

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)

**Striking farmworkers in the grape regions of South Africa burned warehouses, blocked highways, fought police and joined the struggles of miners and shanty-town residents, showing again the power and potential of workers in motion.**



**Boeing, El Salvador: Real Solidarity Means Political Strike against Capitalism and the Fight for Communism**

## TAKE BACK WHAT IS OURS!

SEATTLE, WA, January 16  
Twenty-four thousand engineers and technical workers have the opportunity to lead and inspire many more by busting Boeing's no-strike regime. Boeing is the world's largest aerospace company, and a top US war contractor. Its 170,000 workers in 70 countries can become a key force for revolution.

Officials of the white-collar Boeing union SPEEA just want a deal that they can sell to their members. Today SPEEA negotiators suggested extending the present contract for another four years to avoid "protracted and increasingly contentious negotiations that appear headed for a strike" so Boeing could focus on its 787 crisis (see next issue).

The company jumped at the offer, but still demands a two-tier pension system, eliminating defined pensions for new hires. SPEEA and the Machinists (IAM) have the only remaining defined pensions at Boeing, which have almost disappeared in US industry.

No deal! SPEEA plans to bring

Boeing's "last and final" offer up for a strike vote in early February.

Boeing Machinists have been peppering IAM district president Wroblewski with questions about not crossing SPEEA picket lines. He told members they have to "because of the IAM contract."

Last strike, rank-and-filers joined the picket lines at lunch and after work over IAM officials' objections. This time, Wroblewski has endorsed joining the picket lines after work. He wants these minor acts of solidarity to dampen workers' longings for serious unity and fight-back.

We, on the other hand, have to think about taking back what is ours.

Last SPEEA strike, party members and friends helped to organize picketing with the outlook of building to break the IAM contract in the interests of solidarity. This time, our outlook is different. Solidarity with SPEEA strikers must go farther than joining the picket lines, or a contract-breaking secondary strike, or even breaking the no strike

SAN SALVADOR—To start the new year, the bosses of the F & D factory increased the production quotas for the men and women workers. Responding to this attack, the workers closed the gates of the factory and didn't allow the vans, loaded with the goods they had produced, to leave. This action lasted several hours and the workers succeeded in keeping the same slave-like workload as last year. Then they ended the blockade.

More than 800 men and women work in this factory, making shirts for the NBA, NFL, and the NHL, among others. They are paid \$6.25 a day. Now, in these moments, after the reform demand was won, the bosses' police have dedicated themselves to hounding the worker-leader and have threatened her with death at the factory exit: "If you don't leave, we will kill you!" With gun in hand they have tried to break the fighting spirit of these men and women.

The bosses are very afraid of class-conscious workers. That's why they are trying to break the

morale of these brave workers, threatening them in the workplace. But it's clear that with more repression there will come more struggle, and that only the working class can save the working class.

The International Communist Workers' Party calls on all workers to support this struggle with political work stoppages, strikes and meetings against capitalism and in defense of these workers who have been threatened. We hold the bosses and their lackeys responsible for any attack on any worker.

This is a big opportunity for thousands of workers in the maquilas and other industries to see that this capitalist system only functions for the bosses. But the most important thing is that those of us who produce EVERYTHING can destroy wage slavery and build a new communist society based on meeting our needs.

The working class is never alone. International communist solidarity plays a primary role, as does the capacity for greater political organization and of leading these struggles

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**New National Security Triumvirate:****IMPERIALIST MURDER FOR HIRE**

Obama's second-term national security picks move the US bosses' new war strategy from the drawing board to the battlefield. John Kerry at the State Department, Chuck Hagel at the Pentagon and John Brennan at the CIA are committed to implementing U.S. imperialism's latest plan to maintain the empire in the face of a rising China. Good luck with that!

The Council of Foreign Relations (CFR) developed this new scheme (see "World War or Not," page 13). Kerry and Hagel are veteran CFR members. Brennan is a featured CFR speaker. The CFR approach tries to deal with traditional big power rivalry in this period of U.S. political, economic and military decline.

A few years ago, the economic crisis and subsequent budgetary constraints forced the US bosses to come up with a new plan. Now the bosses face a new geopolitical landscape shaped by mass rebellions, requiring even more strategic modifications.

Workers are no longer passively accepting brutal attacks by bosses trying to escape their own economic crisis. The Arab Spring, European strike waves and rebellions, South African wildcats and now hundreds of thousands in India have taken aim at manifestations of capitalism and its crisis.

Nearly every country has witnessed some fight-back, often spurred on by a new generation of activists. Traditional bosses' alliances are in shambles. The masses have upset the imperialists' appletart.

Obama's new strategy is sometimes called the "pivot to the east." The popular media portray this primarily as moving military resources to Asia.

The pivot's authors say it is much more. The Obama regime plans to concentrate not only on military deals, but also political and economic alliances throughout the world.

The U.S. rulers want to get out of the invasion business, as much as possible, in the near term. Their new priority will be recruiting proxies to

fight alongside U.S. forces to hem in would-be pretenders to the imperialist throne.

**Wolves in Sheep's Clothing**

In today's political climate, as always, the bosses are forced to try to sell this war plan as a peace plan. Their excuse of justifying every invasion as a fight against terrorism has worn thin.

For example, the New York Times calls opposition to Hagel's confirmation "the revenge of the neocons." These Bush administration officials brought us the hated racist, imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Times paints Hagel as the more realistic and less warmongering alternative.

Lost in this rhetoric is Hagel's call for "manda-

Reduction.

He's played the role of wolf in sheep's clothing before as the Vietnam Veterans against the War (VVAW) celebrity spokesperson. He consistently opposed any critique of capitalism, an idea popular in VVAW during the anti-war movement. His loyal service to the ruling class he was born into helped launch his political career.

John Brennan is known for expanding "enhanced interrogation techniques." In other words, he's the head torturer.

Add to his résumé more drone strikes and "kill lists." He classified every civilian death as justifiable. He ordered thousands incinerated without a tear. We're supposed to believe he will rein in the CIA and "return it" to just an intelligence-gathering agency. How gullible does the ruling class think we are?

