



RED FLAG

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



Egyptian workers' uprising. ICWP attended a demonstration in L.A. supporting the rebellion attended by about 500 people, many from Egypt. We distributed 200 copies of *Red Flag* and 400 communist leaflets entitled "Support Arab Rebels by Spreading the Fight for Communism Worldwide."

SUPPORT ARAB REBELS: SPREAD THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM WORLDWIDE! SEE PAGE 2

Capitalism Murders Workers; MTA Bosses Blame and Fire Drivers

GET RID OF CAPITALISM, NOT THE DRIVERS

Los Angeles, CA- In the last two years, three people attempted suicide by throwing themselves in front of moving MTA buses. Two were successful, the third failed. The drivers of the first two buses were fired. The third driver's case is pending even though the survivor said it was a suicide attempt.

More recently, a bus driver didn't see an intoxicated homeless man fall off the curb after the driver picked up passengers at the bus stop and departed. The bus ran over one of the man's hands. The traumatized driver is on medical leave. On coming back, he faces being fired.

Why should these MTA drivers be fired for incidents completely out of their control? Capitalism, not the drivers, is guilty for these deaths! It destroyed those suicidal and homeless peoples' lives. Now MTA management has destroyed the lives of two innocent drivers and plans to destroy those of two more. But, with every attack, anger and hatred is building among the workers, and in their minds, the idea that communist revolution is the only solution is beginning to make sense.

Under communism, no one will be fired, homeless or without medical care. Everyone will contribute to produce for our collective needs, as best they can. Capitalism, however, is a murderous system that cares nothing about workers lives, especially the homeless. It treats homeless people as undesirables to be banned from society. Yet, the majority of them were once productive members of society.

US capitalists don't care about veterans, let alone other workers

We don't know if those committing suicide or the homeless person whose hand got crushed were veterans. We do know that 6,000 veterans a year nationwide commit suicide and that there are 17,000 homeless veterans in LA County alone.

These workers were once "mentally and physically fit" to serve in the bosses' military. They came back from war physically and mentally impaired. Receiving little or no help from the government, they ended up losing their jobs, homes and families. Now, they were treated as outcasts. Can other homeless workers expect any better? As capitalist crisis intensifies, with jobs loses and foreclosures by the millions, homelessness and suicides will continue to rise.

See MTA, page 2.

Charter or public schools, what's the fight?

SCHOOLS MUST BECOME BATTLE GROUNDS FOR COMMUNISM!

LOS ANGELES— The schools where many of us work and study are being targeted for take-over by corporate charters. In response, many of our friends are organizing to "Save Our School." We have told our friends that fighting the charters is the wrong fight.

Students, parents and teachers, the whole working class, need to recognize that the problem is capitalism, which never has and never will serve the needs of the working class. It's a system based on profit and competition; it promotes nationalism and patriotism. We need to fight for a different system: communism, a system based on cooperation to satisfy human need not profit. Communist education will promote working class internationalism.

Educational reform, with or without charters, is due to the capitalist crisis. To get out of it, US capitalists are preparing youth, perhaps against Iranian capitalists to secure and control the oil and natural gas reserves. These resources are necessary for capitalist survival and to feed their war machinery. Capitalists in China, Europe and in Russia will be threatened. They will be forced to mobilize their working classes to join the fight for their own capitalists' interests. Such a scenario will lead to a Third World War and the death of millions of the world's workers.

The Los Angeles Unified School District will build 131 new schools over the next couple of years. All will open as charter schools or as reconstituted public schools, continuing a process of take-over of existing schools. President Obama and his Secretary of Education Arne Duncan are behind these changes to meet the bosses' war needs.

Charter schools are cheaper to operate. They do not have extracurricular activities such as athletics. Teachers get paid less, have less benefits and less job security. Parents are forced to pay for supplies and to donate time to the school. Due to the capitalist crisis and the preparations for wider war the government has less money to run public schools. Eliminating teacher tenure allows the bosses to put more pressure on teachers to teach the bosses lies. This guarantees the

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SUPPORT ARAB REBELS BY SPREADING THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM WORLDWIDE!

The heroic uprising of Arab workers – led by the youth – is an inspiration to workers, soldiers and youth everywhere. It shows that the most vicious repression will never crush the fighting spirit of the working class. The events in Tunisia and Egypt also lay bare for all to see the weakness of the capitalist state and show the explosive power of a united working class.

Unfortunately, heroism is not enough. The goal and the political line leading the struggle to achieve that goal are crucial. Workers there are bleeding and dying for a vague concept called democracy. This concept is used by the capitalists to camouflage their class dictatorship. The world's workers need to destroy the bosses' dictatorship and fight for workers' power, communism. Anything else will only perpetuate their enslavement to capitalism.

Some fake revolutionaries in Egypt and elsewhere are still fighting for socialism. Socialism, however, as proven by China and Russia is state capitalism that is just as brutal as free market capitalism. Communism will eliminate money, the wage system and the market. Its governing rule will be from "each according to commitment and to each according to need".

These events show the crucial need to mobilize the masses for communism now, concentrating our efforts especially among industrial workers and soldiers. That means spreading communist ideas as best we can among friends, coworkers, family and in the mass movement. It means organizing and participating in anti-capitalist class struggle making communist ideas primary. Then, when movements like these occur, there will be masses of workers in these strategic sectors with a deep understanding of communism. They, in turn, will then mobilize even bigger masses of workers, soldiers and students to lead a successful armed communist revolution.

Arab Workers Uprisings: Response to Racist Capitalist-Imperialist Attacks

The anger engulfing these countries, which has spread to Algiers, Jordan and Yemen, is not only against the US-backed dictatorships. It is mainly

against capitalism-imperialism and its brutal racist super exploitation. For example, while in Egypt local capitalists and imperialists pocket billions of dollars, half of its 80 million people live with less than \$2 a day. The minimum wage stands at \$6.30 per month.

