



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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



**ATHENS,
FEBRUARY 20,
2013
ANTI-
AUSTERITY
GENERAL
STRIKE**

Three Years of Red Flag and ICWP **LEARNING TO STRUGGLE AS COMMUNISTS**

LOS ANGELES, CA.—“There were a lot of people, the atmosphere was lively, and I heard deep speeches that helped me understand communism even better. I met workers from Boeing, MTA and from other countries. I was very much impressed,” said a student.

The delicious food and inspiring communist songs prepared by many gave a festive mood of communist struggle. A comrade encouraged youth to join the bosses’ armed forces. “The bosses lie that women and immigrants can get equality in the army,” she said. “The only way to get equality is to build our Red Army for communism. Now a handful of comrades are committed to this work. Imagine when there are dozens, hundreds, mobilizing for communism in the military!”

Another comrade spoke about the heroic struggle of miners in South Africa and the lessons of the struggle against apartheid, betrayed because its leaders, now South Africa’s rulers, did not fight for communism, but, instead, to reform capitalism.

The following are excerpts from the speech of an industrial worker:

“Today we find ourselves in the middle of a deep worldwide economic crisis...The bosses’ solution is to close factories, lower wages, speed up production, raise prices. But even this isn’t enough; they launch war to steal the markets and raw materials from weaker countries, which are already the markets of other imperialists. The contradiction sharpens until it ends in a huge military confrontation.

“That’s why it’s urgent to intensify the struggle for more youth to join and organize our party in the armed forces and the different industries that are crucial for the victory of revolution. While it’s true that war brings dangers, it also brings opportunity for millions of soldiers to turn their guns against the bosses and join with their working class brothers and sisters in the struggle for communist revolution.

“The capitalist system has forced millions to live on the streets with the anguish of seeing their families

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NYC Bus Drivers Struck for Their Lives **ATU OFFICIALS DEFEATED THEM**

No workers in the US--or anywhere--should have illusions that the labor movement will save us from capitalism’s ferocious racist attacks. Trade unionism is deadly for workers. Its “leaders” defend and serve the interests of the capitalist rulers and their system.

A case in point is the recent strike in New York City by 8,800 school bus drivers, mechanics and aides of Local 1181 of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU). US rulers, represented by Mayor Bloomberg, are destroying these workers’ lives to reduce the \$1.1 billion cost of transporting school children.

For this, the rulers are ignoring a provision, won in a bitter strike in 1979, which requires private bus companies contracted by the city to hire drivers respecting their previous seniority, salaries and benefits.

For four weeks, the workers picketed in freezing weather. They lost their medical benefits on Feb. 1 and survived on \$150 to \$300 weekly strike benefits. This did not break their strike.

Their strike was broken by the treachery of Michael Cordiello, president of ATU Local 1181, and Larry Hanley, ATU international president, and by the fact that the whole US union “leadership” did nothing to support them.

Last Friday, ATU officials told the strikers to go back to work because five Democratic mayoral candidates had promised that if elected, come January 2014 they would “review the school bus transportation system and contracts.”

Politicians’ promises are not worth the paper they are written on. Besides, by June 2013, the city will have already signed contracts with new bus companies: 2,500 workers will have lost their jobs and those remaining will lose their seniority, plus suffer drastic cuts in wages and benefits.

Trillions for death and destruction - Little or nothing for workers’ needs

The strikers transport 150,000 school children daily, with great care. 54,000 have special needs.

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Report from ICWP Central Committee Meeting:**CRISIS, WAR AND OPPORTUNITY**

The deepening global crisis of capitalism is attacking workers worldwide. On one hand, this has led to mass rebellions like those currently rocking Egypt, Spain, Honduras, South Africa, and elsewhere. On the other, it has sharpened rivalry among the imperialist powers, still the main contradiction in the world.

Our recent discussion concluded that our Party must explain more clearly that imperialism is not simply a “policy.” It’s the inescapable result of capitalist competition for maximum profit. Capitalism makes imperialism and war inevitable, including world war. Only communist revolution can end this deadly system. The struggle for communism is more necessary, urgent and winnable than ever.

The Russian communist leader Lenin explained in 1916, with world war raging, that imperialism is the last, and most advanced, stage of capitalism. He outlined its main features:

Capital and production are concentrated into huge monopolies that dominate life. Banks and finance capital dominate workers and industrial capital. They export capital (not just commodities) to other countries. They produce commodities where wages are lowest and conditions most brutal, and extract natural resources.

Imperialists internationally form alliances and monopolies. They inevitably fight to re-divide the world through wars, including world war. Lenin’s Bolshevik Party successfully mobilized workers and soldiers with the slogan “Turn the bosses’ war into workers’ revolution!”

