

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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

YOUNG WORKERS FIND HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD IN COMMUNISM

MEXICO— We ended a nine-hour day among farmworkers with a study group in the home of a couple of ICWP comrades. Seven of us met. One comrade traveled an hour and a half, another couple lives two hours away, another two comrades live a half an hour away, but we all gladly came to the meeting.

All are the children of farmworkers with whom we work. They went to school (higher education) but they have poverty-wage jobs or are unemployed. They no longer believe in capitalism and they're willing to build ICWP for a communist world.

We welcomed a new sympathizer of the Party who agreed to read and learn more about communism. We're sure that soon she'll be in our revolutionary struggle.

We read the editorial in the latest *Red Flag* called "Sharpening Conflict between US-Iran Shows Urgent Need to Build ICWP Worldwide." A comrade commented that the Chinese bosses have sharpened the fascism and exploitation of workers in China and other parts of the world, due to their insatiable need to control the world and to take the US bosses' empire away from them. He explained that each group of bosses use patriotic propaganda to get us to join their side, but with any of them we'll only find death and poverty. The comrade urged us to spread the ideas for the side of communism.

A comrade said that it's true that people are fed up with capitalism and are open to new ideas, although not necessarily communist ideas, but that this is a very big opportunity for people to learn about communism.

Another comrade reinforced this idea and mentioned that the day before he had gone to sell our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, with his wife, at a university. Her speech in the classrooms gave them the opportunity to present communism from the point of view of communists. She pointed out that it is vital to take some time to read the literature of the interna-

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GREECE, Feb. 13—While the Greek parliament passed an agreement to accept drastic new cuts, over 100,000 people demonstrated in Athens, confronting the cops, and burning banks and other buildings. There were clashes with police in cities throughout Greece. The austerity measures include cutting the minimum wage by 22% and 150,000 more government layoffs by 2015. Even these cuts may not prevent the Greek government from defaulting on its loans. Some angry Greek workers are referring to the German government and banks as Nazis and attacking the Greek government for letting them take over Greece. However, workers have no interest in defending any country. They all belong to the bosses.

It's telling that the birthplace of democracy (the bosses' dictatorship over workers) is burning. Capitalism in crisis reveals its true nature, forcing workers to pay and pay for the bosses' failing system. These angry workers need to mobilize for communist revolution to eliminate banks, money and debt, to produce only for workers' needs.

LA Metro:

BREAK THE CHAINS OF UNION REFORMISM

LOS ANGELES--The union movement is rotten to the core. It stinks to the heavens. It only produces slimy worms like Neil Silver, James Williams and the whole cabal of union officials. This scum can do two things well: feed off our union dues and serve the MTA and US bosses at our expense.

In these changing times, the US bosses will demand even more from the union officials. Expect them to become more treacherous as US imperialism becomes deadlier for workers at home and abroad. This is the logical outcome of a system based on competition which makes crises, wars, and world war inevitable (See editorial, page 2).

This will demand great sacrifice of our "blood and treasure." The unions' main job today is to get us to surrender both of these, passively and patriotically. Ramming give-back, no-strike contracts down our throats and letting MTA's reign of terror go unchallenged are part of this treachery.

Recently MTA management demanded access to the cell phone bills of drivers and mechanics to fire them, if they feel like it, for "illegal" use of their cell phones. Mechanics at Division 15 refused to comply. Shop steward Robert Pacheco met with them supposedly to support their struggle. "Instead, he convinced us to sign the authorization form. He said he would appeal it later. He hasn't shown up since," a mechanic told *Red Flag*.

Let's not be snared in the bosses' electoral trap

Besides trying to demoralize us and keep us passive, the bosses' union officials want to divert our anger and aspirations for change into the deadly trap of the bosses' electoral circus. Neil Silver, president of MTA mechanics union, ATU, uses smoke and mirrors to try to lead us there.

Reading his President's Report in the ATU Local 1277 February newsletter, one would con-

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Bosses' Competition Fuels War over Syria

COMMUNIST COLLECTIVITY WILL END WARS FOR PROFIT

Syria's bloody war is rapidly expanding. On one side are the main Syrian capitalist rulers supported by the China-Russia-Iran axis. On the other, there is an uprising against President al-Assad led by dissident Syrian capitalists backed by the US-English-French imperialists and the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The war is already spreading to Iraq and Lebanon (*New York Times*, 2/13/12), where Sunni sympathizers are sending arms and money to Syrian insurgents. But, the potential for inflaming the whole region is even greater because the US-led coalition, bent on regime change in Syria, is planning to submit to UN General Assembly an already vetoed resolution.

Russia and China had vetoed it in the UN Security Council because it would open the door to a Libya-type NATO military intervention. However, if the majority in the assembly votes in favor, Russia and China can't veto it.

Russia pledges, nevertheless, to block any action at the UN that aims to remove Assad from power. "If our foreign partners don't understand that, we will have to use strong means again and again to call them back to reality," said Russia's deputy foreign minister. (*Foreign Policy*, 2/10/12)

The official Chinese *Global Times* commented, "Unlike the beleaguered Gaddafi, al-Assad is backed by the Russians. If a war between Western and Russian 'agents' occurs in Syria, ... it would be an arduous and prolonged battle." (2/12/12)

In an editorial, "China cannot stay out of Syrian chaos," *Global Times* asserted "The political landscape in the Middle East is becoming unfavorable to China. Doing nothing is not an option. China needs to put in more efforts to delay the Western advance in the Middle East. For now, it is wise to divert more efforts to Syria and Iran." (2/9/12)

US led coalition's plan: Overthrow Assad to weaken Iran

The China-Russia-Iran axis understands this and is not backing down. Russia supplies Syria with arms, concluding recently a \$550 million

deal to sell Assad 36 advanced combat airplanes. It has no intention of losing its only naval base in the Mediterranean.

Syria is an important hub in China's plan for its New Silk Road. This will take China's manufactured goods straight to world markets via the Mediterranean, by passing the US controlled Indian Ocean sea lanes, while shortening the route by thousands of miles. Iran, the US target behind Syria, is crucial to China's energy security because its oil and natural gas can also be transported directly by land to China.

A successful war against Syria could accelerate the war against the China-Russia-Iran axis

In spite of the differences among the US rulers about when to wage war against China and Russia, events are relentlessly moving toward this inevitable clash. All these capitalist-imperialist jackals are fighting over the Middle East's vast energy resources.

These resources are vital to China's and Russia's aspirations of world domination.

They are also crucial for the US bosses' dreams of making the 21st century an American Century.

Neither set of bosses-imperialists represent the interests of workers anywhere. Our interests lie in joining the International Communist Workers' Party to mobilize the world's masses for communism.