If not fighting for communism, workers end up fighting for capitalism-imperialism

The US imperialists are working behind the scenes to prevent the rise of anti-US regimes that could endanger their geopolitical interests in the region. In Egypt they are pushing for ElBaradei or some loyal military officer. They are even contemplating a coalition government with the Islamic Brotherhood.

However, whether secular or fundamentalist, pro or anti-US, these regimes will not serve the interests of workers anywhere. They could, however, drastically change the region's balance of power. Egypt has been key in guaranteeing US interests in the Middle East and keeping the region's vast oil riches flowing to US oil giants – the basis of US imperialism's world supremacy since the end of WWII.

Anti-US-Israel regimes will end up in the Chinese-Russian imperialists' camp

Any anti-US-Israel regime would end up aligning with US rivals China and Russia. These imperialists are fighting the US for control of Middle Eastern oil and world supremacy. The Egyptian rulers are cozying up to China. They understand that the US imperialism is declining while China is rising.

China has displaced the US as Egypt's largest trading partner. Egypt announced plans in 2010 to co-produce an advanced fighter, under the Chinese-Pakistani JF-17 thunder combat aircraft project. The Egyptian bosses want China's help in achieving military self-sufficiency.

Therefore, unless Arab workers and youth fight for communism they will end up as pawns of one capitalist-imperialist or another. Furthermore, the rise of anti-US regimes will only sharpen the inter-imperialist rivalry and lead to wider oil wars, while accelerating the drive toward WWII.

Same Enemy, Same Fight, Workers of the World Unite!

Workers, soldiers and students in the Arab world, the US, Iran, China and Russia – as major participants in these unfolding cataclysmic events - have a particular responsibility in helping mobilize the working class internationally to fight for communism.

Deepening economic crises and expanding imperialist wars are turning the simmering anger of the world's working masses into open warfare against their capitalist-imperialist rulers. The objective conditions for revolution are present in many countries. The subjective one is missing: a massive revolutionary communist party that mobilizes masses of workers to fight for communism.

This is our responsibility. History shows that the masses are open to communism. We must work tirelessly to mobilize them to fight for it. Our battle for now is ideological – replacing capitalist ideology in the working class with communist politics. To win this battle and the war for communism we must massively distribute *Red Flag*, join ICWP and recruit others. Armed with communist ideology the working class will be invincible and communism will rule the world.



MTA from page 1

Let's get rid of capitalism – not the drivers

MTA bosses are firing those drivers to terrorize us into accepting Brown's coming drastic cutbacks. We need to go on the offensive against the bosses and their system. Let's organize a political strike with the slogan "Get Rid of Capitalism, Not the Drivers!" MTA is also using its cameras on buses to intimidate, harass and fire drivers for any reason. Let's also raise the slogan "Smash the Fascist Cameras! Destroy Fascist Capitalism!"

Furthermore, the mechanics are being pressured to increase production. This undermines safety, meaning more accidents, injuries and deaths. The MTA bosses are attacking drivers, mechanics, service attendants and passengers to force us to pay for the bosses' crisis. We need to organize a revolutionary movement to get rid of capitalism that only offers us racist cut backs, unemployment, homelessness and war.

Trade union outlook: dead end street for workers

We need a revolutionary communist outlook that

mobilizes the working class for communism. A trade union outlook is not only useless but dangerous. It builds deadly illusions that capitalism can be reformed. Instead of building our collective strength with mass militant actions - like thousands of angry workers smashing the cameras and shutting down LA transit - it diverts our energy into grievances, hearings and arbitrations. Instead of developing our revolutionary communist class consciousness, it binds us to the bosses' politicians and electoral farce.

Even militancy is not enough – masses must be mobilized for communism

Recent events in Tunisia and Egypt show the power of a united working class and the possibility of a communist revolution. Their struggle, however, is doomed to end in a capitalist regime because they lack the leadership of a revolutionary communist party.

We have the leadership of the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP). We need to organize mass militant communist class conscious actions that inspire workers nationally and internationally to envision and mobilize for a communist alternative to capitalism. Let's paralyze transit with a political strike

that calls for communism and for smashing capitalism.

Farfetched? No. US workers – especially black and latin youth – are simmering with anger. They have rebelled in the past and will rebel in the future. The question is what will they fight for: a more "democratic reformed capitalism" or for communism? We have an important responsibility in deciding this historic question on the side of the working class. Let's not shirk our responsibility. Read and spread *Red Flag*. Join ICWP and organize for a political strike for communism.

MARCH ON MAY DAY WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY SUNDAY, MAY 1ST MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM!



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY (ICWP)
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“Weapons or Walkers?”

BOSSSES SLASH PENSIONS TO DEFEND EMPIRE

Public pensions in the US are on the chopping block. The capitalists are destroying generations as their crisis lingers on. This latest attack brings up the question: at whom does the working class aim their justified fury and what is the solution?

The *New York Times* reported (1/20) that congressmen are working in secret “to come up with a way to let states declare bankruptcy and get out of crushing debts, including pensions they have promised to retired public workers.”

House Republicans and Senators from both parties have taken an interest in the issue. Even the whiff of such discussions would give governors and others more leverage in bargaining with public employees ¾ the largest group of remaining unionized workers.

“They are readying a massive assault on us,” said Charles Loveless, legislative director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. He said he was meeting with potential allies on Capital Hill. What a joke!

Loveless, like all the trade union leaders are incapable of answering the challenge. They have misread history. They can’t put the blame at the foot of the capitalist monster, let alone come up with a solution that relies on the revolutionary potential of the working class

In 2004, Peter Peterson then Chairman of the bosses’ main think-tank the Council on Foreign Relations and Rockefeller’s venture capital investment house the Blackstone Group announced it’s either “weapons or walkers.” He demanded retiree pensions and medical be slashed to raise money to defend the bosses’ empire. Within in a few years private sector defined pensions began disappearing.

Last December, Obama’s handpicked deficit reduction committee recommended Social Security eligibility be delayed another two years. Soon you’ll have to be dead to qualify for benefits!

