

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**CARSON, CALIFORNIA, Feb. 3**—Striking oil refinery workers confront scab bus. Eight hundred members of the United Steel Workers union local 675 are on strike against

Tesoro Oil Company, demanding safer working conditions and fighting company attacks on health benefits.

Men and women on the picket lines took copies of *Red Flag* and the ICWP Industrial Workers pamphlet. "It's a communist paper," a comrade explained. "Oh, cool," a worker responded.

Two workers were asked what message they'd like to send to metalworkers in South Africa. "It doesn't matter where you are in the world," one said after a moment's thought. "Everyone wants a decent standard of living." *More next issue.*



## WHY WORKERS DON'T NEED BOSSES

EL SALVADOR—"A garment worker who has received *Red Flag* and with whom we have good discussions about the articles and their communist ideas has told me that he agrees with many aspects of our Party. But he told me he thinks that we workers need the bosses in order to be able to work and live. At that time, I couldn't give him a good explanation about why we don't need bosses because I myself didn't understand the point well," said a comrade worker in the factory.

The comrade attended a communist political school of the International Communist Workers' Party in which he asked that we discuss this issue. He wanted to hear what the others thought to be able to return to the worker and give him a better explanation of why we don't need bosses.

There were several opinions in the group. One person said, "We need a lot of money to be able to buy raw materials, to produce and to find the customers."

Another person asked, "What

can the boss do with only the machine?"

"Really we workers don't need the bosses. The means of production can be led completely by the workers; that is what we do today. We do the work, but the one who takes the profit is the boss," said a worker.

For now there is a ruling class, but it has not always been like this and it won't be like this in the future. Communist revolution will rip this system of wage slavery out by its roots. We will take complete control of the means of production and build a society without bosses, or money, or wages.

**How will we produce shirts or clothes in general?**

Let's imagine a system in which ICWP with its millions of members controls an area and that the food, shelter, and other necessities are assured by the men and women workers. So our mission as garment workers is to produce clothes for the new communist society.

Some workers will grow, cut and  
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## COMMUNISM WILL END RACISM AND HUNGER

SOUTH AFRICA—In a township of Soweto near Johannesburg, two youths were trying to steal food from a spaza shop (informal shop created in shacks). One of the youths was killed by the shop owner, who is from Somalia.

Very soon, as the news spread, angry youth started attacking and robbing spaza shops owned mostly by Somalis, Ethiopians and Bangladeshis. Fearing for their lives, these immigrant owners fled the area, abandoning their property.

The ANC government was quick to assert that these attacks had nothing to do with racism/xenophobia but were due to "criminal elements" in the townships.

The fact is that capitalists/imperialists are the biggest criminals. They have created lives of misery for the working class, not only in South Africa but also in Somalia, Ethiopia and Bangladesh. In the township of Soweto the youth unemployment rate is as high as 60% with no prospects for the young people. Hunger and desperation are

everywhere.

Since the ANC has come to power, it has created enormous wealth for a very small group of blacks who live in exclusive suburbs of Johannesburg in million dollar homes protected by security. This is in stark contrast to Soweto where hundreds of thousands of workers toil every day for very few basic necessities by selling their labor if they are lucky. Those who can't are barely surviving. This simmering anger and desperation led them to attack the wrong targets – the owners of spaza shops.

The South African government has very systematically created racism. It uses a selective immigration policy to divert the fury of angry youth in the townships towards foreign-owned spaza shops. The government issues resident permits to Somalis, Ethiopians and Bangladeshis if they open spaza shops in the townships of industrial cities. The reason these immigrants come to South Africa is that their home countries are devastated by  
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## Obama in India:

### U.S. ON COLLISION COURSE WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA

When Obama supported French and British military strikes that toppled the Gaddafi regime in Libya in 2011, the *New Yorker*, praising him, coined the expression, “leading from behind.”

The reason, it said, was that “the relative power of the U.S. is declining, as rivals like China rise” and “the U.S. is reviled in many parts of the world.”

George Friedman, CEO of the US think-tank Stratfor, expands on this shift in strategy. Between 1914 and 1989, especially during two world wars, US policy was to “allow both sides to exhaust each other, and then ... collect the winnings with (by comparison) minimal casualties.” He criticizes the policy, in effect from 1989-2008 of “direct and early involvement of US military forces.”

Friedman argues that the US should now build “effective and relevant alliance structures” with “core allies who have an interest in aligning with the United States against regional enemies. The goal is to “avoid the emergence of a regional hegemon [power] fully secure against land threats and with the economic power to challenge the United States at sea.”

The two potential hegemonies facing US imperialism are China and Russia. “Russia, China top list of threats,” announced the *Los Angeles Times* (2/4/15). So what Friedman is really peddling is a US strategy to fight World War III.

The main goal of Obama’s visit to India was to recruit India to contain the rise of China and Russia now and militarily confront them later.

But Obama is not India’s only suitor. Russia and China are also wooing India. The new Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is determined to extract as many concessions as possible from these competing imperialists. He plans to spur the economic and military rise of India, turning it into a major world power.

Modi’s “Made in India” project requires tens of millions of new jobs for India’s unemployed youth. His plans for building India’s infrastructure will require massive investments. Modi envisions China as a big player in both these projects.

Modi led the state government of Gujarat before becoming Prime Minister. His party carried out fascist pogroms against the Muslim population there. This racist terror enabled his government to weaken labor laws. This lured huge investments, mainly from China and Japan, into auto, oil, power and transportation.