Under communism, workers will have no need to fight over natural resources. Capitalists fight over them because they compete for markets. Whoever sells the cheapest products wins the biggest market share. Those unable to compete are eliminated. Therefore, controlling the cheapest sources of raw materials becomes a question of life and death for them.

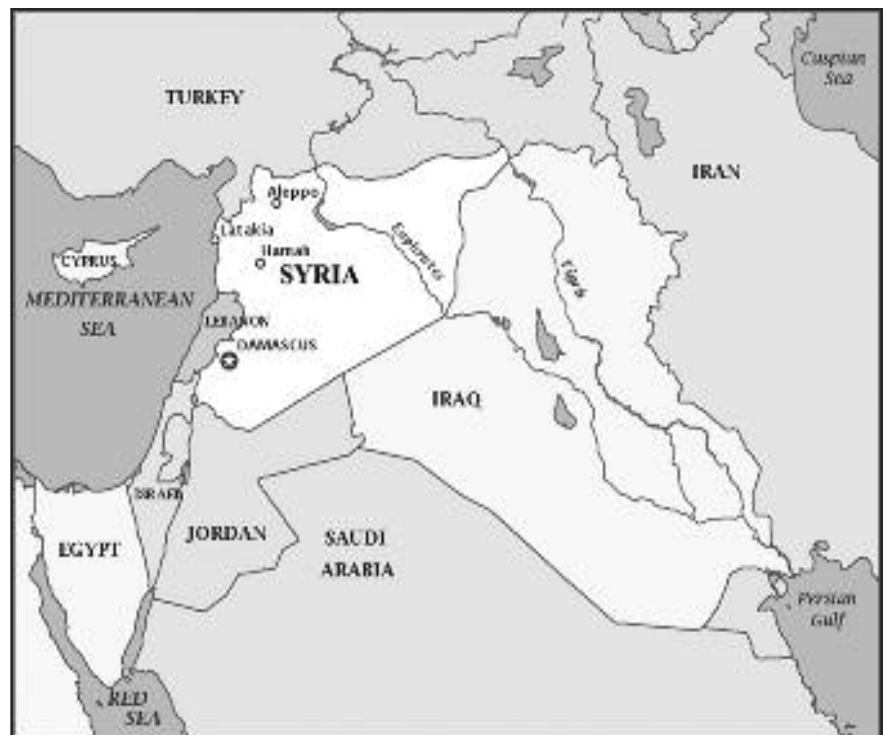
This dog-eat-dog competition is a defining feature of capitalism. It inevitably leads to war. Communism will produce to satisfy workers' needs worldwide. There won't be any money or profits. Nothing will be bought or sold.

We'll produce and share the fruits of our labor collectively. Collectivity in all aspects of social relations will be the defining feature of communism, thereby eliminating competition and the need for wars.

Understanding world events is crucial to workers' ability to fight for communism

The bosses' media presents a distorted picture of worldwide events. They hide reality by constantly bombarding us with anti-communism, racism, sexism, patriotism, electoral politics and religious fanaticism.

That is why we have *Red Flag*. It informs, trains, organizes, guides and inspires us on the road to communism. It prevents us from falling prey to the bosses' poisonous ideas and treacherous schemes. That's why we urge you to help us set up *Red Flag* networks in the factories, barracks and schools to massively distribute it. It will steel millions for the upcoming class war and lead us to victory. Join us!



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clude that the biggest attack against MTA and all US workers is an unnumbered proposition that has qualified for the November ballot.

Silver writes that this proposition is an assault on "our jobs and futures" because it "would prohibit the use of any union money for contributions to candidates! It would silence your union political voice once and for all and, in essence, eliminate our ability to even exist as the voice of working men and women - your voice!"

He asks for us to contribute money and time to defeat this "union-killer" proposition.

The voice of the bosses, their politicians and union officials is not our voice

Our voice is that of the oppressed masses worldwide clamoring for a better world. A world without hunger in the midst of plenty, a world without unending butchery for the profits of the few, a world without exploitation, racism and

sexism, a world without borders and privileges of any kind.

Elections, no matter the "race" or "nationality" of the politician or how charismatic he or she may be, will never get us there. The bosses' electoral process hides their dictatorship over us while deluding us into believing that the system can be reformed to meet our needs. Obama, Romney and Santorum differ only in how best to oppress us and serve the US bosses' interests nationally and internationally.

The anti-communist pro-capitalist union officials would love for us to see voting as our salvation. But, more MTA and other workers are beginning to understand that the world we aspire to, and need, can only be achieved with a communist revolution. Only by destroying the capitalists and their system based on money and wage slavery can we build a communist world.

Union politics are not our politics either

Unions have never and will never serve the political interests of the working class. They serve the bosses' political interests. Unions' struggles are reformist struggles that strengthen capitalism by building illusions that it could be reformed. They must be destroyed together with the bosses' agents.

Many workers, however, are trapped in their reformism. Some believe that changing the union leadership or completely voting in a new union will solve our problems. In these times of crises, fascism and war, these are dangerous illusions.

To break out of the bosses' enslavement, we must break the chains of union reformism. For that we need revolutionary communist ideas. ICWP is committed to massively spread these ideas among workers. Communism will end wage slavery and never again will we be forced to sell our labor power to survive. There won't be any more contracts or unions.



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

Bosses Dump PTSD Program:

WIN VETS TO JOIN WAR FOR WORLDWIDE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SEATTLE, WA--This past week there have been several articles published in the *Seattle Times* and *New York Times* about an investigation at Madigan Army Medical Center (Ft. Lewis, Washington).

Since 2003 there has been an intensive-treatment program there for soldiers returning from Iraq and/or Afghanistan, who suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Some of these soldiers had been deployed multiple times, even after being wounded or diagnosed with PTSD.

Most of the time they were put on anti-depressants and shipped right back into combat. Since they have returned home, many suffer from flashbacks, nightmares and other sleep disorders. Some have severe paranoia and fear that someone is out to kill them, so they carry a weapon at all times. Domestic violence is common. Families break apart.

The Madigan PTSD program, however, was closed in 2010, the same year that 18,000 soldiers returned to Ft. Lewis from the bosses' bloody wars.

But the war is not over for these soldiers and their families. Now they must fight those who

seek to deny them their benefits and retirement by reversing the PTSD diagnosis.

Dr. William Keppler is a retired Army officer who heads the forensic psychiatric team assessing the PTSD diagnoses of soldiers under consideration for medical retirement at Madigan. He has said that these soldiers were malingerers who were lying or exaggerating their symptoms!

