



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



India:

PROTESTS AGAINST ANTI-DALIT RACISM MUST LEAD TO MOBILIZATION FOR COMMUNISM

On December 17, a 26-year-old Dalit student Rohith Vemula at the University of Hyderabad committed suicide. In response to this tragic death, thousands of students walked out and completely shut down the university. In Delhi, the outraged students fought pitched battles with police. “Long live revolution,” “Red salute to comrade Rohith,” “Crush the fascists” and many more slogans reverberated as police tried in vain to stop the students with water cannons and violence.

Millions of workers and poor people in India consider this a racist murder. Rohith and four other friends were expelled from the University for fighting anti-Muslim racism. They were physically and verbally harassed by a fascist student organization affiliated with the ruling BJP.

The present ruling party BJP in India came to power after decades of terror and mass murders it carried out against Muslims. These racist attacks were organized to divide poor Dalit Hindu workers from Muslim workers. Millions of Dalits face se-

vere discrimination, police brutality, murders and eviction from their dilapidated shacks.

A friend reported on the conditions of Dalit students: “Forced into ghettos in the hostel, discriminated against by teachers, denied access to sporting and cultural activities, Dalit students in India’s premier educational institutions walk into an environment that’s virulently hostile to them. Not surprisingly, according to one estimate, in the last four years 18 Dalit students chose to end their lives rather than continue to battle on in these dens of caste prejudice and social exclusion.”

These racist attacks have exposed capitalism and its need to intensify attacks on all workers. The Indian ruling class is building world-class industrial parks for joint collaboration between Tata and Lockheed Martin, Boeing and other high-tech companies like Microsoft, Google, and Facebook. To construct these projects, the government is forcing many poor and Dalits off their land.

Many workers and students in

[See INDIA, page 4](#)

Los Angeles Transit:

RESPOND TO RACIST ATTACKS ON DRIVERS BY BUILDING ICWP

LOS ANGELES—On November 6, 2015, Balwinder Jit Singh, an MTA bus operator for 17 years, working out of Division 18, was viciously attacked and beaten by a rabid racist.

Mr. Singh is a Sikh, a religion that originated in India in 1469, and he wears a turban. The racist called him a “terrorist”, a “suicide bomber” and accused him of hijacking the bus.

While suffering this cowardly fascist attack – which has left him with an eye infection and blurred vision – he kept his foot on the brakes of the running bus, safeguarding his passengers and pedestrians on the street.

The US and European rulers’ racist hysteria against Middle Easterners, particularly Muslims, is creating a dangerous fascist movement. In the US, racist attacks against Sikhs have been on the rise. On December 28, an elderly Sikh man was brutally assaulted by two people in Fresno, California. On New Year’s Eve, Gurcharan Singh Gill, a 68-year-old Sikh man was stabbed to

death while at work at a convenience store, also in Fresno.

The MTA operator just went public with his story last week saying, “I know that sharing my story sheds further light on the bigotry and hatred faced by communities across the nation. These crimes cannot be tolerated.”

Racism of any kind can’t be tolerated. It is lethal for the working class.

We in the International Communist Workers’ Party echo his call, but call for the abolition of capitalism as the only way to have a society where racism, sexism or any anti-working class phobia will not be tolerated.

All these evils are inherent in capitalism’s exploitive mode of production. Its wage slavery requires racism to super exploit certain sectors of our class, while dividing us and preventing us from uniting to destroy their inhumane system with a communist revolution. In times of economic crisis and war, capitalism must intensify its racist attacks on our class. [See MTA, page 4](#)

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Iran-Saudi Feud Dangerous Tinder-Box

COMMUNISM WILL END CRISES OF OVERPRODUCTION AND WORLD WARS

The Iran-Saudi Arabia feud is threatening to inflame and destabilize the oil-rich Middle East even more. The region still holds more than half the earth's easily recoverable oil deposits and produces about 26 million barrels of oil daily, or more than one-fourth of the world's daily consumption.

Oil is still the lifeblood of capitalist-imperialist industrial society and their military might is nothing without it. However, it would take a major war between Iran and Saudi Arabia to disrupt the flow of this oil. Neither country is ready for this. However, their feuding could adversely affect the plans of the world's imperialists fighting for world supremacy.

Chinese imperialists have sent President Xi on a five day visit to Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt. He is going as "peace maker" to calm the tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

This role used to be played by US imperialism. Xi's trip vividly shows an ascending Chinese Imperial Dragon at the expense of a declining US Imperial Eagle.

Chinese imperialists want stability. China is the main importer of Saudi and Iranian oil, which accounts for 25% of China's oil imports. For now, they want to guarantee their oil supply as cheaply as possible to make their manufactured goods more competitive, maximizing their profits.

Unlike what the US did, though, they are not making Saudi Arabia the cornerstone of their Middle Eastern strategy. That spot is reserved for Iran. In addition to investing heavily in Iran's oil industry, China sees Iran as crucial to its Silk Road plan to build railways, pipelines and other infrastructure from China to Europe. This network of bullet trains will be a faster and cheaper route for exporting Chinese goods and importing crucially needed resources and transporting armies during war time.

Long term, they are preparing for the eventual conflict with US imperialism. In war, the Silk Road will allow China to keep exporting its manufactured goods, and to import by land the oil and strategic resources to keep its military machine going.

This is China's escape from the US Navy-dominated Malacca Strait and Pacific Ocean sea lanes through which 98% of China's exports and imports must now pass, including oil.

Iran as China's ally in war could also invade or support an invasion of Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province where 2 million Shiites live and where 90% of Saudi's oil production takes place. Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, the Shiite cleric executed by the Saudis, was from this province. Two of his crimes were his insistence in rousing Shia youth there for separatism, and vowing to end the rule of the House of Saud. He was supported by some Iranian clergy.

What made this situation more dangerous is that with the low price of oil due to its overproduction, the Saudi rulers have fewer funds to bribe the masses, who will be more willing to rise up against them.

