

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



**WORKERS IN
CAMBODIA NEED
TO FIGHT FOR
COMMUNISM TO
DESTROY
MURDEROUS
CAPITALISM**



January 7, 2014—More than 400,000 mostly women garment workers in Cambodia are in rebellion against their working and living conditions. The general strike of the 600,000 people who work in the garment industry has as its main demand a wage increase to \$160 a month. The average wage now is \$80, and the government and the bosses are offering an increase to only \$95 a month. These workers labor for multi-million dollar companies like GAP, Nike, H&M, Adidas and Puma.

The strike and the massive demonstrations of students and other workers

supporting it have been attacked by the government. Several people have died, and many others have been arrested and tortured. Nevertheless, the anger and courage of the workers are much stronger than capitalist terror.

The working and living conditions of these workers are similar to those of garment workers in Bangladesh, Mexico, El Salvador and Los Angeles. We must support these workers by fighting to destroy the capitalist system and build a communist society based on political commitment and producing collectively to satisfy the needs of the international working class.

WRITING THE OBITUARY OF CAPITALISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

A new comrade in South Africa talked to us about building the revolutionary communist movement there. This is the second part of his response.

Revolutionary greetings, comrades and friends! Let me take this opportunity to thank you (ICWP) for welcoming me into your ranks. We can build the party in South Africa by forming party cells in each of the nine provinces using **Red Flag** as a source and guiding document. We will write articles for **Red Flag** about South Africa in every issue from now on.

As you can see, the African National Congress-led alliance and government have been administering capitalist rule on behalf of the Randlords (the bosses who control the diamond and gold mining industries) and Wall Street for the past nineteen years. The current National Development Plan is the harshest form of Growth, Employment and Redistribution plan and all other previous policies to date.

Having established these party cells, we must make sure that they are functional to organize and popularize our party. In a nutshell, we must look at the Russian experience, amongst others. The revolutionary theory teaches us that, 'no two systems can co-exist; if this were to happen, one system is bound to read the obituary of the other.'

Seventy five years after the Russian Revolution, we've all witnessed the dramatic col-

lapse of the Soviet Union in 1991-92. The experience in China is that the only revolutionary class capable of leading the revolution to its conclusion is the working class. Socialism kept the wage system and that brought capitalism back with a vengeance.

The goals of finally achieving communism are concrete and realizable. Capitalism is a crisis-ridden system. It plunges from one crisis to the other. It is incapable of solving the socio-economic condition it creates. If it cannot solve the crisis it creates, it must perish with it.

I think that it is the revolutionary duty of every cadre to take the revolutionary ideas to the masses and that is inevitable. Let me say that the revolutionary ideas/theory must have a grip or hold on the masses. Together they form a conquering force. A material force can conquer a material force. Revolutionary ideas/theory having a grip or hold on the masses become a material conquering force to defeat a capitalist material force.

We must struggle against the obstacles to building a communist movement, which are our own weaknesses as a movement. We must identify our own weaknesses, confront and deal with them and not hide them or pretend they do not exist.

I can contribute in the struggle by using the invaluable experience one has accumulated over more than three decades of struggle.

BOEING CONTRACT SET-UP UNMASKS CAPITALISM, SPARKS COMMUNIST GROWTH

SEATTLE, WA, January 3 — Boeing workers were set up to lose the battle against the concessionary contract. Industrial workers everywhere have much to learn from this two-month struggle.

Our **Red Flag** networks in the plants, and other comrades, took modest steps toward winning the war against capitalist exploitation. Our final victory depends on expanding the struggle for communist answers with our new friends on the shop floor.

The many tentacles of capitalist control were on display for all to see during this contract battle.

This pact chains 32,000 blue-collar workers for another 11 years without the "legal right" to strike. New-hire wages will fall below the minimum wage during the last years of this contract. Defined pensions are gone while medical costs skyrocket. Wages will increase a paltry one percent every two years, far below inflation.

The contract extension was accepted by a margin

See BOEING, page 4

**SO. KOREAN RAIL
STRIKERS MUST
MOBILIZE FOR
COMMUNISM
PAGE 2**

**TALKING WITH
TRANSIT
& GARMENT
WORKERS
PAGE 3**

**LESSONS OF
1983
GREYHOUND
STRIKE
PAGE 4**

**SOUTH SUDAN:
BOSSSES' POWER
STRUGGLE
KILLS MASSES
PAGE 5**

South Korea Rail Strike Shows Need To **ORGANIZE POLITICAL STRIKES AGAINST CAPITALISM, FOR COMMUNISM**

Workers' growing militancy and the capitalist government's growing relentless repression came head to head in South Korea in December. As the bosses crisis deepens, workers' fighting spirit is growing worldwide.

Almost 8000 railway workers struck for three weeks, starting on December 9, after management announced plans to open a new bullet train line as a separate company. Workers saw this as a step toward privatizing this line, and eventually Korail, the rail network nationalized in 1946. This would mean massive layoffs and attacks on working conditions.

Whether nationalized or privatized, capitalist transportation benefits the bosses' profits, not the workers. To meet workers' needs, we have to get rid of capitalism, with its profits, money and repression. We need a communist system, led by a mass communist party of millions of workers, to put transportation and production into the hands of the working class.

The strike showed the power of industrial workers. It reduced freight services by about half and passenger services by 40%, even though fewer than half of the workers were on strike. "It



severed the artery of our economy," wailed South Korean capitalists.

It also showed the potential of industrial and transport workers to organize a different system. Railway workers have played key roles in building revolutionary movements, making connections among workers scattered over a wide area. Transit workers helped to lead hundreds of thousands in mass protests in Brazil last summer.