One member of the team broke every rule of patient confidentiality when he mentioned a patient by name, declaring that he does not have PTSD.

Another Nazi psychiatric team member said that these soldiers could cost the Army \$1.5 million over a lifetime, so they had to make sure no one was "rubber stamping" PTSD diagnoses!

Yet they had no problem appropriating billions of dollars to run their wars in the Middle East.

Doctors and other professionals are being used as the "gate keepers" to the healthcare system.

President Obama said in his State of the Union address, "When you put on that (U.S. Army) uniform, it doesn't matter if you are black or white" blah, blah, blah. However, it seems that it does matter if you are a worker who comes back from

war all messed up. They don't want to pay your retirement or medical benefits.

The working class cannot go on like this. We are forced to "need" jobs and money to survive under capitalism. But, under communism we will abolish money. We will not have "jobs" that pay most workers barely enough to survive and a few way too much. We will have work, which we will do collectively. We will receive what we need. And we will not fight workers in another part of the world to grab oil or other resources. We will make decisions based on what materials are needed to live safe and efficient lives...not based on private profit or national ownership.

To do this, we must mobilize the masses to rise up and defeat capitalism forever. This is indeed, a huge task. We can start by getting our literature out to as many workers, students, and soldiers as possible. Talk to them about these ideas. Discuss why another candidate, or a version of capitalism that is more "fair" will not work. Invite them to our political and social events. March with them on May Day. A communist revolution is the only solution!

Teachers March in Mexico:

LEARN AND TEACH THE ART OF REVOLUTION



Feb. 4—Thousands of teachers led by the CNTE (National Coordinating Body of Education Workers) marched to demand national negotiations to eliminate the Alliance for the Quality of Education (ACE). This "quality" represents plans to privatize education through labor and education policies pushed by the government and the union leadership since May 2008.

Other demands are: to cancel to universal teacher evaluations and reforms to the program of teaching careers; to guarantee the rank and file's positions; and to fire Esther Gordillo, leader of the SNTE (National Union of Education Workers).

The leaders of the teachers in Michoacán, Oaxaca, and Mexico City affirmed that at least 45,000 education facilities in 24 states stopped work. The largest contingents were led by Sections 9 and 10 of Mexico City. According to organizers, 100,000 teachers and other education workers demonstrated.

asking drivers to donate 50 pesos. The protests are also in solidarity with the Rural Normal School of Ayotzinapa and to demand a political trial of the governor of Guerrero, Angel Aguirre Rivero, for the deaths of two students last December 12th during the police eviction of the sit-in on the Freeway of the Sun. Teachers occupying another toll booth in the state of Oaxaca allowed the cars to pass freely.

The International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) distributed *MMC (Mobilize the Masses for Communism)* in the big teachers' march, even though there was resistance to reading communist literature. We asked that they read the document even when they didn't give a donation. Fifty teachers took it and gave donations (more than we expected). These small steps have led us to distribute almost 1000 *MMC* pamphlets in the last few months. It's our task to resume anew the formation of communist class consciousness. In order to destroy capitalism, the teachers, students,

and workers need to change their way of thinking.

In spite of all the good intentions, these marches won't end the education dictators without fighting for communist slogans like: An end to capitalist education that teaches that studying is worth more than being a worker! An end to ruling-class education! We don't need to be educated to blindly obey he who pays. The teachers who are the creators of consciousness in this selfish society must take the responsibility to educate themselves and others with communist ideas and practices to be able to form the bases of a new society.

We need workers' power, not the idea of "democracy from below." Not one job will be secure while the work is valued in a market where it is bought or sold to make profit for some boss. Let's eliminate the social strata and not just change one union leader for another with the same outlook. Nor will smaller class size guarantee a better education if the basis of the functioning of society is exploitation. Let's fight for a communist world without all the garbage of this capitalist society. Let's organize ICWP. Join the Party!

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tional working class. They sold 170 manifestos and collected 310 pesos (about \$30).

Another comrade was very pleased that we came to talk and listen, to show that there's hope of a better world. He commented that every time he goes into the street he sees so much injustice that when he comes back home he shuts himself up inside his home and cries with shame that his wife and children will see this. He promised to read, write for, and organize around *Red Flag*.

We all pledged to read and analyze our manifesto and distribute our newspaper. We emphasized that it was very important to meet consistently and we'll do so every two weeks. In the next meeting, a comrade will talk about how religion is a mortal trap for our class, and we'll analyze our literature as a group. We ended the meeting with a delicious dinner and with the joy of continuing on the revolutionary road of ICWP.

Workers around the world, from Greece, to Israel, from Romania to Honduras, from France to Canada, are in motion against the crisis of a capitalist system which can never provide a decent live for the working class.



CHILE: STUDENTS SEEKING EQUALITY NEED VISION OF COMMUNIST EDUCATION

Ñuñoa, CHILE – Students from an all-girls high school took over their campus in January, defying Chilean president Pinera's plea for an end to the massive student protests that rocked Chile for seven months in 2011. They demanded readmission for activists who were kicked out last year. These young women also sharply attacked the Ñuñoa mayor, who had called the activists "prostitutes," trying to use sexism to isolate them. The protest movement is expected to escalate when the University of Chile in Santiago reopens in March.

Last year, thousands of students bravely fought Pinero's riot cops under the banners of equality. But the reformism of FECh (the Chilean Student Federation) as well as the brutality of the capitalist state stands between them and their goal. Only a communist revolution, ending wages and the money system at the heart of capitalism, can sweep away exploitation so that we can collectively produce for the needs of the masses. Only a communist reorganization of work can end elitism, alienation, and privilege.

Education for the masses must be communist education.

The Chilean student movement has attacked the gross inequality of the school system and the way it maintains class society as it did under the Pinochet dictatorship. The lack of free public education, the sky-high fees, and biased admissions tests at public universities, exclude the children of the masses. Students also demand an end to government subsidies of for-profit schools and profit-making in universities.

FECh leaders vie to be seen as "the most Left,"



knowing that the masses of students are seeking radical solutions. But appearances can deceive.

Media darling Camila Vallejo, former FECh president and now vice-president, is a youth leader of the Chilean "Communist" Party which seems to have learned nothing from the Allende disaster forty years ago. It still relies on Chilean and international capitalist institutions. "We cannot be on strike for three years," Camila said recently, promoting "different conditions for mobilization," specifically "the next political events, like the elections." Meanwhile she visited Geneva, Switzerland to ask the UN Human Rights Commissioner to keep Pinera's government from passing a new law that would criminalize most mass protests.

