

# Socialist Vanguard

March 2019 Newsletter

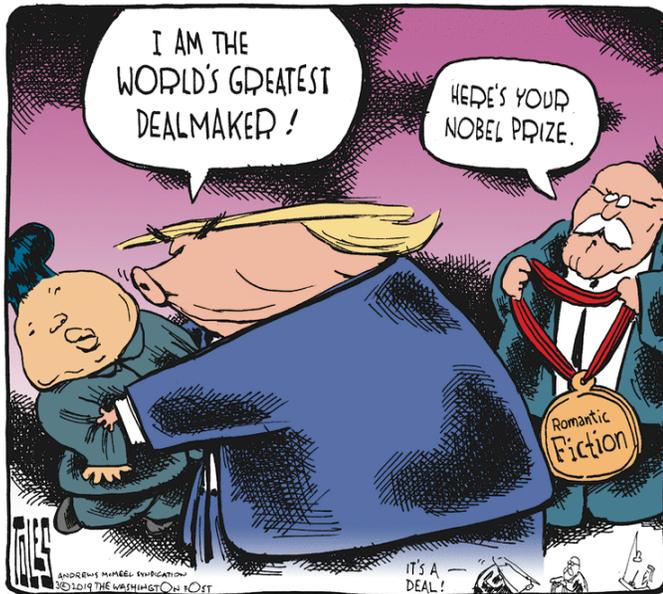
Issue # 102

Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

## Tragedy: Trump and North Korea Talks

Trump, the ignorant negotiator, packed up his bags and tried to put a positive spin on the fail summit with North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un. The truth is that when an international summit breaks down without any agreements, it means there was a failure to find any common grounds.



After the previous meeting between Trump and Jong-un there was a bit of hope as Trump made some concessions and Jong-un apparently vowed to halt testing of North Korea's missile program. With closer scrutiny of Trump's claims after the last one, it was apparent that not much happened. North Korea made no effort to dismantle its nuclear weapon program. A few US citizens, who were political prisoners in North Korea, were released, and tensions between the two nations seemed to be reduced. The two leaders pledged to meet again.

Part of the failure lies in the personality of USA President Trump, who wants applause more than results and who depends more on his "gut" feelings than on traditional diplomatic practices, that may be slow at times, but are based on slowly, building trust and confidence. Trump's penchant for speaking without thinking and frequently changing his positions makes for uncertainty and distrust.

Most of the diplomatic progress had little to do with US diplomacy (or Trump's efforts), but was really the product of South Korea's reaching out to North Korea to try to resolve differences and perhaps reunite their nation. One lesson to be learned is that the South Korean government is strong enough to hold its own as a nation-state as it deals with its neighbors (Japan, China, Russia, North Korea and other Asia nations). The Korean War was a product of the early stages of the Cold War (Capitalism v Communism). The Cold War is over, it makes sense for North and South Korea to decide their own fate. Promoting peaceful negotiations and resolutions makes more sense than keeping US troops deployed under the pretense of protecting against the Communist hordes. Russia gave up communism, China still claims to be a communist nation, but has many billionaires and capitalist investments, Japan is too busy (as is South Korea) trading and investing in its neighbors to have any realistic threats to its sovereignty. The US presence is seen by many in the region as a guise for maintaining US dominance, not as a source of real protection. The USA should participate in trade agreements and other efforts to open up dialog between the Asian (or expand that to Pacific Rim) nations. This should mean efforts to dissolve borders and barriers, not to perpetuate differences.



It would be nice if all Chinese could expect to earn a livable wage and work in safe working conditions. It would be great if each nation made a real effort to prevent wealth from accumulating in the hands of a few but be shared by all. **This socialist goal may seem like an impossible, idealistic dream, but it would be much cheaper and more humane than the current practice of pouring money into weaponry that hurts people and we hope never gets used!** DS

## Thanks For Your Financial Support!

Recently, we sent out a request for financial support. We received strong support demonstrating the recognition that the USA needs an independent socialist voice.

If you have not sent in a donation yet, your donation is still welcome.