And guess who wrote this proposal? None other than staffers from the Peter Peterson Foundation, his newly founded private think-tank dedicated, no doubt, to “weapons, not walkers.”

Capitalism Dictates Assault on Working Class

As for this latest scheme, legislatures “might decide to stop short of a full-blown bankruptcy proposal and establish instead some sort of oversight panel, akin to

the Municipal Assistance Corporation.” MAC froze wages and closed scores of hospitals during New York City’s 1975 fiscal crisis. The banks got theirs; thousands lost their jobs.

Capitalism’s attack on pensions is certain no matter what “reforms”, if any, are passed. Moody’s Investors Service has begun to recalculate states’ debt based on unfunded pension obligations. The other capitalist rating agencies are sure to follow.

Illinois, for example, has been cutting pension contributions based on sharp cuts in benefits for state workers who have not yet been hired. The ratings agencies will no longer allow such bookkeeping, putting present public pensions in the spotlight.

All politicians will be obligated to cut present benefits lest their bond rates fall and the cost of borrowing increases. Those that dare not will see their states bled dry. Greece and Ireland will visit US shores.

As to the first part of the question: the culprit is capitalism and capitalism deserves to be the recipient of our fury. As to the solution, we must start now to mobilize the masses for communism.

Communism will end retirement as we know it

Today, retirement signals that the boss can no longer exploit you efficiently. They’d just as soon see you die.

What little pensions some of us have (at least, in theory) are wrenched from the bosses’ cruel hands. As the crisis continues and the bosses need every penny to defend their empire, the capitalists’ grip becomes fiercer and the pennies fewer and farther between.

Communism will eliminate retirement, as we know it. In this more sane society, all will contribute according to their commitment and ability throughout their lives. Work life will no longer represent exploitation and drudgery to be escaped from as soon as possible.

Physical and intellectual isolation will be a relic of history. We will not lose the valuable experience of older generations, while workers will collectively provide for the particular needs of elders.

We can get a taste of this kind of more fulfilling life as we organize across the generations against these latest capitalist attacks. Even as we fight every bosses’ plan to throw pensioners under the bus we must build for the day when pensions are no longer needed.

COMMUNISM WILL DEFEAT RACISM EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD

Two articles on page 13 focus on anti-black racism in the US. However, racism is central to the capitalist system worldwide. The bosses need racism to maximize their super-profits, to divide and rule over us, the working class. Worldwide, the bosses are attacking workers by building or intensifying fascism both ideologically and economically. For example, the European bosses are sharpening their racist attacks on Romani, Muslim and immigrant workers They hope to divide and distract a working class enraged by massive cutbacks.

Only communism can end the capitalists’ vicious racist schemes to divide the working class, including “the new jim crow,” the fanning of ethnic hatred, the super-exploitation of immigrants, and the continuing oppression of the indigenous people who escaped genocide.

Successful mobilization for communism requires smashing these barriers. We must build deep ties among workers whom the bosses want to keep separated, and take advantage of the militant leadership often developed among our most oppressed class sisters and brothers. We must fight the bosses’ racism anywhere and everywhere we can.

More examples of racism in the Americas:

In **Canada**, aboriginal people are fewer than 4% of the population but over 20% of male prisoners and 30% of female prisoners. This is despite a criminal code provision that “all available sanctions other than imprisonment that are reasonable in the circumstances should be considered for all offenders, with particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders.” Official statistics for 2006 give the unemployment rate as 6.3% for all Canadian workers, nearly double that figure for recent immigrants, and even higher for aboriginal workers.

In indigenous areas of **Mexico**, the maternal mortality rate is 300 per 100,000 live births, as high as countries in sub-Saharan Africa, five times the national average. The 2010 infant mortality rate among indigenous people was 22.8 per 1,000 live births, compared to 14.2 per 1,000 for the population at large.

Examples like these can be found in every corner of the world.

AEROSPACE WORKERS SUPPORT RED FLAG

Recently I and 2 other comrades went to distribute *Red Flag* at an aerospace subcontractor factory. We’ve been going consistently for months now and the workers really like our paper. These workers are under sharper and sharper attack.

In our last two most recent sales, we distributed more than 125 papers each time. We received donations of about \$28 from workers just giving whatever change they had in their cars to help pay for the paper.

We asked some of the workers if they’d like to take an extra copy of the paper, so they could give it to a friend. A lot of them agreed to take extra copies, and a few agreed to give an extra donation.

We don’t have much time to talk to the workers in-

dividually but a few workers stop and talk a little. One told me he loves the paper. It’s his favorite and he reads every copy he gets. He smiled and took an extra paper.

We get very positive vibes from the workers and few rejections.

Distributing *Red Flag* at factories and asking workers to give papers to friends is a vital tool for organizing for communist revolution. We need workers in industry, students, teachers and soldiers and all our friends and family to read *Red Flag* and donate what they can to fund the paper. They need to know our ideas and learn that a communist revolution is the only solution to the problems that capitalism has cre-

ated. For instance, the economic crisis, high unemployment rate, police brutality, racism, just to name a few of capitalism’s disasters that working class people deal with everyday of our lives. Workers need to know that we can build a system that meets all our needs for survival. We don’t need bosses. We don’t need favoritism for a few, but we’ll all be able to contribute all our energy and understanding to create a society that meets our collective needs.

Workers all over the world need to unite and fight for a communist revolution. Join ICWP.

A young comrade

SCHOOLS, from page 1.

bosses’ war agenda.

Capitalist education, public or charter, will never meet the needs of working class students. Charters and public schools use the same textbooks filled with capitalist ideology, more nationalism and patriotism. Technical changes include basic math and science which will prepare the youth to use and defend the capitalist rulers’ war machinery. The capitalist government controls all schools. They will do with them what they need to, to maintain their empire. They will

miseducate us and send us off to war, to die and kill, and to save their system.