In December, students seeking a more radical leader elected Gabriel Boric as the new FECh president. His "Creating Left" party talks about health care and the environment as well as educational issues. It wants to create a university movement that will "change the country." But University students, alone, can't fundamentally change society. Only the masses, acting on communist ideas and led by industrial workers and soldiers, can destroy class society and build a world free from exploitation and privilege.

Universities are capitalist institutions.

They do the research and train the technicians needed by the corporate class and its state to maximize the profits sweated off workers' backs. They push capitalist ideas in a thousand forms. For example, Chile's Ministry of Education now wants to remove terms such as "military dictatorship," "coup," and "systematic violation of human rights" from Chile's history curriculum. Actually, little of the truth about capitalism's brutal history ever appears in textbooks – and even less about the heroic struggles of the masses to break the capitalist chains.

Worse, universities build walls between young and older workers, and between "mental" and "manual" labor. Working-class youth who manage to get into university find themselves



under intense pressure to succeed so as to "give back to the community." But it's the masses themselves who make history, not a handful of college-educated "leaders."

Defeat racism – unite students and the masses for communism

While Camila visits Switzerland, President Pinera continues to use an "Anti-Terrorism Act" dating from the Pinochet regime against the indigenous Mapuche population. The Mapuches are fighting hard against the huge logging and mining industries that are destroying what little land they have left. FECh's response? A demand for an "intercultural university" to meet "the unique demands of Mapuche students." Instead of uniting all students with this mass anti-racist anti-capitalist movement, FECh pushes the divisive idea of "indigenismo."

The issues facing students in Chile are not very different from those in Mexico, the United States, England, South Africa and many other places. Student-government elections, like any other elections, are a diversion. Fights to "open up the universities" or to "keep them open," however well-meaning, obscure the class nature of education. Instead, our fight must be to tear them down along with all other capitalist institutions. On the campuses as in the factories and barracks, we must develop and massively promote a vision of communist work and education, by and for the masses, uniting knowledge and practice to develop more communists to serve the international working class.

A WORLD WITHOUT MONEY

"Have you ever envisioned a world without money? How would housing, food, work, and health care be different in a world without money?" These were questions raised during a recent ICWP workers' meeting. We divided into four groups. In every group there was a very lively discussion and struggle about how a communist society without money will function. Everyone helped figure out how we'll build a communist world.

We discussed how capitalism creates many stressors such as unemployment, poverty and poor health that would be eliminated under communism. Living in constant high stress affects our heart, sleep, and immune system. Capitalism doesn't provide enough money to fund research to cure diseases. Under communism money will not be a factor in determining whether we can proceed with research on illnesses like AIDS and cancer. Under communism we will eliminate the use of pesticides that seep into our water, hormones in our food, eating unhealthy animals/fish, and pollution. One person talked about how in McFarland, CA they "had classmates that developed cancer due to the pesticides. How my mother would break out in hives almost daily

from working all day in the fields where pesticides were used." Under communism we will decide what and how to produce using methods of growing food and producing goods in ways that keep our environment and well-being a priority.

We discussed how capitalism feeds the individualistic part of us and how communism will feed our collective side. We discussed how individualism often leads to mental illness. It is said that suicide is the ultimate act of selfishness. A mental health worker talked about how depression is an illness of isolation and that untreated depression is the number one cause of suicide. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2012), one in five Americans experienced mental illness this past year. Things such as unemployment, no mental health care services, and addictions contribute to these high numbers and are completely preventable—but capitalism is unable to meet our needs.

Lastly we discussed how our spirit is slowly destroyed by capitalism. When we are unemployed for months on end, we begin to believe there is something wrong with us. The media's portrayal of poor people as "irresponsible",

"lazy", or "unambitious" is a HUGE lie, but unfortunately many internalize these beliefs. It is difficult to feel good about ourselves when we live with the knowledge of injustice, but often feel powerless to do anything about it. Our new way of living under communism will transform our relationships with others. From food production to community living, every aspect of our lives will be reshaped.

Capitalist propaganda tries to convince us that without money there would be no incentive/motivation to invent or work, but humans have been thinking, creating, discovering and "working" since the beginning of human existence. This occurred prior to the existence of money and will continue as long as humans have functioning brains and bodies. As Sigmund Freud said, "Love and work are the cornerstones of our humanness." Activation is the antidote to depression. Other than depressed individuals people do not generally isolate themselves from society, unwilling to contribute to some greater good.

In the next issue an article will talk about other aspects of organizing society without money that were discussed during our meeting. Stay tuned.

El Mozote Massacre

SHOWS THE URGENCY FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

EL SALVADOR—For many years in El Salvador the government maintained the massacre of El Mozote, in Arambala, Morazán as a state secret.

It was the year 1981 and the bosses' daily newspaper, *La Prensa Grafica*, printed the notice:

Decisive military defeat suffered by the subversives!

“At least 600 casualties suffered by the terrorists, our glorious armed forces after bloodless battles defeated the communist battalions in a place known as El Mozote, the injured were numerous, abandoned by the demoralized guerrilleros.” But the reality was completely different...

Part of the narrative of Rufina Amaya, survivor of this massacre: “Come out of your houses! Out! No one stays inside! Everyone to the plaza! The indignant farm worker without a shirt comes out shouting inwardly ‘rotten police, another house search.’ The women worried, with their aprons they press two small crying hands. They are joining together in the street, and the tension is becoming a small ceremony to death. The older and feeble clench their teeth and invoke god. The starving dog hides his tail; he runs to hide in a sign of submission. ‘All of you are guerrilleros?’ accuses a sergeant with nervous movement. His hand grips a rifle, better to say the finger on the

trigger is anxious to finish quickly,-‘My lieutenant says that you are guerrillas... That’s why you’re going to die!’

The sentence had been passed. A rough whisper opens the veil of silence. Juan with stunning strength, agitated and without fear, responds, ‘We were born here, we work here, and the rigging is our life.’

‘You’ll also die here!’ interrupted the Sergeant.”

Children, pregnant women, old people and men were taken by trickery to a church where they were locked in and burned alive. Those who were able to leave were bayoneted. Children in their arms were thrown into the air and cut through with bayonets. Women were raped and then killed. More than a thousand farmworkers were massacred by the Atlacatl Battalion, trained in the US and led by the murderer col. Monterrosa. Generals and colonels from the Salvadoran Army for decades have made this genocide into an act of heroism by the armed forces.

Later... Monterrosa explodes together with his helicopter, due to a military maneuver of the guerilla. The majority of the Atlacatl battalion was killed in direct confrontations, since there was so much anger against these professional killers.

It’s also known that days before the massacre, the guerrilla advised the population of El Mozote

that the army was coming with a policy of scorched earth (like Vietnam), but the pastors of some churches told the people to stay, that god would save them.