Modi aspires to repeat China’s economic “mir-

acle.” The \$3 billion Obama promised to invest in India won’t help much.

As Obama was leaving India, India’s foreign minister Sushma Swaraj was on her way to China. China plans to invest \$20 billion in new industrial parks. It offered to loan India 30% of its \$1 trillion infrastructure cost through 2017.

The day after Obama left, a newspaper owned by the biggest Indian capitalists (owners of Reliance Industry) wrote an editorial, “Need for rebalance: After engaging with US, time for Modi to deal with China.” It warned the Modi government not to be seen as aligning with “one particular sphere of influence” (the US). Instead it urged him to take maximum advantage of the US-China conflict.

Actually, India is a member of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), which aims to end US world domination. This cannot happen without war: world war.

India, the world’s second most populous country, is a very desirable ally. Obama failed to clinch the military alliance with India that US imperialism desperately needs to fight China, Russia, or both. The US is temporarily India’s main arms supplier, but Obama was unable to break up the strategic India-Russia military relationship.

“Indian military equipment will continue to be heavily Russia-centric,” says an Indian columnist for the Russia-based *Russia and India Report*. “The US is offering the technology for developing a drone...throwing us a toy,” he told those predicting a massive US military technology transfer to India.

In contrast, Russia and India are collaborating on weapons projects, including nuclear submarines, supersonic cruise missiles, and fifth gen-

eration stealth fighters.

China is also dead serious about roping India into military cooperation. President Xi personally met Foreign Minister Swaraj to prepare for Modi’s visit in May.

China is investing \$32 billion to integrate India’s railway system with China’s new Silk Road, connecting China, Central Asia and Russia with Europe. China also proposes to upgrade the port of Calcutta to link India with its Maritime Silk Road.

A key aspect of these new Silk Roads is military. They will facilitate rapid troop deployment from China throughout Asia, Russia and Europe. This includes strategic locations like Singapore on the Strait of Malacca. Eighty percent of China’s imported oil passes through here. The maritime Silk Road challenges all the sea lanes and choke points now controlled by the US Navy in Asia Pacific.

This vast infrastructure of railways, highways and ports is built entirely by Chinese finance, bypassing western capital. It will integrate Asia and Europe economically under Chinese domination, posing an existential threat to US economic world domination.

The US is countering by trying to build trade blocs with Asia Pacific countries and Europe which would exclude China and Russia. This is a recipe for war.

Capitalism makes imperialist world war inevitable. It’s urgent to build ICWP everywhere. It’s especially urgent among soldiers and sailors who will be called upon to fight for the bosses’ profits and empires. They and industrial workers must “lead from the front” in mobilizing the masses to make the bosses’ next war their last.



## NO BOSSES from page 1

process the cotton and other materials for fabrics. Other workers will construct the machines and the transportation needed to take it to the production centers. In this process, money will not be needed because everything that exists in this area will belong to the workers collectively. In a communist system of organization and production, ICWP will guarantee that everything gets where it is needed.

Those who are garment workers will produce the necessary clothing, not to sell but to use, to meet the needs of the masses. The scientific ad-

vances to develop the instruments of production are the result of the creative work of millions of workers worldwide. The more communist consciousness that they have, the greater are the possibilities to put an end to this exploitive capitalist system.

ICWP organizes and fights to mobilize workers for this. In Communism, there will not be bosses. We will produce based on the needs of humanity. We will share abundance and if there is scarcity, we will collectively seek the way to resolve the situation. Accumulation of personal wealth will not exist; money will not exist.

The industrial workers and soldiers are some of the main forces to achieve a system free of bosses, the COMMUNIST system. We are fighting every day to carry the communist ideas of ICWP forward, so that the working class will not be caught off guard by capitalist propaganda.

Our newspaper *Red Flag* is an important means to bring out these daily discussions in the centers of production. We would like to see other opinions about this subject of a world without bosses. Distribute *Red Flag*, organize study cells and join the International Communist Workers’ Party.



**JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)**  
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# BUILDING ICWP IN MEXICO

## LET'S FIGHT FOR THE 43 AND MANY MORE!

MEXICO—The explanation devised by the Mexican government through the Attorney General Murillo Karam, of the 43 students arrested by the city police of Iguala, turned over to the criminal gang “Guerreros Unidos,” executed and incinerated in the trash landfill of Cocula and thrown into a nearby river, has not convinced the parents or their supporters in Mexico and abroad.

The arrested criminals said they were tortured until they pled guilty and it is possible that the charges against them will be dropped. On the other hand, the Iguala cops who were arrested claim that they had the day off or were on vacation on September 26th, the day the students were abducted. This adds to the evidence that it was soldiers and federal police who arrested and shot the normal school students, directly involving the federal government of Peña Nieto and the murderous capitalist system.

Faced with the refusal of the parents to believe their explanation, and with an attempt on their part to enter the military zone in Iguala using a trailer, Interior Secretary Osorio Chong said that parents would be allowed into some Army bases to look for their missing children.

Several of the parents of the 43 students have brought the case to the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances in Geneva. More important than such institutional resources have been the huge solidarity protests around the world, from Bolivia to Japan, Germany to the USA, to protest the Mexican government and demanding the reappearance

alive of the disappeared students.

According to a count by *Political Animal* magazine, from 2007 to 2014, 23,600 people have disappeared in Mexico. In 2014 there were the highest number of cases recorded, 5,098. In January, *La Jornada* reported that 14 people disappear every day.