Big-power rivalries among imperialists fuel the push towards world war. Although that is not the immediate intent of either the Chinese or U.S. bosses, the major capitalists will eventually have no other choice. Meanwhile the bosses will slaughter millions, maneuvering for the upper hand. The new national security troika will organize this slaughter.

Imperialist rivalry still holds sway today, but the masses are no longer passive bystanders and victims. They are in motion, reminding us that history will ultimately be decided not by the bosses' foreign policy

teams, but by masses mobilized for communism.

The masses have thrown a monkey wrench in the imperialists' plans, but are not yet ready to write their own history. The new chapter will replace borders, nations and foreign policy elites with mobilized masses building international solidarity to end exploitation. Hastening the day when the international working class writes its story of a new communist world is an indispensable purpose of our party. Join us!

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**WORKERS ARE NO LONGER PASSIVELY ACCEPTING BRUTAL ATTACKS BY BOSSES TRYING TO ESCAPE THEIR OWN ECONOMIC CRISIS.**

**ARAB SPRING, EUROPEAN STRIKE WAVES AND REBELLIONS, SOUTH AFRICAN WILDCATS AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS IN INDIA HAVE TAKEN AIM AT MANIFESTATIONS OF CAPITALISM AND ITS CRISIS.**

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tory national service... to match the security and foreign policy commitments required of the next generation." He also warns that "deficits and entitlement programs...will undermine...our position as a world economic leader. U. S. policy makers will then be forced to make hard choices between national security and domestic priorities." (Hagel, "A Republican Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs*, digital edition, 1/10/13)

Kerry shares his colleagues' concerns as chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and as appointee to the Select Joint Committee of Deficit

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regime.

All this would be welcome, but we understand that it is our prime duty to raise the idea of producing for the needs of our class, not the bosses' profits. That includes conscious political strikes that question the [il]logical nature of capitalism and open up discussions about the need for industrial workers to lead in mobilizing the masses for communism.

**Trade Unionism is About Preserving the System**

The job of trade-union traitors like IAM's Wroblewski is to short-circuit the growing willingness of the world's masses to answer capitalism's economic attacks with political strikes and demonstrations, as in South Africa, Greece, Mexico Wisconsin, and elsewhere.

SPEEA officials point to the IAM contract extension last December as a positive example. That deal institutionalized class collaboration with a new joint Union/Boeing Council that "in

reviewing productivity ... will assess such areas as employee engagement/involvement, the job classification system, multiple machine operation and [utilization] of non-Boeing labor." In other words, a blank check for harassment and subcontracting!

IAM members' pay now includes deadly performance incentives. The SPEEA deal is as bad or worse. Even without pension cuts, it should be rejected. Contracts define the terms of our exploitation; they don't end it.

**Solidarity to Advance the Struggle**

There is something illogical  $\frac{3}{4}$  and immoral  $\frac{3}{4}$  about the bosses, the top 0.1%, owning the product of all our collective labor. But that's capitalism! The bosses' government makes this thievery legal.

We designed and built all these planes. Our labor paid for all the plants and machinery, plus fancy corporate offices and outsized executive bonuses. The only answer is to take back what is ours.

When we seize power and the means of pro-

duction, there won't be bosses, unions, or contracts. The needs of our class, not of the profiteers, will shape the workplace.

We can start by expanding the networks of *Red Flag* readers. We can transform those networks into fighting units we'll need to take back the means of production: that which we created and build a new society.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)**  
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## Capitalist College Reform: Preparing This Generation for War

### WE HAVE TO FIGHT...FOR COMMUNIST, NOT "LIBERAL" EDUCATION

Jan. 11- Hundreds of teachers and students at City College of San Francisco (CCSF) rallied against huge budget cuts and reorganization demanded by an accreditation panel that threatens to shut the college down. "We may not win this struggle, but we have to fight," a CCSF professor declared.

We do have to fight! With capitalism's promises evaporating, more are seeing that we must fight for an entirely new system, communism, with an entirely new relationship between work and education.

After CCSF faculty fought for a \$14 million/year tax measure meant to stop cutbacks, the administration insists they give up decision-making roles, take an 8.8% pay cut and accept massive layoffs. Three campuses will be closed. The college "can no longer keep that promise [of education] for everyone," said the Chancellor.

Teachers and students are confronting more than an accreditation panel. Accreditation agencies report to the US Department of Education, an arm of the capitalist class. The rapid, drastic attacks on US community colleges reflect the "New Vocationalism" plan to prepare this generation of students for sharpened global competition, up to and including imperialist world war.



But keeping things as they were would be no real victory. The "promise" of the old system was mainly illusory. Most students left without any usable job credential, often in debt and made to feel like losers.

Sure, some earned degrees that helped them get better jobs. But they remained wage slaves, and at a political cost much higher even than a crushing mountain of debt. The pro-capitalist, anti-working-class ideology of "higher education" has helped to defuse rebellion and further divide the working class.

#### Faster + Cheaper = Better?

In 2012, California's "Student Success Initiative" introduced new laws and policies aimed at getting students through school and work-ready as quickly as possible. That meant the boot for many who must juggle school with work, family, and all the problems that the bosses' crisis creates for the masses.

Now the push is for "AA-Transfer" degrees that will move students more rapidly to four-year colleges, for "measurable outcomes," and for industry "partnerships" to create programs tailored to the capitalists' workforce needs.

On January 16, the California governor announced increased funding for state universities, averting further tuition hikes. He even supported "chop from the top" (reducing administrative expenses) as students and teachers demanded.

In return, he proposes limiting the number of units that students can take, charging more for "super-seniors" who accumulate more credits than they need to graduate. He is bringing in the for-profit corporation

Udacity to offer online classes.

These measures align with the "completion agenda" pushed by the Gates and Lumina foundations. Their capitalist production model means more products (graduates), faster and at a lower cost.

The ruling-class agenda is not simply an austerity plan for privatizing and "rationing education" as some educators complain, like faculty fighting the new "Pathways" program at the City University of New York (CUNY).