A 1902 railway strike in Russia broadened into a general strike with tens of thousands hearing revolutionary speeches at daily rallies. Three years later, another rail strike developed into a general strike in Saint Petersburg and Moscow and led to the formation of the revolutionary Saint Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies.

Transit workers, other industrial workers, and soldiers today must take seriously their historic task of mobilizing the masses for communism.

Workers' Revolution Will Destroy the Bosses' State

The South Korean government declared the rail strike illegal. That didn't stop the strike, but it exposed how the capitalist state exists to attack workers and maintain their wage slavery. Police raided the offices of the Korea Railway Workers' Union in Seoul and four other cities to arrest the leaders—but found none.

Two weeks into the strike, nearly 5000 police surrounded the headquarters of the Korea Federation of Trade Unions, storming into the building to arrest the union leaders—who again weren't there. Workers formed a line to stop the police, and 136 were arrested. The company suspended 7,900 workers in an attempt to break the longest railway strike in South Korean history.

The unions responded by calling for a mass protest against President Park Geun-hye and her government. On December 28, over a hundred thousand rail workers, other workers and youth held a one-day anti-government strike.

The union leaders, supported by the "opposition" Democratic Party, campaigned to "bring down the Park administration." The capitalist Democratic Party touts itself as a "friend of labor" and supports the union

federation.

Park's New Frontier Party pushed the South Korean-US Free Trade Agreement through the National Assembly. It's pushing the US imperialists' Trans-Pacific Partnership, which calls for privatizing the national healthcare system.

The TPP is another effort by the US rulers to stop the rise of Chinese capitalism-imperialism, but this can only be done eventually through war. The US is looking to South Korea as an important ally in this coming confrontation. However, China is South Korea's biggest trading partner and some South Korean rulers oppose Park's pro-US position.



Two days after the mass demonstration, the two main capitalist political parties and the union colluded to end the strike. They formed a parliamentary committee to "discuss the long term future of the industry." The workers went back to work with plans for the separate company to run the new bullet train still in place.

These Workers' Courage and Militancy Shows Potential for Industrial Workers to Mobilize Masses of Workers and Youth

South Korean railway workers stood up to the bosses' government and police. What if, instead of organizing against the Park regime and privatization, the railway workers had organized a political strike of a new type, against the capitalist system and for communism? This would have inspired transit and all workers in South Korea and worldwide to fight for the only real solution to the bosses' attacks.

We can't reform capitalism to meet our needs. It exists to make profits for the capitalists by attacking workers' living conditions and our very lives. The working class can defeat this deadly capitalist imperialist system. In its place, we must build a communist system without money where transportation and everything else exist solely to meet the workers' needs.

Instead of mobilizing for reforms or against one set of capitalist politicians to support another set of exploiters who pretend to be our friends, we need to get rid of all of them with communist revolution. Let's build communist solidarity by spreading *Red Flag* to workers worldwide.



**JOIN THE
INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNIST
WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG
(310) 487-7674
E-MAIL:
ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3175 S. HOOVER ST.,
LOS ANGELES, CA 90007,
USA**

Who are we to criticize?

THE REVOLUTION IS NOT A POPULARITY CONTEST

“We do not support immigration reform,” a *Red Flag* distributor told a garment worker as Atomic Denim.

“How is that possible when it is something that will benefit undocumented workers? We will be able to have drivers’ licenses and to travel to see our loved ones whom we haven’t seen in years,” replied the garment worker.

“You might get all of that, but at what price? Immigration Reform, like everything else in capitalism, is for the benefit of the capitalists, not the workers. The Reform will give employers cheap labor under slave conditions. Those who qualify will have to work at least 10 years before getting the green card. To be employed will be indispensable.

“The bosses will take advantage of this to super-exploit these workers,” the comrade continued. “The Reform is also to provide cannon fodder for US imperialism’s future wars. The bosses are eyeing the two million young undocumented immigrants (the so-called Dreamers) and the 4 to 5 million US-born children of undocumented parents. That is why the Pentagon supports the DREAM Act,” explained the comrade.

“But, they don’t have to go to war. Muhammad Ali spent a year in prison for refusing to go to the Vietnam War,” shot back the garment worker.

“I remember that. Ali, a former boxing heavyweight world champion, only spent a few days in jail, but they took his crown away, and prohibited him from fighting for several years. Throughout



history, however, pacifists opposed to this country’s wars have been jailed and sentenced to hard labor for many years. I do not think these young people will be treated differently, if they refuse to join the army,” argued our comrade.

“No, your position is just wrong. Many workers here do not support you because they do not agree with your position,” insisted the garment worker.

“Our goal is not to be popular at any cost. Communist revolution is not a popularity contest. Our political positions have not always been popular but time has proven that we were right.

“For example, we said that the fighting in Viet-

nam, where more than three million died fighting U.S. imperialism, would not liberate the Vietnamese working class because they were fighting for national liberation. We said the same of the armed struggle in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

“With millions in Vietnam and hundreds of thousands in Central America dying heroically, who were we to criticize them? We were accused of everything, even of being CIA agents. However, time proved us right. Unfortunately, in these countries vile capitalism rules and the ‘revolutionary leaders’ are now billionaires who exploit and oppress the working class. That’s why we say that our struggle must be directly for communism. Anything less will condemn us to forever be wage slaves of the capitalists,” concluded the *Red Flag* distributor.

“Well ... look, I invite you to go with me to support Cedillo (a city councilman from Los Angeles). He supports the Immigration Reform,” said the garment worker.

“We do not support politicians - all are faithful servants of the capitalists - we don’t believe in elections either.”

“You see! How do you want us to support you when you do not support us?” emphasized the garment worker.

Here the conversation ended because the worker had to go in to work. However, we will continue the discussion outside the factory gates and in the pages of *Red Flag*.