The mass protests repudiate all the bosses' parties as corrupt. Those who are organizing them hope to force the regime into an untenable situation. In Guerrero, they will prevent the elections in June. But that's a far cry from preventing an election to mobilizing the working class to take power.

The spokespeople for the ruling class are calling for “imposing order” and applaud the militarization of the Mexico-Acapulco highway. There is a serious risk of a massive and widespread repression throughout the country. Capitalism always rests on the base of an armed dictatorship of the bosses over the working class, and as the crisis intensifies, the bosses are forced to resort to more naked fascism. As R. Palme Dutt, a Communist from India, wrote 80 years ago, the only alternative for capitalism in crisis is fascism or communist revolution.

The working class must step up. Today more than ever we need to do away with this murderous and racist capitalist system. Those who distribute and read our newspaper should increase their commitment and help to spread communist ideas massively among workers, soldiers, teachers and students to turn this rebellion into a struggle for communism.



Read our pamphlet:  
**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL  
 WORKING CLASS:  
 BIGGER COMMUNIST  
 POTENTIAL WORLDWIDE**

Available at:

[www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org)

## MAKING RED FLAG THE PAPER OF THE MASSES

MEXICO—We recently held an enriching meeting, attended by two housewives, a young farm worker, a young urban worker, a health care worker and an unemployed woman, each one with different experiences. In a lively discussion they talked about the fear caused by talking about change, people's ignorance of communism, and the anti-communist ideas that circulate in the media.

The young farm worker emphasized that in *Red Flag* we need to talk about the situation in the fields. In his work, he has realized that the farmworkers are tired and they only follow him. We need to give them a match and light it, and that is where *Red Flag* must be. However, *Red Flag* does not talk about them.

The young comrade from the city explained that in his workplace, he and his co-workers live in fear that they will be fired because there is less work every day, and there are few projects. Here, conditions of unemployment and poverty are similar to those in the fields. Therefore, people there are also dissatisfied.

It was mentioned that in the health sector, discontent is also growing. The nurses' march at the beginning of the year is a sign of this. Every day the bosses make the workers' lives unbearable. They discussed how the comrade who works in this sector could expand the network of friends and talk to them about Communism.

We commented that the responsibility of the articles that appear in *Red Flag* is not just of some comrades, that the Party is the work of all. Like the housewives, the farmworkers, or any other worker, we should write about these issues.



This would give us more confidence to take *Red Flag* to other workers and tell them, “Look, here it talks about your situation.” But, to get to that, we would have to write.

Therefore, to continue the political development of each member of the Party in this area, each comrade will write an article based on their experiences and areas of work which will be sent to *Red Flag*. In the next meeting, we will discuss them, in addition to reading the document *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*.

A family graciously opened their home and prepared a rich pozole, and while we waited for the comrades to arrive, we were able to strengthen ties of friendship. All of this, as a young comrade from the city put it, makes us see that this Communist society is possible, even with our many internal contradictions, even though we don't live in communism.

Workers of the world, whatever action we take, however small, causes an effect and this effect must be the liberation of our working class. Workers of the world, let's unite in one Party, the International Communist Workers' Party.



## Learning from the Past:

### CHINESE WORKERS BECOME THE MASTERS OF THE FACTORY

It was the workers who were masters of the factory. That, according to the retired steel workers, was the stand-out feature of factory life in the early years of the communist led revolution in China. They were talking about life at the Tonghua Steel Company in the 1960s and 1970s.

They weren't glorifying the past with misty-eyed recollections of their youth. They were, however, recalling factory life in a country where communists were struggling to complete a revolution and build a future free from exploitation. In the end we know the communists lost but it would be a mistake to dismiss their struggle without making note of their achievements.

And the basis of these achievements - and they are political achievements, not just productive ones - had been developed in another plant by the Anshan Steel Workers. Produced in 1960, this set of principles became known as the Angun Constitution. They were developed in opposition to the production practices introduced by the then Soviet Union. They rejected the Soviet notion that managers had to control production and that management needed material incentives (like a hierarchy of pay scales) to spur development.

The Constitution had four main features. Factories were not allowed to fire workers. Workers' income was stable and set by national standards. Management was participatory: workers participated in plant decisions; managers participated in productive labor (see box). Finally, workers had a complete right to criticize all management openly.

Of course conditions of life outside the factory played a big part in shaping the Constitution. While wages were more or less stagnant, housing, education and medical services were more or less free. There was an emerging sense of collective achievement. Wages played a less dominant role in your life.

It was this lived experience of collectivity (the power and capability of the masses) that spearheaded the

attack on material incentives. Steel production was equated to the long term interests of the working class as a whole. The day-to-day routine of the mill worker produced more than steel, it produced a social purpose and consciousness. It expressed the power of the masses.

In this light, material incentives were seen as short-sighted individualism. They undercut this vital sense of collectivity and promoted Party cadre rather than workers. If a communist society was to be built, the needs of the masses and not individuals had to be dominant. "If the interest of all people are realized," the argument went, "then the interests of the individual can also be realized."

In capitalist society wage workers are marginalized. Wages, benefits, even jobs can be cut without a second thought. In China of the 1960s-70s, where significant forces were struggling for communism, workers were championed, wages marginalized. We know now, from hindsight, that the communist forces made a mistake here: wages shouldn't have been marginalized. They should have been abolished. And the fight to abolish wages couldn't only be waged and won in one factory, but would have to be a fight for communist political power to abolish wages everywhere.