The members of the International Communist Workers’ Party have been working for years in this area so that the comrades of these areas continue doing the work of organizing for our communist line. It hasn’t been easy but it’s been understood that our struggle is full of sacrifices like that of these farmworkers.

The working class has survived hundreds of massacres and we’ve continued forward. The deaths of thousands of youth, men and women in any part of the capitalist world is painful, but the time of the wronged has come. Hundreds of thousands of workers around the world are day by day looking for the organization to put an end to this repressive system of the bosses.

In this area where the massacre was carried out, there is broad acceptance of the ideas and struggle for a communist world. Our task is not only the destruction of the murderers of the working class, but also the complete destruction of the capitalist system that, in order to survive, generates these kinds of massacres.

And plans for May Day are being made in this area of the country.

Scandal at Miramonte Elementary School Shows That Capitalism is a Moral Sewer

EXCUSE TO DISCIPLINE AND FIRE TEACHERS

LOS ANGELES—A scandal at Miramonte Elementary School, one of the largest elementary schools in one of the poorest neighborhoods here, has been widely publicized. The students are latino and black. When the racist and abusive teacher took photos of his lewd acts involving students to a photo lab, the worker there showed them to the police. But it also came out that separate parents’ complaints about this teacher, all of which went unheeded, went back twenty years and that there was an ongoing criminal investigation about this teacher last year! Now there’s a complaint about a second teacher at the school fondling young students.

The school district removed, arrested and fired the two teachers. Then they removed ALL the teachers and other workers from the school, closing it for two days and making things worse. The district superintendent says teachers and staff will have to be investigated and reapply to return to the school next year. He also promised to streamline the process of firing teachers.

This is taking place during a nationwide campaign of blaming teachers for the failure of capitalist education. New evaluation systems grading teachers on how well students do on standardized

tests and making it easier to fire teachers who fight for better education were already planned. The district is taking advantage of the sick behavior of two teachers to discipline all teachers in a fascist attack meant to browbeat teachers into sticking to the patriotic standards the bosses impose in the current capitalist crisis.

Parents and students first demonstrated for action against the molesting teachers. The next day they demonstrated to keep the good teachers, who “go beyond” in helping the students. For the many teachers who are committed to the students, the way to “go beyond” is to fight to destroy this sick capitalist system and replace it with a communist system that promotes healthy collectivity to meet the needs of workers and our children everywhere.

Who should we trust?

“It’s fair that they removed them all from the school to take time and investigate the whole thing,” said José in a discussion about Miramonte.

“One never knows; there are a lot of psychos out there,” added Yvette.

But what causes this sort of anti-social behavior? “Maybe the teacher that did those things because he was sexually abused himself,” said Andrew.

“There seems to be a cycle. The movies that are shown and all the things that are around us,” responded Jessica.

“Actually, more security in the schools and the classrooms is needed and the children should be taught to speak up,” concluded Samuel.

More security guards is not a solution. We can’t rely on the capitalist sys-

tem which creates abusers to protect us from them. Look at the pillars of capitalism, like the Catholic Church with priests molesting children, and the US Senate pages molested by Senators.

Capitalist ethics vs Communist ethics

Capitalism is a sick, anti-worker system that destroys some people and makes some anti-social, sick and crazy. Capitalism promotes individualism and selfishness. This is capitalist ethics.

In contrast, communist ethics rely on collectivity and sharing: “from each according to commitment; to each according to need.” By eliminating exploitation and competition, we’ll create and sustain a fulfilling, healthy society. In a communist society, there’s no way the abuser could have hidden his abuse for twenty years. The masses will rapidly detect and take care of abusers like this!

The capitalists force us to live in a fragmented society. They also force divisions based on so called “race” and “nationality.” As long as capitalism continues, incidents like those at Miramonte will continue.

In communism, we’ll be actively involved with neighbors, co-workers and class mates in producing, building and organizing society to meet our needs, depending on each other for everything. We’ll all live, work and learn together in collectives free of violence, competition, and human degradation. At the first sign of anti-human behavior people will mobilize themselves to investigate and struggle over whatever issue may arise. Communist ethics based on mass understanding and commitment to our class will be the basis of the new society.

How do we get there? Fight the attacks by mobilizing the masses for communism now, reading studying and writing for *Red Flag*. Establish *Red Flag* distribution networks in the factories, barracks, schools and neighborhoods. Put the ICWP’s manifesto *Mobilizing the Masses for Communism* into the hands of workers and youth everywhere.



BUILD NETWORKS IN THE MILITARY, NOT IN THE POLICE FORCE

When we talk to some friends about organizing soldiers and sailors, they ask if it's the same as organizing cops. The cops are the executioners of capitalist law. They maintain capitalist class structure and protect capitalists and their private property. Cops, the national guard, and the like, have a very different mentality, receive very different treatment, and have very different social and economic motivations than most of the people who enlist into the military.

Enlisted military people are at the bottom of a long chain of command. They are disrespected, typically ordered to do humiliating tasks and receive abusive treatment. The brass know better than to trust the enlisted soldiers/sailors because, in the bosses' eyes, we are more like exploitable employees than their friends or protectors. The brass enforces strict obedience to their chain of command and to capitalist law because there's mutual distrust on both sides.

The cops, however, are a particularly selected group that enforce capitalist law. These are people who need to be far more disconnected from their own working class interests; they have been thoroughly brainwashed to believe that what is best for the capitalist state is good for its people, that patriotism and nationalism is in the interest of the working class of their country, and other such capitalist myths.

On a spectrum that measures allegiance to the bosses, enlisted soldiers/sailors are on one end and the cops on the other, like dialectical opposites. Somewhere in the middle the two interpenetrate each other (some soldiers will be anti-working class and a few cops may be sensitive to the working class) and beyond that blurry area a qualitative change occurs where reactionary ideas dominate, as in most cops, who are completely reactionary and clearly choose to be enemies of the working class. That middle point is not stationary. Depending on events in society and opportunities for realizing revolution, that blurry region shifts around to include more or less people onto the side willing to fight for the working class.

Some countries have large militaries, like the US and China, in order to continue large scale imperialist ambitions. Other countries have smaller militaries, which are more easily controlled. The revolutionary work done in those militaries may make smaller, but important, gains during more repressive times. Many of these smaller countries do not use their military primarily for imperialist wars, but rather as a repressive

apparatus, like the cops, against their own people. This type of military is close to crossing that line of being a completely reactionary force. But the soldiers remain on the side of working class because those soldiers and the brass in no way trust each other, and enlisted soldiers are primarily there for economic reasons rather than brainwashed by capitalist ideology.