Metropolitan Transit Authority Bosses & Union:

“CLICKING TOGETHER AGAINST THE PEOPLE”

LOS ANGELES, CA –Very early one morning, a transit worker approached a *Red Flag* comrade as he pulled out of the Division 7 parking lot. “Read this,” he said. “It shows how the union and the company are clicking together against the people.”

He handed the comrade a pamphlet about a 2012 ballot initiative to raise taxes (Proposition 30). “I’d like to get together with you and that other guy to talk,” he added, referring to an earlier conversation.

“That’s great,” said our comrade. “And we’ll read the pamphlet.”

“Got to go,” said the driver. “Somebody behind me wants to go home.”

Quick conversations like this happen every time we distribute *Red Flag* to transit workers. Ninety workers at this Division take the paper regularly. Many are angry. They want to know what we think about the company, the union, and the capitalist government.

We don’t always have time to explain what we think, so this article is for the worker at Division 7, and for all our readers.

Workers create everything of value. We produce the food, clothes, cars, houses, and hospitals that workers need to survive. We teach the kids, cure the sick, clean up the trash and drive the buses and trucks that keep the whole capitalist system functioning.

But the bosses take what we produce and sell it for profit, while we take home just enough to keep us coming back to work for them another day.

The government exists to protect the property of the capitalists. It also sets up institutions that they need to keep their system functioning—

buses, roads, schools, cops, courts and jails. They tax us to pay for these institutions. This puts school workers, bus drivers, nurses at the county hospitals in a bind. Unless we vote to raise taxes, they threaten us with layoffs.

The union leaders are the biggest cheerleaders for higher taxes. They organized mass rallies and get-out-the-vote efforts in California to support Proposition 30, which raised sales taxes to save the jobs of public sector workers.

But those taxes come from the working class: sales taxes we pay on what we need to survive, income taxes and property taxes for homeowners. Corporations pay only about 5% of California tax revenues.

Even when the rich pay taxes, it’s from the profits they make off of our labor. And when they spend it on schools, highways, and prisons, it’s to create institutions that serve their purposes and

interests—not ours.

The unions are definitely clicking it with the bosses and their government against the workers! **Need the International Communist Workers’ Party, Not Unions.**

In a communist system, what we produce will belong to our class collectively. We’ll decide together what to produce. And we’ll have to make hard decisions.

At a given time, given limited resources, should we build more roads or more trains? Should we grow more wheat or more cotton? Should we produce weapons for the fight to end capitalism everywhere, or consumer goods to use in areas we already control?

But those decisions will be based on the needs of our class, not on what’s profitable for a few. Nothing will be produced for sale, everything for use.

And nobody will live in anxiety about losing their job. Nobody will be forced to sell their labor power to survive, but there will always be meaningful work for everyone. We’ll work together to live in dignity without being wage slaves. Each will contribute according to their ability and commitment. We’ll share what we produce according to our needs.

We’ll be clicking together for the people.

That’s the communist world we’re fighting for, and we hope you’ll decide to join this fight.

We’d still like to get together to talk about this and other questions. Call us at 310-487-7674 to set up a meeting.



Lessons of 1983 Greyhound Strike: Part I

KNOW YOUR ENEMIES: CAPITALISM AND REFORMISM

“If ignorant both of your enemy and yourself, you are certain to be in peril,” wrote Sun Tzu, a Chinese military strategist who lived 2,600 years ago.

As the class war between the capitalists and the working class intensifies worldwide, workers must take this advice seriously.

As Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority workers face a possible strike this year, it is crucial for us to understand profoundly both the nature of capitalism and, most important, our historical task of burying it with a communist revolution.

Not understanding this inevitably leads us to fight the wrong fight, leading to cynicism or to the futility of trying to reform capitalism to meet our needs.

1983 Greyhound strike shows importance of Tzu’s advice

On November 2, 1983, 12,700 Greyhound workers, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, went on strike, rejecting the company’s demands for a 30% cut in wages and benefits.

Seven weeks later, their strike was defeated. They were forced to accept pay cuts, health roll-backs and elimination of pensions, and a striker had been crushed to death.

Greyhound workers, unfortunately, did not understand the nature of capitalism, their enemy. If they had, they would have known that their strike was bound to fail. However, if they didn’t strike, Greyhound would have won without a fight.

Thus, not fighting is not an option. By fighting, we learn to fight better. When we fight, there are more opportunities to learn the lessons that alone can lead us to victory. The question is what do we fight for? Knowing our enemy and ourselves tells us that we must fight for state power.

Winning for our class is organizing political strikes against capitalism. Not strikes for reforms which are always taken back, while leaving cap-

italism intact. Winning means massively putting forward revolutionary communist ideas, tactics and strategies to inspire and prepare workers nationally and internationally to mobilize the masses for communism.

Workers never win with trade-unionist politics

Reforms are at best temporary illusions. At worst, they perpetuate and tighten wage slavery’s chains around our necks. This is exactly what happened to US workers during the three decades after 1947. Its effects are still lingering.

After World War II, US imperialism emerged as the supreme economic global power, giving the US bosses unprecedented wealth. This gave them some maneuverability when dealing with US workers’ demands for higher standards of living.

These concessions, however, came at a price: workers had to strike. In 1952, 2.7 million workers participated in strikes. Throughout the 1950s, there were more than 300 major strikes yearly.

US bosses built anti-communism among US workers by telling them that their “high standard of living” gained in these battles proved that capitalism was better than communism. They then expelled the communists from the unions they had built.

A new breed of union officials, loyal to capitalism and rabid anti-communists, were entrusted with controlling the workers and keeping them away from revolutionary communism. In exchange, they were allowed to live lavishly and become rich.