Imperialism Today: South Africa

British and US capital control South Africa’s mineral riches (platinum, gold, uranium), paying black miners some of the world’s lowest wages. In the recent overproduction crisis, the auto market shrank, the price of platinum (used in catalytic converters) dropped, and the Anglo American company slashed wages of the Lonmin

miners. The workers rebelled in massive wildcat strikes, turning against the imperialists’ allies in the capitalist African National Congress. This sparked wider protests, inspiring masses worldwide and showing the need and opportunity for communist revolution.

Meanwhile, China’s investments in South African mines are growing. China’s capitalist rulers are classic imperialists. They export huge quantities of capital, buying factories, mines, and oil fields, especially in Africa and Latin America, but also in the Middle East and Europe. They pay the lowest wages to extract raw materials and produce low-cost commodities, out-selling their capitalist-imperialist rivals to become the world’s biggest trading nation. The Chinese bosses are strengthening their military to defend and advance their growing influence now, and to prepare for eventual world war.

US imperialism, no longer the largest trading nation, has been losing market share since the 1970s. No imperialist power can survive without exporting capital, so the US imperialists are trying (as they must) to contain China’s growing export capability. That’s what’s behind their “pivot to Asia.” This contradiction will inevitably lead to a World War. US imperialists hope to be ready for this in 10-25 years. Meanwhile, they want other countries (like Japan) to do their fighting. But they don’t control events: there are many contingencies that could lead to wider war even sooner.

The stakes are very high. Crisis and world war mean almost unimaginable suffering and incomprehensible slaughter, all for the bosses’ blood-soaked profits. This situation is dangerous but also full of opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism now, the only way to end the capitalist-imperialist cycle of ever-deepening crisis and increasingly deadly world wars.

Soldiers, Youth, Industrial Workers: The Future Is Bright

This serious discussion highlighted the importance of building a mass communist party, especially in the military and basic industry. In both sectors, our work is slowly advancing.

Rank-and-file soldiers come from the working class, many desperately poor, often from rural areas. Several comrades related stories showing that many, when presented with the alternative, will fight for the international working class instead of killing and dying for the bosses’ profits. We are finding more soldiers interested in reading *Red Flag* and discussing imperialism and communism.

We discussed opportunities for party growth in the military and among youth who are future soldiers. From El Salvador to Los Angeles, younger comrades have found that talking directly to friends about communism has opened a discussion of many questions and has encouraged them to talk to other friends about the need for a communist world.

We have also made advances among industrial workers, especially those super-exploited in the maquilas of Central America. Our party is helping women workers to overcome the obstacles of sexism to take communist leadership in this struggle. More women and men are taking *Red Flag* to co-workers. Elsewhere, more aerospace workers are openly reading and discussing *Red Flag*, sometimes on the shop floor.

The spirit of the Central Committee meeting was one of frank, and sometimes sharp, discussion of disagreements that brought us to a higher level of unity and struggle. This small example of communism in practice strengthened our confidence that we can build a world based on collectivity and selflessness. The imperialist storm clouds are gathering, but the future is bright!

MARCH ON MAY DAY UNDER THE RED FLAGS OF ICWP**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST****LOS ANGELES, MEXICO, EL SALVADOR, SPAIN****We march to MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM!****We march for: SOLDIERS, STUDENTS, WORKERS OF THE
WORLD, UNITE!****We march to ABOLISH ALL BORDERS, RACISM, SEXISM AND WAGE SLAVERY
WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION****Communism means PRODUCTION TO MEET HUMAN NEED,
NOT FOR PROFIT. It means FROM EACH ACCORDING TO COMMITMENT AND
ABILITY—TO EACH ACCORDING TO NEED, an end to money and bosses.****We ask you to MOBILIZE YOUR FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS TO SPREAD *RED
FLAG* and to join us.**

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Communists in the Factories:

RED FLAG BRIDGES THE CONTINENTS

In an industrial factory where I work, I have a co-worker from Africa. When I asked him what part of Africa he was from, he told me that it was a country near the Congo.

"Are there mines there?" I asked him.

"Yes," he answered, and added, "And it's a big problem. The people kill each other fighting for gold and diamonds."

Then I asked him if there were workers' organizations there. When he said there were, I asked him, "Are there communists?"

"The people don't like communism. But I like it," he told me with a certain pride.

At this, we deepened the discussion. We observed that the fight for control of gold and diamonds was between the bosses, and that they only used the people as cannon fodder. I said that the problem is that the bosses always think only of their profits.

"I believe in equality for all workers," he told me.

So I told him, "I like Communism too. I'm a communist and I've dedicated part of my life to organizing for communism."

We had to interrupt the discussion because it was time for work. Then I returned to his machine and I told him, "Listen, I have something for you. It is a communist newspaper that reflects communist ideas more clearly and better than I can."

I wanted to explain more to him, but due to limitations of language, I couldn't further deepen the explanation about the ideas

of our party.

At lunch time, we went to the car and I gave him two editions of *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. I told him to read them and to tell me what he thought.