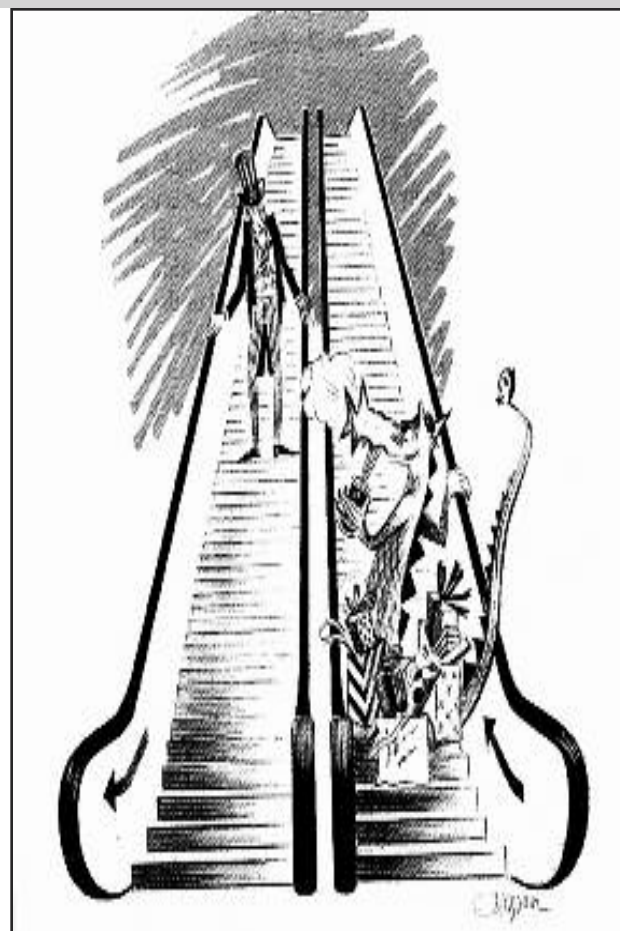
Crisis of Overproduction Another Capitalist Curse on the World's Workers

Capitalist laws dictate that every capitalist-imperialist must fight for the whole market or its lions' share to make maximum profit and shut out their rivals. This leads to the crisis of overproduction which inevitably leads to wars and world war—this is the logic of capitalism.

Thus, "abundance" under capitalism becomes a curse. Today more oil is being produced than can be sold for a profit. Saudi Arabia has been flooding the oil market. They want to deny more market share to Iran, vying with it to be the dominant regional power. Without US and UN sanctions, Iranian oil will increasingly be on the market, along with US and Russian oil. Oil prices dipped lower on the Iranian news.

Workers in all oil producing countries will face huge racist cuts in their standards of living. Their anger and militancy will explode. Will they be won to fight for the profits and empires of the capitalists-imperialists, or will they mobilize for communism to put an end to the horrors of capitalism?

The answer lies in the hands of ICWP members and Red Flag readers. It is up to us to take communist ideas to these workers and all workers, soldiers and youth. All *Red Flag* readers



need to join ICWP. Where it exists, they should participate in its activities. Where it doesn't exist, they should start to build it by circulating *Red Flag* among coworkers, friends and family and recruiting them. They should also help translate *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* (MMC) into Arabic, Farsi and every other language.

In communism, there will be no markets, no profits, and therefore no fighting over market share. Workers of the world will cooperate to develop and share energy and all resources for the good of the international working class. Communism is based on collectivity and cooperation. Workers have no need to fight each other over anything.

Unlike the bosses, workers the world over have survived by sharing scarce needed resources with each other. Masses mobilized for communism will bring this cooperation to its highest level so that everything is organized, planned, produced and shared based on human need in a world without racism, borders, nations or classes.

**MARCH ON
MAY DAY
WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNIST
WORKERS' PARTY
SUNDAY,
MAY 1, 2016**



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
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WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, WA—"How can you make a difference?" was on the minds of Boeing friends. Even better, some asked how can I make a difference?

Friends started asking these questions as we circulated a *Red Flag* article. The draft countered the bosses' excuses and fake remedies for snowballing inequality (see *Inequality*, page 8).

Meanwhile, the national headquarters of Boeing's blue-collar union changed the Seattle area district bylaws. Shop stewards are now elected; any union member can run for district president, etc.

The whole union ship is sinking. Local or national, the leadership has no answers to the intensifying attacks generated by the bosses' crisis.

Their response is to blame each other for hated contract concessions, like the elimination of defined pensions. These "democratic" changes are the national's attempt to reassert control at the local level and build enthusiasm for a discredited union.

Nonetheless, an honest worker has asked our comrades to run for union positions, to "make a difference."

The majority of our friends no longer believe you can make a difference in unions. "Look at the Boeing Engineer's union! [It just sprung a contract extension on its members after secret negotiations that also eliminates defined pensions.] All unions are going down the same path," said one, arguing against spending time in union positions.

What Can I Do?

"How do I fit into this?" asked our friend who advocated getting union positions, pointing to *Red Flag*. He honestly wants a revolution and gets excited about advances made by the party.

"First, you join," answered our comrade.

We have to be prepared for questions like this.

The comrade should have added, "... and then you go out and get others to join."

"But, it's a thin line I have to tread if I get elected [to a major union position]," our friend thought out loud.

He believes he could help the party more if he was in a "position of influence." He has advocated for the Party's ideas in the past and circulated the paper as well.

"You can only really make a difference if you win masses to communist revolution, not by maneuvering in the union in hopes of reform," continued our comrade.

"In the 60s, we used to say 'when the revolution comes,'" he reminisced. "But, it didn't come."

"How many times in the Black Panther Party did you discuss how communist factories would work?" our comrade asked.

"Never!"

"You and your friends fought very hard for revolutionary change. I think I did the same for many years, but if we don't talk about changing the material basis of society we can never win! People want to know how a communist society will work before they will give it their all."