Capitalist competition, however, wouldn’t allow this deal for long

Competition is a basic uncontrollable law of capitalism. The capitalists must compete for market share or go under. This means cutting wages and benefits, while increasing workloads. It became the main aspect of US capitalism-imperial-

ism’s labor policy after 1974.

US bosses responded to ever-stiffer competition from resurgent Japanese and European imperialists. These, having rebuilt factories destroyed in World War II, increasingly ate away at US manufacturing’s share of world and domestic markets.

“Some people will have to do with less. Yet it will be a hard pill for many Americans to swallow—the idea of doing with less so that big business can have more,” *Business Week* editorialized in October 1974.

US bosses couldn’t and wouldn’t tolerate workers “winning” strikes anymore.

As capitalism’s dog-eat-dog competition intensified internationally, they had to attack all workers more fiercely. “The standard of living of the average American has to decline,” said Paul Volcker on Oct. 17, 1979.

US workers did not understand this epochal change.

As Chairman of the Federal Reserve under Democratic President Jimmy Carter, Volcker raised the federal funds interest rate to almost 20 percent to induce a recession. Official unemployment soared to 11%, increasing what Marx called the reserve industrial army of labor. The US bosses would use these desperate workers as strikebreakers.

Furthermore, President Carter deregulated the transportation industry to create new non-union companies, which paid workers less with few or no benefits. A bitter struggle for markets ensued. To survive, Greyhound and other established intercity bus companies would need to lower their workers’ wages and benefits.

The stage was set for defeating the Greyhound strike. In the next issue, we will continue this analysis.

BOEING from page 1

of only 600 votes out of 23,900 cast. After a similar contract was rejected 2 to 1 in early November, the bosses brought out their big guns.

Every politician that the union had supported lined up to condemn our initial rejection on all the media outlets. The governor, the US senator, the local mayors and state representatives all demanded we cave into Boeing’s extortion the second time around.

The politicians and the media set us up, but so did our own union officials. The international union betrayed us, but so did the local leadership and the ideology of trade unionism. The pro-business “right to work state” crowd did its worst, but so did the liberals and fake-left, “we need a more militant union” crowd.

Hypocrisy was also on display for all to see.

The local union administrative assistant Jim Bearden criticized “the politicians, the media and

others” who had “no right to get into our business” when he announced the final vote tally.

But the union enabled these politicians with \$millions of our union dues. Then they absolved themselves of all responsibility when these office holders attacked us.

Despite Bearden’s words, the union will return to the election game because the pro-capitalist strategy inherent in trade unionism will allow no other course.

The union preached partnership with the Boeing bosses for decades. Then they acted surprised when the rank-and-file was caught unprepared for the viciousness of these very same capitalists.

The front-page article in the union’s contract vote special edition said, “We can share in the company’s prosperity and make everyone a winner.” Talk about leading people into a trap!

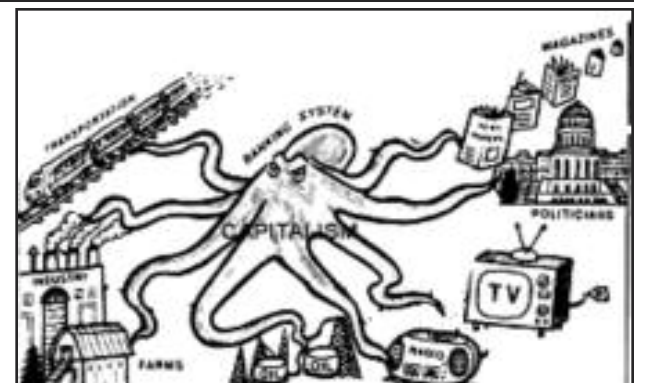
Breaking Through

The company made record profits this year. It has the biggest backlog in history. When asked why they are demanding take-backs now, the bosses replied that their profits came from past orders.

The company says it is selling new orders at a fifty percent discount. They are trying to lock up commitments before new manufacturers like China come online. The only way they can make profits at these prices is by attacking us.

Such is the nature of capitalism: too many bosses making too many products that can’t be sold.

Trade unions, contracts and votes cannot deal with this naked capitalist exploitation.



The communist solution is to replace production based on profit and sale with production that fulfills the requirements of our class. Collective struggle to produce for our material, cultural and psychological needs must replace exploitation.

Over a thousand Boeing workers have read *Red Flag* articles advocating communist answers like this over the last two months, including hundreds in the last two days. Our networks have expanded 25%, chiefly among new hires. A few have ordered subscriptions, while others have come to social activities and committed themselves to come to our next meeting.

All this will help in the long struggle to replace legal economic strikes with illegal political strikes against capitalism and for communism. As masses around the world rebel, we will have to push aside the traditional trade union approach.

We will have to learn how to fight all the tentacles of capitalist control and cut off the monster’s head by mobilizing the masses for communism.

Join us to make this happen.

Next issue will feature expanded communist discussions on the shop floor.



South Sudan

WHEN THE ELEPHANTS FIGHT, THE GRASS GETS TRAMPLED!

As we go to press, more than a thousand people have been killed in South Sudan, as a power struggle between US cronies has turned into a war between their two ethnic groups. The US plan to support the South Sudanese separatist movement so they could wrest control over Sudan's oil from their Chinese rivals has turned into a disaster for the South Sudanese masses.

Imperialists Created the Problem

Sudan was formed as a British colony in the 19th century who divided it into northern and southern administrative areas. Fomenting a "racial" division, they linked northern Sudan to Egypt and the "Arab world" and southern Sudan to neighboring Kenya and Uganda, English speaking British colonies. When Sudan became independent in 1956, the north dominated; government services were in Arabic, and southerners were excluded.