The next day, he came very happily to my work station and told me, "I like it." He was inspired. He told me many things. He talked to me about the conditions of poverty in Africa, repression, and that to survive sometimes people had to become involved in the armed groups.

"I don't understand 100% of what you are explaining to me. Why don't you write it out because when I read it, I understand more," I told him. Then he committed to writing a letter.

"Write it for me and we can publish it in *Red Flag* so that other workers see that there are communists in many places."

I asked him what he did in Africa. He told me that he was a teacher. Since then, he has looked for me every time the new edition of the paper comes out. He still hasn't written the letter. But we continue to be friends and I intend to establish a more communist relationship with him and his family, deepening our friendship. Many workers have a lot of respect for him. He can open many avenues for the fight for communism.

I have other friends who are reading *Red Flag* and in the future I will write about them.

--An industrial worker

ANNIVERSARY DINNER from page 1

hungry, sick, desperate, and discriminated against.

"In the face of so much humiliation and exploitation, the masses are lifting their voices and their fists to say, 'Enough!' Millions are questioning capitalism from Spain, Greece, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras and every day more are doing so. The masses are in motion, fed up with the system. This is a great opportunity for our party to take our ideas to the masses, which is the missing ingredient to be able to destroy the capitalist system and build a new communist society.

"We know that scientific revolutionary critical thought is not born from reform struggles nor in strikes, no matter how militant and well-intentioned. They are born in workers' struggles under the leadership of our party. I ask, 'What happened with the wage increase, the job security clause, the respect for seniority at work? And all the supposed gains that workers fought for who are now 'unemployed? Reforms are a trap, a trick, a diversion of the working class from its historic role of being the grave diggers of the savage reign of capitalism.

"Because of this, it is very necessary to emphasize the need to distinguish one political line from

others.

"Because there are obvious reforms, but there are also subtle ones, that talk about revolution, democratic revolution, national revolution, revolution of the 21st Century, communist revolution but through stages, and even revolution of prices.

"Due to this chaos and confusion of ideas, three years ago a group of communists decided to break with the old practices of hiding communist ideas and formed a new party of a new type and a newspaper of a new type, whose sole purpose is to train and teach the working class to think, act, feel, live and struggle as communists.

"Tonight we can affirm that the newspaper *Red Flag* is read by hundreds of drivers and mechanics of MTA, workers in Boeing factories, garment factories, and among farm workers, soldiers and sailors.

"When some said we would last no more than six months, they didn't realize, or didn't want to realize, the firmness of our line, because

Plan and Program Update

FIGHT CAPITALISM, DON'T "IMPROVE" IT!

MEXICO—Supposedly to improve learning, the Dean's Office of CCH (Jr. Colleges for the university system), "by order of the Rector" is promoting the changes required by the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development. This "rich countries' club" of the US and its allies is requiring changes in education: more access to information and communications technology, foreign languages, math and physics.

To compete with other capitalists, in commercial wars that lead to shooting wars, the ruling class has got to focus education on what they need.

Doing this in the midst of an economic crisis means that they have to attack students and teachers even harder at the same time. They have now announced another reduction in the budget for the public universities for 2013.

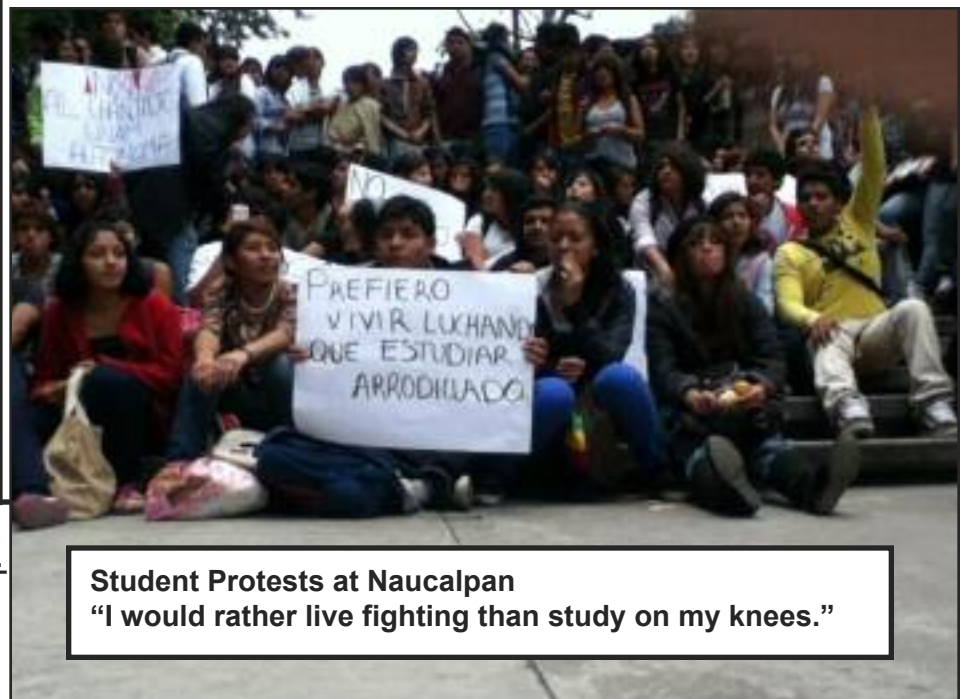
The analysis presented by CCH in December 2011 left out the low wages and lack of job security for lecturers. Many of them are temporary teachers who have to work at two or three schools to make ends meet.