"Well, you can't have gaps. You have to fight all the time," he mused as he thought this over.

"That's right, you consistently have to struggle around communism if you want to make progress. All the other atrocities—like racism, sexism and inequality—serve to guarantee the production-for-profit model survives. Militant reform or anything less than mobilizing for communism won't get us where we want to go."

Our comrade told him about the life journey of



an 82-year old fighter that joined the party at our South African ICWP conference. Despite years of sellouts and torture our new "old" comrade has the greatest enthusiasm for our party and mobilizing for communism.

As if on cue, another worker criticized the draft article on inequality.

"It's easy to read, but it doesn't motivate me enough," he began in a comradely manner. "What makes you think we can change these factories? Has it ever succeeded before?"

Where did these ideas come from? Exactly, how would it work?

"Unless you answer questions like these, I can't fight for this." (We made changes to address his concerns.)

Workers are telling us something. Every day in every way we have to develop a mass understanding of communism. There is no way we can maneuver our way to a revolution. Workers must know what they are fighting for and build the organization, our Party, that will lead that fight.

BUILDING ICWP IN SOUTH AFRICA

Greetings Comrades

As you know, we went to a near-by industrial city after the conference here. I went there again for a week for the December holidays. Then I went to a more rural area for the holidays where my parents came from. But it turned into another mobilization.

Soldier Organizes His Friends

I met with one guy that I know there who is a soldier. I checked with him about joining our Party. He asked me a lot of questions, the same questions I used to ask when I was joining ICWP. And he asked me if we were going to start anarchy or if we are going to start a war. I said to him that no, we can't start a war. The capitalists will start a war because of their own contradictions. The reason we are mobilizing soldiers and the industrial working class is because they are the ones who produce everything. The bosses produce nothing. He agreed with me. I told him that all we want is for the working class to turn the guns against the bosses. They will start the war and we will finish it.

Then he organized another two soldiers. They came to my house. So the whole holiday I was with them, explaining dialectics, how it helps resolve contradictions. I also explained that we have to abolish money because it is the root of the problem. If there was no money, then there would be no divisions within the working class, no undermining of other workers. I explained that workers should not be put on different levels, that in capitalism, the worker doing manual work will undermine the worker doing labor work. He also agreed with me.

Then I asked him if he remembered the Codesa negotiations when Mandela and Cyril

Ramaphosa were negotiating with the apartheid regime to exchange power. I told him that those negotiations were not good because they were reforming the problem. **You can't reform the problem, we need revolution. In a revolution you can't negotiate with the capitalists. That's what happened. Today we are eating the fruits of Nelson Mandela.**

Under capitalism the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer. Especially in the black community where we are living in isolated areas, in shacks, sometimes some of us don't even have electricity; we don't even have money to buy paraffin for the stove. He agreed with me.

Industrial Worker Joins ICWP

After the conference we went to a nearby industrial city where we managed to get some few new comrades there. Over the holidays, I met with them and also with a comrade who was in the leadership of LEMUSA (the union that broke away from NUMSA). I had never met him before; but we had been in contact on Facebook. When I told him I was in the area, he was very happy to meet me. We sat in a restaurant where we talked for more than 3 to 4 hours. I told him about dialectical materialism.

He didn't know anything about dialectics but when I explained, everything was clear to him. He used to work in another area, then he joined NUMSA. Then he was appointed shop steward, then he went up the ranks, and now he's working for the union.



ICWP Conference in South Africa

He promised to recruit others in another city where he lives, but he has to have more information. And so we made a plan. I can't go where he lives alone, so we have to go there collectively with other comrades. He promised to spread the word there and said that we must register him as a member. I told him that we don't register comrades or use membership cards because that's part of capitalism. He was very happy to hear that we fight directly for communism. He asked me about socialism and I explained the dangers of socialism. I told him that socialism and nationalism are all the same to me, all that only helps the politicians get richer. They use the working class and talk nice as if the working class will get everything but we get nothing. And if workers strike they will use the police against them. I explained the dangers of the police system. He agreed with me also.

He was happy to meet me. He's waiting for the *Red Flags*. He called me a few days later. I'm always in contact with all the people I recruit. I don't want to lose them. They have the potential and the energy to mobilize for communism.

STOP DEPORTATIONS MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES, January 9—The International Communist Workers' Party organized a rally against the US government's deportations in the center of the garment industry here.

"We're here to denounce the deportations of our class sisters and brothers. Workers from Central America, Africa, Syria or Afghanistan flee from poverty, war and desperation, all caused by the same capitalist system.

"We call on everyone to join us in the International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize the working masses of the world for communism. In communism there will be no borders and no distinctions between legal and illegal workers. There will be no need to move from one place to another seeking a better life because wherever we live we will organize everything collectively. We will abolish money and distribute resources to each according to need."

During the rally a worker from Iran approached a comrade and asked him for a *Red Flag*. He asked, "Do you



know what love is?"

The comrade, a little bit surprised, answered, "Well, I think that love is responsibility. Investigate it and you'll find out that it's true," he said.

"I will. Thanks a lot," he answered. The

comrade wanted to continue the conversation to a deeper level, but the worker had to leave. They shook hands warmly and he left.

In the rally we distributed more than 440 *Red Flags*. Many workers were very happy to see us there.

INDIA from page 1

India and around the world are open to communism as the only solution to end centuries-old oppression and exploitation. In recent weeks we have significantly increased the readers of *Red Flag* in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. We have patiently explained to our friends and readers that any fight against racism must be a fight for communism lead by the International Communist Workers Party.

Some of these readers are serious about organizing for communist revolution. We have a reader at the University of Hyderabad who is participating in demonstrations and discussing the ideas of *Red Flag*. This student has promised to organize a very large number of students, workers and professionals to meet with us and talk about ICWP. We urge all our readers to join ICWP and distribute *Red Flag*.