In a communist society, when the working class controls education, we won’t have schools that look like the capitalist prisons kids are sent to now. Education will be combined with meaningful work where everyone will develop their full potential to better serve the society. We won’t have manual workers who are looked down on and a few “educated” elites who think advanced schooling gives them the right to privileges that workers are denied. We will all work according to our commitment and share abundance and

scarcity according to need.

As the capitalist crisis gets more intense, the schools become battlegrounds and we must mobilize students, parents and teachers to join the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP). We must organize political strikes against capitalism. A system that can not meet the needs of the world’s workers does not deserve to exist! We must mobilize the masses of working class folks to fight for a world where education will truly meet the needs of the international working class. Join the ICWP and mobilize the masses of workers for communism!

Everyone Needs Math

COMMUNISM WILL DESTROY CAPITALIST EDUCATION

The first day of our Freedom School was mainly about “schooling versus education.” Some said that education was “for yourself.” Others said that education should be “for the working class” so we can serve our class better. All agreed that capitalist schools today educate us to meet the needs of the bosses’ system.

We asked, “What does it mean to be an educated person?” Two students said that it had to include “your basic English and math.”

What math does everyone need? We use mental math and estimating a lot—mostly in connection with money. In communism there won’t be money, but we still need mental math. For example, how much food would you need for a certain number of people?

Many kinds of work use math. For example, formulas are used to calculate children’s medicine dosage based on their weights. Couldn’t people learn this in connection with actual work?

“Everyone needs fractions,” someone suggested.

“With a calculator or without?”

“You need to know the steps.”

The steps! Math books give “the steps” for dozens of different kinds of problems. Students are supposed to memorize them. Some teachers “take off points” if you don’t “follow the steps” exactly, even if you get the right answer.

That’s not teaching mathematical reasoning or quantitative literacy, words often thrown around. It’s capitalist training for workers who will remember what they’re told to do and then do exactly that.

Someone said her art class was like that, too. A mother told how her son’s art wasn’t posted in his kindergarten room because the teacher said “he hadn’t done it correctly.” Even the college’s preschool posts rows of almost identical pictures.

So, capitalist education goes far beyond the outright lies we are usually taught. It builds capitalist social relations.

Taking Steps Toward Communist Math Education

As a contrast we discussed examples of big changes in education during the mid-1960s Chinese Cultural Revolution. In these experiments we can see the beginning of the development of communist social relations.

Everyone liked the idea of students building their own schools and rewriting their own textbooks. They were impressed by middle-school graduates teaching younger children.

There was a slogan in the 1960s, “What you know—teach. What you don’t know—learn.” One student repeated it slowly, nodding her head.

Freedom School has math tutoring, too. But it’s hard to break out of old, capitalist ways.

A few days later, a student was showing “the steps” to solve a meaningless equation while others busily copied his work. One tried to use “the steps” to solve a similar equation and soon got lost and frustrated. “But I know the answer is 2,” she said.

“Let’s try it a different way,” another interjected, thinking of the previous discussion. “How can you show that 2 is right?” She did. “Now can you tell me in words how you got it?” She could. Then we looked at how her own mathematical reasoning corresponded to “the steps.”

Finally we changed one number in the equation so that the new equation did not have a whole-number solution. We couldn’t solve it in our heads. Now it helped to write “the steps” to keep track of the reasoning.

This was different because it respected and built on the knowledge the student already had, instead of telling her “you’re wrong.”

Later, we talked about the contradictions in communists trying to teach and learn math in capitalist schools.

We saw that it’s like the military or any other job

under capitalism. The bosses exploit us and force us to act against our own class interest, but we can and must turn that into an opportunity to organize for communist revolution.

A red teacher’s main job in the classroom is to build communist relations with and among the students, teaching them to be “both red and expert.” A red student’s job is almost the same! We are working to build a Party-led collective that will help us figure out how to do this better.

Algebra and Dialectical Materialism

The communist philosophy of dialectical materialism includes the idea that every thing or process contains general aspects and particulars.

Useful generalizations depend on knowledge of particulars (specific instances) but they are also powerful tools. For example, understanding the general role of education in capitalist society helps us make sense of what’s going on in our particular classrooms.

A 16th-century mathematician wrote, “the outer sense tells us the truth in particular things, but not in universal [general] things: for universal things are subject only to understanding and not to any sense.”

You might know first-hand that your particular boss is a jerk. But none of us can know, just by first-hand experience, the universal truth that the working class and the capitalist class are locked in deadly struggle. That requires the theoretical understanding that Red Flag offers.

Arithmetic generalizes from a “number of things” to abstract numbers. Once mastered, it makes solving quantitative problems easier and more routine. Algebra generalizes arithmetic. It’s an even more powerful problem-solving tool. Also, the practice of algebra should be – but rarely is – the basis of a better understanding of dialectical materialist philosophy.

US RULERS HAVE “NO MONEY” FOR INJURED VETS BUT SPEND \$1 MILLION FOR EACH DEAD IRAQI

While deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, soldiers are constantly placed in harm’s way. In one unit alone, four Improvised Explosive Devices were placed to attack a single convoy of 4-5 Humvees. Although these attacks didn’t always injure soldiers, the possibility was always present. In fact, this unit lost one soldier due to an IED attack.

Some soldiers survive serious attacks with major injuries that require serious medical attention. When they come back home, however, they can’t get the medical attention they need. Some have experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI), which alters their basic human functions. Some cannot walk, talk or even eat. Being shot in the head can also result in TBI.

Treatment for soldiers is not only delayed; it is often completely denied. For racist Democratic Party politician Senator Gifford, however, there was absolutely no delay. She is currently receiving, regardless of cost, the latest treatments, including cognitive



Unemployed World War I vets fight cops and the U.S. Army in the 1932 Bonus March.

behavior therapy which has proven useful for TBI.

National Public Radio has exposed that the army is denying soldiers this treatment and claiming there is no substantial evidence showing it to be effective. The fact is that the government doesn’t want to pay for treatment that “can cost \$15,000 to \$50,000 per soldier.” It is estimated that between 115,000 to 400,000 military personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have returned with some form of TBI, called the “signature injury” of modern warfare.