The computer system has not been replaced for ten years and they haven't replaced the positions of 40% of the workers who have retired.

Democracy does not serve the working class: there is despotism in the administration of UNAM and when, as in CCH, the Lopez-Obradorists (liberals) occupy the leadership positions, they enforce the same austerity that they criticized the "neoliberals" for. There are unusable toilets, dirty schools, and miserable wages!

After a violent confrontation with students from the Naucalpan campus, they have extended the time for consultation on the update, which they had previously refused to do.

Capitalism is the problem! In this struggle, we have spread our goal to abolish the wage system, eliminating the production of commodities and of money, along with the whole culture of capitalist oppression, racism and sexism. More and more teachers, students, and workers are reading *Red Flag*. We call on them to struggle against the power of the capitalists, joining ICWP.

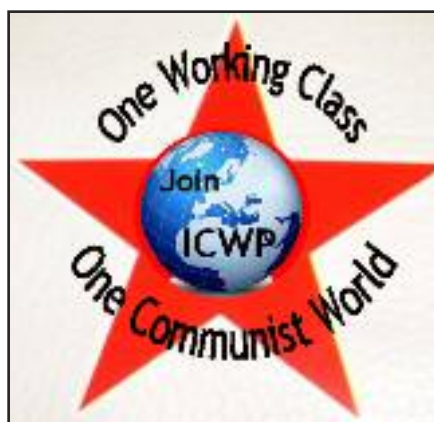


Student Protests at Naucalpan
"I would rather live fighting than study on my knees."

ICWP has solid roots in the factories, fields, and universities of El Salvador, in Honduras, Mexico, Spain and many other countries where our newspaper is read.

"Our party with our manifesto "*Mobilize the Masses for Communism*" is not only opening cracks in a wall considered indestructible, but also is breaking through the night to a new communist dawn.

"The members and friends of this party must have confidence, discipline, loyalty, and heroism for our class and always remember that we are not alone. Our current task is to expand the networks of *Red Flag* readers and recruit thousands of workers, farmworkers, soldiers, students, teachers, housewives, and unemployed. If you agree that capitalism is a disaster for the masses and the planet, that revolution and not reform is the order of the day and that communism will be a great way to live and work, you should join the Party!"



Zero Dark Thirty: Propaganda for Torture

ART, MORALITY AND COMMUNIST POLITICS

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 17— “The producers of ‘Zero Dark Thirty’ (ZDT) say ‘it’s just a movie,’ but movies have messages. This movie’s message is immoral,” declared a speaker as fifty people prepared to march. This religious-pacifist protest demanded an end to US-sponsored torture and criticized ZDT’s five Academy Award nominations.

The messages of cultural works – like morality itself – have class content. Artists may think they do “art for art’s sake” (unlikely with ZDT!) but movies won’t be distributed by Sony or win major awards unless they push capitalist ideology.

In communism, art won’t pretend to stand apart from production and political struggle. What art forms will we create? How will we integrate them with other aspects of life? The masses will decide collectively, based on our needs. Meanwhile, *Red Flag* needs more art that serves the working class!

ZDT Serves Capitalism

“Zero Dark Thirty” fictionalizes the CIA operation that killed Bin Laden. It promotes the fascist lie that “torture makes us safe.” Forty-five minutes into the film, we learn that the beautiful CIA agent Maya (Jessica Chastain) has tortured a prisoner to death. For the remaining 112 minutes, we are encouraged to applaud and identify with this brutal imperialist murderer.

One critic wrote that director Kathryn Bigelow “sidestep[s] the political and ethical debate.... If she were making a film about slavery in antebellum America... the story would focus on whether the cotton crops were successful.”



But ZDT doesn’t “sidestep” ethics. It pushes the vicious racist morality of capitalism: “Look out for #1, the hell with everyone else!”

Capitalist Torture: Enforcing Wage Slavery

“Torture has never been about getting information,” one protester said. “In slavery, or imperialism, or even the Roman Empire, the purpose of torture was to terrorize the rebellious masses.”

When the Roman empire crushed the slave rebellion led by Spartacus, it crucified 6000 rebels along the Capua-Rome road. But capitalism, more than earlier class societies, was built on torture.