Here is a poem our *Red Flag* reader sent about the fallen Rohith Vemula.

No Death to Rohith Vemula!!

That ain't that soon yet..
Organize
all colors to uprise.
Unite the masses,
against the ruling classes.
Neutralize
their agents and spies.
Man the passes,
to hung the hunters,
and kill the killas.
Flip their script ...
from gorilla to guerillas.
A subliminal message, to teach
our kind
that capitalism's the greatest
gorilla killa of all time.
So we best fold and bend,
or face mass hysteria
to bury the

beast within.
Fear and hate
whipped up by media spin.
So bow down, do as the Romans
do,
stay in line.
But we still here,
biding our time.
Ain't dead yet!
Done fell and got back up a thou
sand times.
Survived every hardship
their murderous minds could de
sign.
And we still clinging to the walls,
beating our chest,
still rebellin' yet!
And we might be 'bout to get –
Wise
All Power to you @rohit !!

WHO ARE THE DALITS?

The origin of Dalits goes back to ancient Hinduism when slavery was practiced. The upper caste, so called Brahmins, were priests who had the ideological control over slave society. The Dalits were assigned the most difficult tasks in society and were considered the lowest. The caste system was based on inheritance of caste by birth. This system was modified under feudalism. However, in the colonial period when the British ruled India for five centuries, capitalism institutionalized racism against the Dalits and used it to divide workers. Today the Dalits perform tasks such as cleaning toilets and open sewers, dangerous jobs in mining and construction. In India there are over 250 million super exploited Dalits. By uniting with the working class, they can be leaders for communist revolution.

India's caste system divides people into 4 main castes from priests and intellectuals to tradesmen and servants. On top of that there is a fifth division, the Dalits (who used to be called 'untouchables'). Socially outcast and marginalized to this day, they make up about 16% of the population.

For some years now they have been organizing resistance to the house burnings, gang rapes and murders that right-wing political parties sporadically launch against them (carried out with the tacit support of the local police and politicians).

MTA from page 1

Communism will abolish capitalism, its wage slavery and other evils

ICWP fights for a world without wage slavery and money – a world where nothing will be bought or sold, where everything will be distributed according to need. We will do away with capitalism's inequality.

There won't be any privileges for anyone. Everyone will do mental and manual work, including the leaders. Only the best of everything will be produced for everyone, thus no one will feel they are better than others.

We will also wage a relentless struggle against all ideological traces of racism by integrating all aspects of production and our social lives in a world without borders or nations. This will further set the material basis for abolishing the concept of "races." There is only one human race and in a communist world it will only be composed of working people.

ICWP members and Red Flag readers must lead the way

From where we are to where we want to go, there is a long struggle. ICWP members and *Red Flag* readers – especially in the army and industrial concentrations like MTA – have a very important role to play in the fight for a communist world.

Violence against bus operators nationwide has been on the rise. According to the Los Angeles

County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the number of attacks against LA MTA operators has risen from 79 in 2012, to 105 in 2013, to 141 in 2014 and 155 up to November 2015.

These are also racist attacks. Racist attacks – no matter who commits them and against whom are committed – should be met with political strikes against capitalism and for communism, the system that will destroy racism forever.

A political strike by MTA workers against acts of racist terror could galvanize masses of workers, soldiers and youth to act as a class against racist capitalism and to see that we have the power and organizational ability to get rid of this system and build the communist world we need.

We need to start taking our future into our hands. We have many loyal *Red Flag* readers at LAMTA. They need to start looking at themselves as organizers. Those who take more than one paper to distribute among friends and family already do. They need to join ICWP, participate in our Party's activities and recruit their readers to distribute *Red Flag* and join ICWP.

Masses of workers, soldiers and youth can only be put in motion by masses of leader-organizers. Those leader-organizers will come from our ranks. You can make a difference by becoming one by joining us. Make this your New Years' resolution!



Polluted Water in Flint, Michigan

ONLY COMMUNISM CAN PUT WORKERS' HEALTH FIRST

Water. One of life's necessities. Yet in capitalist USA, safe drinking water is not guaranteed. In Flint, Michigan, home of many of the laid off auto workers, families have been drinking polluted water for over a year. In this majority black city, toxic chemicals and bacteria have contaminated the drinking water. Ten people have died from Legionnaire's Disease. Children have elevated lead levels. In 2014, thousands of families in neighboring Detroit had their water cut off because they couldn't pay their bills.

Profit—or workers' lives

This is the inevitable consequence of a society where workers' lives only have value if they create profits for some capitalist. We fight for communism—a society organized to meet workers' needs. That will take a revolution. We won't have abundance right away when we take power. We may be building communism after war. Water treatment plants may have been destroyed. Safe water may be very scarce. But we will build a new society based on communist principles—from each according to commitment; to each according to need. We'll do away with money. And we'll work together to provide the basic necessities as we fight to expand revolution around the world, until all our class sisters and brothers are free from capitalism's yoke.

Flint: the rise & fall of US capitalism

Like many places worldwide where our class brothers and sisters are dying for lack of safe water, the crisis in Flint is caused by racism, class oppression, and profits.

In the 20th century, the Flint General Motors factory was one of the biggest, creating super profits for one of the world's biggest capitalists. It was the home of the militant 1937 sit-down strike, uniting black, white and immigrant workers to build US industrial unions. By the 1960s there were 80,000 people working there.

In the 1980s, GM laid off all but 5,000 of those workers, part of massive nationwide layoffs. US capitalists, forced to compete with their imperialist rivals, shut down the factories where workers' unity and reform struggles had won some temporary benefits. They moved production to areas where racism allowed them super profits—especially Mexico and the US South.

At the same time, the top 10% of US households increased their share of wealth from 68% in 1983 to 73% in 2007. The workers who had produced that wealth were thrown out on the street. Neighborhoods declined as unemployed workers couldn't pay the rent; cities couldn't collect taxes. Roads and bridges began to fall apart.

