

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

Feb. 4 — Thousands of striking platinum miners in South Africa, armed with clubs and attempting to stop strikebreakers, confronted police shooting rubber bullets and water cannons as the strike spread to include metal-

workers at the mines.

The mine and metalworker strikes, which are demanding steep wage hikes, are costing South African capitalists an estimated \$40 million per day. According to govern-

ment officials, “there is more compliance by the unions in making sure that they strike and march peacefully.” Workers don’t need these or any unions — we need to build a communist party, ICWP, that will lead an uncompromising fight against the capitalist system.

South African mine and metal workers, like many others around the world, are being hit hard by the global capitalist crisis. This crisis is driving down the price of platinum and therefore the workers’ standard of living. Our urgent need is not higher wages, but abolition of the wage system. *Red Flag* readers must raise communist political slogans in the midst of this and every struggle.

See
**IMPERIALISM
AND CLASS
STRUGGLE IN
AFRICA**
page 2

Key To Party Growth:

LEARNING TO WIN OUR CO-WORKERS

SEATTLE, WA— “Four months ago I saw *Red Flag* in the shop,” began a recent Boeing hire. “I thought communism, revolution: I don’t want to read this.”

“The reason I’m here today [at an International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) potluck and meeting] is because of what happened at work over the last two months.”

Eight other aerospace workers joined him at a Boeing comrade’s house for a couple of social events/meetings in a little over a month. Everyone is now reading *Red Flag*; some are distributing it to family members and co-workers.

The bosses’ crisis of overproduction has revealed the naked, exploitive truth about capitalism. Workers are looking at communism who would have not done so before.

Nonetheless, many doubt they can convince their fellow workers of the value of a communist strategy. It’s holding them back from joining the ICWP.

“The men and women I work with are scared by the word communism,” he continued. “They don’t even know what communism is. They only heard how bad it is.”

A high school teacher volunteered that he thought workers and students were more open to communism now than they were a generation ago. He cited a number of instances where workers and students are rejecting the bosses’ anti-communist propaganda.

Some folks who passed out over a thousand

party leaflets and *Red Flags* at Boeing gates agreed. They remarked how much more positive factory workers were about communist literature.

A guest from Los Angeles reported how groups of industrial workers were now joining: metal workers from South Africa, garment workers from El Salvador, mechanics from LA transit.

Our friend considered these comments.

“But it won’t be easy,” he concluded. “*Red Flag* will have to carefully explain what communism really is.”

Lots of people in attendance echoed his concerns.

“I understand where he is coming from,” said a community college student. “I distribute twenty papers at my school every issue. All sorts of people start discussing the articles. I don’t feel I have the knowledge to answer their questions.”

We decided to set up a reading/study group to discuss one article in the paper every issue. All the Boeing workers wanted to attend. The high school teacher said he’d help out. A longshore worker volunteered to have it at his house.

“I see this is centered around Boeing workers, but I need this too,” said the community college student. Of course, we invited her as well.

Then we passed the hat.

Together we’ll build the confidence we need to mobilize the masses for communism. In the process, we’ll build a mass party centered in the factories and the armed forces.

**GREYHOUND:
HISTORIC
LESSONS FROM THE
CLASS STRUGGLE**
PAGE 3

**IRAN, SYRIA:
IMPERIALIST
WAR**
PAGE 4

**MICHOACÁN:
SELF-DEFENSE OR
COMMUNIST
REVOLUTION**
PAGE 5

**SOLDIERS
DEFY BRASS**
PAGE 6

Imperialism and Class Struggle in Africa

RAISE THE RED FLAG HIGHER

SOUTH AFRICA — Masses of workers here continue on the move, led by rebellious striking miners. They are defying horrific incidents of police brutality. Police, following orders to use deadly force, recently shot and killed a man in a service delivery protest in Marikana.

These rebellions are the South African working class' answer to capitalism's crisis of overproduction, declining rate of profits and preparations for world war. Together with millions of our class brothers and sisters from the Middle East to Europe to Latin America to Asia, they are refusing to be passive victims of the bosses' super-exploitation, impoverishment and destructiveness.

We workers of the world have the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) as our political shield to wage class war to end the tyranny of wage slavery. We cannot rely on the capitalist media. Our newspaper, *Red Flag*, is our weapon to educate, train and organize our class to win communism.

The importance of building our Party now cannot be over-emphasized.

The capitalist rulers' fight to re-divide the world is intensifying. This is shown by the US-Great Britain agreement, on behalf of the G8, to reconsolidate Africa's so-called "debts" to the major imperialist financial institutions: International Monetary Fund, World Bank, African Development Bank, etc.

The capitalist press worldwide has praised it as a major advance in the "elimination of poverty" in Africa. However, it is nothing more than a step in the imperialist scheme to re-divide the spoils of the centuries-long rape and pillage of Africa. The goals are to try to preserve US



Service delivery protest, 2014

hegemony, realize EU profits and contain China.

The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 set off a mad scramble of the major imperialist powers to control Africa and its resources. It resulted in proxy resource wars in the 1990s, primarily among the US, France, UK, and South Africa. These included Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angola, Rwanda, Burundi and the Congo.