Federal money still flows—for programs that serve the rulers' technical and ideological needs. For example, CUNY received over \$20 million for "basic academic and English language skills instruction contextualized to five industry sectors" including health care, hotels and restaurants, durable machinery, and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

#### Liberal activism: Dangerous reformist trap.

Most students want to get through college faster and cheaper, and they want a degree or certificate that will land them a job! To win their support against the ruling-class reform agenda, teachers argue that "liberal education" is superior to "vocational education." This ignores the fact that colleges mainly push pro-capitalist ideology and severely limited "critical thinking" that blocks most students' ability to imagine and fight for the communist world we need.

Communism will break down divisions between "mental" and "manual" education and labor. In contrast, faculty complaints about "dilution of education and deprofessionalization of teachers" actually builds the divisive idea that some workers ("professionals") are better than most.

Mobilizing for communism, not reform, is the only way to create revolutionary unity of the working class (including students and teachers) in the face of the bosses' crisis and plans for war. "Winning" means spreading communist ideas, moving masses around them, and building the International Communist Workers' Party.

### CAPITALISM, NOT GUNS, IS THE PROBLEM

LOS ANGELES, CA, Jan. 19—The Martin Luther King parade here featured many politicians who preach pacifism and reform in the face of the bosses' attacks. Racist cops were everywhere. Many students in JROTC uniforms (high school class in military training) marched to patriotic music. 250 thousand of these youth join the army every year.

On seeing this, a comrade said to people, "With their campaign for gun control, they act concerned about our youth, but what about when they send them to Iraq and Afghanistan to kill and be killed, or when they gun them down in the streets?" "You got that right," commented many people, taking the leaflet and the newspaper.

In this deepening capitalist crisis, the bosses fear rebellion and revolution—from South Africa to US cities. They are using the vicious massacre of children in Connecticut to push gun control reform and pacifism as the way to supposedly end such massacres. At the same time, they push the military as a solution for youth—especially black and latino/a youth.

But capitalism and its crisis, its racist cops, gangs and alienation continue to target working class youth, no matter what gun control measures may pass. Communism is the only way to end the racist murders of the youth.

The bosses fear the working class who, armed with communist ideas as well as weapons, can take aim at capitalism, take power and build a so-

ciety that will meet the needs of all workers. Communism will protect and develop the potential of all, eliminating racism, sexism and imperialist wars.

The bosses want to use their gun control campaign to appear caring. They also want to keep guns from rebellious workers and youth, while at the same time they arm working class soldiers to fight their wars. Soldiers, youth and workers won to communism can use their training and weapons to mobilize the whole working class to turn their guns around and fight for communism.

"The media seemed to show concern about the children killed in Connecticut. But they never show concern about the black and latino youth killed in this community," said a comrade distributing *Red Flag* to workers watching the parade. "You're right, thank you," responded many workers, gladly taking the leaflet and newspaper.

At the parade, we distributed hundreds of *Red Flags*, our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* (MMC), and communist leaflets about the massacres of youth and workers in Connecticut, Chicago, Oakland, Mexico, India, Pakistan

and North Africa—all murdered by racist capitalism. We showed that a communist society will meet workers' need for a safe, healthy world, based on relations of sharing and collectivity.

But some spectators asked, "But are you for or against gun control?" The comrade answered, "The working class needs to be armed to defend ourselves, to make a revolution and take power from the bosses, and build a communist society."

When a group of youth heard a comrade explain that the masses need to be won to communism, to build a system run by workers to meet our needs, they asked for extra copies of *Red Flag* and MMC to take to their friends.

The main problem is capitalism, not guns. Masses won to communism will decide collectively when and where to use weapons to defend the working class and guarantee a society that meets all workers' needs. When we've gotten rid of all the capitalists-imperialists and communism rules the world, we will no longer need wars or weapons. Until then, weapons and armed struggle are an indispensable part of the struggle for communism.





## War in Mali Result of Sharpening Inter-Imperialist Rivalry

### AFRICAN WORKERS CAN PLAY KEY REVOLUTIONARY ROLE

When France sent troops on January 11 to prop up the government of Mali, engaged in a civil war since last January, it wasn't major news in the US. But four days later, when Islamists took hundreds of hostages in a natural gas facility in eastern Algeria, including European, Japanese, Filipino and US citizens, calling it pay-back for French intervention in Mali, it was all over the news.

#### Imperialist intervention set off this chain of events.

When NATO forces in Libya overturned Muammar Gaddafi's government, large numbers of Malian Tuaregs who had been in Gaddafi's army returned home with serious weaponry and a lot of cash. The Tuaregs are nomadic people from the Sahel desert in the north of Mali and Niger, who have long rejected the authority of the governments in the south. In January, Tuareg nationalists declared independence, seizing large amounts of territory in northern Mali.

In March, US-trained Captain Amadou Sanogo led a coup against Malian President Touré, blaming him for failing to crush the rebellion. In June, an Islamist group, Ansar al-Dine, kicked out the Tuareg nationalists and launched a fight to take over all of Mali. In December 2012, the UN Security Council unanimously approved an intervention to stop the rebels by the armies of the countries in ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, beginning in September 2013.

But when Islamist forces seized a key town in the center of the country, France sent planes to bomb the rebels, with Algerian permission to use its air space, and followed it up with ground troops. The US and the UK have provided tactical and air support.

When Algerian Islamists seized a natural gas facility, claiming to be retaliating for Algeria's aid in France's attack in Mali, the US seized this opening to frame this as part of the "Global War



on Terror." The US has sent 100 military advisors to train the armies of the ECOWAS countries and has planned military exercises of 3500 US combat troops in Africa for later this year. Although they call it "fighting al-Qaeda in Africa," it's actually part of long-range US strategy to deprive China of the natural resources it needs to develop as a US rival.

#### As capitalist crisis sharpens, imperialists will continue to loot Africa.

The declining rate of profit, the long-term cause of the current economic crisis, makes the competition for scarce resources even more ruthless today. Mali is the country with the third richest gold reserves in Africa. Potable water and oil reserves have recently been discovered in northern Mali. Uranium and potential oil and gas deposits in the northeast are in rebel hands.