In 2014, Michigan's governor appointed an emergency city manager for Flint. He decided that to save money, Flint would stop buying water from nearby Detroit, and start pumping water out of the super-polluted Flint River.

After sixteen months of polluted water, the crisis became a

media event. Governor Snyder apologized. President Obama is sending emergency aid. The National Guard is handing out water filters and bottles of water. But the children of Flint—disproportionately black—will suffer the effects of lead poisoning for the rest of their lives.

Last weekend, protestors shut down the bridge connecting Oakland with San Francisco with huge banners proclaiming “Black Health Matters!” and “Healthcare not Warfare.” US capitalism is in crisis, attacking the entire working class with racism directing the sharpest attacks on the lives of black workers and their children. Capitalism can't be reformed. It must be overthrown. People angry over racist police murder and unsafe water must see that only a communist revolution can allow us to build a world where we will share the basics of life—including clean water—like the sisters and brothers we are.



Report from a Study Group Learning to Apply Dialectics

CONTRADICTIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

One of the reasons that dialectics is important is that it often provides the only way to understand complicated situations. Dialectical contradictions operate in two important ways. One is by making things change. For example, the contradiction between US and Chinese empires has recently led China to start building a new aircraft carrier and the US to send Navy ships into the South China Sea. Contradictions can also prevent changes that would happen if the contradiction were not there. The deadlock in the US Congress is an example of this.

In each system or process there should be one most important contradiction (the “main” contradiction) that has the biggest effect in determining what will change and what will not. A student study group in California decided to learn about main contradictions by trying to figure out the main contradiction in the conflicts in Syria today. The group made a list of important contradictions affecting Syrian civil war. Here is their list of contradictions:

Between imperialist powers: US-Russia and US-China conflicts over control of oil and gas resources and pipelines.

Between regional powers: Iran-led Shia forces (Iran, Iraqi Shia, Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Shia minority in Saudi Arabia) versus Saudi-led Sunni forces (Saudi Arabia, Persian Gulf monarchies, Isis, Al Qaeda), Israel versus Arab states and Palestinian movement, Turkey versus Kurdish nationalists and Syria.

Inside regional powers: Syrian government versus various opposition movements. Egyptian rulers versus the working class and the Muslim Brotherhood. Shia versus Sunni versus Kurdish forces inside Iraq. Saudi government versus Shia minority. Turkish government versus Kurdish nationalists.

Regional powers versus imperialists: US-Saudi Arabia over US withdrawal from Iraq and deal with Iran. Turkey-Russia over Russian support of Syria, Black Sea pipelines, Dardanelles. Israel versus US. US versus Isis.

Some of these contradictions have become very intense. The conflicts between the Shia government of Iraq and the Kurdish and Sunni populations have probably destroyed the country. The contradictions between Iran and its Shia allies versus the Saudis and their allies show up in ongoing fighting in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria. The Saudi execution of a Shia preacher has led to a more open break with Iran. The Russia-Turkey contradictions have become more intense since Turkey shot down a Russian bomber.

The Main Contradiction

The study group discussed what the main contradiction is in Syria. The group did not think that the main contradiction was between the Assad government and the opposition groups since other more powerful forces are involved. The group focused on two contradictions that could be considered the main one that determines whether the Assad government of Syria will stand or fall in the next year or two.

One possible main contradiction is the one between the Iran-led Shia forces and the Saudi-led Sunni forces. Iran supports Assad, as does the Iraqi government. Hezbollah, an arm of Iran, has inflicted serious defeats on groups opposing Assad. The Saudi, Kuwaiti and Qatari rulers have backed Islamist opponents of Assad, including Isis.

A second possible main contradiction is one between the US and Russia, backed by China. Syria is important to the Russian imperialists, their last military foothold in the region where they have major oil and pipeline interests. The Persian Gulf countries have oil and gas resources

so important to the US imperialists that they have fought two major wars to stay dominant, without getting what they wanted. The US government wants Assad to go but its airstrikes and support for the Iraqi army won't be enough. The Russians continue to arm the Assad regime and make airstrikes on forces opposing Assad. The Russians and the Chinese give diplomatic support to Assad, preventing UN action against his government.

After long discussion, the study group concluded that the US-Russia contradiction was the main one. We thought that the Russian support for the Assad regime was at least as important as the support from Iran and its allies. We thought that US support for Assad's opponents was at least as important as whatever the Saudi-led forces can muster. If there is a deal made over the future of Syria, the US and the Russians will be the most important players.

The group was pretty confident with this answer, but could certainly be wrong. It also doubted that the US-Russia contradiction was the main contradiction in the development of Isis, guessing that the Shia-Sunni contradiction is more powerful there, after the US withdrawal from Iraq. **It would be good to hear readers' ideas about both these conclusions.**



FIGHT OVER CONTROL OF PROFITS BEHIND THE “CHAPO” GUZMAN SHOW

MEXICO—The fight for the control of profits is behind the recapture of “el Chapo” Guzman.

The government has created a reality show around the recapture of J. Guzman Loera, the “most wanted drug trafficker,” who had escaped last July.

On the one hand the US government had declared that it was the DEA who captured him in 2014, not the Mexican government; but that has not been established in the courts (ie the government has failed to prove that it was done legally). Now, after an “attempt to capture him” in the “golden triangle” (an area inside the states of Durango and Sinaloa), they have recaptured him.

The investigations of the Attorney General’s Office (PGR) have leaked a chat message conversation between the actress and producer Kate del Castillo and Guzman Loera. Rolling Stone magazine has published an article and video interview by Sean Penn with the Sinaloa kingpin. With all of this they have launched a media and judicial witch-hunt against the actress. They are releasing videos, chats and parts of the case file for the entertainment of Mexican viewers.