Again, thanks for your support! DS

*Words for thought*

***"The basic requirement of any Democratic (Socialist) candidate is to make the forgotten, the struggling and the invisible of American society feel visible again." Roger Cohen***

**Newsletter from Wisconsin State Senator David Craig**

**Message: ‘Don’t Get Sick!’**

Wisconsin State Senator (GOP representing residents in Milwaukee’s southwestern suburbs sent out an email/newsletter warning of the dangers of expanding Medicaid. The newsletter began:

*We have seen time and time again in almost every situation where government has expanded into the marketplace, the costs go up for consumers. The same is true in healthcare. We need to look no further than the states that have taken Medicaid expansion to see this happening again.*

*Medicaid expansion is not a "gift" from the federal government as some might have you believe. Generally, federal programs and funding come with regulatory strings attached which increase costs. Further, federal money will be withdrawn over time as has happened so many times in the past, leaving a budget hole that puts state taxpayers on the hook. The real costs are additionally subsidized by people with private insurance whose premiums increase as Medicaid rolls rise.*

*Ultimately, the increased costs will be shared by those with private insurance and by taxpayers.*

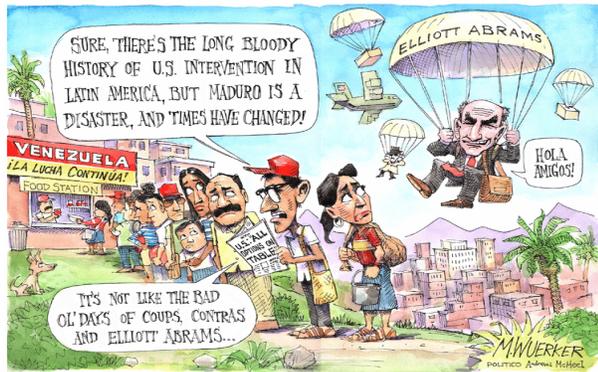
The newsletter then gives credit for this information to studies by two conservative think-tanks, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) and the Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE). The conclusions about costs by the two organizations is correct, but they are both based on short-sight visions. One is the lack of humanity and concern for those who may get sick and lack health insurance, the other is who pays when the uninsured end up in an emergency room and can’t afford the bill. Under our existing system (it has been alleviated somewhat by the Affordable Care Act) and plans promoted by the GOP, there would be a ‘Don’t Get Sick’ plan. It is really cheap, as long as one is fortunate to avoid accidents and illnesses.

A major goal of socialized medicine or other government sponsored health care programs is that we share the costs of bad health and take care of each other. **Health care should be a right (it is in all other developed economies), not a privilege. Bad health regardless of how it is paid for is costly for all of us! DS**

**Trump: The Disruptor**

This year Trump has decided to wreak havoc in Central and South America. First his calling for greater border security in the face of caravans of children and mothers moving across Mexico to seek asylum and a better life in the USA. This migration poses little or no threat to the USA, but plays on the fears of some about “invading hordes of violent psychopaths” Again there is no evidence of trouble makers among the migrants, mostly women and children

spread his power and sent help to poor people throughout the western hemisphere, including the USA. In retrospect he would have been wiser to keep the money in the country. Chavez died in 2013 and was replaced by Nicolas Maduro, Maduro lacks the charisma of Chavez, but has maintained support of the indigenous people and the military. In 2018 Maduro ran for reelection and won 67.8% of the vote. The result was challenged by several countries, including the USA as well as critics in Venezuela. In the name of democracy (remember who won the election) Juan Guaido was recognized as president by Maduro opponents and the USA. Maduro has continued in office, but has faced much pressure for the USA and the old ruling classes. While Maduro has made numerous mistakes and appears eager to concentrate more power, the claim that supporting Guaido will restore democracy is probably a case of fake news. Meanwhile Trump has recognized a recently elected fascist in Brazil.



Trump is pushing for political change in Venezuela in the name of democracy. Venezuela, like much of Central and South America is a country divided by ethnic and class lines. On one side are indigenous people, consisting of poor farmers. The other side is made up of people of mostly European origins who own much of the wealth and make up the upper and middle-classes. One of the loudest South American leftist leaders was Venezuelan leader, Hugo Chavez. Chavez said he wanted to establish a popular democracy, and provide a more equitable distribution of. Chavez was helped by high prices for oil. Chavez wanted to

Recently Trump has proposed stopping aid to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Trump says that his goal is to pressure the governments to end the movement of oppressed people from their lands. On the surface this is a heartless measure. Much of the aid has been appropriated to help these countries ameliorate the conditions pushing their citizens off their land to seek a better life. Realistically, making conditions worse in those countries will increase the pressure to escape.

Trump has also announced a willingness to seal the USA border with Mexico. This probably will increase illegal entries. American citizens who may be traveling by land into Mexico, will not be able to reenter the USA . **Let’s hope that the turmoil Trump will cause will alienate even his base of supporters and 2020 will be a good year!**

**SP-Wisconsin Local Meeting: Saturday, April 6 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee**

**Socialist Party of Wisconsin**

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