Yet, although the ideas of these retired steel workers might have been defeated, they were cer-

#### WORKERS LEAD: LEADERS WORK

I remember living in Vancouver, Canada, in the 1970s when the first merchant ship from post-revolutionary China was about to dock. Since at the time it signified a new trade policy (Canada trading with China), it became a civic affair and the ship had invited all the city's officials to a banquet on board to celebrate the occasion.

In the daytime before the banquet, trade union activists and others were invited to tour the ship. I didn't go but a friend did. What was the highlight for him? "We stopped by the cafeteria," he told me, "where they were preparing for the banquet. 'See the guy laying the table over there?' the guide asked us. 'Well he's the ship's captain. When the ship is in port we don't need a captain so he got assigned as kitchen helper!'"

tainly not crushed. We have come to know about this group of some thirty workers because of their central role in organizing thousands of workers at Tonghua Steel Company to resist a new round of privatization in 2009 at the state-owned plant. It was a successful struggle but not before thousands of angry workers beat to death the chief manager, who represented the private shareholder!

However, an even more significant victory can emerge from their struggle. Today, thanks to *Red Flag*, workers on the shop floors of factories in three different continents can use the workers' recollections of the struggle to build a communist society in China in the 1960-70s to map out how the communist future we are planning to build will look by realizing how mass political consciousness can change.

This article raises questions about how production will be organized in communist society. We hope readers will comment on this so that we can all have a clear vision of how new production centers will be organized without managers, or wages or money. Will we have constitutions? How will our mass party mobilize workers to organize production?



Tonghua, China, 2009

## SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

capitalist/imperialist exploitation and civil wars.

Millions of people in those countries live just like people in the townships of South African cities, and in many cases worse. The South African government won't allow the workers from those countries to enter, only those who want to open spaza shops.

The displaced youth from those countries end up becoming illegal immigrants in Europe and the US, where they face racist, anti-Muslim xenophobia.

In South Africa this simmering anger of the working class must be channeled into the revolutionary goal of overthrowing capitalism and its wage slavery. That is what ICWP is doing.

We are not only exposing the bankruptcy of reformist sellouts like ANC, but also dangerous racists like "Economic Freedom Fighters" and those who advocate Pan Africanism. These forces want to mislead the desperate youth to support our class enemies who are black capitalists.

We in ICWP have a better system to offer. Under communism we will eliminate the very

foundation of what causes racism. That is the money system. We will produce for the need of the working class and not for the greed and luxury of our class enemies. We will create mass culture and collective learning, enriching life by sharing and helping each other. This is the exact opposite of capitalist culture and education.

We also believe that communism will go through many different phases. In the early phase after violent revolution we will have shortages

but they will be resolved collectively; we will share what we have. Nobody will be shot and killed because they are hungry.

We realize we have a big job on our hands but our party here in South Africa is very new, we are learning. We will never give up. We are using the *Red Flag* as our revolutionary tool to build our party. We are very energetic and passionate about communism and convinced that only communism is the answer to our problems.



Protesting anti-immigrant racism in South Africa

## Obama's Community College Scam (Part II)

### DO YOU WANT TO BE A CAPITALIST TOOL OR A COMMUNIST LEADER?

Obama's community college initiatives serve industry, not working-class students. They are "good" only if you believe the bosses' lie that capitalist exploitation is the best we can hope for. Actually, capitalist competition today is leading to wider wars. That's what the new vocational-education movement is about.

Obama's 2012 *Community College to Career Fund* planned to turn community colleges into "community career centers where people learn crucial skills that local businesses are looking for right now."

*Skills for America's Future* was "an industry-led initiative to improve industry partnerships with community colleges" and "to provide 500,000 community college students with industry-recognized credentials that will help them secure jobs in the manufacturing sector."

*The Trade Adjustment Community College and Career Training* program tried, said Labor Secretary Tom Perez, "to align curriculum with the needs of businesses – so ready-to-work Americans can move right into ready-to-be filled jobs." Employers would "help design the credential."

**Bosses see workers as just another item needed in the production process.** They want to custom-order us, like a specially-designed airplane part. But our labor power is their only source of profit. They need us – but we don't need them. (see page 1)

Last month, Obama proposed an *American Technical Training Fund* to finance 100 centers to train low-wage workers for jobs in fields like energy, computers, and advanced manufacturing.

Motlow State Community College (Tennessee) trains students to work for Bridgestone Tire Company in classes held on-site at Bridgestone. This saves Bridgestone the cost of on-the-job training.

This program, praised by Secretary Perez, helps the military, because Bridgestone is a war research contractor and a major supplier of tires and specialty products to the US military.

**These US initiatives have Chinese parallels.** Last year, the Chinese rulers launched a major campaign to strengthen vocational high schools and colleges. "There is rising demand for graduates from vocational schools," said the director of a central China automotive engineering college that was custom-built in cooperation with BMW of Germany.

China plans to convert 600 universities to vocational training centers. If this isn't yet happening at US universities, it is at community colleges. In both countries, publicity tries to convince students and parents that a so-called "liberal education" is not in their best interest.

So there is a growing "arms race" for technically-trained workers between two imperialist powers on a global collision course.

**Class society divided "mental" from "manual" labor.** Rulers everywhere have always claimed that only they were capable of thinking, planning, and governing. This big lie was key to capitalist work and education. The idea of "liberal education" emerged to distinguish future rulers and professionals from industrial workers and farmers.

In the late 1960s, masses of Chinese youth and workers rose in the Cultural Revolution to denounce capitalist schools and universities. In the US, black workers rebelled massively in the cities as students mobilized against the Vietnam War.