When indigenous Caribbean islanders didn’t bring Columbus the gold he demanded, he had their hands cut off. Four centuries later, capitalists from Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, and Portugal did the same to workers who failed to meet quotas on rubber plantations.

The rising English capitalists enacted laws permitting the flogging and branding of the rural masses it kicked off the land, to force them into wage labor.

The British Navy tortured mutineers with “flogging round the fleet,” beating them on every ship, sometimes until they died. Other sailors were forced to watch.

Slaveowners in the Caribbean and North America beat, branded, and raped slaves. Faced with rebellions, they destroyed their “human capital,” breaking slaves on the rack or burning them to death to intimidate others.

Imperialism: Highest Stage of Capitalism (and Torture)

The turn of the twentieth century opened the modern imperialist era and its terrorist torture regimes.

During the US-Philippine War, President Theodore Roosevelt approved the “water torture” of hundreds of Filipino insurgents. Many

died. Torture made US workers less safe, not more, as city police departments adopted military torture techniques. Torture is still common in the gigantic US prison system.

In the Boer War, the British Army built concentration camps and created modern methods of torture to terrorize workers in fields and mines. Fifty years later, facing rebellion in Kenya, British officials approved the torture of tens of thousands of Kikuyu people, who were mutilated, castrated, raped with sharp objects and scorpions, or burned alive.

In the 1950s, French imperialism used systematic, officially-sanctioned torture, trying to maintain control of Algeria and Indochina.

The CIA’s “Operation Phoenix” (1965-1975) subjected tens of thousands of Vietnamese civilians to rape, water torture, electric shock, stress positions and beatings: the model for the post-9/11 era.

The US established the School of the Americas (SOA) in Panama in 1946 to train Latin American soldiers in combat methods and torture techniques. Relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1984, it’s now called the “Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.”

Many call it the “School of Assassins.” Hundreds of thousands in Latin America have been tortured, raped, assassinated, “disappeared,” and massacred by its graduates in Argentina, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Bolivia, El Salvador, Colombia, and elsewhere.

When liberals say that “torture is un-American” they deny capitalist-imperialist reality. This racist system degrades humanity by treating us as expendable sources of the only commodity, our labor power, from which capitalists reap profits. They rule through brute force, mass terror, and a culture of lies.

Communism embodies the working-class morality that values every person, without exception, worldwide. Its material basis is production “from each according to ability, to each according to need.” Under communism, torture will be as unthinkable as cannibalism.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS from page 1

They are needed and appreciated by the working class. At a support rally, a widower raising three children - one of them with special needs - said, “I need and count on these folks every single day. They are as important to me as the teachers.”

US rulers couldn’t care less about them or the children. To save a few million dollars they are destroying these workers’ lives. They spend trillions, however, on their wars and military. In Afghanistan, they spend one million dollars a year for every US soldier stationed there. In Iraq they squandered over a trillion dollars: one million for every Iraqi child, woman and man murdered.

Capitalism can’t meet our needs: Let’s destroy it with communist revolution

“We’re not asking for one benefit, or ten cents. It is simply for the right to come back to work in September,” said a striker. But, under capitalism workers don’t have a “right” to work, or to anything else.

Only the bosses have rights: the right to hire or fire us: the right to decide whom of us lives or dies, and how we live or die. These, like all their decisions, are based on their profits. They only hire us if they can profit from our labor.

Also, since they produce for profits, not need, they deny us the products of our labor. If we can’t pay, food rots on shelves, houses are boarded up, and hospitals deny us care.

Only communism can serve our needs

Capitalism invented the myth of “rights.” Workers have no “rights,” only needs. These can only be met by communism, where we will produce only for need. Everyone will be provided with everything needed to live creative useful lives, regardless of how little or how much they contribute.

To build this society and the world we need requires communist revolution. Masses of workers, soldiers and students must be convinced to join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) to organize and lead the armed struggle necessary to destroy capitalism.

Trade unionism will never get us there

More deadly to workers than the treacherous union officials is the trade union ideology. Many work-

ers believe that with the right “union leaders” we can reform capitalism to meet our needs. This is a big obstacle in our fight for communism.

However, the NYC school bus strike helps expose trade unionism’s deadly limits. It should be a wake-up call to LA MTA workers, especially drivers. Their ATU locals didn’t publicize this struggle, much less support it. Neither did the UTU, the mechanics’ and service attendants’ union.

LA MTA drivers have great hopes that SMART-their new union - will be different. This betrayal, however, is happening on this new union’s watch. Future articles will discuss this issue.



THE ILLOGICAL LOGIC OF IMPERIALISM:

MILLIONS OF LIVES FOR A HANDFUL OF ROCKS?

Japan and China both claim them. Japan calls them the Senkaku Islands. For China they are the Diaoyu Islands. They are five uninhabited islets and three barren rocks in the East China Sea. Their total area is less than 3 square miles.