Soldiers/sailors are put through basic training and provides a rushed course in patriotism and nationalism, but the brass know that this is not enough to secure the allegiance of soldiers/sailors. The military bosses insist that they want creative thinkers in the military, but actually with a severely limited range: for example, encourage creativity in finding more efficient ways of completing given orders.

The police screening process is very different from that of a military recruit. For cops, the state checks the candidates credit and interviews some of his or her family and friends. The state wants to look into the candidates personal life to get a feel for his or her politics and philosophy. This is important in maintaining a reactionary police force that would be capable of shooting their own neighbors, if ordered. They need to screen out anyone who implicitly discloses that they would put their working class brothers and sisters before enforcing capitalist law.

For military recruits, the screening is mainly a rigorous physical and psychological exam. These exams are to ensure that the recruits don't have any physical or mental health problems that could end up being an expensive liability for the bosses in healthcare or on the battlefield. In a way, enlisted soldiers/sailors need only be healthy enough to be used up or killed like pawns in chess, but the cops are thoroughly brainwashed and loyal attack dogs for the ruling class. ICWP must reach out to more soldiers/sailors and have them join us in ending class wars altogether by fighting for communism.



ARGENTINA:
Police attack veterans of the Malvina's War, thirty years ago, who are still claiming their pensions. In the confrontation, four cops were sent to the hospital, and twenty-five veterans were arrested.

"IF WE CAN'T HIDE, THEN WE HAVE TO FIGHT."

This was the answer of an Asian worker in a discussion about the imminence of a Third World War. He had said that he would build a cave to protect his family. When someone told him that the bosses had built a bomb that weighs 30,000 pounds to destroy any hiding place, he said, "If we can't hide, then we have to fight."

Then a black worker commented, "We workers are the ones who pay for these bombs and later we'll be the ones to pay with our lives. We have to change the scenario to one in which, yes, we fight, but for a new society under the control of the working class, a communist society."

"Yes, I believe that we must, but many people don't know about that," said a woman worker.

"You're very right," said an organizer of ICWP. "We need to spread the ideas, to reach more people through our newspaper. We should pledge to distribute *Red Flag*."

Another woman asked to speak and said, "It's

really terrible that they spend millions on bombs, but it's always been like that."

"That doesn't mean that it has to continue like that," intervened another *Red Flag* distributor. "We can change history."

"Maybe, this group and a few others who join us, but the majority won't join," the woman came back saying.

"Listen, sister," commented someone else, "during difficult and hard times, when the people confront not only hunger but also death, their ideologies change when there's an organization of workers, soldiers, etc sufficiently bold and convinced of the final victory."

"Good," concluded the friend, "We have to start somewhere."

"And you, what do you think?" someone asked J.

He said, "I'm sure that there will be a war. The USA has many enemies outside and inside the

BLACK MARINE MURDERED BY COPS

San Clemente, Ca, Feb 10—An Orange County Sheriff shot and killed a 31 year old Black marine, Manuel (Manny) Loggins, in front of his two daughters. Manuel was at San Clemente High School early in the morning with his 9 and 14 year old daughters in the car. He went there with them regularly to go on early morning walks and read the bible. He had another child and his wife is pregnant with their 4th.

Loggins was highly respected and looked to as a mentor by younger marines, many of whom confided in him He joined the marines in 1998. He was working on the base at Camp Pendleton.

The racist Sheriff claimed he was acting suspiciously, but all those who knew him refuted this claim. Loggins was unarmed. The Sheriff murdered him.

"There are a lot of upset marines here right now," said an official at Camp Pendleton after the marines found out that the sheriff had killed Loggins.

"He was everything I wanted to be as far as a marine and a person," said Aaron Banks, 28. "He basically schooled me up."

Even though Loggins served the imperialists, he was killed by their cops. For the bosses, workers are expendable.

ICWP condemns this racist murder and calls on marines to join the fight to get rid of racist capitalism and to build a communist world in which the life of every worker everywhere is nurtured and respected. A world without racist killer cops, wage slavery or imperialist wars where workers lives are sacrificed for the bosses' profits. The war worth fighting is the war to get rid of the racist bosses and their profit system, the war to build a communist system in which we'll only produce and fight to meet the needs of the international working class.

country because, while they spend money on weapons, we lose benefits and money every year. It will be horrible."

"But even though it will horrible, we can change the rules, as *Red Flag* says. The soldiers can pass over to our side. And we know how to use weapons."

"About the soldiers, I'm not so sure," commented J. "Because the other day I was talking with a soldier who came back from Iraq and he thinks the US is invincible. We had a very heated discussion. I'm not sure whether that soldier can be won."

"Is he still your friend?"

"Yes."

"Then you have to be patient and consistent and with time he can understand your ideas."

Of the workers who participated in this discussion, ten have tickets for the second anniversary dinner of ICWP and *Red Flag*.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

More on the Debate over the Euro

Concerning the debate about what is primary in the contradiction between the US bosses and the European Union (UE), here are a few examples which support that the conflict is primary:

To win the EU's support on international issues and the coming global war, US bosses have been trying to break the EU's reliance on Russia's energy. They have been prodding, with no success, to get them to negotiate energy contracts with Russia as a block.

Instead, Germany helped Russia build a pipeline under the Adriatic Sea which delivers Russian gas directly to Europe. It bypasses the Ukraine where some Ukrainian bosses, supported by the US, used to hold hostage 80% of Russian gas flowing to the EU.

Now, Germany, France and Italy have joined Russia in building another pipeline to transport the rest of Russia's gas to the EU completely bypassing the Ukraine. Because of cost, it might never be built. It is, however, being used, with these EU bosses' knowledge, to force the Ukraine to completely sell its gas infrastructure to Russia.

When the US wanted the Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia inducted into NATO, Germany and France opposed it. Without the Ukraine, Russia could never be the superpower it aspires to be. US and pro-US European bosses use Georgia to transport Caspian Sea energy to Europe bypassing Russia. The 2008 Georgia-Russia war showed how easily Russia can block this route, especially without NATO's protection.

Lastly, German Chancellor Merkel's fifth visit to China early this month highlights the EU tilt towards China. Besides "discussing" the Eurozone crisis, both countries pledged to increase bilateral trade from \$170 billion last year to \$280 billion by 2015. Currently, the EU is China's biggest trade partner, while China is the EU's second largest.

Red debater

Soccer: Passion or Fanaticism?

Soccer is known throughout the world as the sport of passions. To be a fan is to follow your favorite team closely, and to delight in a classic game, which today you can see more often, whether due to advanced technology or because every day games are converted into big profits for the mega businesses in Europe, Asia, Latin America, North America, and Africa.