This rivalry changed substantially in the late 1990s as China entered the fray. China has maintained a political and economic presence in Africa since the 1950s. However, China did not fully engage Africa as a full imperialist power, i.e. as a major exporter of capital, until the 1990s. Like all imperialist powers, China's main interest is the theft of Africa's material resources, particularly oil and gas, and the exploitation of its workers.

Imperialists must invest abroad in order to survive. Rising imperialists like China have no choice but to break into the markets dominated by older imperialist powers. Their needs require the re-division of the world, which is only possible by war: world war. This has been true since 1900 when the world was first divided among the major imperialists, as Lenin wrote in his 1916 book, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*.

Sometimes, the imperialists intervene militarily in their "colonies" to prevent other imperialists from investing there. The US invasion of Iraq and the French invasion of Mali were to stop the growing Chinese and Russian investments there.

Sometimes they do it by proxy wars. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) a United Nations report in 2002 found that high-level political, military and business networks were stealing the DRC's mineral resources. By then, they had transferred over \$5 billion from the state mining sector to private western companies, including 18 British ones (Anglo-American, DeBeers, Afrimex, Barclays Bank and others).

This was under the cover of a conflict with



Rwanda that was presented as ethnic in origin. Export of coltan (used in electronic devices), cassiterite, gold and diamonds increased five times. Fifteen flights were leaving the DRC daily to transport these minerals to the European Union and the US via Rwanda and South Africa.

But, their eventual clash and world war is inevitable. Let's remember that for the US to replace Britain as the strongest economic power, it took two world wars, the great depression and fascism. But, most important, we should never forget that during WWI in Russia, and shortly after WWII in China, our class took state power. We lost it because they were led to fight for socialism. Learning from their mistake, today we mobilize the masses for communism to bury the capitalists-imperialists and their wars for profits forever.

Forward!!! Revolutionaries and anti-imperialists everywhere must reject and expose the deceptive "debt relief" maneuvers of the G8 to continue the imperialist plunder, exploitation, oppression and neo-colonial domination of Africa and the Diaspora.

Anti-imperialists and revolutionaries worldwide must mobilize the working-class masses to destroy the capitalist mode of production forever. We invite you all to join ICWP and raise the *Red Flag* higher as it shines truth and shows us how to defeat our class enemy. Forward with Communist Revolution! Forward!!! Backward Never!

GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD WILL NOT SOLVE HUNGER OR ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION. COMMUNISM WILL.

A genetically modified organism, or GMO, is an organism into which genes of another species have been inserted for purposes such as to produce an insecticide or to withstand high quantities of insecticides. In nature, the process of genetic change would take millions of years. In the laboratories it takes only a few months.

Currently, the bosses of big seed companies like Monsanto, Pioneer, and Cargill are controlling the food supply of the working class worldwide by monopolizing seeds, contaminating the native seeds that farmworkers plant and forcing them to buy genetically-modified seeds.

For example, in Colombia, Resolution 970 from 2010 criminalizes farmworkers who produce their own seeds. In 2012, authorities visited some farmworkers and when they couldn't show a sales slip that proved they had bought the seeds,

the authorities threw their harvest into the garbage. This led to a month-long national strike and temporarily halted the resolution.

But reform struggles will not stop the bosses; only communism will. This law will be imposed in different countries in the coming years. This attack on the working class can only be reversed with a communist revolution.

The big seed companies know which basic crops are the staple foods of the working class in each region and they make these into commodities. In the case of Mexico, it is corn. Each person consumes over 115 kilograms (250 pounds) annually, which contributes 53% of the caloric intake and 40% of the protein consumed.

Fifty-nine native varieties of corn in Mexico are at risk of contamination by the genetically modified corn. That happened with eggplant in

India, where eggplant is a staple food of the working class. The contamination cannot be reversed in any way.

Scientific evidence indicates that consumption of genetically modified corn damages health. The scientist Gilles-Eric Seralini fed rats with the genetically modified grain from Monsanto MON NK603 (tolerant to the herbicide glyphosate) for the whole life of the rats (two years). The female rats fed with the genetically modified grain developed breast cancer and the male rats developed severe liver and kidney damage. This is one of the corn hybrids that Monsanto plans to cultivate in northern Mexico. It is currently produced and consumed in the US, Honduras, Canada, Japan, Uruguay, and elsewhere.

See GMO FOOD, page 3



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

Lessons of Greyhound Strike: Part III

KNOWING OUR ENEMY, KNOWING OURSELVES

The lessons we are drawing from Greyhound workers' struggles are crucial today as the working class is on the move from South African miners to Cambodian garment workers. Some workers at Boeing are responding to the boss-union maneuvers against them by seeking communist solutions. Transit workers at MTA in Los Angeles are preparing for a possible strike.

In the last article we saw that the ATU (Amalgamated Transit Union) hacks had complied with Greyhound's new owners' 1986 demand for a 28% to 48% wage cut.

After these bosses posted a profit of \$20 million in 1988, the workers demanded a wage increase in the 1989 contract negotiations. Greyhound refused, forcing the most violent and longest strike in the industry: there were dozens of shootings, over a hundred bomb threats and a striker was crushed to death by a scab-driven bus.