Who would imagine that a dispute over this insignificant speck of “land” would become, in some analysts’ words, the “most explosive issue in Asia?”

But, in reality, it can become the most explosive issue in the world because it has two dangerous potentials: One, to trigger a regional confrontation that could send the world’s economy into a deep recession, or worse, a depression. Two, it can easily pit the US against China because the US is bound by treaty to come to the aid of Japan if it is attacked by another country.

Either scenario - a global economic disaster or a US-China war – could easily escalate into World War III. The devastation of humanity and the environment would be unimaginable. But, in this monstrous inhumane system called capitalism-imperialism, the most unimaginable nightmare can easily become a reality, and eventually will do so.

Capitalism’s illogical logic

According to the *New York Times*, “The East China Sea disputes are more about history, rooted in lingering – and easily ignited – anger over Japan’s brutal dominance decades ago.”

That is true. However, it is only partly true. The *NYT* consciously conceals its most important and dangerous aspect: This “territory” is crucial to the geopolitical interests of Japan, China and the US.

Japan is a declining economic and also a defeated military power. It is being eclipsed in Asia by China. The Japanese ruling class is undecided on whether to fight China for Asia’s hegemony or live under the Chinese Dragon’s shadow.

A sector of the Japanese rulers, however, refuses to accept quietly this destiny and is stoking

the fires of a rising nationalist movement. The campaign slogan of the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is: “Fukoku Kyohei” - enrich the nation; strengthen the army: the slogan of Imperial Japan during World War II.

Future articles will detail this phenomenon more fully. For now we will just assert that some Japanese rulers are preparing for potential war with China. Meanwhile, US imperialists’ efforts to contain China’s uncontrollable rise will also eventually lead to war.

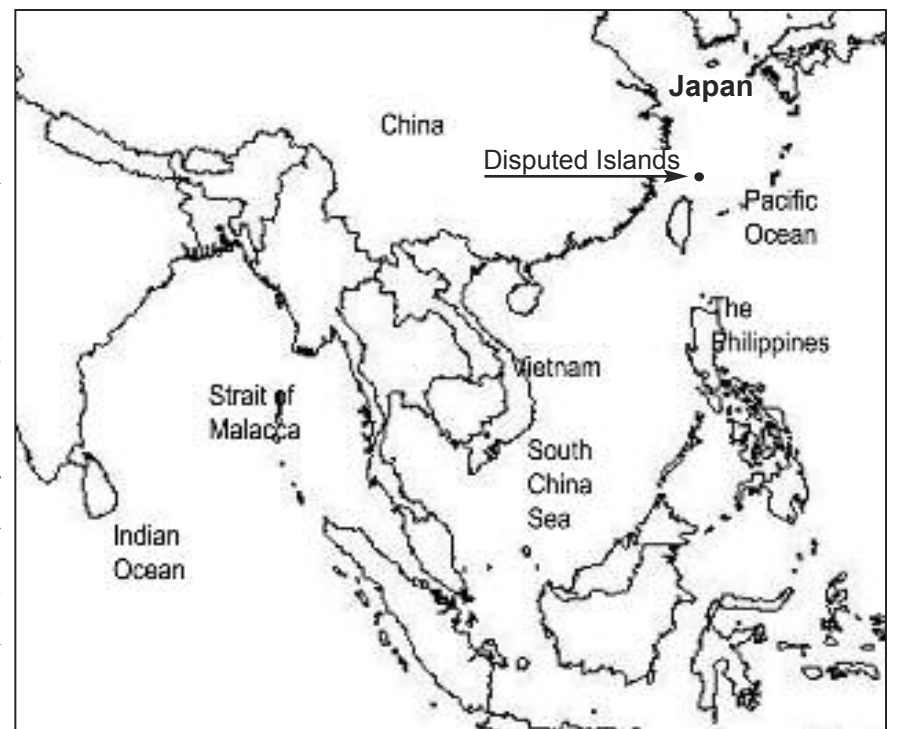
WAR: Now those unimportant and useless specks of “land” become of paramount importance!

China’s first line of defense in a war against the US or Japan is its navy, which it has been modernizing and expanding, especially its submarine fleet. Thus, crucial to winning any war against China is dominance of the Pacific Ocean.

This would allow the US or Japan to hem in China’s navy within the confines of the shallower waters of the East and the South China Seas where it could more easily be destroyed or neutralized.

Those specks of “land” are China’s navy’s crucial gateway to the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean where it can survive to fight effectively to dominate its waters. It is in the US bosses’ interests for the Japanese bosses to control those specks of “land” to deny China that escape route.

The US imperialists see Japan as a crucial partner for their eventual war with China and are egging on the China-Japan dispute, while goading Japan to put its economy in order and rearm.