Africa was the key to European imperialism, and France is still the major imperial power in its former colonies in western and central Africa, controlling both their currency and much of their natural resources. But China's rise has meant major competition to French investors: China is now Africa's largest trading partner, with construction and natural-resource deals totaling approximately \$90 billion since 2010.

China was a key ally of toppled Malian president Touré, has built bridges and highways, and has developed oil deposits in Mali. China re-

cently concluded an agreement to build a dam which would guarantee hydroelectric power as well as irrigation for rice for export. French military intervention in Mali, aided by the UK and the US, allows the French bosses to deprive China of Mali's resources while they exploit them to bail French capitalists out of their current crisis.

Mali is not alone. Many of Africa's wars, which have claimed the lives of millions, are rooted in conflicts between rival imperialists over strategic resources. The civil war in Sudan and its US-sponsored division into two countries, have stopped the flow of Sudanese oil, once China's largest overseas oil project. The decline of US imperialism and the rise of China is a contradiction that can only result in more wars and can only be resolved by world war or communist revolution.

#### African Workers Can Lead the Way in Mobilizing the Masses for Communism

Chinese investment has created massive infrastructure throughout Africa, but this has not benefited workers. However, increasing industrial development created more industrial workers, potential grave-diggers for capitalism. Neither Islamists nor nationalists have anything to offer the masses; they will always make deals with capitalist politicians. The betrayal of the South African working class by the African National Congress has taught the masses this lesson the hard way.

But African workers have a rich history of communist organizing, including the 1947 strike of railway workers in Senegal and the multi-ethnic communist party of Sudan, the largest in Africa. The working class in South Africa, the most industrialized country on the continent, has led the way. From the platinum miners in Marikana, South Africa, to the textile workers in Alexandria, Egypt, African workers can and will mobilize the masses for communism.

## HELLO, RED FLAG

I participated in the international communist training school at the end of 2012.

I was impressed with our garment workers and youth. It fills me with enthusiasm to see these developments.

We don't invent, we show the existing exploitation, and we promote the autonomous movement of the overwhelming majority of the working class in its own interest.

Our propaganda puts the workers of one region of the world in contact with the experiences of the working class in other regions. It makes us live dramatically, in the moment, the history of the working class, its struggles against capitalism. To intertwine these experiences with our ideas is important, even if right now it's done with a minority.

In practice the contradictions will break open the vicious cycle and create a profound change in the way the workers think. The ideas we ad-

vocate in *Red Flag*, on the initiative of a group that right now is small, can be decisive when the disputes among the imperialists sharpen.

Ideas become a material force when they are gripped by the masses of workers, and today the representatives of ICWP take on the idea of putting communist ideas into action among the whole working class throughout the world.

How to coordinate and centralize the rebellion of the majority of the exploited who suffer in different ways? Success depends on the theory that takes hold among the exploited and oppressed of the world, since neither the taking of power nor expropriation of the means of production and the land (nationalization) have assured the success of communism in the past.

Capitalism is based on extracting the labor of the working class and inciting all workers to plunder their neighbors and mind their own business without thinking about the others. To end that idea is why we in ICWP fight. This small in-

ternational meeting was a big step toward our goal. We should insist on more of this! Join us!  
—Comrade in Mexico

## SWEAT SHOPS

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which strengthen character in the midst of struggle.

Many already know our newspaper *Red Flag*, which will serve to announce this struggle to thousands of workers internationally and to ask for their communist solidarity, organizing in their work places to support these workers and to destroy wage slavery.

We must all learn that only through the struggle organized in the International Communist Workers' Party lies the road to achieve real changes in the lives of the working class. And that today, like yesterday and like tomorrow, we must push the wheel of history to the goal of a communist system.

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## Communism: Our Heritage and Our Future Part XI:

### “COLLECTIVITY IS NO WILD DREAM”

We began this series in 1796, standing with the Conspiracy of Equals on the Pont Notre-Dame in Paris, as they boldly distributed revolutionary pamphlets to the masses rushing to work.

Their story starts, not with radical Christianity (as in previous centuries) but with the secular French Enlightenment. Most Enlightenment writers supported the rising bourgeoisie (capitalists) against the feudal landowners and their monarchy. But a few voiced the aspirations of a growing class of wage laborers.

“Nothing will belong to anyone,” wrote Morelly in 1755, “except the things for which the person has immediate use.” Everyone “will be supported by, and occupied at the public expense” and “will make his particular contribution according to his capacity.”

“Are not the fruits of the earth put there for the common enjoyment of all mankind?” asked Mably a decade later. “Where do you find a law of inequality?”

“Collectivity is no wild dream,” Mably continued. “I find it hard to conceive how on earth humanity blundered into private ownership of goods.”

#### Babeuf’s Communism and the French Revolution

Francois-Noel Babeuf had a hard childhood in rural Picardy. He was mostly self-taught. He started working at age 15, and in 1783 found employment as a tax specialist for feudal landowners. He knew first-hand how they used tax law to rob the masses. This, together with his reading of Enlightenment authors like Rousseau, led Babeuf to conclude that taxes and land redistribution should be used instead to transfer wealth from the rich to the poor.

After the 1789 Paris uprising that launched the French Revolution, a mass rebellion against unemployment and scarcity prices spread in Picardy. Hundreds of armed peasants and laborers ransacked granaries and prevented grain transport. Babeuf embraced this movement, spoke out for the masses and was arrested as a subversive.

In a 1791 letter, he advocated the immediate “putting in common of all resources.”

From jail, Babeuf started publishing a radical newspaper that advocated direct mobilization of the Paris masses. “Let us so arrange things that everyone dominates at once, and no person dominates in particular... **The People are the Sovereign,**” he wrote. Babeuf was released from jail with the help of the revolutionary leader Marat – and of the thousands who were reportedly ready to march on the prison.