The rulers responded by expanding public higher education, especially community colleges. The new big lie was: "You, too, can school yourself out of manual labor!"

Now US and Chinese imperialist rulers are caught in a contradiction: They won masses to believe their lies about "liberal education" and the superiority of keeping your hands clean, but now their factories need trained skilled workers for their trade wars and, not too far off, their shooting wars.

**Communists understand that all work requires both "head" and "hands."** We must recruit masses into the International Communist Workers' Party to win a revolution and start governing ourselves. In our reorganized workplaces, everyone will participate in making and carrying out all decisions involving production, education, and everything else. Work and learning will go hand-in-hand.

Communist leaders in the young Soviet Union struggled sharply over how to implement the Marxist principle of combining education with manual work.

Lenin and Krupskaya fought for "polytechnical" education: All children would learn science, political theory, and technique. Other Party leaders fought for "trade schools" for most and university training for a few.

The pro-capitalist second line inevitably won out, since Soviet society was socialist instead of communist. Its capitalist production relations (money, wages) demanded capitalist education.

**Now we understand the need to mobilize the masses directly for communism.** In our Party today, we struggle for all comrades to unite theoretical and practical work around our political line. Youths should take advantage of opportunities created by the bosses' vocational-education war plans to enter industry or the military and proudly organize for communist revolution.

## Greece's Financial Crisis:

### COMMUNISM WILL ABOLISH MONEY AND WAGES

February 1-- The "leftist" Greek government of Alexis Tsipras is the bosses' latest attempt to calm the masses by posing as their defenders against the austerity plan imposed by the German-led euro zone. Yet in an e-mail to the Bloomberg news agency, Tsipras assured Greece's creditors that he would not default or make unilateral demands, and would do nothing to jeopardize the country's euro zone membership. The new Greek government is weighing its options. It has condemned US sanctions on Russia, and is flirting with a Russian bail-out. At the same time, it is threatening to block China's bid to privatize the huge port of Piraeus—but is unlikely to do so. All of this shows the dangerous instability of sharpening interimperialist rivalry amidst a worldwide capitalist crisis.

It's all about money for the bosses but for Greek workers and even middle class people it's life or death. Despite massive demonstrations, strikes, and rebellions hundreds of thousands have been laid off. A third of the population has lost their health insurance. The rest face a system in shambles. A quarter of the population reports going hungry at least once last year. No matter what happens, the result will be more misery for Greek workers.

Money: what will we communists do about money? Easy: we'll abolish it immediately when we take power, along with all other symbolic forms of so-called "wealth": stocks, bonds, debts, bank accounts (along with the banks) and cash. And with money goes the wage system, where workers work for pay that they need to get food, clothing, shelter, healthcare etc. In

communism these things will be shared according to everyone's need.

This is not a new idea—ever since Marx communists realized money would eventually disappear. August Bebel, a left-wing German socialist, wrote (over a hundred years ago) a prescient book called *Woman and Socialism* which has a few chapters on the future socialist/communist society (he doesn't distinguish clearly). On money he says:

*"If there will be no [commodities i.e. goods produced for sale] in the new society, there will ultimately be no money, either. Money appears to be the counterpart of commodities, but is a commodity itself. .... the new society will not produce commodities, it will produce goods*

*" ... By abolition of the wage system, the exploitation of man-by-man, deception and fraud, adulteration of food, speculation, etc., will be eradicated. The halls of the Temples of Mammon will be empty, for stocks, bonds, promissory notes, mortgages, etc., will have become waste-paper."*

How will we organize the free and fair distribution of the products of labor? The masses will have to work out the details when the time comes, but it will likely involve communal social units like factories, schools, hospitals and housing collectives. Workers will decide what is needed, how to get it and how to share it out. For example, in all these places there could be canteens where people can eat (for free, of course). Bebel was adamant that what he called the "communist kitchen" would go a long way to liberating women from domestic slavery.

Imagine how much freer of worries our lives would be. No bills, no debts, no car or health insurance, no fees or taxes or fines. No one will fear going hungry, the cost of getting old or sick, or losing their job, because they will be taken care of: "to each according to their needs."

The end of the wage system will end sexist and racist pay differentials and lay the basis for eliminating racism and sexism. There will be no unemployment because no money will be saved by preventing anyone from working. No longer will our youth suffer imposed idleness.

None of these will happen spontaneously. Years of intense struggle will follow the seizure of power to "work out the details." Four hundred years of capitalist training will not vanish (even from the working class) overnight.

In addition, we will have to fight for communist collective production, while battling the imperialists' many attempts to undermine our society ideologically and destroy it militarily. But at least then, without capitalist institutional baggage (like money) we can look forward to eventual victory.

Both the Soviet and Chinese communists eliminated money for a while under war communism and the supply system. But they brought back money and wages as soon as their civil wars were over, supposedly because the workers weren't ready for communism.

We won't make the same mistake. Money and the wage system are curses on the working class; communism will put an end to these curses.

## CAPITALISM, RACISM, AND COLLEGE

Vice-President Biden's recent West Los Angeles College visit illustrates the lie of "opportunity for all." It shows how community colleges, like all of capitalist schooling, reinforce the racist system of capitalist exploitation.

Biden's photo-op with the WLAC Dental Hygiene program was carefully staged. Seeing the coverage, you'd think the program trained mainly black and latina students for high-paying jobs. Actually, practically the only two black Dental Hygiene students were both shown on camera (under 5% of all students in the program). About half of the DH students are white, compared with only 13% of all WLAC students. In Los Angeles County, almost 60% of all dental hygienists are white and 4% are black.