MINING COMPANIES DESTROY WORKERS’ LIVES AND ENVIRONMENT

HONDURAS--In their insatiable drive to maximize their profits and export their surplus capital, the imperialists invest in countries of the so-called third world, not caring how many lives they destroy. Nor do they care about the destruction of the environment. That’s why these imperialist vultures are concentrating their capital on Latin American mining.

Honduras is one more victim of this voracious imperialist appetite. Mining in Honduras is not new. It dates back to the 1500s when the Spanish imperialists exploited gold and silver mines. In 1870, the US imperialists came looking for gold, silver and other metals.

Both imperialist exploiters destroyed the environment and caused havoc within the working class. However, this pales before the environmental and human destruction that the new invasion of mining companies, many Canadian and US, are carrying out in Honduras.

Rich pickings for the imperialists; poverty, destruction and death for the working class

In 2011 the mining companies, among which the Canadian firm Goldcorp (owner of Entremares, San Andres, and other subsidiaries) is predominant, exported gold, silver and other metals valued at \$238 million. This was the product of the vile super-exploitation of a small group of Honduran workers getting paid poverty wages of \$200 a month.

Let no one think that that capitalist mining leads to any progress or improvement for the

working class. The new exploitation takes the form of open pit mining, which is more profitable because it uses fewer workers and machines but moves huge amounts of the earth’s crust. This destroys entire communities, displacing settlements.

Furthermore, due to the use of chemicals (such as cyanide) the mining companies are polluting the waters of rivers and lakes. This kills the fish and destroys wildlife. These criminal beasts also pollute the rivers and streams that serve as drinking water for villages, towns and cities such as Santa Rosa de Copan with 60,000 inhabitants.

The diseases, like goiter, that this causes are of epidemic proportions. It also causes spontaneous abortions, children born deformed or with mental problems, and the increasing number of cancer cases that kill many.

In Honduras only DEFOMIN- the governmental agency responsible for the mining industry— can investigate and punish the mining companies that violate the environmental and labor laws. But DEFOMIN gets 60% of its budget from the mining companies.

All this exploitation, poverty, suffering, destruction and death so that a few can profit from the extraction of these metals, like gold and silver, which have very little industrial use. Their main use is to enrich and make more powerful the capitalists-imperialists who rule the world in which we live.

In Honduras 30% of the territory has been

The logical logic of communism

Communist logic is based on the needs of the working class, the majority of humanity. The logic of capitalism-imperialism goes against the needs of this majority. The laws that govern the development of capitalism-imperialism are out of the bosses’ control. They must compete for markets, resources, cheap labor and places to profitably invest their capital.

This inevitably leads to war which magnifies the importance of some resources and many insignificant places like those islets and rocks. In a communist world no piece of land or natural resource would be so valuable as to be worth one drop of workers’ blood, much less the hundreds of millions of our lives that a world war will snuff out.

In a world without money, markets, borders, nations and the capitalists-imperialists, we will have no need to butcher one another. Free of racism and sexism, collectively we will share the earth’s resources to produce what we need, which we shall collectively distribute according to need.

served on a silver platter to these exploiting vultures in long term concessions on preferential terms. These companies don’t pay taxes or, if they do, it doesn’t even reach 1% of what they export. The bosses’ profits are more important than our lives and our environment. This also affects the communities or family groups who engage in the artisanal mining of minerals for their survival.

Only communist revolution can put an end to this horror.

In communist society, the mining of minerals will be decided, planned, and implemented collectively. Therefore, the minerals that we mine will only be those that meet our needs. Eliminating money, profit will disappear, along with the greed and exploitation that sacrifice our lives for the benefit of a handful of capitalists-imperialists.

We won’t need to go into the bowels of the earth to take out things like coal when we can use alternative sources of energy like the sun, the wind, rivers, seas, volcanoes, and many more.

We will stop using many harmful metals or we will limit their use only for things that are indispensable. For example, with excellent mass transportation systems we would eliminate millions of cars which would limit the use of lead that is used in their batteries.

We call on the workers of Honduras and the world to join ICWP to organize communist revolution that will put an end to this hell called capitalism.

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

COMMUNISM WILL END THE DIVISION OF MENTAL & MANUAL LABOR

In all class societies, there are two main classes with opposite interests. The vast majority of people, engaged in productive activity, is the oppressed class that produces things in society with their labor. The other, a tiny minority, is the ruling class, which produces nothing but expropriates surplus from the oppressed class. This is the basis of their wealth. Violence and ideological justification are used to acquire this wealth as the oppressed class fights back.

To organize society to produce surplus that goes into the hands of the few also requires the division of labor. Prior to the rise of capitalism in Europe, there was feudalism. Under feudalism, the ruling class owned the land and the serfs worked on it. The product of their labor was divided between supporting their family and the feudal lord who owned the land.

In feudal society the division of labor was very primitive. The serfs worked on the land to produce crops. They hardly ventured a few miles from where they lived, the dialects they spoke were understood only in the local area, and there were no schools. The artisans who produced tools and other products acquired their knowledge passed down from generations.