An economic crisis in the winter of 1792- 1793 sparked another wave of mass protests in the countryside, including a general insurrection of 10,000 in Oise. Babeuf had to flee to Paris, where he became secretary of the Parisian commune’s Food Administration.

When the capitalist Convention decreed the death penalty for advocating the Agrarian Law (redistribution of land), Babeuf renamed himself Gracchus, after the ancient Roman agrarian champion. The mass “Enragé” movement (1794-95) convinced him that a new society based on equal shares of common product, without rich and poor, without wage-slaves, could be achieved immediately.

“From each according to ability, to each according to need,” Babeuf wrote to his son in 1794.

While bourgeois leaders flaunted their wealth, Babeuf’s family shared the desperate misery of the masses. He published an illegal newspaper, *Tribun du peuple*, and pamphlets, and organized a distribution network.

During the spring 1795 uprisings, many insurgents

looked to Babeuf (imprisoned again) for leadership. In the Arras prison, he met Charles Germain, who introduced him to the history of the Essenes and the 16th century Anabaptist communist experiments. Together they formed the Conspiracy of the Equals to organize for communist revolution.

Babeuf was released in Paris in October. As the Conspiracy grew and prepared for armed insurrection, it attracted a more diverse following. By then the bourgeois government had criminalized even the radical democracy of the 1793 Constitution.

The insurrection was foiled by the police and their spies. Many revolutionaries were arrested, including Babeuf in May 1796. He was executed one year later, declaring that **“I lived and drew my breath only for one cause, the emancipation of the people.”**

*The next article will continue Babeuf’s story and conclude this series.*



**September 9, 1796: With Babeuf in jail awaiting trial, hundreds of communist workers (including some deserters from the Grenelle army camp) broke into the camp to appeal to the many disgruntled soldiers to join them. Police and officers, forewarned, suppressed this last Babouvist uprising.**

## WORLD WAR OR NOT, IT’S TIME FOR REVOLUTIONARY GROWTH

Peace is not at hand. The U.S. ruling class must increase its commitment to select proxy wars and overt military action, and plans to do so. World War is certainly inevitable, but not likely imminent.

Sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry, worsened by capitalism’s global economic crisis, moves up the clock on World War. The pages of *Red Flag* have detailed this growing contradiction.

Obama failed to hem in China at the recent Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) conference. The U.S. formed ASEAN to promote its cold war anti-communist agenda. Now, they can’t even get the host, Cambodia, to bring up the issues China doesn’t want discussed, like territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

At this point, you have to ask why hasn’t world war already broken out? The answer lies in the perception and plans of the major ruling classes, U.S. and China. Both are making contingency plans for global warfare, but neither conducts its foreign policy as if world war is imminent.

The Chinese rulers don’t want world war because they are winning. They may not win everywhere, but the trend is clear. If by some miracle, the attempts of the U.S. to hem in China become successful, the Chinese bosses may change their thinking.

On the other side, the U.S. bosses are furiously debating how to deal with the new situation. The Pentagon’s top brass are pushing “The Risks of

Ignoring Strategic Insolvency,” an article by Michael Mazaar of the U.S. National War College.

“The forces undercutting the U.S. strategic posture are reaching critical mass,” he says.

He cites economic weakness, alternate centers of power, declining U.S. military dominance, fair-weather allies, and lack of public support for military adventures. He concludes the bosses have to pick and choose their fights carefully.

Even the more militaristic Andrew Krepinevich Jr. writes on “Strategy in the Time of Austerity” in *Foreign Affairs*, the magazine of the U.S.’s most influential think-tank. “Because the resources available to the U.S. military will be increasingly limited, the objectives must be too,” he begins.

His last section is about hard choices. “Strategy is about setting priorities, and not everything can be a top priority,” he concludes.

Krepinevich warns against direct military invasions in favor of an “indirect approach” to hem in Iran and China in alliance with any allies the U.S. can muster. Risky, he admits, but not as risky as overextending the military.

These plans are much more detailed. It is beyond the scope of this opinion piece to lay them out. Nonetheless, this doesn’t look like the grand strategy of a ruling class preparing for imminent world war.

World War II started when the German and

Japanese ruling classes organized and executed huge military campaigns that threatened the very existence of competing bosses. Who’s going to quickly organize such campaigns today?

Perhaps a more important question is: “Why does it matter?” We live in a period when the masses are in motion against the sharpening attacks of capitalism in crisis. Not only is the inter-imperialist rivalry intensifying, but also the contradiction between bosses and workers is breaking out in more and more violent ways.

Capitalism’s global crisis of overproduction has meant brutal economic attacks on billions of workers. As we saw last summer in South Africa, racist economic attacks are twice as ferocious.

In this context, class struggle that starts out with economic demands ends up, in many cases, pushing politics to the fore. The potential to mobilize the masses for communism is greater; the necessity to build the ICWP greater still. War or no war, now is the time to turn the potential for revolution into party growth.

We must continue to expose the sharpening contradictions between the bosses, and the inevitability of global conflict. At the same time, we must not confuse inevitability with imminence.

Our main effort remains to turn crisis and mass ferment into recruitment to our party from the concentrations: schools, jobs, and barracks. Communist mobilization is the way forward.



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

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY SHOWS :CAPITALISM WON'T LAST FOREVER**

This Political Economy series is to help us understand the laws of motion of capitalism. This understanding gives us, our friends, allies and coworkers confidence that capitalism is only a passing phase in the history of humanity. It must and will be replaced by a classless communist society based on fulfilling the needs of the masses.

Karl Marx laid the scientific foundation of understanding how capitalism works. During his time, Europe witnessed unprecedented capitalist development. The newly-emerging capitalist class was amassing the means of production: factories, natural resources, land. This private ownership of the means of production created the working class, which can only survive by selling their labor power to the capitalists for a wage.

The pursuit of natural resources, land and new markets created havoc in Africa, the Americas and Asia as various European capitalists plundered, pillaged and wiped out civilizations so that human beings, cotton, sugar, spices, and gold could flow from one corner of earth to the other. They created standing armies to defend what they had stolen and to impose their exploitation. In Europe, children as young as four years old were forced to work in coal mines. Most workers worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week in horrific conditions, while millions died of starvation for lack of a job. The average life span of working people was under 38 years.