The same college division also trains Home Health Aides, who average \$12/hr., compared with \$48/hr. for Dental Hygienists. About 20% of the students in this program are black – the same percentage of HHAs in LA County who are black.

So we can see how colleges feed racist divisions in the workplace.

Racism is a class issue. The Biden coverage emphasized that Dental Hygiene students "only" pay about \$2000 in tuition. But additional up-front costs are at least \$10,000 for the first year and another \$5,000 for the second.

Students must buy uniforms and expensive equipment. They must pay for licensing exams and travel to conferences. Financial aid checks wouldn't come soon enough to help. And they can't work at a paying job for the two years it takes to finish!

Capitalists created racism to exploit, divide and paralyze the working class. Today, we workers are not divided between "slaves" and "ser-

vants" – we are all wage-slaves. The US no longer has laws that legally bar black workers from certain careers.

But the material basis of racism is still the capitalist wage system. This means the segmentation of work into job categories. These are often "color-coded," labeled as "male" or "female," and paid differently.

Those who are not as intensely exploited are supposed to feel "superior" and be glad that they're not worse off, even if they can't pay their bills. This is where racism comes in, and sexism too.

Those who are more intensely exploited are supposed to aspire to "better" jobs and think of themselves as personal failures if they don't get a college degree to qualify for one. Fact: In the US today, the average white man who never finished high school earns more than the average black man who attended college.

College is part of the problem, not part of the solution.

In communism, pay will not be an issue because there will be no wages or money at all. We'll meet everyone's needs, whatever they are and whatever work they do.

We'll reorganize work so that everyone at any work site will have the chance to learn all the skills involved. Everyone will take turns doing necessary but less-desirable tasks.

We'll fight to develop everyone's commitment to work where we're most needed. Early on, we'll have to wage a conscious political struggle to break down racial and gender stereotypes of who is "supposed to" do what. Young people will explore many kinds of work. We'll continue to learn new skills throughout our lives.

This starts now. Maybe you don't think of yourself as a writer or editor, as a public speaker or an organizer, as a computer specialist or artist or mechanic. But you can learn, as we are all learning, by helping to build the International Communist Workers' Party!



### LETTERS

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### CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

#### Begging the Question

There were a number of good articles on the terrorist attack in France in the last *Red Flag*. They all beg the question, "How would a communist society react to terrorism?"

Certainly, the ICWP would organize mass marches, but not under the slogans of "justice, freedom, equality and fraternity."

The fraternity we seek would be class unity, not national unity. We would not celebrate the uniqueness of French (or any nation's) history or character, but the universal needs of the working class. We would march to end nations and borders.

Rather than equality, we'd march for communist collectivity.

We would not march for the right to insult any group of workers under the banner of free speech. "Freedom" for our class requires capitalist tyranny's end and as well as the wage slavery that accompanies it. We would have speeches and literature to build communist culture and determination.

We would use these mobilizations to build a bold communist campaign to root out racism. The bosses would be the butt of our jokes. Satire, humor and political cartoons would be used to instill class hatred of the capitalists, not other workers. Racism is no joke!

We certainly would not expand the powers of the justice system, as French president Hollande (and capitalist leaders all around the world) is doing. The USSR had to deal with a lot of sabotage from capitalist agents immediately after their socialist revolution. They also seemed to have relied too much on specialized security agencies to ferret out these enemies.

We would mobilize the masses. We would

call on the international working class to struggle with friends and deal with enemies, be they big or small.

Of course, our enemies would represent the world's imperialists. We would not let our marches be duped into supporting one imperialist or another.

There would be no united front against the "main enemy." For example, the United Front against Fascism was one of the old communist movement's biggest mistakes.

The idea was that fascism was so threatening that communists had to unite with the "liberal" and "democratic" bosses to defeat it. This latest version has the potential to be just as dangerous ideologically as well as practically.

United Front politics meant dropping the fight for communism and replacing it with the fight for democracy. This meant adding yet one more stage (preceding socialism) and postponing communism many years into the indefinite future.

The United Front was announced in 1935 and tried out in 1936. In France, a mass strike wave led to millions of workers occupying factories that year. This was a revolutionary situation but the communists wasted it by joining with their Popular Front allies in bribing the rebel workers with paid vacations. They didn't want to risk the United Front (with liberal, often bourgeoisie elements) against Nazi Germany.

Since the working class would be the "masters of the factories," we would empty the plants to mobilize the masses for communism worldwide.

"You think like my brother-in-law," commented a Boeing friend, who was raised in France, after we discussed these different ap-

proaches. We're going to send his sister's husband translated versions of these *Red Flag* articles since he still lives and works there.

My co-worker assures me his relative is not the only one. I'd like to hear their and your ideas. In particular, I'm sure there were many examples of workers responding in a communist fashion to similar provocations even after socialist revolutions. That history would be helpful.

--A Boeing worker who's trying to learn about the world

**Red Flag Responds:** This letter raises important questions about dealing with violent attacks on working-class state power. We should write more about this. The *Charlie Hebdo* killers, however, did not attack working-class state power.

The letter reflects an unstated false assumption when it refers to this violent attack as "terrorist" and correlates it with the Nazi fascists. The previous edition of *Red Flag* also made that mistake, referring to the murderers of the *Charlie Hebdo* staff as "Muslim terrorists."

The bosses have used the term "terrorist" as a racist code word for "Muslim" especially since 9/11/2001. We must be careful not to fall into verbal traps like this that the bosses set for us.

