

# US “Asia Pivot” Prepares for World War

## WORKERS, SOLDIERS, STUDENTS: PIVOT TO COMMUNISM!

“China is now an economic superpower and is fast becoming a military force capable of unsettling America.” —*The Economist*, January 2012

The US-China relationship is a clear contradiction: the unity and struggle of opposites. The two economies are deeply interconnected but locked in fierce competition for global markets and energy resources. In any contradiction, unity is temporary and relative. Struggle drives inevitable change. For the US and China, that will mean war – world war.

Imperialist competition and war are fundamental features of capitalism. Communism will wipe out national borders and organize the masses worldwide into one International Communist Workers’ Party. Increased production in one region will help workers everywhere. The only war will be the struggle to suppress every attempt to restore class society.

The coming world war is our opportunity to mobilize the masses, especially rank-and-file military, for communism.

### Obama Says: US a “Pacific Power”

Last November, announcing a beefed-up US garrison in Australia, US President Obama declared that “in the Asia Pacific in the 21st century, the United States of America is all in.”

Since World War II, the US has kept dozens of military bases, a sizable naval presence, and tens of thousands of troops in Japan, South Korea and elsewhere in Asia-Pacific. The north Australia base strengthens US access to the South China Sea.

But China is Australia’s largest trading partner. And “China’s submarines and missile platforms, soon to be backed up by an aircraft carrier taskforce, are projecting naval power into regions where the US has dominated since 1945,” writes Simon Tisdell in *The Guardian* (UK).

Without naming China, Obama unveiled the

US military “pivot to Asia” on January 4th. His chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that “all trends ... are shifting toward the Pacific. So our strategic challenges will largely emanate out of the Pacific region” and the coastal areas of the Indian Ocean, including the Persian Gulf.

Obama did mention China five times in his State of the Union Address, suggesting that the US economy struggles because of China’s rapid growth. He also called for “bringing jobs back to the US” (“reindustrialization”). The first point shows why US imperialism needs to prepare to fight China. The second shows how it’s preparing for that fight.

Michael Klare writes that “almost every tanker bringing oil to China travels across the South China Sea ... By securing naval dominance of the South China Sea and adjacent waters, the Obama administration evidently aims to acquire the twenty-first century energy equivalent of twentieth-century nuclear blackmail.” The Chinese capitalists’ calculated, long-term plan to build “staggeringly expensive pipelines across the entire expanse of Asia to the Caspian Sea basin,” says Klare, shows their deep concern. (*Le Monde Diplomatique*, December, 2011)

### US Anti-War Movement:

#### Narrow Focus on Iran

Iran is crucial to China’s energy strategy. That’s the main reason why US imperialists are urgently trying to contain (if not control) Iran.

A comrade reports that his anti-war organization talks a lot about Iran and very little about China. At a recent meeting, a *Red Flag* reader drew the connections. She noted that ten years ago the US invaded Iraq to maintain control over Mideast petrodollars. The stakes in Iran are higher: the survival of the US empire, which is trying to starve China of energy.

Later she distributed a summary of the last *Red Flag* editorial. “This is very helpful, thank you!”

said one friend who read it during a boring discussion. Others are fighting for the organization to study inter-imperialist rivalry instead of droning pacifist platitudes. These friends are in a dinner-discussion group that has met for five years. Many read *Red Flag* and help in different ways.

Global mass uprisings are creating the conditions for broad discussion of the urgency of a new society. History shows “*how much the masses stand to lose by choosing sides amongst imperialist powers rather than fighting to end capitalism,*” the handout said. “*The masses are in motion. It matters a whole lot what they choose to fight for.*”

As increasing numbers choose to fight for communism, the main contradiction in the world will change from inter-imperialist rivalry to all-out revolutionary class struggle. Worldwide communist workers’ power will reorganize production and distribution, without money, to serve the needs of the masses. Communism will unleash mass creativity to develop and share new technologies and energy sources. Nowhere will anyone be better-off or worse-off than anyone else.

Join the ICWP — help pivot the masses to communism!