These new realities of capitalism also gave rise to new ways of thinking. The capitalist class, having emerged by smashing feudalism, proclaimed that capitalism gives everyone freedom to live and work anywhere and fulfill their dreams. However, capitalism was another form of slav-

ery: the working class' survival as a class depends on whether or not the capitalists buy our labor power. Learning from and participating in workers' struggles around Europe, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels for the first time explained how exploitation takes place under capitalism.

Unlike pre-capitalist societies where the exploitation was obvious and direct, capitalist exploitation is obscured by wage slavery. Capitalism is organized to produce commodities for sale. The capitalists own all the means of production and produce commodities using the labor power of workers. Marx wrote, “The worker produces; essential labor (paid labor for himself/herself) and surplus labor (unpaid labor for capitalist boss).” But because workers are paid wages, the unpaid portion, which is the profit for the capitalist class, is hidden.

We have seen that by exposing this hidden aspect of exploitation, we can expose the violent class nature of capitalism. As bosses compete with each other, they are forced to increase their production and efficiency by constantly replacing workers with machines. But since only workers produce surplus value, this mechanization causes the rate of profit to fall. The bosses, fighting for



m a x i m u m profit, are constantly locked in battles to counter this falling rate of profit. They try to counter it by attacking workers to reduce wages, o c c u p y i n g

areas of the world for natural resources and opening up markets and destroying their rivals' means of production by war.

However, capitalist bosses' attempts to restore the rate of profit also create many millions of angry workers around the world who are unwilling to accept wage slavery and war, and are searching for alternate answers to bosses' system. As capitalism sinks deeper into crisis, the bosses use their ideology to try to confuse and mislead workers. They lie, claiming that the crisis is external to capitalism and that austerity, reducing pension funds, cutting healthcare costs, choosing the correct political party, union or boss can ultimately resolve the horrors of capitalism.

But the bosses and their economists neither understand nor reveal the scientific basis of capitalist exploitation; they can never predict what is coming. Just six months before the financial crisis in the US, ruling-class economists were praising the “soundness” of the housing market. A leading US economist said some 30 years ago, “The only function of [capitalist] economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable.”

The capitalist bosses, just like all past class exploiters, suffer from the illusion that their system will last forever. They try to justify this illusion by claiming that racism, sexism, greed, competition, and selfishness have always existed, rather than saying these are specific historic products of capitalism for creating surplus value.

We cannot allow the working class to be won to the bosses' lies. By intensifying our internal struggle to deepen and expand our understanding of political economy we are creating the material basis for a mass communist party. We conclude this series but future articles will explain events as the capitalist crisis deepens.

### **LETTERS**

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### **CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS**

## **TOO MUCH COMMUNISM IN HEADLINES?**

Greetings! I am a friend of ICWP and concerned about all the things that concern you also, like the exploitation of humans by humans, social injustice, child labor, the destruction of our home that is the earth on which we live, the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, worldwide hunger, and much more. We know that all of these problems have a solution in a just and humane system: communism.

I firmly believe that we must fight for this and that every human would naturally also fight for this. But we know that this system has desensitized and dehumanized us to the point that we're indifferent to our neighbor's suffering.

I know we have to begin to politicize the masses, to wake them from their stultifying dream, to show that we do not live in a world in which everything is fine and that all around us there is a world that is falling apart. But it's not enough to wake them from their stultifying dream. We also have to show them that there is a fair system and that it's not in the kingdom of heaven, but that instead we can build it ourselves here.

I have read the newspaper *Red Flag* and it seems that it's a good way to sow in the minds of the readers the seed of revolution, but it doesn't seem to be a good idea to teach a child to run before it knows how to walk. I know that communism is the solution to the world's pro-

blems, I am firmly convinced of this, but I'm talking about myself.

When I read in the headlines words like communism, I feel that we push away the people who for their whole lives have been told that communism is a bad system. First we have to explain that a fair, more humane system exists, but without using the word communism. I'm not saying to never use the word, but first you should use more educational headlines so that the masses begin to understand and realize that communism is a real alternative to save the human species from the destruction to which the capitalist system is taking us.

I think that making this criticism doesn't make me less communist. I only want a struggle that's a little more objective. I know that the newspaper is international, but I am one of the people who think that struggle must be adapted to the society in which one is fighting.

--Reader in Central America

## **RED FLAG RESPONDS:**

Thank you for your letter. There are, no doubt, other readers who agree with you. However, the 20th century was filled with communists who thought they had to talk to workers about other things instead of communism because the “workers weren't ready.” They put off talking about and fighting for communism for a future time. The results were that masses of workers fought bravely for something less than

communism—socialism, national liberation, reforms—and ended up with capitalist exploitation and imperialist war.

We try to explain aspects of communism in every issue of *Red Flag* because our goal is, and must be, to mobilize the masses for communism. If our friends aren't ready for communism, we need to explore ways to help them understand it. We urge you to read our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, which is written to explain the fight for communism, and to continue the discussion.



## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

**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.**

### Anti-Sexist Struggle Inspires Transit Workers

“Hey L, have you heard of Malcolm X?” I asked a co-worker.

He answered, “Malcolm was a good leader. What I liked most about him was his respect and understanding of the need to involve women in the political struggle. I also had some respect for Mohammed Ali for his strong positions against imperialist war and against racism, but I didn’t like his attitude toward women. Because let me tell you something: if you want to organize a struggle or win a revolution, you have to recruit women to participate actively.”

I told him that I agreed with him and that I specifically wanted to show him some articles in *Red Flag* about the history and heroism that women have shown in the class struggle.

I continued to explain that I am a member of ICWP and that we are interested in bringing thousands and thousands of women into our party, to offer them the opportunity to become

leaders, though a process of studying theory and of practice, based on the study of dialectical philosophy, political economy, and the history of the class struggle.