As a result of the racist disparities between north and south and the aspirations of separatist politicians and guerrilla leaders, civil war between north and south rocked Sudan for decades. Following a 2005 cease-fire, US politicians and public figures, from George W. Bush to George Clooney and Obama officials Susan Rice and Samantha Powers, pushed a myth about freedom-loving Christian South Sudan fighting the Arab Muslim northern Sudan as a cover for US plans to deprive China of Sudanese oil. In 2011, as the *NYTimes* (1/4/14) pointed out the nation of South Sudan was established, "an American creation, carved out of war-torn Sudan in a referendum largely orchestrated by the United States, its fragile institutions nurtured with billions of dollars in American aid." Now there are two countries: Sudan and South Sudan.

All of the oil is in South Sudan, or the disputed border regions, but the pipelines all flow North through the country of Sudan to the Red Sea. The unresolved dispute over how to share the oil revenue has crippled the econ-

omy of both countries. Both South Sudanese President Kiir and his rival ex-Vice President Machar have been courted by the West, and the US has armed the South Sudanese government to the teeth. Now, the rebels, supporting Machar, have seized a border region and are marching toward the capital.

For China, a rising imperialist power, oil is crucial. The US, losing ground in a world-wide struggle for dominance, bankrolled the creation of South Sudan to deprive China of Sudanese oil. But the US can no longer guarantee outcomes: the chaos in Sudan and South Sudan, like the current chaos across the Middle East, testify to the declining power of US imperialism. This chaos has led to disaster for the masses. Nationalism—fighting for the "independence of South Sudan"—meant putting into power a new group of exploiters tied to US imperialism, as Sudanese Communist Joseph Garang predicted (see box). In Sudan and around the world, we must learn not to fight for the imperialists, or the local bosses, but to fight for our own class, and our own interests. We must overcome the ethnic, national, religious, and "racial" divisions the bosses have fomented, and join together to fight for a communist world.



The Sudanese Communist Party (SCP), formed at the end of World War II, became the largest Communist party in the North Africa/Middle East region, and second only to the South African Communist Party on the African continent. Its strength was based among agricultural workers in a large, state-owned, cotton farm in the north, and railway workers, whose strategic position allowed them to build a nation-wide network in contact with Communist workers across Africa.

When a separatist movement developed in the South, the Communists, led by southerner Joseph Garang, argued for unity against imperialism and capitalism. He predicted in 1960, "if the South were to separate today, then tomorrow it would be an imperialist colony." But fundamentally, the SCP, typical of Communist Parties in the twentieth century, and following Lenin and Stalin, agreed with the right of nations, defined as "a historically evolved, stable community of people, formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life, and a common culture," to self-determination.

This policy led Communists from Indonesia to Iraq to Sudan in that period to unite with "their" national bourgeoisie. They considered national liberation movements against imperialism a stage that would eventually lead to communism. When Colonel Gafaar Nimeiri took power in Sudan in a 1969 coup, the Communists were his main backers and Garang became Minister of Southern Affairs. But Nimeiri almost immediately began arresting key party leaders, and in 1971, after a failed coup attempt by the SCP, Garang and the other party leaders were executed by their former allies, as they were in US-backed coups in Iraq in 1963 and Indonesia in 1965.

Nationalism is a reactionary bourgeois idea. It leads workers to ally with their class enemy, instead of with workers of other nations, "races," or ethnicities. The ICWP rejects nationalism in theory and in practice. We are not organized in national parties, but are one international communist party. We will fight for power wherever we can, and will not replicate or respect capitalist borders when we seize power.

COMMUNISM WILL DESTROY CAPITALIST EDUCATION SYSTEM

The current capitalist education system serves the bourgeoisie and its interests. They want students who do not think, who do not question authority, who do not question the "why?" of things, or ask how to change them. We communists fight against this. We want ourselves and others to be capable of producing ideas and not just consuming and memorizing knowledge.

The scientific aristocracy deprives the masses of knowledge needed to develop the advances in ways to prevent and cure cancer or develop renewable energy. Money and capitalism are the problem. When we eliminate them, there will be no obstacle to solving these problems.

A draft of a new pamphlet, "Communist Education for a Classless Society," was discussed in a recent ICWP meeting attended by comrades from different countries.

We struggle as communists to educate ourselves and others in the fight to destroy capitalism. These actions must be carried out daily with strong conviction and certainty that the struggle is correct and victory awaits us. We have to unlearn the ideas taught by the public and private capitalist schools and their mass media.

Another aspect is to educate ourselves and others in a collective, organized manner using objective reasoning and logic, with a view toward an egalitarian and just world for all by building com-

munist. We must spread our communist ideas of struggle against the wage system and the oppression by the bosses and the goal to establish liberty, peace and equality for each man and woman on the planet, which can only be achieved in a communist world.

Discussions about education should be collective. Those who currently teach must contribute what they think should be the pedagogical and methodological practices under communism. Will we have these or not?

The young students should put forward what they think must be eliminated from the communist education system. Workers must commit themselves to be communists in theory and practice in our daily lives and, from now on, begin to struggle in capitalist schools, everywhere, so that we develop ourselves to recruit more comrades to the battle to eliminate capitalism, with its structural problems, genocidal wars, and also its education system.

We need to read *Red Flag*, and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to learn and inform ourselves about workers' struggles against capitalism, the capitalist education system, and the bosses' oppression. Ensuring housing, health, education, clothing and food for every man and woman on the planet is possible with the hands and power of the masses organized in the struggle for Communism under the leadership of the International

Communist Workers' Party.

Let's fight against selfishness and individualism in the capitalist schools. Let's generate debate, discussion, and the creation of ideas aimed at transforming society and incorporating more working class brothers and sisters into the struggle for communism. Let's distribute, contribute to, and discuss our communist newspaper *Red Flag*. Let's destroy the capitalist educational system based on fierce competition between students and the Prussian academic model in which we are taught to live for a title or medal. Instead let's focus on the political growth and the transformation of reality to improve the quality of life for all, in a collective way for the love and commitment to humanity.