The strike lasted over three years. In the end the drivers ratified a six-year contract that gave away most of their jobs to the scabs. Yet, the treacherous ATU International President Jim La Sala signed it saying, "I am elated, and I'm glad we can finally put all of this behind us."

The lessons of the class struggle

Knowing our enemy. Capitalism, our enemy, is a murderous system based on our exploitation. Capitalist competition for maximum profits and greater market share inevitably deepens and increases our impoverishment and dehumanization.

The capitalists use their state - their laws, courts, educational system, unions, media, police and army - to maintain and enforce their wage slavery on us. When we go on strike, we are not just fighting one boss but the whole capitalist class and their state.

No matter how massively and militantly we fight, capitalism can never meet our needs. Only communism can. We need to destroy the capitalist



state with a communist revolution. Reformism, the essence of trade unionism, diverts us from this path, perpetuating our wage slavery. No union leader, no matter how honest or militant, can ever change this.

Knowing ourselves. Under capitalism we are nothing but wage slaves. Our historical task is to be the gravediggers of capitalism and establish a classless society.

To do this, we need to join and help build worldwide the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). Without the Party mobilizing the masses for communism, there can't be a communist revolution.

Industrial workers are key to capitalist society. We produce and transport everything of value. Without us, nothing moves. However, we can't make a revolution by ourselves. We need allies among the other sectors of society. Key among these are the soldiers. Without their backing, there can be no revolution either.

We also need the youth, the future industrial workers and soldiers, and the masses of unemployed workers, professionals, and others who work for a living.

To know ourselves also means knowing the enemies within our ranks. Among these are our union "leaders" preaching anti-communism, reformism, respect for the bosses' law and participation in their electoral farce.

We also have individuals or organizations that still put forward socialism. Socialism, however, is state capitalism. Workers were still wage slaves, and many communist leaders became capitalists in Russia, China, Cuba, Vietnam, North Korea, Eastern Europe, etc.

We don't need to repeat that mistake. History has proven unequivocally that our struggle must be directly for communism. Anything less is suicidal.

Learning How to Mobilize the Masses for Communism through Political Strikes

In a political strike we do not fight for illusory reforms, but attack capitalism by putting forward revolutionary slogans that capture worldwide the working class' imagination, and advance its revolutionary communist understanding.

Some examples of such slogans: "Production for need, not profits!" "Transportation for need, not profits!" "No more wage slavery!" "For a world without borders or nations!"

We are, however, learning that this is not enough. We must also mobilize our allies, soldiers, students, professionals and the masses in general to support and fight for those slogans. This means learning how to mobilize the masses for communism.

We ask all with experience in mass mobilization, especially those in South Africa and El Salvador, to write their thoughts about how to mobilize the masses for communism.

GMO FOOD from page 2

Although the Seralini report is scientifically rigorous, the journal in which it was published retracted it, under pressure from the seed-company bosses. Hundreds of scientists around the world have rallied to Seralini's defense.

Similarly, in 2000 the researcher Ignacio Chapela published an article in the journal *Nature* about the contamination of corn in Oaxaca with genetically modified grains. *Nature* retracted the publication, Chapela was fired from his job, and he has been subjected to repression in recent years.

There are many such cases of research workers worldwide repressed and defamed for denouncing the damage caused by GMOs. This shows that the research institutions, the universities, the scientific journals and the lines of research respond to the needs of the ruling class. It is naïve to think that they respond to the needs of the working class. They will do so when we have communism.

The working class is being used in a great experiment from which there is no going back. This is another way that voracious capitalism is killing us every day: through food.

GMOs are one more problem that affects us as the working class. It is not enough to commit our lives to try to resolve only one problem like this. We must remove the source of all the problems, which is the capitalist system. The real solution is communism. That is why we invite you to join the ranks of ICWP and to fight alongside us.

THIS IS WHAT A "FREE PRESS" LOOKS LIKE

When Boeing workers rejected a proposed contract extension in December, the *Seattle Times* ran daily front-page articles for two months describing every possible location where the company could send production of the new 777X jet. From the size of the headlines you would think World War III had broken out.

They wrote editorials and published "expert" commentary demanding we be "practical" and bow to the "inevitable." If we didn't, we were to blame for company's pursuit of ever-cheaper labor in other states.

The national media did their part. The Associated Press (AP) news service tried to build a demonstration demanding a new vote in December. It flopped.

This unbridled assault opened the eyes of many people, even those who don't work at Boeing. "I can't believe what the TV and newspapers are saying about you guys," complained a friend who cuts a comrade's hair.

Believe it! This is what capitalism's free press is all about.

Our answer must be to expand the communist alternative.

**HELP
DISTRIBUTE
RED FLAG!
WRITE FOR THE
NEWSPAPER OF
THE WORKING
CLASS
AND SUPPORT IT
FINANCIALLY!**



Iran, Syria, and the Imperialists:**“THEIR PEACE AND THEIR WAR ARE LIKE WIND AND STORM”**

Diplomacy and war are interconnected opposites of global imperialist conflict.

The US and Iran are fighting in Syria and negotiating in Switzerland. Whatever the results of diplomacy, expect bigger and deadlier wars.