Nobody calls the Ku Klux Klan "Christian terrorists." The term "Islamofascist," popularized by racist neo-conservative David Horowitz, was invented to drum up support for the US war in Iraq—the "War on Terror." The casual use of such concepts contributes to the racist devaluing of the lives of the people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen and Pakistan who have been killed by US weapons, including drones.

## LETTERS

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## CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

## FROM BANGLADESH TO LOS ANGELES: CAPITALISM KILLS WORKERS

Last Saturday, fifteen more workers were killed in a factory in Bangladesh that produces plastics. They are among many hundreds who have died in factories that are death traps. They were left disfigured and unrecognizable.

That day seemed like any other day: you have to get up to go produce commodities that some boss needs for the market. You are in the factory when, all of a sudden, a gas tank explodes. Some die instantly from the explosion without knowing what happened. Those still alive suffered the desperation of feeling injured and not being able to do anything. Others didn't know that they were gravely injured and that, at that instant, no one would be able to save them.

The tears of the relatives and the pain of those who remain alive cannot be described. Words cannot describe the pain that people feel for their lost loved ones.

In all factories insecurity reigns, even more so

when the owners make huge profits. In Bangladesh, garment workers produce 80% of the country's \$24 billion annual exports. This factory where the tragic murders occurred is one of many thousands that contribute to these profits. About 100 workers work there.

Moments after the explosion there were thousands of rescuers, and not just firemen. In these conditions of wage slavery, workers are used to being rescuers by the necessity imposed by the system that robs the fruits of their labor and which cannot resolve the insecurity that goes along with it.

What happened is a common occurrence under capitalism. Our lives as workers are only important to the bosses for how they can take advantage of our labor power. They don't worry about how they will end our lives with accidents or illness. There is not just one guilty person; the whole system is guilty.

In Los Angeles the conditions in garment factories are similar disasters waiting to happen. The buildings are time bombs which weaken as the years pass. With the fractures that they have suffered in past earthquakes, they could collapse in the next one.

The government and the bosses know about these conditions, but since their profits always come first before our lives, they won't do anything to resolve the problem.

Only the workers organized in the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) can build and spread communist ideas of a world without the exploitation and money that maintains wage slavery.

We workers will maintain the slogan that if there is not security in the activity that we perform, it is not human activity that can be carried out. Long live the international working class!

--Los Angeles Garment Worker

**Charlie Hebdo: Kept up the Fight**

As a faithful reader of *Charlie Hebdo* for 20 years I am certain *Charlie* fought the good fight.

Cavana, a cartoonist and writer deported as a youth by the Vichy government to a labor camp in Germany founded *Charlie*. He experienced fascism first hand. He and the other cartoonists were popular figures in France and *Charlie*, although often criticized and controversial, was part of the French media. «Laïcité» (secularism) is a hard won victory cherished by many French for good reasons.

*Charlie* is much more than the cartoons. It is a very informative and political newspaper, that fights also--quite alone--against racism, the fascist party (Le Front National), homophobia, the abuses of the police, and the rapacious greed of international companies like Total. They regularly lend their pages to various international causes.

*Charlie* is a satirical newspaper which prints between 60 000 and 140 000 copies. So why suddenly does everybody become *Charlie*?

For hypocritical international leaders it is a very effective distraction from the real causes of the present situation solely created by the racism inflicted on Arabs in France. Their situation is not that much different than the one of blacks in the U.S.A. They suffer disproportionate unemployment, police harassment and are parked in ghettos riddled with drugs and fear of gangs. Poverty and increased insecurity inflicted on all French working class people are also responsible.

At the same time, the French colonialist and imperialist interventions never really stopped. Under the pretext of fighting terrorism, France has bombed Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and now Mali and the Islamic State.

The war and cruel injustices inflicted worldwide on Arab and Muslim people is indeed outrageous, much more than religious cartoons seen by few people.

Religion should not be political and it is not the way to fight exploitation. People of the world need to unite and fight in an organized party dedicated to overthrowing capitalism.

*Charlie Hebdo* persevered in claiming the right to be outrageous and to laugh about anything. As a political party, we might not always understand or agree with that.

But *Charlie* is also anti-nationalist, deeply pacifist and humanist. The funeral of Charb, its editor, started with the International and many present raised their fists. The cartoonists killed would have kept writing and drawing, mocking Hollande and his warmongering gang who are using their deaths for their own murderous ends. They believe in a better world. They'll keep up the fight, so shall we.

--Red Flag reader

**Racism: No Joke**

After the *Charlie Hebdo* shootings, I attended a forum given by the French department at my university on humor in French society.

I shared my research into *Charlie Hebdo* and the leftist cartoons and articles they had published. One cartoon, criticizing racial profiling by the French police against immigrants from North Africa and people of African descent, is on this page.

I also shared a 2013 letter by Olivier Cyran, a former writer for *Charlie Hebdo*. He cited the magazine's "distressing transformation... after the events of September 11, 2001." Cyran argues that by "racializing Muslims, constantly depicting them as grotesque or hideous creatures" the bi-weekly has contributed to the rising



phenomenon of violent attacks on Muslims, especially on veiled women. This anti-Muslim racism is used to justify the wars in the Middle East and the cruel injustices inflicted worldwide on Arab and Muslim people.