The bosses have no money for injured veterans, yet they spent over a trillion dollars killing a million Iraqis, or a million dollars per dead Iraqi. Now they spend \$2 billion a week keeping 100,000 US soldiers killing Afghani workers, facing death and injury themselves, or a million dollars a year per US soldier.

The imperialists need to build patriotism with the illusion that they care about the well being of soldiers. But they don’t care and won’t fund the healthcare that veterans need. They pretend they want to deal with the problem, but really plan to spend more on wider wars defending their declining empire.

In communism, workers’ and soldiers’ lives are priceless

Capitalism puts money and profits before human lives. It can never meet the medical needs of soldiers. Only communism can. Communism will eliminate money. Care for soldiers and workers around the world will be based on need, not on cost. Workers’ and soldiers’ lives are priceless – the care provided to them will also be priceless.

In communism we will try everything possible to cure and rehabilitate soldiers and workers. How else can we know if a medical treatment is valid? In a cap-

italist system, the rulers use their so called research data to deny needed coverage. This is criminal. It is a death sentence to thousands of soldiers with TBI. Just as the bosses callously slaughter Middle Eastern women, men and children, they use us as cannon fodder and when not useful, discard us as empty shells.

The soldiers suffering with TBI from Iraq and Afghanistan are coming home to face a brutal job market. Many will swell the ranks of the hundreds of thousands of homeless veterans, with no jobs, health care or homes. A system that cannot provide medical care for soldiers and workers needs to be replaced with a communist system that provides the needs of everyone. A system that can only provide jobs killing workers in other countries need to be destroyed.

Soldiers and workers need to fight now for a communist world. That’s the war worth waging! Whenever we hear of fellow soldiers who come back injured and cannot get treated, we should be infuriated. This furor needs to be channeled correctly to inspire these soldiers to grasp the necessity of building a communist movement that will abolish rulers’ murderous and racist medical system, along with their imperialist wars for profit and empire. Let’s concentrate our efforts in mobilizing soldiers in the military for communist revolution.

**READ, WRITE,
CIRCULATE,
CONTRIBUTE TO
RED FLAG!**

RACISM: PRODUCT OF CAPITALISM

Want another weapon in the fight against racism? Read Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. It's the sharpest account of racism in the USA to be published in years. Since the start of the War on Drugs, Alexander points out, the American penal system has developed into one of the most gigantic systems of social control the world has seen. Today one third of Black men are in jail, in prison, on parole or on probation. In fact, "More African-Americans are under correctional control today...than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War." The Court's bracelet has replaced the master's chain!

For Alexander, the term 'mass incarceration' doesn't just mean imprisonment. It is, she insists, "a large web of laws, rules, policies and customs that control the 'criminal' in and out of prison...once released the former prisoner enters a hidden underworld of legalized discrimination and permanent social exclusion; a subordinate status. "No other country in the world," Alexander writes, "imprisons so many of its racial and ethnic minorities. The United States imprisons a larger percentage of its black population than South Africa did at the height of apartheid."

A Rigid Caste System

Several chapters of the book detail how the press and media, the entertainment industry, the Pentagon, the Supreme Court., both political parties, the police, housing authorities, welfare and probation services, combine to create this rigid caste system – the new Jim Crow. These chapters will make you burn with anger. Alexander shows how separate policies of government and non-government organizations dovetail to trap the Black man in a prison of regulations. No matter how many years you serve in prison, once branded a felon, you are branded for life!

Taken together these chapters present a case book description of how "the dictatorship of the capitalist class" works. But Alexander is not a communist. For all the power of her analysis, she fails to place "the new Jim Crow," like the original Jim Crow, like slavery or the genocide of Native Americans that preceded it, in the context of the needs of the capitalist system. She shows the how of racism but not the why.

Racism is a product of capitalism (and this is particularly true of the US). Capitalism is built on the exploitation of the vast majority (workers) by a tiny minority (capitalists). It could not exist without the state, or government. While appearing to be neutral, this state aims to discipline the working class. Racism is central to its ability to do this. First, it weakens our class consciousness, shattering the confidence our overwhelming numbers could give us. Then, it creates a "reserve Army of labor," or large pool of workers who want, but can't find, permanent jobs. The larger the pool of these 'informal' workers, the greater the pressure on the wages and conditions of those more permanently employed and the more hesitant they are to rebel.

Attacks All Workers

As the 30 million young Black and increasingly Latin men who have been arrested on drug charges since 1982 get released they find themselves denied federal housing, food stamps and other social services as well as many, if not most, jobs and professions. They are in reality "sub-legal" workers and join the smaller (but still 12 million strong) mainly Latino "illegal" workers.

Together with the attack on welfare under Clinton, the making of this "sub-legal" and "illegal" army of the unemployed has been one of the main strategies the state has used to discipline US workers. No wonder then that since The War on Drugs (which coincided with an increase of immigration and the "end of welfare as we know it"), we have experienced an unprecedented and sustained drop in wages alongside an increase in the length and intensity of labor. Racism weakens the entire working class.

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CHAIN GANGS: WHAT CAPITALIST REFORM IS ALL ABOUT

In December, 2010, prisoners in the US state of Georgia went on strike, refusing to work in what they called "slave conditions." In Georgia, prisoners are forced to work for free. In other states, prisoners earn a few cents an hour working for private corporations like Boeing, Microsoft, and Dell Computers, or for the state itself. This is nothing new.

Although they try to convince us of the contrary, the purpose of capitalist jails and prisons is not to control crime, but to maintain class rule. They incarcerate the workers whose revolutionary potential they fear. This was especially true of black workers in the post Civil War South.