The masses deserve better. We need a world without borders, without nations, without capitalist-imperialist bosses who compete for profits over our dead bodies. We need to mobilize everywhere for communist revolution.

Imperialists, Iran Reach Nuclear Arms Deal

Iran will scale back uranium enrichment and nuclear development, with international inspections. US imperialists are getting everything they'd hoped for— at least for now.

In return, leading imperialists (US, Great Britain, Germany, France, China, Russia) will suspend key sanctions on Iran and unfreeze its overseas assets.

This six-month deal will supposedly lead to a treaty. However, sharpened internal contradictions in both countries could prevent that.

Congress has threatened harsher sanctions on Iran, influenced by Israel which, with Saudi Arabia, opposes the deal. The negotiations have deepened rifts between the US and these long-term allies. Obama vowed to veto new sanctions, and the US rulers are mainly uniting around the agreement.

Journalist Pepe Escobar suggests why: “China is already busy integrating the whole of Eurasia – and Iran, as the key node of Southwest Asia, is a crucial actor. ... For Washington, there will be no real pivot to Asia before a pivot to Persia [Iran].” (RT, 11/15/13) That is, US imperialists hope to win over or neutralize Iran as part of their preparation to fight China in Asia-Pacific.

Richard Haas of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) argued in October 2012 that a nuclear deal was becoming possible because sanctions had trashed Iran's economy. This led to the first mass protests since 2009. “Upheavals in the Arab world suggest that no regime in the Middle East is entrenched; Iran's leaders would have to be blind not to have taken note.” Iranian president Rouhani has taken note!

We too should take note: Never underestimate the masses. Seize every opportunity to mobilize the masses for communism. That's the only way our class can end the horrors of imperialist war.

Syria: 130,000 Dead, Millions Injured or Displaced

Iran and Russia are the main supporters of Syrian President Assad. The US rulers debated throughout 2013 whether to intervene, and now admit supporting anti-Assad rebels.

The nuclear accord has not brought the US and Iran to agree on regional conflicts. The Syria peace conference in Geneva “will fail, and the Obama team knows it,” predicted CFR leaders Leslie Gelb and Frank Wisner (1/26/14). Some US imperialists callously see Syrian war and instability as bad for Russia, and therefore good for the US.

Officially, the US conference goal was a transition government in which Assad would share power with the opposition. Iran (disinvited from the conference) called from the sidelines for everyone to fight the Islamic Republic of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The first round of talks accomplished nothing.

However, the influential Gelb and Wisner say that “Washington must pressure moderate rebels and Assad (with Russian help) to set aside their mutual hatreds and focus on what they both see as the much larger long-term danger to them both – the jihadis.” (1/26/14) This is Iran's position!

The Imperialists Have Their Plans; We Have Ours

Some Western observers think that “China's expansion in the Middle East ultimately poses the greatest threat to Iran” in the future (Zachary Keck, *The Diplomat*, 10/17/13). They hope that “the US can use Iran as the fulcrum for its Asian pivot to counter the growing influence of China,” says Samir Tata. “The US must be able to coerce or persuade Iran to suspend oil exports to China in the event of a US-China conflict.” (1/30/14) But if US imperialists expect to use Iran as the key to their plans to fight China, they'll probably be disappointed.

**THOSE AT THE TOP SAY:
PEACE AND WAR**

**Are of different substance.
But their peace and their war
Are like wind and storm.
War grows from their peace
Like son from his mother
He bears
Her frightful features.
Their war kills
Whatever their peace
Has left over.
—Bertholt Brecht, from
A German War Primer, 1941**

China needs a pipeline linking Iranian (and possibly Iraqi) oil and gas to existing central Asian networks, in order to evade a potential US naval blockade and guarantee the nine billion barrels per day it will soon need. Russia needs this too: If Iranian oil doesn't flow to China, it will compete with Russian oil for European markets. This could depress the price of oil to a level disastrously low for the Russian economy.

It's likely that Iran and Russia will side with China in a US-China showdown.

It's certain that imperialists' war still “kills/whatever their peace has left over.”

It's necessary for workers and soldiers everywhere to fight for a communist world.

Workers worldwide are one class, and we are organizing as one International Communist Workers' Party. Communism is based on cooperation, not competition; sharing, not markets; collectivity, not diplomacy.

Communist society, no longer chained by the profit system, will rely on sustainable energy instead of oil. It will fulfill our needs, not those of a handful of cynical bloody exploiters.

The masses have but one war to fight: the war to liberate ourselves from wage slavery and build a communist world.

Home of W. James McNerney, Chairman and CEO of Boeing, chair of President Obama's Export Council, executive committee member of Business Roundtable, and a trustee of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. In communist society, nobody will live better or worse than anybody else.



More than 4000 families called Seattle's Family Housing Connection hotline between April 2012 and April 2013. Fewer than 700 found housing through the system. Each month, 20 new shelter spaces open up and 30 new families call the hotline. In communist society, we'll build or renovate housing to meet everybody's needs.

SUBSCRIBE TO RED FLAG - \$20/YEAR

Name _____ I want _____ copies per issue

Address _____

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



Michoacán Community Self-Defense Groups Fight Drug Dealers

WE WORKERS NEED TO FIGHT CAPITALISM

LOS ANGELES, CA — For people from Michoacán, like many Mexican immigrants, returning to their place of origin during the Christmas holidays has been a tradition. Everyone wants to take presents and be with their families.