Satire as a tool to attack the rich and powerful is one thing. But racist satire used to attack the working class, to marginalize and demoralize one section of our class, serves the interests of the capitalists. Communists have always been among the most principled fighters against racism. In the US, for example, the militantly multi-racial Communist Party led the fight against the legal lynching of nine black young men in the famous Scottsboro case. The Iraqi Communist Party, like others in the Middle East, included Arabs and Kurds, Jews, Christians, Shiites and Sunnis.

Fighting the good fight requires fighting racism in all its forms, and fighting for the highest unity of the working class: unity as communists.

--Red student

**This is the paper of the working class.**

**We get no funding from the capitalists, their foundation or NGOs. This newspaper is not a commodity produced for sale. We are fighting to abolish commodity production. However, we have to pay for the costs of producing and distributing the paper, as well as for other expenses of building an international party. The box below includes a suggested donation of \$20/year which is about the current cost of mailing a single copy to a U.S. address. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.**

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I'm a communist. Why aren't you?

# CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions  
We are especially interested in submissions from outside the USA.



## “SELMA”: BOSSES REWRITE HISTORY TO HIJACK MASS ANTI-RACIST STRUGGLE

The right to vote guarantees “full citizenship” and “equal justice”? Tell that to the families of Mike Brown, Ezell Ford, Eric Garner and twelve-year-old Tamir Rice!

The movie “Selma” deals with the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in March, 1965 to demand the right to vote for black people. But it’s really about the police murder of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The movie’s soundtrack, “Glory,” with the phrase, “we marched through Ferguson, with our hands up,” makes that clear.

The movie stresses the conflict between Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Lyndon Johnson over the timing of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. In a key scene, King tells Johnson that it can’t wait. After the cold-blooded police murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson in Selma, King tells Johnson that there will be no “justice” for his murder because in Alabama black people can’t vote, and so they can’t serve on juries.

Fifty years later, masses are in motion protesting the cold-blooded police murders of unarmed black men and boys. Grand juries with proportional representation of black jurors have refused to indict, let alone convict, these murderers. A black president and a black attorney general can’t provide “justice” for these murders, let alone prevent more.

Arguing that the right to vote will bring justice to black youth and workers is a lie—just like the whole concept of “justice” in a system based on wage slavery and class rule. The reality on the ground in the inner city is that the police are the enforcers of a racist system. Capitalism uses the police to terrorize black and latino workers, break strikes, protect private property and maintain the status quo.

The ruling class in 1965 was terrified of the revolutionary potential of angry black workers and youth. In “Selma,” militant young men are easily convinced that responding violently to violent attacks would be suicidal. The truth is, most black workers and farmers in the South owned guns and used them to defend themselves and their families against racist attacks. Black workers and youth in the urban rebellions of the 1960s—Harlem, Watts, Newark, Detroit and others—were definitely not nonviolent.

After Mike Brown’s murder last August, rioting swept Ferguson for more than a week, and again in November when a grand jury failed to indict his murderer. Ministers who arrived in October failed to calm angry youth who had gathered from around the country to protest this murder and the militarized police response.

The ruling class is still terrified of revolutionary class violence. They should be afraid that today’s angry youth will be won to communism. The fact that almost a thousand people, young and old, and of all “races” took *Red Flag* at the MLK march in Los Angeles shows that potential.

The bosses want to divert our anger into a movement for the vote: their trump card and main strategy. The vote has always been purely symbolic—tying workers to capitalist politics and holding out the vain hope of change. Today, the movement around “the New Jim Crow” seeks to channel opposition to racism into the “All of Us or None Felony Voting Project,” which demands the right to vote for the formerly incarcerated. The crack epidemic, “the war on drugs,” mass prison construction, racist sentencing laws and mass incarceration have had a devastating effect on black communities. Ex-prisoners’ loss of voting rights is the least of its effects. “Selma” is part of the campaign to divert the struggle against racist capitalism into the sham of the ballot box.

The “All of Us or None” project shows how capitalists use reforms to strengthen their system. Building illusions that capitalism can be reformed, this campaign diverts angry youth and older workers from the real cause of racism—the capitalist system itself.

A communist society, eliminating money and wage slavery, will allow us to end racism. Masses in motion against racist police murder give us an opportunity to expose the essentially racist nature of capitalism and the urgent need for communist revolution. In the mass movement, *Red Flag* must expose the ruling class strategy of “voting rights” for what it is—a sham that ties us to the bosses’ racist system.

More *Red Flag* readers, more discussions of the real roots of racist cop terror, more youth and workers building ICWP are what we need to organize for the communist revolution which will put an end to racism, capitalism and the cops once and for all.

### All over pizzas

I deliver pizzas. Recently I called a customer to say I was at the door. Suddenly five young black males came up behind me with a gun and said, “Drop the pizza!” They robbed five pizzas, some chicken wings, and my phone and wallet. There wasn’t much in my wallet because the pizza company robs my time and labor. I was more angry than scared.

I am also a young black male. I was thinking that these guys were actually hungry enough to point a gun just for some pizza. Later I realized that we’ve been in competition with each other since Day One that capitalism hit the planet.

Because of the lack of jobs in minority communities, the only options young people see are to steal what you need or if you are “lucky” maybe get a crappy job like I have. The only other real option is to fight for communism.

In communism we will all have food to eat without stealing it. Young people will have lots of opportunities to do useful work and have self-respect and respect for each other.

I’ve been looking for a job in industry or transportation for close to two years, so far without luck. With communism it would be a given.

—Big Red



Distributing *Red Flag* in the 2015 MLK march

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### Part II:

## A BOY NAMED JAKE WHO WANTS TO BE A SOLDIER