We can't eat money or breathe it. We workers will decide the present and future without the need of bosses or money. The creative and analytic power that each of us has is necessary and sufficient to form a completely new and advanced society in every aspect; technology, living conditions and scientific development, with collective work and a communist vision.

Let's fight so that future communist generations can build a new society and bring more people into the struggle for communist revolution and the victory of the working class over the capitalist executioner.

“Without revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement.” Lenin, *What Is To Be Done*

FREDERICK ENGELS ADVANCES DIALECTICS

During four decades Frederick Engels worked closely with Karl Marx in organizing the communist movement and developing communist theory. They created a kind of division of labor in their writing. Engels wrote about military matters and natural science, Marx wrote on economics, and they both wrote about politics and history.

Engels also worked on popularizing and defending dialectics. In private, Engels was quite critical of Marx’s sometimes very difficult presentation of dialectical ideas in *Capital*. He wrote that a reader who hasn’t been to college “will certainly not be pleased to torture himself” in order to understand what Marx wrote there about the contradiction between the use of a commodity and what it costs.

Engels wrote several articles and books that tried to make dialectics clearer, and he also made genuine contributions to the theory of dialectics. We will discuss some of his main ideas in this column and the next.

Dialectical Versus Metaphysical Thinking

Engels used the term “metaphysical” to describe anti-dialectical thinking. This is not the only way to use that term in communist philosophy.

Metaphysics can also describe questions about the basic make up of the universe, so that idealism and materialism are fundamentally opposed views in metaphysics. As Engels used the term, however, metaphysics means a kind of rigid thinking that denies the interconnection of opposites.

Opposites like the working class and the capitalist class don’t have a strict dividing line. Some people, like movie stars or elite professional athletes, don’t fit neatly in either category. Some workers go into business and some capitalists go bankrupt and have to get a job.

Engels said that this is typical of opposites, that they don’t have rigid divisions but each side crosses any dividing line and penetrates into the

other and the relationships of the two sides change over time. This kind of relationship is called “interpenetration” of opposites. Denying interpenetration is “metaphysical thinking,” which tries to impose arbitrary categories on reality.

Engels said that “nature is the proof of dialectics” and gave many examples from natural science of metaphysical versus dialectical thinking. Darwin’s theory of evolution, for example, overthrew the metaphysical idea of a species as an unchanging category that is sharply divided from every other species. Scientists have been able to discover many intermediate cases between classes of animals, like those between giant dinosaurs and birds.

Engels also saw Darwin’s theory as an example of the relationship between the philosophical concepts of chance and necessity. He pointed out that the necessary process of natural selection depends on mutations, which are chance variations in an organism’s genes. So in evolution, chance and necessity are opposites that “interpenetrate” and depend on each other.

Contradiction and Interpenetration of Opposites

The fact that conflicts and contradictions cause change, which is the heart of dialectics, is closely connected with the interpenetration of opposites.

Engels rejected the idea that a dialectical contradiction can simply be defined as a pair of forces pushing or pulling in opposite directions, like a game of “tug of war.” This definition is wrong because it leaves out the connection between contradictory sides, where each side partly determines what the other side is.

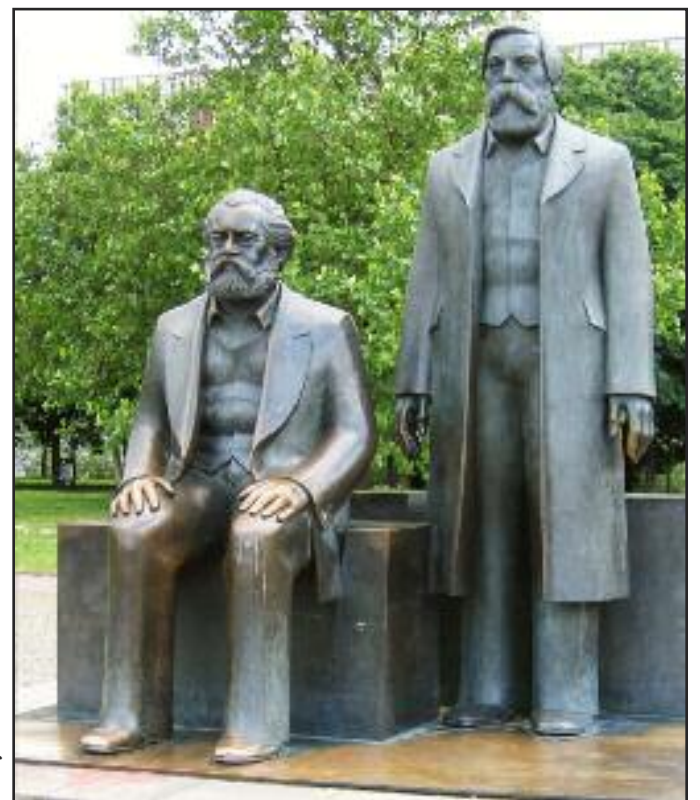
For example, imperialist powers planning for war have to match the weapons systems of their opponents. Some members of the working class take on characteristics of the capitalist class, like selfishness, greed, and

racism.

Engels considered the interpenetration of opposites to be a law of dialectics. In the next column we will see what he meant by calling this a law and discuss two more of Engels’ laws.

Clarification of the last column: In our last issue we reviewed some of Marx’s ideas about how real contradictions develop, that is, head toward resolution. Development typically involves a contradiction’s becoming more clearly defined and more obvious. It also involves a more intense struggle between the two sides of the contradiction and changes in the motion that the contradiction causes.

The column described development as becoming sharper, more clearly defined and more obvious, rather than making it clear that it is the contradiction that becomes sharper, more obvious, etc. during its development.