I want to note that in ICWP, the current leadership of women is probably the most solid pillar that sustains the revolutionary struggle. I have also observed that day after day, women who appeared to have little interest in politics have been developing as leaders and are taking on and carrying out their revolutionary work very seriously.

As a revolutionary communist worker, this phenomenon makes me happy and fills me with enthusiasm and I try to do my part to win women at my workplace. Many women workers take *Red Flag* and we talk about it. I also try to do the same in my family and social relations. I also spend time with my male co-workers to struggle with them to join our Party and to see women as comrades who deserve our respect and solidarity.

I want to emphasize that in order to win and

maintain the society without exploitation, that we visualize in our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, we need a society with no classes, without borders, without money, a society in which all human beings are educated to think of the collective first.

We are fighting for a society that is conscious and that, in a fair and equitable way, guarantees what’s necessary for every person to live comfortably. To make this great work a reality we need the mass participation of millions of women along with men workers, soldiers, farm workers, students and teachers.

When I gave the paper to the co-worker mentioned at the beginning, he told me, “I’ll read it, and later we’ll talk.”

The future is ours. Let’s organize so that this longest march begins with a single step. Long live the international working class! Greetings to the women of the maquilas in El Salvador!

—Los Angeles transit worker comrade

### Communism Will End Irrational Massacres

There has been much said about the massacre of the children in Connecticut. People ask, “Why did this happen? How can we avoid such things?” And every one gives their opinion.

As far as I can see, none of the commentators in the bosses’ media has given an acceptable answer. No matter what the bosses do to avoid this, it will continue, because we live in a society in which capitalist culture predominates. That leads to more immoral things happening than we could ever imagine. With capitalist culture, drugs in abundance, and plenty of guns, we have the perfect formula for massacres of children and adults in schools, workplaces, churches and in homes.

What will it take for society and the working class, in the first place, to understand that the capitalist system is responsible for all the evils in society—that we need a new world with a communist ideology and culture?

With respect to this, a Chinese revolutionary said, “In a communist world, there won’t be ignorance, or backwardness caused by the system of capitalist exploitation. In a communist society, both material and spiritual production will experience huge and vigorous developments. In a society like this, all human beings will become communist workers—not selfish—but intelligent, with a high level of culture and technology. The spirit of mutual help will prevail in humanity. There won’t be things as irrational as deception, antagonism, mutual slaughter, and war. Such a society will be, of course, the most beautiful, and the most advanced in the history of humanity.”

—A farm worker member of ICWP

### Capitalism Makes Horrific Attacks Inevitable

A month after the horrific massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the US is still in shock. Twenty elementary school students and six staff members lost their lives at the hands of a mentally disturbed individual who had been raised by a survivalist mother preparing for the end of the world, whom he killed before descending upon the school.

This incident has gained nationwide attention and President Obama’s proposal of a new gun-

control law, which is nothing more than another way of capitalism giving workers the false impression that they are making change in the wake of tragedy.

“How could this attack have happened?” a college student asked a comrade.

“If you think about it like this, it was inevitable,” the comrade told his friend “Capitalism is to blame for this. It creates a society where people are constantly under stress due to everyday life, trying to feed your family and make bills whether you can find a job or not, knowing that the police can attack you whenever they feel like it, a million things built into capitalism.

“It’s a dog-eat-dog system which pits people against each other to compete for jobs and drive wages down, needs racism to divide and rule, and leaves far too many people with no safety net or support network.

Most of us don’t disconnect from reality and attack innocent children, but all of us need a safer world where people aren’t under these stresses.”

The college student asked, “Well, what can I do?”

“Fight for communism,” answered the comrade. “Communism requires cooperation, and is built on people working together, solving problems together, and learning how to build a better world together. Producing for the masses’ needs instead of for some bosses’ profits, we’ll live collectively and build better relationships between all of us. People will look out for each other and take notice of these high levels of stress before they become a problem which will in turn prevent senseless acts of antisocial behavior and violence against the masses.

—Student comrade

### *Django Unchained*: NOT a Love Story

I have not seen Quentin Tarantino’s *Django Unchained*, and I do not plan to see it. I have seen only one of Tarantino’s movies, *Pulp Fiction*, a violent, bloody, perverse, sick film. I thought that a Tarantino film on slavery would be another *Pulp Fiction*. An online search of reviews and commentaries confirmed this.

*Django Unchained* had a \$100 million production budget. Would \$100 million be spent on

a Hollywood film which realistically depicted enslaved persons fighting against slavery and oppression? Not hardly.

*Django* is hardly the love story of a slave wanting to rescue his wife. It is a 2 hour, 45 minute blood-spattered romp of violence.

*Django* repeatedly shows degrading brutality towards African Americans with the n-word ubiquitous, counted 114 times by one reviewer.

A particularly brutal, horrifying scene is (imaginary) Mandingo fighting—forcing two black men to fight to the death. One reviewer could only watch it through laced fingers.

In the end, *Django* kills a plantation big house full of white men and women. He frees himself and his wife and sets off into a metaphysical sunset. He does not rouse the other slaves on the plantation, tell them what he has done, and that they too were free.

Slaves were not hapless, brutalized victims: resistance was constant, and when the opportunity arose, hundreds of thousands liberated themselves during the Civil War.

The violence in *Django* is not the kind that is necessary to free a person from oppression. It is a spaghetti-western, video-game type blood bath with bodies torn apart by dogs or shot at close range after they were dead.

*Django* treats slavery superficially. The slave system in the US and elsewhere was bound up with the global development of capitalism. As Marx noted ironically, “The turning of Africa into a warren for the commercial hunting of black skins” was one feature of “the rosy dawn of the era of capitalist production.”

Slaves were tremendously valuable property. At the time of the Civil War, 1860, (*Django* takes place in 1858), the dollar value of slave property was greater than the dollar value of all American railroads, banks, and manufacturing put together.

Slavery was no sideshow in the US. It was the main event, and the cotton that slaves produced made the US important to the world.

We must study and learn from the armed resistance and abolitionist efforts that led to the end of chattel slavery. We must also join in the mass mobilization and organization to end capitalism and wage slavery.