The US Civil War, fought between the northern industrial capitalists and the southern rural slave-owning capitalists, was won by the North, consolidating the hold of industrial capitalists over the country as a whole. In its aftermath, slavery was abolished, except as punishment for a crime. But the Southern ruling class put into a place a system which was slavery by another name: convict labor. Black workers were targeted for petty crimes or for vagrancy, arrested and convicted by an all-white legal system, and leased to the cronies of the local sheriffs and ruling elites. Convict labor played an important role in rebuilding the defeated South. In Georgia, these crony capitalists were concentrated in the turpentine and brick building industries. Black workers (and a few poor whites) were sentenced to long periods of legal slave labor, either in the pine woods, extracting the pitch that was converted to turpentine (paint thinner) or in isolated districts where clay soil was made into bricks. When black workers were chattel slaves, their masters had a material incentive to keep them alive, to profit off their investment. The only incentive for the capitalists who ran these businesses and the officials who were paid off by them was maximum profit, and convicts died at a horrifying rate, worked to death, living in sub-human conditions, fed nasty food and not enough of it, and whipped routinely.

At the turn of the 20th century, the convict lease was eliminated by the Progressive movement, a top-down accommodation to the evolving needs of the ascendant capitalist class in a period of sharpened class struggle, industrialization and preparation by the U.S. for its new role as a world power, in the Spanish American War and in World War I. In the 1890s, convict labor had come under attack both from liberal reformers and by prisoner strikes against inhumane conditions; at the same time it was becoming less profitable. The rising imperialists understood that convict labor could be used by the state to serve the needs of the big capitalists for a highway system capable of serving their needs. So convict leasing was eliminated in favor of the chain gang, where convicts, chained together, built the new highways. Instead of convict labor being used for the personal gain of a few small-time businessmen, convicts became the "inalienable property of the state," used to meet the needs of the rising imperialist bosses with the assistance of engineers from the USDA's Office of Public Roads. The humanitarian impulse to eliminate a brutal system was perverted to meet the needs of the ruling class as a whole. This is what reform means under capitalism: the capitalists reformed their system to silence critics, to more systematically control prisoners, and to meet the needs of the capitalist class as a whole.



We Won't Depend on Cops!

COMMUNIST COLLECTIVES DEAL WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

How will we deal with crime in a communist society? In our neighborhood, where every house has bars on its windows and everyone has had experiences both with criminals and with racist cops, this is one of the first things your family asks you when you tell them you're a communist.

The article "Communism will Mobilize Workers to End Crime, Big and Small" (RF v. 1 #23) said that communist society won't have judges, cops, courts or prisons. Instead, it will mobilize the masses of workers through ICWP to guarantee the safety and political development of all workers and to stop crime and anti-social behavior. The history of the international communist movement gives us some ideas about how to do that.

The principle "from each according to his/her commitment, to each according to need" requires a high degree of collective organization and struggle. In our high school camping trips we did our best to put this

principle into practice.

We took thirty people into the mountains, where we slept in tents, cooked over Coleman stoves, and participated in communist education. Everyone was assigned to a crew which had responsibility for some cooking, some cleaning, and met together every day for political discussion. Not surprisingly, there was a lot of struggle, particularly within the group that had the responsibility to get up early and cook breakfast. And not everybody was as committed to the collective as we hoped. But we carried out the struggle on a principled basis and discussed the lessons in our political meetings.

We think that this is the kind of political struggle that will be the norm in communist collectives. People will know each other well, and interact with each other on a daily basis.

In the Soviet Union, according to the author Anna Louise Strong, if that kind of one-on-one and small

group struggle wasn't effective, workers used wall posters to exert more pressure on workers who weren't pulling their weight. The whole society will be organized around these principles.

William Hinton's book *Fanshen* depicted the struggles to correct the behavior of party members in a Chinese village in 1947-48. This, too, shows the possibility of organizing the whole community to struggle against selfish, reactionary, dishonest and anti-worker violence by its members.

The pressures of racism, unemployment, sexism, and police brutality that push workers to escape with drugs and alcohol will be eliminated. The capitalist individualism which brings isolation and hopelessness will be replaced by communist collectivity.

We will experience together the pressures to build a communist society and deal with them with the support of the co- **See COPS, page 14** llective, not by

RACISM from page 13

Placing what we learn from *The New Jim Crow*, then, in the context of capitalism allows us to understand not just the how but also the why of racism. It helps us realize that while capitalism needs racism, in times of crisis (like the present) it needs it more than ever. Alexander argues that if you want to fight racism, piecemeal reform is futile. Communists argue that if you want to fight racism, any reform of capitalism is futile.

Because capitalism produces for private profit, it wants a divided working class. It wants racism. Because communism will produce for social need, it wants unity. It has to smash racism. *The New Jim Crow* could be a useful tool in the hands of Red Flag readers to organize a study group around since the research Alexander has done allows us to draw more revolutionary conclusions than either she, or her publisher, intended.



Black sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, were part of a Civil Rights Movement which left capitalism intact.

PUTTING COMMUNISM INTO PRACTICE

In my youth I always wanted to “be someone” economically. The only way I had to achieve this was just working hard and saving to get ahead. But, work at what? And as a day laborer without education, how much could I earn and how much could I save?

However, that was my dream. That’s how I became an adult, working hard at whatever I encountered but without saving anything. Navigating from place to place, I was sure that in the USA only those who didn’t want to didn’t get rich.

After thousands of incidents, I came to California. Here I never lacked work, but no matter how hard I worked, savings didn’t appear anywhere. Everything was exploitation, racism and discrimination.

The time came when I no longer wanted to get ahead, but even if I went backward, I wanted to get out of this bad situation. These conditions led me to get involved in struggles, strikes, and marches, which after 5 years of sharp struggle achieved founding the farm workers’ union (UFWA). With the union, things improved a little, but the workers’ problems weren’t resolved as we hoped, since the union, as a reform of the system, was only a palliative. In a short time things went back to the way they were before.

During these struggles I was learning that it was necessary to find other ways to fight, but which ones? And that’s when, like a miracle, I met some comrades who talked to me about communism as the only alternative to the bosses’ exploitation, that in any other way it wouldn’t end. After some discussions with these comrades, I became an activist and distributor of a communist newspaper.