“Michoacán is the failure of the drug war. The government left it alone so that the same drug dealers could kill each other,” said José. He is a worker in a plastics factory who is a native of Vista Hermosa, Michoacán.

Sitting in his yard listening to music with some friends, José tells of his latest visit to his hometown in December. “I took presents for the family and before I entered the town there was an army checkpoint. They made me take everything out of the truck and since they didn’t find what they were looking for, they asked me for dollars because they knew that I was coming from Los Angeles. They took \$200 from me. When I got to my house that night, you could hear gunshots regularly. In front of my house, there were corpses, but neither the police nor the army came, it was just between them, the drug dealers.”

José says that he is sad about what is happening and he thinks that the self-defense patrols are

necessary to control crime, but he questions the origin of the weapons. “It’s not possible that they could have these kinds of heavy weapons. I know that people collect money here in Los Angeles. I don’t know who, and for I don’t know for what,” he says, trying not to commit himself. “But someone, the government or some other cartel, could be giving them weapons.”

José stayed in his town for a month. “For twenty days I stayed locked in my house. If I tried to leave, my mother cried. I didn’t know that they had killed a cousin who wasn’t involved in anything and so my mother was afraid.”

José says that he prays every day for peace to be established and for his whole family there. All the friends who were with him agree that the struggle against drug trafficking must be armed and that the self-defense patrols are legitimate. Likewise they think that the violence is in all the states of Mexico and that they should organize to get rid of drug trafficking.

A young Salvadoran worker in the same meeting pointed out that in El Salvador the struggle between the gangs has claimed many innocent victims and that they should follow the example of the self defense groups in Michoacán to get rid of them.

Will the self-defense patrols be enough or do we need a communist revolution? All of those interviewed said that the immediate results are what count. Some of them had never considered communism and others had never heard it talked about.

Now, lowering the volume of the music and taking the discussion more seriously, they came to the conclusion that the whole system is corrupt, that the bosses were the most interested in pushing drugs, like the music



May Day, Mexico City, 2013



that romanticizes drugs, the corridos, rap, reggaeton, cumbia and salsa.

In the self-defense groups, the small businessmen and growers are some of the leaders, but in their base are thousands of workers and townspeople, and they can be won to communist revolution. They all agree with this.

The lessons are there—not only with immigrants from Michoacán, but with all immigrant workers who suffer yet another bosses’ attack, this time with drugs.

The outlook appears bleak, but that is the appearance. In essence, there is a working class that is in struggle and there is a party that is growing through that struggle. From coast to coast, from east to west, from north to south, throughout the world, ICWP is present and ready to defeat the capitalist system and all the drugs in the world.

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

ENGELS’ CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIALECTICS

In this final column on Engels’ dialectics, we discuss another area of dialectics that he developed. We will also mention a significant error, and summarize his influence on the later development of dialectics.

The Dialectics of Knowledge

Engels understood that social practice is the basis of all knowledge, that it is “the alteration of nature by people, not just nature as such, which is the most essential and immediate basis of human thought.” Creating theories and testing them in practice is a process that results in a series of partial truths, some of which will be corrected and expanded, and some overturned.

The dialectical development of knowledge includes twists, leaps forward, reverses, and scientific revolutions. Engels said that although some natural or economic laws can be established “in pure form,” we usually achieve only partial or approximate truths.

Engels gives the example of Boyle’s Law, about the relation between the volume and the pressure of a gas. This law had recently been discovered to be wrong in some cases. Boyle’s law only proved to be “approximately true,” that is, “true only within definite limits.” No one could now prove it to be “absolutely and finally true within those limits.”

Failure to understand the dialectical development of knowledge leads to the absurd conclu-

sion that since Boyle’s Law can be modified, it is “not a genuine truth, hence not a truth at all.” This kind of reasoning is not uncommon in idealist philosophy. Approximate or incomplete truth is not simply wrong, but a stage in the development of knowledge, a stage where our knowledge may guide practice effectively. Further development of that knowledge can lead to more effective practice.

An Important Mistake

Learning from the development of dialectics has to include recognizing some mistakes. Engels got the one we mention here from Hegel, his idealist predecessor. Hegel claimed that motion, even simply moving from one place to another, is a contradiction, an idea that Hegel borrowed from the ancient Greek philosopher Zeno.

It is a central idea of dialectics that contradictions cause motion, but that is quite different from saying that motion actually is a contradiction. Engels made this claim as a major part of his case that contradictions occur everywhere, since matter is in motion everywhere. His argument, dating back to Zeno, is that if something moves, then it must be in some place at each moment but at the same time also not be at that place, which is a contradiction. This is a mistake. Whether you consider the place where an object is located to be a single point or a region of space, motion does not require that a moving thing both be

somewhere and also not be there at the same time.

This mistaken idea mattered. It has often been ridiculed by the enemies of dialectics and led to considerable confusion and heated debates as communist philosophy developed in the Soviet Union. The cause of this error was probably Engels relying too much on Hegel.