There's a popular adage that says, "Soccer unites people," but in reality it divides them. The capitalist system specializes in creating divisions among the working class using fanaticism, nationalism, racism, and patriotism among others. Recently, 73 people died in Egypt after a soccer game. In Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, England and others there are constantly huge confrontations in the stadiums. These only benefit the big companies and the

capitalist system.

To feel a passion for sports doesn't have anything wrong with it, as I understand it. What's bad is when this becomes fanaticism, when we lose respect for our same friends or family members making jokes, mocking, even humiliating each other just because some one's favorite team lost. Many times, whether intentionally or accidentally, we hurt the feelings of people with comments that can be offensive, damaging our opportunity of discussing with them how to put an end to the capitalist monster.

Let's remember that the teams don't belong to the working class. They're the property of the capitalists who are those who manipulate and orchestrate this dirty game. They pay multimillion dollar salaries to their sports stars, and it's really us who pay these salaries, buying tickets, and attending the games. Ironically, we're paying all this from our poverty wages based on the bosses' exploitation of our daily labor.

In a communist system, certain savage sports will be abolished, like boxing and bull fighting. The other collective sports will be practiced with the goal of objectively enjoying them and without the need of making them into an individual competition or for personal benefit or to push competition between different areas.

The majority at one time or another have been victims of this evil, but what's important is to know how to distinguish what the objective of this is and to begin to work with those who we can show that fanaticism only separates us instead of uniting us.

Therefore, comrades and friends, let's build consciousness and let's begin to enjoy sports in a healthy way without getting into heated discussions, much less idolize certain athletes. In reality the best people to admire must be those who dedicated and those who are dedicating their lives to the liberation of the working class!

--Comrade Athlete

Communism and Christianity

At an anti-war rally with some Christian buddies, I summarized the *Red Flag* letter about religion and asked their opinions.

"We Quakers like the Epistle of James," said one. "Faith without works is dead. You're supposed to stand with the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked."

"Isn't that charity, not solidarity?" I asked.

"Some people read it that way," he admitted, "but to me it says that Christians should side with the poor against the rich. James tells the rich to 'weep and howl' because they've got it coming. And Acts describes early Christian communism."

Later I read the text (James 5:2-4): "Your gold and your silver are rusted; and their rust shall be for a testimony against you, and shall



eat your flesh as fire. ... Behold, the hire of the laborers who mowed your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth out."

A Methodist friend agreed that the Bible equates wealth with evil and the poor with righteousness.

Her Christian study group is reading a new book that interprets Jesus' last week (according to Mark) as a protest against the Roman Empire. He launched it at Passover, celebrating the liberation of Jewish people from Egyptian slavery. While Roman soldiers rode into Jerusalem on horses, she explained, Jesus symbolically rode in from the opposite direction on an ass.

"Don't people find the lessons in the Bible that resonate with whatever political and social views they already have?" I asked. She agreed. We need to remember this. Simply quoting Bible passages, and arguing about their meaning, doesn't get us very far.

Sometimes it seems that religion is the main thing standing between a friend and communism. I don't think that's usually true. People who embrace conservative interpretations of religion usually have other issues, like not trusting other workers or themselves.

We must figure out the main contradictions between our religious friends and capitalism, and how to sharpen them, just as with anyone else. Listen to their main questions and objections to communism and try to answer them. Of course it's helpful to be able to use cultural "language" that's familiar to them – including the Bible—but it's secondary.

Party members work to be better communists while struggling against the habits of work and thought that capitalist society drills into us. Our friends' religious ideas are no greater an obstacle than many other things (like nationalism, sexism, individualism, mechanical thinking) that we have to deal with. But we shouldn't ignore or hide the fact that religion is a form of idealist thought inherited from class society, and it contradicts communism's scientific philosophy of dialectical materialism.

--Red Church Goer

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BUILD CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS DESTROY RACISM

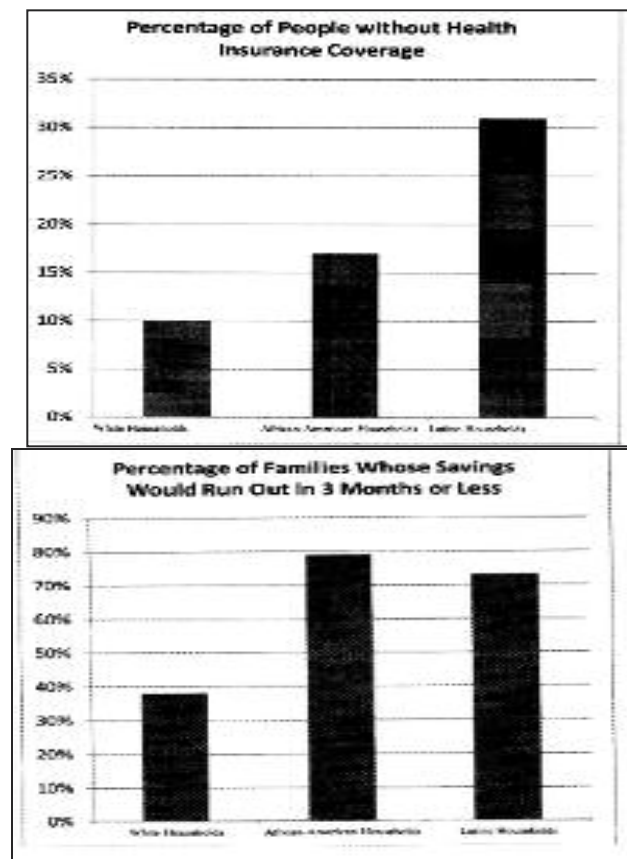
We workers mine, transport and process all the raw materials in the world. We make everything, yet control nothing. Sometimes we recognize our common struggle, like when the masses in Tahrir Square, Egypt, express solidarity with Occupy Oakland in the USA. Yet, even in these moments, we fail to assert our power. The fact is that we, the international working class, could run the world.

The capitalists know this and fear it. What Marx said long ago still applies: “the specter of communism” haunts them. So the capitalists devote huge cultural, social, intellectual, political and repressive resources to combat it. With nationalism, nothing has proved more effective for them than racism.

While racism obstructs our potential unity, the masses have smashed major aspects of it many times. In the USA, the Civil War smashed the institution of slavery (then the flagship of racism). Later, the Civil Rights Movement, together with inner-city rebellions, dismantled Jim Crow segregation (the new flagship of racism).

