forma desproporcionada por el virus. Activistas dicen que la campaña fue lenta al comienzo, pero tomó impulso en las últimas semanas, a medida que aumenta la cantidad de vacunas disponibles y surgen clínicas ambulantes que van a las granjas y las plantas de procesamiento de alimentos.

Los trabajadores agrícolas son especialmente vulnerables porque viven amontonados en dormitorios y comen también juntos. Con frecuencia van a los campos en camionetas o autobuses atestados o trabajan en plantas de procesamiento también en estrecho contacto.

Investigadores de la Universidad de Purdue calculan que unos 9.000 trabajadores agrícolas fallecieron por el COVID-19 en Estados Unidos y casi medio millón se contagiaron del virus.

California fue el primer estado que autorizó la vacunación de trabajadores agrícolas en Estados Unidos y luego lo imitaron otros estados, incluidos Washington, Michigan y Georgia. Arizona, otro estado fronterizo con México, no los declaró prioritarios, pero algunas empresas los están vacunando por su cuenta. En

la Florida, el principal productor de cítricos del país, activistas dicen que han tratado sin éxito de hacer que se elimine el requisito de residencia para la vacunación y de que se declare a los trabajadores del campo personal esencial.

California es el principal productor de frutas y vegetales de Estados Unidos y ese sector emplea unos 800.000 trabajadores agrícolas. Algunos llegan con visas H2A y tienen sus papeles en orden, pero muchos están en el país sin permiso.

No está claro cuántos trabajadores agrícolas han sido vacunados hasta ahora porque las autoridades no toman nota de la ocupación de las personas que inocula. El Departamento de Salud de California dice que tiene una veintena de centros de vacunación ambulantes. Tres de cada cuatro se encuentran en el fértil Central Valley.

“Hay mucho optimismo y esperanza ahora porque los trabajadores agrícolas sienten que se les ha dado prioridad y esta vacuna les permite mucha flexibilidad”, manifestó Diana Tellefson Torres, directora ejecutiva de la Fundación United Farm Workers, aludiendo a la vacuna Johnson & Johnson.

Los inmigrantes sin permiso de residencia a veces tienen miedo de apuntarse para ser vacunados o presentarse a los centros de vacunación que requieren inscripción por la internet. Muchos no tienen acceso a la internet o no saben cómo manejarla, de acuerdo con Hernán Hernández, director ejecutivo de la California Farmworker Foundation.

NATIONAL CONTACT

Editorial: (773) 446-9920 Business: (212) 924-2523
Email: contact@peoplesworld.org