—Bay Area Comrade



# CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions (no more than 350 words)  
We are especially interested in submissions from outside the USA.

Each issue will be discussing one of these "Top 10 Lies."

## Capitalist Lies

Top 10 Lies We R Taught

1. Communism is dead.
- 2. We have "freedom" of speech, beliefs, expression**
3. Cops are your friends/only; bad people go to jail.
4. We have "equal opportunity"
5. The U.S. smashed the Nazis
6. Humans are inherently power hungry
7. We need to vote to change things
8. Capitalism runs on "supply and demand"
9. The government checks and balances ensures that nobody has too much power and our government works for the people
10. Lincoln ended slavery



### BATMAN PROMOTES FASCISM; SLAMS REVOLUTION

The two most recent Batman movies, *The Dark Knight* (2008) and *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012), may seem like more of the same...superhero battles evil and saves all. However, as most Hollywood movies; it is packed with ruling class propaganda.

The theme of the first movie is that a police state (fascism) is justified because it is the only way to bring peace to crime-infested communities. It disregards the root cause of problems in society: the structure of capitalism, which creates dysfunctional social relations. A COMMUNIST SYSTEM will create social relations that lead to healthier people and communities without fascism.

The second movie starts with a gathering to give thanks for a new peaceful community made possible by increased policing and granting new powers to the Gotham City Police Department. The masses are portrayed as appreciative of the mass incarceration that took place.

As the bad guys begin their mayhem, their first target is Wall Street. There is a scene where 911 responders question whether lives should be risked to save "Wall Street." We are led to believe that Wall Street's money is everybody's money and if the bad guys are not brought down and Wall Street saved, our money will have little or no worth. This is the same lie the capitalist ruling class used to convince us that it was okay to bail out Wall Street and banks while increasing poverty.

The movie then pushes the idea that solutions such as giving "power to the people" bring chaos and disaster. As the bad-guy Bane said, "Take Gotham from the corrupt, the rich, the oppressors of generations—who would have kept you down with myths of opportunity..." Putting these words in Bane's

### The Truth of the Matter:

People living in the US are told that we are protected by the Constitution's First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to speak freely about whatever we want to say. This "fundamental right" is "inalienable." The First Amendment also supposedly affords freedom: to petition and assemble, freedom of religion, the press, and of association.

Allegedly there are inherent "checks and balances" in the federal government structure provided by the separate judicial, legislative, and executive branches. These are supposed to protect us by keeping each branch honest, when in reality they work together to oppress us.

Speech is really a class question. The capitalist government protects the property of the rich and keeps racist capitalist exploitation and wars intact. For example, the political activist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in 1918 when he publicly voiced opposition to the World War then going on and called for resistance to the draft. His conviction went to the Supreme Court only to be upheld.

A communist society will not have a government structure like capitalism. Communism's "government" will be a mass party of millions of worker-communist leaders, surrounded by millions more. We will plan collectively how to meet our class's needs. Leadership will be made up of members of the only class—the working class.

This way of life will allow our symbiotic harmony mandated not by a "constitution" written by white slave-owners to suit their own capitalist needs but by an internally-motivated respect for everyone. Communism will encourage criticism of ANYTHING that does not seem right. Unlike capitalism, which resorts to fascism to force its will on society, communism will continually nurture the working class's progress, fostering full discussion for the best decisions.

We have an obligation to take power away from governments that attack us. We must vehemently speak out, mobilize, and revolt against them, not just to change one problem, but to change the whole structure that would throw anyone on the fire for profit. Put out capitalism's fire with communist revolution. Join ICWP.

mouth attempts to have us associate fear and terrorism with revolutionary words. The attempt is to instill fear rather than hope for a better world.

The attack on revolutionary and anti-capitalist movements is hard to ignore in these movies. At some point what Bane is doing is referred to as "Bane's Revolution." Bane has decided to blow up Gotham with a nuclear bomb. This is counter-revolutionary; however, Bane and his army of rebels who wear red bandannas around their necks are all carrying out this plan without question until confronted by Batman and the army in blue.

## CAPITALISM & SOCIALISM: ONE AND THE SAME

Merriam-Webster.com, an online dictionary, said the words "capitalism" and "socialism" are "forever wed as this year's most looked-up words". This is very fitting, as socialism is a form of capitalism, even though the bosses try to convince us otherwise. It says the interest is from this year's presidential campaigns and the on-going healthcare debate, where the mainstream media discussed the "American capitalist and European socialist approach". Not surprisingly, the site doesn't attribute this "discussion" to, for example the Occupy Movement, or the worldwide capitalist crisis which spawned it.

Searches for the two words doubled from last year. The article argues that they "encapsulate the zeitgeist (spirit of the time)." It seems logical that many of those look-ups were probably by people trying to understand the nature of the crisis and to search out alternative systems. As we know, the masses are in motion and we need to get our ideas to them so our class doesn't repeat the mistakes of the past. We need to be talking with our families, friends, fellow students, teachers, and co-workers so we can make mobilizing the masses for communist revolution the *international zeitgeist*!

Some other words on the top ten list were "democracy", "globalization", and "schadenfreude (SHOD – en – FROY – duh)" – meaning "delighting in others' misery". This seems like a more interesting "marriage" of words. After all, when we look at the globalization of capitalism, we see that American-style "democracy" is spread around the world to maximize the bosses' profits.

This is done through products, policies, finance, and military might – and it always comes in the form of misery for the masses!

Communism, not socialism, is the word we need!

Join the increasing number of people who are looking us up on [www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org) and consider contributing to this page.



**Choosing a master does not make u free**

So why do many good people like this terrible movie? Was it the advertisement? Are movies, video games, and music glamorizing violence helping or hurting society? Perhaps it's that communities living in fear want solutions to the innumerable capitalist-created problems and this movie seems to provide answers? How would things be different under communism? How would we respond to anti-social behavior under communism? Interested in these discussions? Find out how you can be part of these discussions and be part of creating a better system called **COMMUNISM**. Read *Red Flag!*