Racism helps the bosses so much by demoralizing and dividing the working class that they have worked hard to rebuild it every time. As Michelle Alexander shows in *The New Jim Crow*, racism in the USA is as violent and powerful today as it was in the a century ago. Today, it hides behind legal principles and the so-called “War on Drugs.” US capitalism has more black men in jail, on parole or probation than were enslaved in the 1850s.

One way that capitalism has redesigned racism is by burying the basis of class consciousness: the idea we are more alike than different.



HOW PROPAGANDA WORKS

The bar-graphs above show how the mainstream media, think-tanks and NGOs present US social problems. The top graph comes from the Center for Disease Control (2008 press release). The lower graph is from the Pew Research Center (July 2011). Similar graphs appear continually. They seem to confirm that black and latin families are hit the hardest by social and economic stresses.

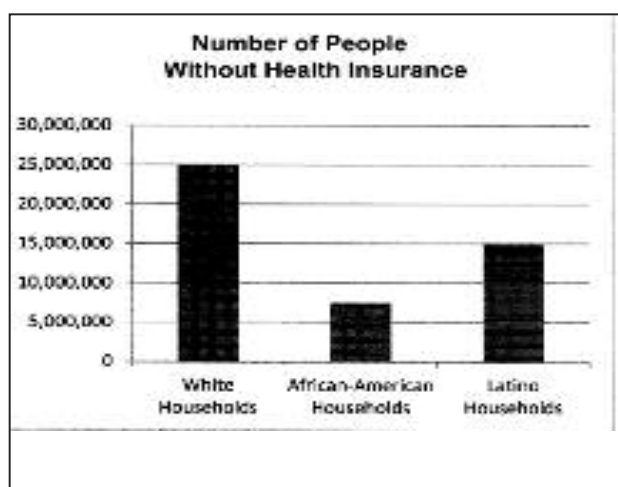
However, they also have an effect on us: these graphs leave us feeling pessimistic about the chances of defeating racism. They imply these conditions mainly affect blacks and latinos.

Under capitalism, it seems, whites in the US do okay. This implies that it's next to impossible to build a multi-racial alliance large enough to effect any change. In short these graphs, when presented in this way, are effective propaganda!

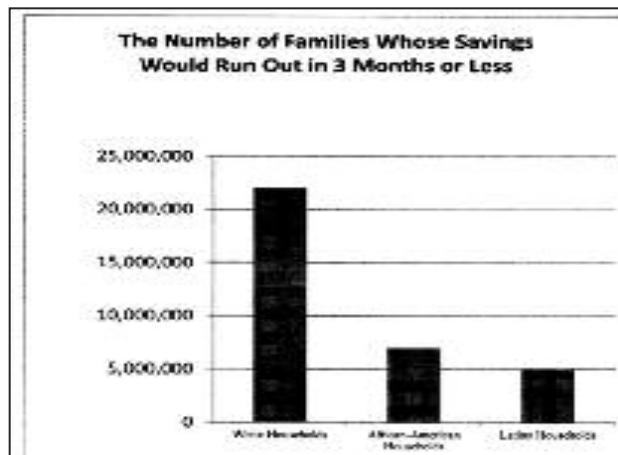
THE WAY WE SEE IT

Let's take the “health insurance” graph. Using QuickFacts (US Census Bureau) lets us substitute absolute numbers for the percentages.

In 2010 the total US population was 310 million: about 200 million were white, 40 million black and 49 million latinos. We can calculate that 9.9% of 200 million means 19.8 million whites without Health Insurance. Seventeen percent of 40 million means 6.8 million blacks without it. And 30.4% of 49 million means 14.9 million latinos without it. Now the graph looks different!



Similar calculations let us re-draw the second graph to make an even more stunning statement:



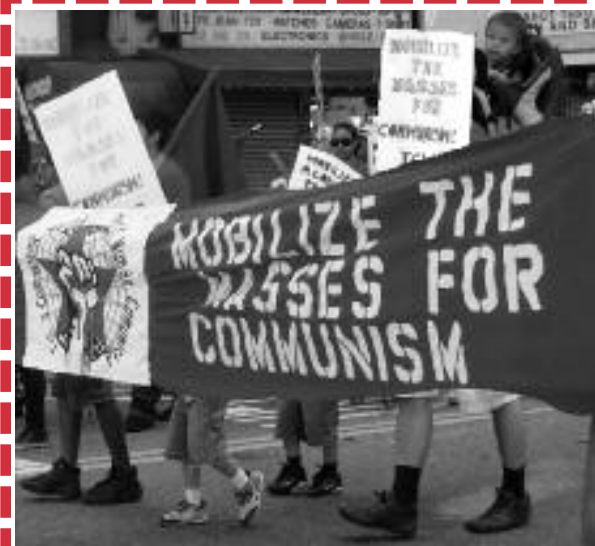
The constant use of “racial-percentage” graphs becomes a silent (visual) but powerful (mathematical, seemingly unbiased) argument that supports racist or nationalist world views that hides our common class interest. The numerical graphs, in contrast, show that capitalism doesn't work for white workers either. We can use them as a silent but powerful argument that supports a class analysis: we are more alike than different.

But we don't want to use only “number” graphs, either. That would falsely suggest that racism isn't an issue. In truth, race and class are so closely inter-connected that we can't usefully discuss one without the other. Racism (and nationalism, usually a reaction to it) worldwide over are primarily class issues. They are products of capitalism and provide sets of ideas (ideologies) that are extremely valuable to the bosses. They displace our ability to consistently identify ourselves as members of an international working class.

DEFEAT RACISM WITH COMMUNISM

Communist revolution for a share-and-share-alike world will be an unfulfilled dream unless we defeat racism. Racism, more than anything else, stifles class consciousness.

Class consciousness is the understanding that we workers produce everything of value, we



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

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form the overwhelming majority, and we can run the world. It's the realization that all we lack to fulfill our historic role is the mass revolutionary communist party (ICWP).

“Class,” said President George Bush Sr., “isn't for America. We are not going to be divided by class.” All modern Presidents have pushed this idea. The US refuses to collect statistics based on class. It's not just the Government. The media, the education system, even the liberal NGOs ignore or downplay the significance of class.

Above all else, capitalism is a class system where a tiny minority – the owners of mines, farmland, factories and banks – profit from the labor of the vast majority of us. It can't be sustained without the armed violence of a State. That State, however, would be ungovernable without the racism that divides us.

The statistics here show the interrelation of racism and class oppression in the US. A future article will show a similar story elsewhere around the world. Everywhere, workers have more in common than different. Everywhere, racism is used to divide us and keep us wage slaves.

Racism is primarily a class issue. It plays such a vital role for capitalism that we can say it will never be defeated as long as capitalism survives. To defeat racism we must build a mass communist party – the ICWP.

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