Capitalism Lets Fruit Rot – Communism Means Workers Share It

In the discussions that I had with the readers of the paper, they always asked the question, “If commu-

nism is the alternative to capitalist exploitation, what will communism be like?” Workers always ask this question when we talk to them about communism. This means that since this topic is so important, communist political development is needed to be able to give the most correct explanation possible about this.

For some time, on the days that I had set aside for the distribution of the paper, I put into practice something that helped me in building a base which also can serve as a small example of communist life.

On the days that I brought the paper to the readers, I loaded my truck with boxes of lemons and fresh cactus cut from plants at my house. I gave every reader some lemons and cactus, which are expensive in the markets. I had more of them at my house than I needed for my own use, but what I didn’t need I shouldn’t sell or let go to waste. It was better to give it to someone who needed it.

At the same time, I asked the readers if they had food that they didn’t need that they could give me so that I could give it to others. So I always had potatoes, tomatoes, onions, garlic, chile, fruit, etc., in my truck. Farm workers always have these kinds of products at their house that others don’t have and need.

These actions are the result of communist political consciousness that is acquired with the understanding of communist ideas in contrast to the capitalist ideas of “sell it for a good price or let it rot.”

With these actions, in the work of building a political base, a very favorable social political environment is formed for the Party to grow and to be more known to the workers. When we talk about communism as the best for the working class, it’s necessary to put into practice what we can in some way, even if it’s in small things, because everything we do counts.

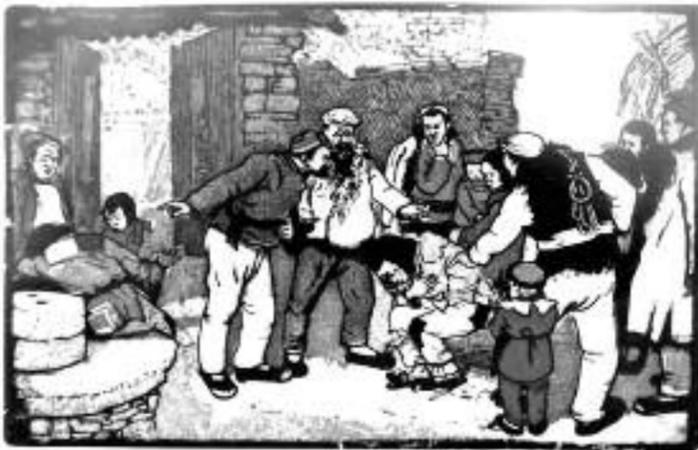
Questions for Red Flag Action-Study Groups:

1. Could uprisings like those now shaking the Arab world take place where you live? What lessons should we learn from these rebellions? What must we do now to prepare to give communist leadership in insurrectionary situations?
2. A retired farmworker writes (p.14) about organizing readers of a communist newspaper to share fruits and vegetables “according to need” as a way of showing them what communism will be like. What do you think about this example? How can your collective mobilize workers for communism in small ways now?

COPS from page 13

escaping from the collective. If people do get drunk, the collective will take care of them, not call the cops.

This doesn’t mean that we will be tolerant or defenseless against attacks by the class enemy to sabo-



Chinese workers struggle with another worker in their village to do his share of the collective work.

tage the communist society that we are building. In dealing with holdovers from criminal capitalist society, we distinguish between big criminals and small criminals, as well as think about the resources available to us at a given period.

During the Civil War in the Soviet Union, the Bolsheviks had taken power, and the imperialists had armed the Czarist forces to fight to bring back the old system of exploitation. The Bolsheviks fought to the death against the Czarist army and the imperialist invaders.

During this time, criminal gangs took advantage of the situation to terrorize, murder and steal from peasants in the countryside. When the Bolsheviks confronted those gangs, they executed the adults—being in the midst of a civil war with no way to incarcerate or control them.

They sent the young people to a school

led by the educator Makarenko, whose book *Road to Life* explains how he taught them a trade and the values of a society in which there were no exploiters, and the working class ruled, and therefore had to take care of, society, not attack it.

We have learned from attempts to set up communist societies such as war communism during the Russian Revolution and the supply system and the Commune movement in China. But we will be the first to establish a society in which the wage system and all exploitation have been abolished.

We know that there will still be some people who have been so corrupted from having lived in a capitalist society that they will be a danger to our workers’ society if they are allowed to be part of it. These people will have to be isolated, not to punish them or exploit their labor, but to rehabilitate them. We don’t have a blueprint for this process, but we do know that a communist society will have to organize collective struggle with everyone as we build a new world.

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Why Not Have Our Own Party?

I enjoyed the story (*RF*, v. 1 #24) about the Boeing worker's dinner to celebrate 30 years on the job and the struggle to open it up to lots of friends. I especially liked the comments about how much different our working lives will be in the future communist world.

But why do you need the penny-pinching bosses' dinner to celebrate this worker's milestone? Why can't the **Red Flag** readers at this Boeing plant organize their own dinner party (maybe a potluck) and invite all those friendly, supportive co-workers? Why not use that as an opportunity to expand the distribution and support of **Red Flag**?

—Party-lover

Egypt Rebellion: Opportunity to Fight for Communism

A demonstration was called at the Los Angeles Federal Building to support the mass rebellion in Egypt. Some comrades and friends from ICWP went to talk to demonstrators about the need for communist revolution in Egypt and all over the world. On the way to the demonstration, a young friend asked, "If we were in Egypt today, what would we do?" A comrade said, "We'd mobilize the masses to call on youth and workers to fight directly for communism, not to fight to replace one exploiter with another." This led to an interesting discussion about the real possibility of revolution and the need to build now for it by fighting for communism every chance we get.

Other youth pointed out that since attacks on workers here, like unemployment, racist cuts and cuts in pensions are increasing, we could face rebellions like in Egypt—against the same capitalist system. This makes mobilizing for communism urgent here and everywhere.