Statue of Karl Marx, left, and Frederick Engels in a Berlin park

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Sharing experiences of communist work

ICWP comrades from different countries met for three days of political work at an annual meeting. Youth, farm workers, teachers, and industrial workers shared experiences of communist work in each of their work place collectives. They participated in workshops with great friendship, joy, enthusiasm, and discipline. They strengthened bonds of comradeship in the moments of rest.

The workshops introduced the line of the party and related it to education. We discussed several topics: building a communist system and an educational system based on equality and combining practical and theoretical work; making a new altruistic human being, supportive and willing to work to strengthen and spread the revolution worldwide; food and its distribution worldwide; military and industrial work; and improving both qualitatively and quantitatively our communist newspaper *Red Flag*.

We also talked about how the party structure links friends and members of the party. This generated a very productive discussion with con-



tributions about the way that clubs function to help friends of the party and *Red Flag* readers decide to join ICWP, carry out communist work, and make a lifelong commitment to the working class.

A draft pamphlet on education interested a young student who will enter the university, other comrades who are already there or who are enrolled in technical studies, as well as teachers. Even though it is still being developed,

the pamphlet is sparking discussion in ICWP collectives about how capitalism teaches us as a part of the industrial process, separates schools from reality.

The work in industry and the military continues to be crucial. We must support the men and women workers who daily face the strongest attacks of the capitalist system. At the same time, we must not neglect the work of other members of the working class, including farm workers and students and spread our ideas wherever we are.

We appreciate *Red Flag*’s progress when observing that since the first edition, the contributions of many comrades and friends have improved the paper, from the layout, to the content of the articles, to the cultural area, and articles from both youth and adults.

In addition to the commitment to make the paper more attractive for the reader, we need to take it to more workers and strengthen the communist line in each article, which is the main thing. This was discussed in the last workshop in which comrades gave their criticisms, self-criticisms and commitments to improve and take *Red Flag* to more workers.

Onward to Victory!

Win or Die for Communist Revolution!

THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Do You Pull the Trigger?

"What would you do, as a politically conscious soldier, if you found yourself in a situation where you were deployed and you were face to face with an enemy combatant who is more than likely a working class brother or sister and it's either you or them. Do you pull the trigger?"

This was a question I was asked by a friend. To be honest, I wasn't absolutely sure of the correct answer. I responded by saying, "My job is to help others get to the point where they turn their guns around, so that in reality if I'm doing what I'm supposed to be doing, then I should never find myself in that situation." Was that idealist thinking though?

The conditions at the moment are not the same that one would have found during, let's say, the Vietnam War. We know that soldiers then were highly disgruntled with their leadership and the current state of the US. The idea then of having soldiers turn their weapons around was not far-fetched. In fact, there were many cases in which the idea became a reality, which was a big part of why the US left Vietnam.

Soldiers of today, though, are not as disgruntled. Lots of soldiers are very grateful to have a job and not have to deal with the economy. Deployments are viewed as opportunities to make extra cash, so they are welcomed.

These soldiers can still be led to communism and its ideals, but the game has changed.

There are many questions that will arise from all this, but the main one, I think, is, what is a politically conscious soldier to do, if they found themselves in such a situation?

I don't think there is a simple answer, but hopefully through discussion and through *Red Flag* we can achieve a formula as to how to deal with the current state of affairs because there has to be a clear cut answer to this question.

I look forward to seeing the responses of all who read *Red Flag* and who are part of ICWP.
-Red Soldier

Don't Fight Yourself, Fight the Capitalist System!

By the time I got my present job, I'd been dealing with years of negative self-talk. I felt like a failure because I couldn't find work. Even after I got hired, I judged myself harshly because my job search took so long and because it didn't pay well. I started to think, "I have an expensive university education...I deserve better than this." My job inspired feelings of anger and anxiety because I traveled very far and worked long hours. I made just enough to keep my home, pay utilities, and feed and clothe my kids. I only saw my family on Sundays because I had to leave for work long before they woke up and didn't return until long after they had gone to bed. I felt low and my health deteriorated.

When the pain in my feet radiated up my legs, I missed work to go to the doctor. I couldn't follow the doctor's time-consuming recommendations to alleviate my pain because I spent almost every waking hour either at work or on my commute.

I realized that I was judging myself by capitalist standards of success. This system is designed to keep workers dependent on it. I found some relief in reading *Red Flag* more closely and talking with my co-workers about how to change our collective work situation. They suggested asking for raises, more overtime, and promotions, while others mentioned unionizing and striking. We soon realized a lit-



tle extra money wouldn't help because we'd still be stressed out and away from our families. I thought the best idea was that of a strike. I argued that a general strike would do more to hurt the bosses' profits.

A general strike could help us develop and show class unity, but would only cause the ruling class temporary financial trouble, without changing workers' situation. ICWP argues, and our daily lives prove, that communism is the only remedy to our capitalist plight. I'm going to continue talking with my co-workers and plan to introduce communist ideas.

I'm not just fighting for my family, co-workers, and community...I'm fighting for the INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS!

—an Industrial Comrade

We're Still in Slavery

I work at Pizza Hut, where we get paid the minimum wage. Some of us are young people who plan on moving on, but some people have been there 10 or 20 years. That's a dang shame.

Recently I ran into two co-workers away from

the job. We started to chat and one said something about Obamacare. I said, "That's not going to work."

"Why?" she asked. "We need health care."

I said we couldn't afford it. "Forcing us to buy health insurance makes us more enslaved."

Then she said, "How about the minimum wage? They're going to raise it for us."

"They're just going to take more money away from us in taxes," I answered.

"Yeah, that's the way it works," she said.

I said, "It seems like we're still in slavery."

"I agree with you about that," she replied.