Chapo’s detention was necessary—he and his accomplices have done irreparable damage to the working class. Nevertheless, this does not matter to the State, nor is he hero of the movie. Drug

trafficking goes along with the wage system, especially now as the super powers get closer to a confrontation. The subjugation of the population achieved by the drug cartels would be slower by legal governments. Thus, the persecution of Kate del Castillo is a smokescreen, so we don’t ask ourselves what’s really behind all of this.

The mobilization of the masses for communism will eliminate this scum from the face of the earth. There will be no individuals becoming billionaires by poisoning the population, nor superstars serving him, nor armed groups giving him protection, nor prisons to jail him. No one will be in a position to extract profits of any kind from anyone.

What there will be is collective work in all spheres of human activity. In these collectives the masses will be involved in all levels of planning, production and distribution without any form of money. In this way, everything will be done for the greater good of humanity and not for the benefit of a handful of bosses and their lackeys.

But the Chapo show goes on. On one hand, the US government seems more involved, asking for his extradition. The Mexican government is worried and tries to hide the need that capitalism has for drug trafficking. In particular, the Mexican economy was kept afloat after the 2008 crisis, largely by revenue from such trafficking. It’s not

convenient for them to stop it.

On the other hand the Chapo show distracts attention from the falling oil prices (80 % drop in PEMEX revenues according to the government) as well as the devaluation of the peso, which now trades at 18.50 per dollar.

What is in dispute is control of the profits of that business. “El Chapo’s” pride is so great because of the direct connection that he has, not only with the international financial system but also with the capitalist governments of several countries that fund and determine elections. Also because of his firepower; his links with the media, like those with Televisa, about which the journalist Carmen Aristegui has already spoken.

Forbes magazine listed el “Chapo” in its 2012 edition as the 9th richest man in Mexico. To calculate his fortune, we should know where it is invested. *Proceso* magazine published in mid-2015 that the “Chapo” cartel was linked with rebel groups in Africa that were financed with drug trafficking. So it made some people who wanted control of us business uncomfortable. We don’t know the details of such disputes. However, we have no sympathy for any capitalist side, nor do we believe in the goodness of their governments. We mobilize the masses for communism and to destroy this capitalist system, Join ICWP

LETTERS

Communism is Possible

While I was in my home village, I saw that a classless, communist society is possible. Most of the people in that area don’t use money, don’t have money. They depend on agriculture and livestock. While I was there I learned to heal a cow that was sick because of the drought. There was no rain, so they were sick because even the grass was too dry for the cattle to eat. So we had to make some plans.

I also learned from my village. I didn’t know how to take care of livestock like chickens, sheep, goats, cattle and all that. I also learned how to do agricultural work. The people are very nice. They work collectively; they help each other. If one house has a problem, they call a meeting of all the men in the area. They come up with a resolution to help the other

family. To me it sounds like communism. I believe that communism is possible by the way the people live in that village.

I also went to another village where I met a guy who knew what Marxism is. I was shocked; but I managed to recruit him. Now he’s one of us. It was easy to recruit him because he knows about Marxism. He was visiting from a big city.

A lot of workers from the area work in mines. I managed to talk to some of them. They say it would be good if ICWP mobilized mine workers. I only had 6 or 7 **Red Flags** which I gave them.

Now I’m back home and they’ve been calling me and telling me that I have to give them more pamphlets, more **Red Flags** and more MMC’s. I told them that since ICWP works collectively, I will discuss this in a meeting and maybe we will come up with a strategy of how to distribute **Red Flags** to them and how to mobilize workers on that side of the country. Because many mineworkers want Communism, not socialism because they understand that it is state capitalism.

—Comrade in South Africa

LETTERS

LETTERS



Peace Accords = Agreement to Exploit the Working Class

January 16 marked 24 years since the signing of the infamous Peace Accords between the Salvadoran government and the FMLN (Faro del Marti National Liberation Front). These agreements were reached after twelve years of civil war between the government of this country and the guerilla fighters of the FMLN.

Communist movements of that time accused the FMLN of betraying the working class. They defended themselves, saying that it was necessary to seek peace (the end of the conflict), to initiate a “struggle of ideas.”

As the International Communist Workers’ Party we have denounced the actions of the FMLN and of other parties of the left and right, for being part of the apparatus of repression. They deceive the working class in saying that they, in this case the FMLN, with the signing of the Peace Accords on January 16 1992 in Mexico, would struggle to transform the capitalist system from within.

It is impossible to transform the capitalist system as an economic, political and social superstructure from within. Its goal is the accumu-

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

lation of capital and wealth in the hands of the bourgeoisie based on the robbery of the value of the products made by the working class.

They make the “battle of ideas” a mockery to the dignity of the working class because we cannot struggle against capitalism peacefully; struggling within the limits that the same system imposes on us, we cannot do anything different. It is only through a communist organization in ICWP, political strikes, and establishing a dialectical connection between what we say and what we do (practice-theory-practice) that we can make the change we need.

We do not recognize the cult of personality because it is part of the repression that the electoral political parties establish, like the FMLN with Shafik Handal for example.

These parties need an all-powerful leader, presented as a politically correct person who unites his followers and maintains an image of closeness with the masses, while at the same time preventing constructive criticism of the leaders of the organization. And they want what they say done.

We as communists organized in ICWP continue fighting and will continue to do so until the end of our days for a better system for the working class under the leadership of the International Communist Workers’ Party. We are convinced of the transformative power of the world’s working class.

Therefore our communist clubs daily do political work to invite more workers to the struggle for a communist system, building, discussing and analyzing our newspaper **Red Flag** so that the death of the eighty thousand people who died in the civil war will not be in vain. Their sacrifice is our inspiration and strength. Those men and women opened spaces and opportunities for more workers to realize the situation and divest themselves of their chains. We should take maximum advantage of these opportunities to honor their deaths.

—Comrade in El Salvador

THE STRUGGLE FOR A COMMUNIST WORLD UNITES US

EL SALVADOR—Last year I met Oliver. We became friends during struggles against evictions and making sure that the police didn't take him during a direct action. Since then, we have been very close friends. He included me in his community audiovisual collective and I involved him in the distribution of ICWP's communist literature.