At the demonstration, many thought ElBaredei was a good alternative to Mubarak. One of us pointed out what happened in Iran in 1979 when many Iranians thought it was a good idea to ally with Khomeini against the Shah, only to find out that he too was a murderous exploiter. This led to many taking our literature.

When one of us explained to several demonstrators that the fight must be directly for communism, because socialism was state capitalism, and we need a society run collectively to meet workers' needs, one man said, "Very interesting," took **Red Flag** and gave a donation.

A **Red Flag** seller approached a demonstrator and explained why all the courage displayed in Egypt by workers needed to lead to the fight for communism. The woman said, "But you can't impose communism on the people of Egypt." "True, nor anywhere else, but we have to show people that only communism will meet their needs."

"Well," she said, "I'm a communist, but right now we have to support the sentiment of the masses and support this democratic movement." "No, we have to show that only by getting rid of capitalism and building a system on 'from each according to commitment to each according to need' can the aspirations of the masses be met." At this, her friend gave a donation and asked for a copy of **Red Flag**. The position of this

demonstrator is one of tailing the masses, not leading them. The very positive reactions of most of the other demonstrators to our communist ideas proved that her position that the masses aren't ready for communism is dead wrong

—LA Comrade.



"Let Us All Join the Revolution"

Yesterday a group of fellow students and workers awakened to the idea of revolution and the ideals of communism.

As imperialistic superpowers of the world continue spending millions to billions of dollars on global expansion and dominance, just as many people as dollars spent are poverty-stricken, hungry and disease-ridden. The global economy is sinking for the masses as the very few elite continue to gain more and more power and money.

A third of the world is at war! Wars financed by the sweat of labor off of the common people's brow. We as workers and students do not share in the spoils or reap the benefits of war. We do not gain resources and cheap labor. We ARE the cheap labor!

Economic recession? We've been financially DE-PRESSED!

It's time for change. It's time for all to eat, not just some. For society, all people, everyone to have the same opportunities, health, & promise as the person running countries and the bosses on top of mega-corporations.

Only the people, for-the-people, by-the-people, can bring change! Let all workers and students of the world unite to abolish capitalism's gripping hold on society! Let us live together, communally, in peace and health! Let us all join the revolution!

Sign me:

—Superman in a Red-Flag cape

RF comments: Thanks for your letter! We hope that you will join ICWP in mobilizing the workers and students for communist revolution because that's what it will take: mobilizing masses, not superheroes.

Communism: Workers Mobilized to Make Decisions For Our Class

El Salvador—A worker visited me where I work to talk about a problem that he confronted. He told me that he was interested in the new movement, called Participatory Democracy (see **Red Flag**, Vol. 1 #24), since the current government didn't meet his expectations. And he talked about several problems in his community that weren't being taken care of.

"Imagine if all the neighbors united and bought the things for the neighborhood in a collective way, it would be a lot cheaper," he said, with the illusion that in this way, things would change.

So I told him, "And if we shared all these things collectively, according to our needs without having to buy them but instead as products of our labor, where we produce all that we need, so that we workers have a dignified life? What do you think?"

"Fine, that would be the ideal," he said.

"Well, there are many workers all over the world organizing and fighting so that this will be possible," I commented.

In all revolutionary processes throughout history, reformist struggles have not contributed in the most minimum way to achieve workers; liberation from capitalist slavery. The reformist struggles are usually led by union leaders and organizations which sell out to the system, and which only seek personal well-being of a few, and not the interests of the whole working class.

The working class doesn't need crumbs from the system, nor reform, nor "improved capitalism." What the working class needs is communist revolution.

In El Salvador "participatory democracy" is led by ex-fmln commander Dagoberto Gutierrez who has currently been elected as the Secretary General of the Movement for Participatory Democracy (MDP).

He talks about the need for the unionized and non union workers to be politically active and to participate in making the decisions that affect the life of all.

Some "revolutionary" petit bourgeois groups (small bosses) are thinking of this "democracy" but we must

understand that so-called democracy functions in relation to, and with the complicity of the economic and political interests of the rulers who pull the strings of capitalism.

We must fight for the conscious change of society directly to communism. It must be an arduous, persistent struggle now in everything that we do.

We must break with the idea that under capitalism the working class will have any power to make decisions, which is the stated goal of these movements under the banner of "participatory democracy." This is a dangerous illusion based on nothing more than the right to speak but not to decide anything.

We need a new society, a communist society, in which what will prevail are the interests of collectivity to meet the needs of the working class. The workers in the factories, schools, communities, and barracks must carry out the great battle of organizing with communist ideas, with the political line of a true communist party, the International Communist Workers' Party to abolish capitalist exploitation once and for all.

Read and distribute **Red Flag**, the communist newspaper of the working class.

--El Salvador comrade

FROM CAIRO TO CALIFORNIA : STUDENTS NEED COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

IRVINE, CA, Feb. 1 – Muslim students and supporters are mobilizing against the threat of felony charges against eleven University of California students who interrupted the Israeli ambassador last February as he defended Israel's murderous 2008-2009 attack on Gaza.

The "UCI 11" were supported in the original protest by dozens more, mainly organized by the Muslim Student Union (MSU). University officials, including the "civil libertarian" Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, responded by suspending the MSU for half a year, followed by two full years of probation.

Now, at the very moment the US bosses are praising "pro-democracy" student protests in Cairo, the Orange County [California] District Attorney's office has subpoenaed the students for secret grand jury proceedings. What are they demanding to know? The entire incident – amounting to a temporary verbal disruption of the ambassador's speech — was videotaped.

This fascist attack on Muslim students is coming down while the US Congress plans "hearings" that amount to a racist witch-hunt against US Muslims. [More next issue]

Liberal democracy is never more than a velvet glove worn by the iron fist of capitalist dictatorship. An old song by the Neville Brothers went, "There's freedom of speech... as long as you don't say too much." But it continued: "You can't stop running water. You can't hide the fire that burns inside."

Let that fire burn for communist revolution!