Our other co-worker was listening, intrigued by what we were saying.

Pizza Hut is owned by Yum! Brands, a Fortune 500 company which is expanding overseas and whose stock is going up. The 2012 net profit of Yum! Brands was \$1.6 billion.

Every penny came from some worker's labor.

According to *Forbes.com*, Yum! Brands CEO David C. Novak's total compensation is about \$30 million per year (including stock gains), about 2000 times what a typical Pizza Hut worker gets!

We need to revolt against capitalist wage slavery, not just for a higher minimum wage.

Think outside the pizza box!

—Comrade Wage-Slave



SUBSCRIBE TO *RED FLAG* - \$20/YEAR

Name _____ I want _____ copies per issue

Address _____

Send to P.M.B 362, 3175 S. Hoover, Los Angeles, CA 90007



COMMUNIST AND CAPITALIST CULTURE

To join study groups that will be discussing this topic contact us



“Remember Who the Real Enemy Is” Catching Fire or Fighting for Communism

In the last *Red Flag*, we talked about “Hunger Games,” the first of a trilogy. “Catching Fire,” in U.S. theaters now, is the second installment. In it the rebellion which was promised in “Hunger Games” has begun.

“All the girls still want to be like Katniss,” said Cathy, “but she doesn’t know what she wants.”

“She shows solidarity with the people of District 11, though,” said Johnny. “Toward the end, she aims her arrow at the roof of the dome, the chink in the armor of the Capital, which shows some political awareness.”

“Not compared to the others,” said Cathy. “Gale is now a coal miner and has learned it’s possible and necessary to stay and fight but now Katniss wants to run away.”

“Yeah,” said Amber. “Even her mother raises the salute of rebellion while Katniss is still hoping to say her goodbyes.”

“She goes back and forth,” said Carlos. “What about when she hangs Seneca Crane, the previous gamekeeper, in effigy? That shows she’s angry, and knows some of what’s going on.”

“In the book, she does that on her own,” said Amber. “In the movie, she only does it after seeing Peeta’s portrait of the dead Rue. The movie is working overtime to portray her as someone with no political ideas, just unfocused anger.”

“And Haymitch and the new gamekeeper Plutarch and others are in on the plan, but she’s not,” said Johnny. “She’s just the Mockingjay—the symbol of the rebellion.”

“But we don’t need ‘symbols.’ We need conscious communists!” said Amy. “Our friends like ‘Catching Fire’ because the rebels are fighting against racism, and children going hungry, and brutal cops. But the real enemy is the system that spawns all that. If you don’t understand that, and know what you’re fighting for, you fight and die with no goal at all—and the struggle is finally futile.”

We’ll save that for “Mockingjay,” the next installment. We’re reading the book, and we’ll review it in February.

Lies We Are Taught in School

My high school teacher recently lectured us on communism, socialism, and capitalism. He talked about communism by saying, “The government owns all means of production, the workers run the factories, and everyone earns equal pay. The government intervenes with everything from what you make, how much you produce, and where you work.”

I know this is obviously not communism, but he had everyone thinking that there’s still money and a government like this one under communism. This is NOT true. He also mentioned that under communism, “The people gave up a lot of freedoms to have equality.”

I wondered, “Well, what freedoms do we have under capitalism?” As far as I know, nothing is free under capitalism. This also made me think about how my dad hates his job and I don’t think he gets to decide what he makes or how much.

The teacher then talked about capitalism. He said capitalism is “hands-free” because government and business owners pay workers and take care of things while government stood back and watched. However, I see capitalism as a highly-governed society, where government makes most of the important decisions that affect our lives.

Lastly, he talked about socialism. Our textbook says that socialism was where “the people as a whole, rather than private individuals, would own and operate the means of production—the farms, factories, railways, and other large businesses.” I learned from this lecture that socialism is half communism and half capitalism.

Overall, we were taught that communism is a strict government system, capitalism leaves us alone; and socialism is where people run things. However, from what I understand, communism is a classless society, without a government like we

Writing For Red Flag

“The culture page collective” was recently discussing what is needed in articles to create the change we are looking for. We read a few articles identifying what we liked and things that could be improved on. We also reviewed a summary of *What Is To Be Done* Chapter 5 by Lenin and had a discussion about what a communist paper should be. Some of the main points are outlined here to help us write for *Red Flag*.

Goal: Use *Red Flag* to help us organize and struggle with each other. We need articles that will struggle with the reader and stimulates critical thinking; articles that help move us to be more communist in our thinking and practice (intensify internal contradictions) so that we grow and develop as communists.

Goal: Use *Red Flag* to motivate, agitate, and unite. We want to agitate with facts and concrete examples of injustices caused by capitalism. We want to heighten/expose the contradictions between workers and bosses to motivate workers to want to destroy capitalism.

Goal: Use *Red Flag* to summarize ICWP activity and launch new activity. What does working to mobilize the masses for communism look like? How do we work to create new leaders? Have students and workers write to provide examples of communist work so that others can duplicate or have similar conversations with their friends, family, and co-workers.

Goal: *Red Flag* should provide us with a vision of what we are fighting for. What will communism be like? How will communist principles be applied in our lives? How will we build a society using communist principles?

Each goal mentioned above was discussed at length and we plan to elaborate on each goal in future *Red Flag* issues.



have today, or money.

Under communism, people receive what they need, while helping provide for society’s needs. Capitalism is the one most like a dictatorship, but it’s camouflaged as a “democracy.” Then we have socialism, which provides some necessities free, like healthcare and education, but money’s still necessary and, therefore, the government and inequalities remain.

We are not given the truth because the ruling class doesn’t want us to know how messed up this system we live under is. That is why we have *Red Flag* to help us open our eyes and inform the masses on why we need communism to overthrow capitalism.