Influence of Engels’ Dialectics

It is hard to exaggerate Engels’ influence on the later development of dialectics. His book *Anti-Dühring* and his pamphlet on Feuerbach were translated into many languages and widely read in the late 19th century. His influence was very important in the struggles against anti-dialectical philosophy that took place in the early years of the Soviet Union. Engels’ unfinished book *Dialectics of Nature* was first published in the USSR in 1925. It was particularly important as an example of integrating the study of dialectics with natural and social science.

This book also became the central target for those who wanted to reject or distort dialectics, claiming that dialectics is simply wrong, or is only about thinking, or only applies to society, not to nature. We will discuss some of these attacks in future columns.

Next column: “Social Democratic” Dialectics

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Tomorrow's a Run Day

The other day we were doing Physical Training (PT). The morning seemed peculiar because the sergeants were all at a meeting. Only the lower enlisted soldiers were performing PT. We knew what to do. We started off by walking in formation to our designated PT area (every platoon has one). Then a soldier led us in doing the pre-workout stretches as is always done. After that we were unsure of what to do. There was no plan since usually sergeants are in charge of having a plan about what exercises will be done for PT on a given day.

The same soldier asked for suggestions. Someone suggested we play a form of "Tag" that we've done for PT in the past. Everyone agreed. It was fast to set up and everyone always had a good time when we did it. We began to play. No one was screwing around. Everything was going as it should and everyone was enjoying themselves. This went on for about 15 blissful minutes. Then the sergeants arrived.

"What the FC#! are you guys doing!" and "You guys know today's not a run day!" the sergeants shouted. It was Thursday and typically Tuesdays and Thursdays are "muscle failure" days, when we do exercises to build upper and lower body muscles. We shouldn't be doing a running activity, usually done on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

"Tomorrow during the run you'll all be complaining about how your legs hurt. Stop playing and fall into formation," ordered a sergeant. Another sergeant yelled at us for a good minute acting as if we were babies. Then he took charge and made us do "muscle failure" exercises.

When performing these exercises, everyone is supposed to be, or at least act, motivated. We have a saying that goes, "False motivation is better than no motivation." We show our motivation by sounding off. The PT instructor calls off the exercise that is going to be done and then the formation repeats his words and the exercise. Then the instructor will give another

set of instructions which also require a response from the formation and so on. For example:

Instructor: The Push Up!

Formation: The Push Up!

Instructor: Exercise! 1..2..3

Formation: 1..2..

On that morning, when the sergeant gave the exercise, without prior discussion, only a handful of people responded. When the next command was given no one responded. This made the sergeant pretty mad and he yelled to "sound off!" as he continued calling off a set of instructions, but still no response. "Oh, so you guys aren't going to sound off, ok!" he yelled and then proceeded to "smoke" us.

"Smokings" are exercises done as a corrective action with no determined length. To his dismay, no one complained. Everyone did the exercise that was given, remaining silent. This had no effect whatsoever. The sergeant stopped and returned to conducting the regular exercises he had started with.

As PT went on, the sergeant had the formation do leg exercises. The formation did not like this one bit, so we began to ridicule the sergeant. People said "Why are we doing this exercise when tomorrow is a run day?" "Did you forget, tomorrow's a run day,"

When someone yelled something, it was accompanied by laughter which annoyed the sergeant. The boiling point came when another soldier took it to the next level and said, "What should I eat for breakfast since it's a run day tomorrow?"

The formation began to laugh. The sergeant had had enough and demanded to know who said it. No response. Everyone knew, but no one told. After a good screaming, a person admitted it, saying, "It was me." This was quickly followed by someone else saying, "No, it was me," then another and another, to the point where the whole formation confessed to saying it. We were now all laughing at the sergeant.

Out of frustration he tried to take a wild guess at who he thought had shouted that out and tried to call a soldier out, which was only

met by the formation's laughter. The PT session carried on like this. There was nothing the sergeant could do. In the end he just accepted it.

By no means was this an historical event, but it does show the strength in numbers. People who aren't in the service and see themselves as separated from those of us in the armed forces can see that we too to deal with similar situations. We have strikes, in our own fashion and we too have to deal with mistreatment from our bosses. Soldiers and workers united under the leadership of ICWP can put an end to the Capitalist State. We have the numbers, so now we just need to organize to abolish their agenda of "muscle failure" and "run days."

-Red Soldier



El Salvador, May Day, 2013

"A Motivating Experience"

Yesterday was a special occasion. It was my first time to distribute **Red Flag**, a leaflet, "Who is Stealing from Whom?" and our communist manifesto, **Mobilize the Masses for Communism**, in a factory area here in El Salvador. It was a motivating experience.

Five comrades went to our destination which is some distance from here. It was a trip filled

with communist camaraderie. We were given instructions and tasks when we arrived. Everything appeared to go normally, but we were attentive and careful. I noticed that in the entrance of the building where we were distributing literature, they were giving pills to workers for headaches and using the situation to make money and increase their profits by selling medicines for illnesses caused by the capitalist

system. I continued to distribute our literature as the workers were leaving, some alone, others in groups. There were only a few who did not take the information.