He, like me, is the son of a veteran of the FMLN war. His father was an urban commando during the civil war. He created urban youth organizations that supported the regular forces of the FMLN and the workers' movement. His father, like thousands, risked his life for a better world. Now, far from the whole FMLN electoral circus, he has been left behind and forgotten like thousands of veterans.

Elias, Oliver's father, has been fighting for a while against Myelodysplastic syndrome. Many times his health has been affected by negligence and by the capitalist health care

that is available to the working class.

One night outside the hospital, with the uncertainty that he was facing over his father's health, Oliver and I started to talk angrily about how rotten capitalism is and how in a society without classes everything would be different.

For the moment, Elias continues to fight one more battle. He has been a *Red Flag* reader since I met Oliver, and has said that he wants to actively participate as a member of ICWP and has offered a series of articles that he has written. His experience and knowledge will be useful in the fight for communism.

I am writing this letter in solidarity with someone I have never seen, but because of the stories of his struggle, I feel that I know and value him as a comrade. We will win.

—Young Industrial Comrade



Communism Means Apocalypse—Never

The bosses are not in an optimistic mood these days. Their pessimism is increasingly taking the extreme form of apocalyptic thinking. We must not let them drag us down.

An apocalypse is a giant catastrophe that will supposedly completely change the world. For example, before the climate conference the bosses and their experts claimed we were going to hell in a hand basket. Human society was spewing carbon emissions into the atmosphere at such a rate that a global warming disaster was unavoidable.

As communists we don't buy into this hysteria. Over half the world's pollution is caused by coal and private cars. Once we establish communism, we can start to end pollution by "scrubbing" coal emissions (too expensive for the bosses) and moving on to other forms of energy. Transportation will be collective. The drastically reduced number of small cars and pickups will be collectively owned and used as needed.

We communists in the ICWP do not believe in world-changing apocalypses – of any kind. Sure, capitalism produces disasters, crises, wars, and catastrophes. But no disaster, however extreme, will on its own end capitalism. Capitalism continues to produce, in Lenin's words, "horror without end".

As communists we fight to end capitalism with revolution. This will be the exact opposite of an apocalypse – a joyous event, a "festival of the oppressed". We will end unemployment and homelessness almost immediately, and strike major blows against racism and sexism.

Apocalyptic thinking is a form of bourgeois ideology. It is the outlook of a class that is dying. For them the end of capitalism is the end of the world and they see apocalypses everywhere.

A while back there was overpopulation, global cooling (!), and peak oil. Now it's climate, of course, antibiotic superbugs and intelligent machines overthrowing humanity. And, as always, WWII.

Communism will abolish all these threats. We'll abolish money and wages and distribute food free. Sure, lots of people means lots of mouths to feed, but as Mao pointed out it also means lots of hands to produce

food. Under communism no hands will be idle and we'll all eat.

Nuclear war, of course, is a real possibility, but we are ready even for that. As Mao said, you (imperialists) can start your war, we (communists) will finish it.

In the time of slavery, the slaves had a word for the coming day when they would be freed – the "Jubilee." Communist revolution will be the second Jubilee, ending wage slavery. However, to have a Jubilee, we need the ICWP to be a truly massive party. Don't be paralyzed with fear of the apocalypse of the day. Don't waste time waiting for it to strike. Join the ICWP and fight for a joyous future.

—Northern Comrade

Capitalism is the Biggest Thief

EL SALVADOR-In the month of December, the audiovisual collective in which I am working carried out two activities in front of the house of Salvadoran ex-President Francisco Flores. In an ironic and joking way, tinged with anger and protest, we sang carols and had a party in reaction to his house-arrest while he is being accused of stealing more than 10 million dollars that were allocated to the victims of the 2001 earthquake.

We know that corruption is an act by which the capitalists control and bribe the politicians who control the state that serves these capitalists.

The case of Francisco Flores has caused mass indignation. However, this outrage has not gone in the right direction because the masses have not been mobilized with a communist line and by a communist party.

The two activities that the collective has carried out were organized through social networks. Around 25 people came to each activity. They sang, chanted slogans, and insulted the family of the ex-President as they came to visit him.

Self-critically, we did not give the communist leadership that would have taken this action into a struggle against capitalism. However, among the demonstrators there are young readers distributors of *Red Flag*. Other youth gave speeches against the bourgeoisie and the pro-bourgeois government of the FMLN.

These mobilizations taught us many lessons: about mistakes and opportunities for ICWP.

Social media is a very useful tool for convening activities. Many youth use these virtual platforms and through this they find out about many activities.

We made a mistake in not openly calling for the struggle for communism in this activity. We must have more confidence in our line and in the capacity that it has to mobilize. But this requires collective work of all the Party clubs nationally. The opportunities are in front of our eyes. These same young people can be won to participate in the ranks of ICWP, since many of them already participate in our activities.

2016 begins with challenges and opportunities. We must begin to work for a mass Communist May Day.

—Young Comrade

One of the Lessons of Socialism

Not too long ago, I had the opportunity to work in Kazakhstan as a teacher in a government-run autonomous school, part of a network called Nazarbayev Intellectual Schools. (NIS)

When I got to know the place, one thing that interested me was the personal space of the teacher in the room. There was an area where they would post photos, awards, diplomas, and other items which meant a lot to them.

I noticed one photo of a man who apparently was a mathematician, and who was a member of the Kazakhstan Soviet Socialist Republic leadership. From that day, I began to look at who was in the leadership of the NIS structure, and many of the women and men at the top were from the Communist Party.

It became apparent to me that the leaders of the party became the ruling class with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. And, from that, I began to think that this elite was simply overseers of the socialist state, who transferred their leadership from the socialist state to the capitalist state. The workers apparently had little say in the running of the socialist state and in its dissolution.