I would say it went well. We gave out 100 **Red Flags** and 150 leaflets to a large number of men and women who work in these factories. This is a big step in the struggle for communism that we ICWP comrades are carrying out. We found very little of our literature thrown away on the sidewalks or street when we walked back to our vehicle.

We dispersed when we finished.

These kinds of activities should be carried out more frequently to inform and spread the truth about capitalism and the understanding that the solution is not to reform sick capitalism. The solution is to build communism. There is no other alternative.

It was the first time that ICWP passed out a leaflet at the factories here. It will serve as an experience for future activities. We learned what not to do and how to improve what we did well.

The reason for this letter is to share our experience with you, which are also your experiences and everyone's. Comrades, we will read about each other soon.

Onward to Victory!

--Young Poet

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

Talking About Communist Education

The 21st century opens a new point of view although we live in an environment polluted by the worship of money: corruption, rapid advancement, personal and collective looting, disengagement, and individualism. It depends on us whether the Christian Era of the 21st century continues on the same course by deepening the injustice with traditional education that educates to pacify hearts and promotes the peace of the cemetery, conformism, and resignation.

Education needs to end censorship of the great thinkers of history so that the present generations can put current world problems on trial. In this way they can analyze whose theory was and continues to be correct and learn to act in the face of the globalized reality in which we are all immersed. We need an analysis that will serve as the basis to project a new way of educating for a new society. Then we should ask ourselves the question: Educate for what? How to educate?

In answering the first question we would probably say, educate people for the new society that we want, to have new attitudes with new social interactions, and to undertake and work together. We would want to train agents of change in a constantly-changing society so that the believer discovers the positive in what he/she doesn't believe, to dismantle the structure of power and exclusion, to have peace without war or violent revolutions. We would want a pacifist revolution and international solidarity to ensure the overall well-being of the global family, the human race.

"I was intelligent until I went to school" --Falcundo Cabra
--Teacher

THE TEACHER IN STRUGGLE IS ALSO TEACHING



Teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico, February, 2011, fight cops during strike against capitalist school restructuring

Red Flag Comments

Thanks for writing and for being part of the struggle for a different, communist world. The task of developing a new form of education is part of the the struggle of the working class for a new communist society. In your letter, you said that there should be a peaceful revolution, without arms. We believe that's impossible. The bosses won't let us win the world we need in a peaceful manner. History has shown us that revolutions can only win by armed struggle, and, of course, a correct line. This could be the beginning of a discussion in your study group about how we can win the revolution.

Mexico: Structural Reforms or Communist Revolution

"Structural reforms" are what the ruling class has called the modification of the laws to sharpen the exploitation of the labor force in Mexico.

Energy reform was fundamental for them, since the epoch of revolutionary nationalism after WWII had established a regulation that restricted foreign investment in the exploitation of the "national assets" (oil, minerals, electricity, etc.).

Those who control the economy in Mexico, for their greater enrichment, need capitalist associates who "share the risk,"

for example in the exploration and drilling in deep waters (in extracting oil). They also need more legal flexibility to partner in all kinds of businesses. They wanted to deregulate private investment, which had been delayed for years.

Parallel with energy reform, they deregulated the employment of the labor force, making subcontracting (outsourcing) legal, limiting collective bargaining (unions), eliminating retirement pensions, replacing them with individual accounts, lengthening the period until retirement, restricting strikes, and giving broad powers to the bosses to arbitrarily fire workers.

Education reform is in line with their participation in trade wars that will inevitably lead to real wars. It applies the labor reform to the schools. They use teacher evaluation as a pretext to expose them to layoffs if they are not approved.

It immediately excludes teachers from participating in the educational decisions like planning programs and administering daily tasks, all of which is given to the officials. This is done under the pretext of taking the privileges away from the corrupt union, all of which, like in unions worldwide, they have gotten for their collusion with the bosses.

Unfortunately the big protests against the reforms have been carried out under the ideas of nationalism: "defend the national wealth," "against the biggest theft of all time," "defend the right of collective bargaining," "defend the unions," "in defense of public education," etc. These slogans do not take into account that all these slogans leave the working class under capitalist domination, even if these goals were reached.

Now is the time when the working class can emancipate itself, put an end to capitalist employment of labor power in order to produce in free association. No more production for buying and selling (commodities), no more need for money, no more borders, no more racism. Such is the goal that we pursue in ICWP through Red Flag. Join us!

--Comrade in Mexico

MOCKINGJAY from page 8

we shouldn't fight to change it."

"Yeah," said Amber, "And if you fight, you turn into the enemy. Alma Coin, the one who is masterminding the rebellion, is as evil as President Snow. What's worse is that Gale, who in *Catching Fire* was willing to rally miners to rebel, begins to resemble the Capital when he decides to target the first responders—and blame the Capital—and kills Katniss' sister, Prim, in the process."

"You leave with the idea that you can't trust anybody," said Johnny. "And the epilogue is just fake."

"I liked it," said Cathy. "I think it ends up showing that even though Peeta and Katniss are scarred for life, at least their kids don't have to worry about the Hunger Games."

"But what's really changed?" asked Carlos. "They went from gladiators to wage slaves. There's a new factory in District 12 to make medicine. People in District 11 are, no doubt, still picking cotton."