Thus: one of the lessons of socialism. The masses must be in control of the apparatus of the society, led by the leading theory and determined to build communism on a world wide scale. They must be resolute against the appropriation of the people's infrastructure and society by the elites. To me, that is what happened with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan.

—Supporter of ICWP

Bosses Mouthpiece Worries Inequality Undermines Capitalism

COMMUNISM OFFERS REAL REMEDIES

The old saw about frogs and boiling water is not true: they will jump out of the pot if they can as the temperature rises. Democratic publics, increasingly feeling the heat, are unlikely to behave differently.

--Gideon Rose, Editor, *Foreign Affairs*

The democratic publics he fears will abandon capitalism are, in actuality, the world's workers. Hence, this bosses' mouthpiece focuses on the knotty problem of inequality.

Communism can build a society which meets the needs of all. More than anything, this understanding will propel the working class "to jump out of the pot."

Echoing the *Foreign Affairs* "Racism" issue last March, imperialism's leading think-tank is pessimistic. (see *Red Flag*, 4/23/15). "There is consensus ... that equalization of economic resources can be achieved only at the cost of extreme, unjust, and counterproductive restrictions on personal liberty and a significant reduction in economic growth," writes Harvard professor Danielle Allen.

There may be a consensus among capitalist apologists at elite universities. Nonetheless, millions are seeking an alternative. Many are giving communism a second look.

Communist Factories Unleash Our Potential

What, we may ask, is unjust about taking back the factories we built with generations of our labor? What is counterproductive about releasing the vast potential of workers?

Communism will uproot the old capitalistic production-for-profit model. Production for the common good will replace the inequality of exploitation. "From each according to their commitment and abilities, to each according to their needs" will be the motto of this new economy. Communist production will lay the basis for developing workers to their maximum potential as human beings.

In the 1960s steel workers at the Anshan plant in China produced a set of principals later to be known as the Anshan Constitution. Factories

couldn't fire workers. Income was stable and set by national standards. Workers made plant decisions; managers had to work. Workers could criticize all management openly.

Steel production was considered in the long-term interest of the working class. In that light, material incentives were considered as short-sighted individualism. The weakness was that wages weren't abolished altogether. This set the stage for the eventual defeat of the revolution.

This time workers will become more than masters of the factory, but masters of production through state power. No more wage slaves!

Furthermore, communist factories will free us from a lifetime of mind-numbing repetition. We will no longer be pigeonholed in just one job, with one skill. We are capable of much more. For example, machinists will be engineers; assemblers will organize production, etc. Everyone will share the work necessary to provide for us all.

How can realizing this vast potential result in a "significant reduction in economic growth?" It doesn't, of course.

It never has, but Allen fixates on increasing the bosses' capital. She thinks economic equality is just too risky. Hence, we must concentrate on the "political sphere."

"Politics trumps economics!" she asserts.

Nonetheless, she knows politics is rigged when capital is concentrated in a few hands. She is left proposing trivial pursuits along the fringes of power in local elections and issues.

Small-ball reform politics don't trump any-



thing. Communist politics, on the other hand, can transform the world.

A Vibrant System, Not A Dying One

Our politics does not serve a dying system, so it doesn't waste time making excuses for inequality and racism. It is optimistic and based on the material world. We relish the struggle to provide the necessities of life to the masses.

Communist politics builds the collective strength of the working class. Our party looks to strengthen and expand communist power worldwide. It is in sync with an economy based on collective production. Neither a futile attempt at reform nor trivial!

Inequality is baked into capitalism. It is, after all, a society based on exploitation. To add insult to injury, consider racist super-exploitation. Capitalism couldn't survive without it.

Communism will end exploitation in any form making a society that satisfies the needs of everyone possible. For this alone, we should mobilize the masses for communism.

Spain: Reject the Bosses' Elections

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

SPAIN—"The politicians always do the same thing: first they offer you the sky when it's election time and then they leave you to starve. I'd like to see them invent a way to vote, but to kick them all out of there," said a restaurant worker.

I explained that the capitalist system carries out elections to continue exploiting the working class around the whole world. They give you four or more "choices," but these choices won't take you anywhere because the interests of the imperialists are always to generate more profits. They absolutely do not care at all about taking care of

the well-being or providing a good quality of life for workers. I gave him a copy of *Red Flag* and he said that he would read it more slowly at home and then later we would talk.

In Spain the PP (Popular Party) has again won the presidential election, in spite of the fact that in its previous administration, wages were lowered, social benefits almost disappeared, and evictions have been brutal. Public health has suffered huge cuts, along with capitalist education, and the monthly university fees are very expensive. In second place is the Socialist Workers' Party of Spain (PSOE) and the third force is the PODEMOS Party.

In Catalonia, the Party "Together for Yes" is a coalition of the parties who support independence, which has won the election for the government and deputies of Catalonia: The Democratic Convergence of Catalonia, Republican Left of Catalonia, Democrats of Catalonia and Movement of Leftists have declared the pre-independence of Catalonia.

This has started a war between the capitalists in the Spanish capital in Madrid and the capitalists in Catalonia, creating divisions among the workers, generating racism

and only favoring the bosses, creating wretched labor contracts and precarious wage adjustments. The politicians will never solve the problems of the workers because it is the nature of capitalism to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

The International Communist Workers' Party fights to destroy the wage and electoral systems. The workers of the world need only one Mass Party. Problems will be resolved through communist collectives based on the needs of the workers.

We workers do not need a few who manage fortunes and decide if we need something or not. The creation of a Red Army that defends our society and the practice of Dialectical Materialism are the fundamental bases so that we won't continue having the same problems that we have today.

Today's politicians only serve to keep the working class divided so that we continue being wage slaves forever to generate money that only the bosses will enjoy. In communism, the working class will own our work and therefore we will be the owners of production. Let's fight for communism and destroy this slave system. Join ICWP and let's build a better society.