People in District 7 are still cutting wood and in District 4 they're still fishing. People still have to struggle to survive under a capitalist system."

"And we're supposed to be happy," said Amy, "because they got rid of the Hunger Games. But we don't have Hunger Games, and we're not happy. We want to get rid of wage slavery. And when we rebel, we'll know what we're fighting for—a communist world, where there are no bosses, and no money, and we work together and share what we produce. You can't get that following the Mockingjay."

COMMUNIST AND CAPITALIST CULTURE

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



Mockingjay...

Our youth collective read *Mockingjay*, the third installment of the *Hunger Games* trilogy.

"I liked the first two," said Nikki, "but I didn't like this one—the whole thing is like a suicidal, PTSD, drugged-out nightmare. She's not the girl hero everybody wanted to be like in the beginning."

"But that's where the author was taking you all along," said Amy. "The first two books were to hook you in so she could make her political points."

"The media is always manipulating you—that's one way that this trilogy is like real life," said Johnny. "Look how the Capital used TV to control the whole country during the hunger games. Everything that happened was developed on TV, real or fake. And the rebels did the same thing when they had control of the media—staging the Mockingjay in battle. It was all too fake."

"The way they used Mockingjay as a symbol relates to the weakness of movements for change throughout history," said Carlos. "They always have one person as the face of the rebellion or revolution—Mandela, Chávez, Ché, King, you name it. People are won to follow the leader, rather than knowing what they are fighting for."

"You can't get to communism that way," said Amber. "We have to know what we're fighting for."

"But the point of the movie is just that," said Johnny. "They don't want you to get to communism. The message of *Mockingjay* is a lot like *Animal Farm*. District 13 is a stereotype of a communist society: everybody wearing the same clothes, eating the same food, with a daily schedule in ink on your arm."

"They say it clearly at the end," said Carlos, "when Plutarch says that collective thinking is short-lived and that human beings are fickle and stupid with poor memories and a great gift for self-destruction. He's saying that society is what it is because of human nature, and

See MOCKINGJAY, page 7

Q & A about life under communism

A young comrade wrote to *Red Flag* asking questions and another young comrade responded...

Question: If communism were to prevail, how would international trade and commerce work out without money?

Answer: Under Communism there would NOT be international trade and commerce, but distribution systems. We will all produce for the masses. For example, wood for houses would be a necessity so we would coordinate how to get wood to all areas without money. Who would figure out distribution? Everyone will have a duty in society and will also figure out how to distribute what is produced to everyone.

Q: Has there been any public speaking communist in the 21st century? If so, who?

A: Everyone and anyone can be a public speaker. The goal of ICWP is that each person sees themselves as a leader for communism. It is a capitalist idea that there are a few "important" people that speak for everyone, but in reality no one works on his/her own.

Q: How different are socialists, compared to communists?

A: The ultimate goal for socialists was to go through socialism first then reach communism. They believed in a "stage" before communism so they could prepare to move on to communism. This "stage" was a time period to prepare the masses and create abundance before going on. However, present-day communists discovered that this did not work because socialism kept money, wages, and exchange (all capitalist practices). Communists doing the work of capitalists created new capitalists. It did not remove capitalism.

Q: What more will it take for this revolution to begin?

A: BECOME A MEMBER OF ICWP. For this revolution to begin more people must realize and believe that communism is worth fighting for.

Writing For Red Flag

What Red Flag should do:

Red Flag should help us organize and help us struggle with each other. Articles should intensify internal contradictions so as to pull the reader to the left to develop more communists. Living under capitalism, we are bombarded with capitalist ways of being and thinking that sometimes go unnoticed. We must be in constant struggle with ourselves and others to live by communist principles.

Communist Principles:

Communists are committed to transforming the world by eliminating slavery once and for all (wage slavery); humans and the environment should not be exploited and degraded to commodities. Communists believe in living with humility, self-discipline, and acceptance of personal responsibility. Communists disapprove of arrogance, greed, selfishness, or self-centeredness and encourage others to do the same. Communists recognize the value of being of service and of treating others with respect. These principles are not unique to communists, but communists dedicate their life to creating a world-wide communist system that promotes these principles.

These principles and values mean little on paper or in our minds. How we live our daily lives is what matters. We need to be honest in self evaluation and in our struggles with others to help with development.

For example, a comrade received compliments for speaking in a large group and found herself thinking, "People really like what I have to contribute." She did not hesitate to raise her hand again, thinking, "I hope I get picked to speak...what I have to say is better." At one point she received spontaneous applause when she declared herself a communist; however, she realized too late that while she was thinking of what to say next, she did not listen to others' contributions or learn others' names. By the end of the weekend she'd met over 150 people, all of whom wore name tags, but only recalled two individuals' names, one being the instructor.

This young communist failed to do the most important work of a communist—**build the party to mobilize the masses for communism.** She did not take time to get to know more people as selfishness, pride, and self-centeredness got in the way. She makes a commitment to being more self-critical and not think she is immune from capitalist ideology simply because she calls herself a communist. Living by communist principles in all aspects of life is our task under capitalism and will be under communism as well. *Red Flag* needs to help us continually develop as communists.