Violent struggles between the feudal lords and the emerging capitalist class destroyed the social relations of feudalism. As capitalist production became primary, its factories required millions of former serfs (who the capitalists had kicked off their land) with nothing but their labor power to sell to the capitalists, who owned the means of production.

This transition to capitalism required a different division of labor than under feudalism. The workers who flocked to the cities to work in factories required food, houses, clothing, and transportation. This new relation of production and private property now required workers to speak the same language and have some basic education to work in factories.

The commodities that the working class needed to survive were produced in factories and private farms. Commodities were produced for sale for profit which comes from the unpaid labor of a worker. If those who needed them didn't have money to buy them, they couldn't use them.

Instead of an artisan performing complicated tasks, the work was divided into repetitive activity. An assembly worker doing the same repetitive work can be easily replaced. As new technologies are introduced, in the beginning, a few skilled workers perform highly complex tasks but the profit motive forces rapid division of labor, replacing the work of skilled workers by workers doing repetitive tasks. This process goes on all the time under capitalism. The creation of new skills and its rapid de-skilling throws masses of workers in the street as their skills are now obsolete.

The division of labor under capitalism to produce surplus value also required the system of capitalist education based on a very narrow division of knowledge. The separation of productive activity from the scientific knowledge of the needs of the working class is the foundation of capitalist education.

Not only is there a separation between mental and manual labor, but just like the division of work at a factory, mental labor is also divided into meaningless areas separated from each other like math, physics, history, engineering, etc. Such artificial and mechanical separation of production from creative thinking puts severe limits on learning.

Communism is a society organized to produce things for the need of the international working class. The end of society producing for profit will also end the material basis for today's division of labor. To produce for need we will end the separation between production and science. The struggle to eliminate the division of labor will unleash unprecedented capacity of the working class to learn and participate in every aspect of society. All knowledge will come from the productive activity and the struggle to meet the needs of the working class. Schools, universities, factories with assembly lines – all products of capitalism to make profit— will not exist.

Class societies have only existed for about the past eight thousand years. The internal contradictions of capitalism are creating the foundation for its own inevitable destruction and, along with it, the end of class society. Marx once wrote, “Communism solves the riddle of history.” He meant that the existence of class society can only be fully understood by the necessity to replace it with communism. The collective might of the international working class will bury the narrow division of labor of class society for ever.

RACIST INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MURDERED SOUTH AFRICAN WILDCATTERS

By now the world knows that Cyril Ramaphosa, the deputy president of the A.N.C. and heir-apparent to the South African presidency, sits on the Lonmin mine board of directors. Ironically, this NUM past president watched as the South African police murdered 34 miners in defense of his company's profits.

Less known is how Ramaphosa got his start. The Menell family, owners of the huge Anglovaal gold house, were his patrons. They recruited him to their (apartheid-era) Urban Foundation as a young up-and-comer. They paid for his legal

studies and “gave him a measure of credibility with the people who held real power in South Africa.” (*New York Times Magazine*, 1/27/13.)

Anglovaal was until recently in a 50% partnership with the famous apartheid diamond-mining group De Beers. De Beers is a subsidiary of the Anglo American group, headquartered in London.

Anglo American is a 30-plus billion dollar mining company with assets in iron ore and manganese, metallurgical and thermal coal, copper, nickel, platinum and diamonds employing over a hundred thousand miners. The now infamous Sishen mine is its flagship operation, one of the seven largest iron mines in the world. The hub of its operations is in South Africa, but extend to Namibia, Brazil, Chile, Australia, and China.

The Anglo American board of directors includes representatives from JP Morgan, Citigroup, Ford,

The next edition of *Red Flag* will include as an insert a pamphlet about the struggle in South Africa and its lessons for the international communist movement.

Lockheed Martin on the U.S. side and Airbus parent EADS, the World Bank, the Bank of England and the Royal Bank of Scotland on the European side.

It has incorporated the A.N.C. and the leaders of neighboring countries at every level of management. For instance, the Botswana permanent secretary, ministry of minerals, energy and water resources Boikobo Paya sits on the De Beers board.

This troika of U.S. and British capitalists and Southern African government officials murdered the South African wildcatters only to unleash the fury of over a hundred thousand miners and other workers throughout the country. The masses have exposed the illusion that capitalism can ever function as anything but a racist exploitive regime.



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CLASS-CONSCIOUSNESS, NOT LOCAL CHAUVINISM, NEEDED IN EGYPT GENERAL STRIKE

Feb. 20 – “We are eventually going to die, but we are not going alone. We’re going to take lots of them with us,” said a Port Said striker, referring to government security forces.

The massive general strike in Port Said – as we go to press, four days and counting—has threatened shipping through the strategic Suez Canal and exposed the inability of the Morsi government to squash the Egyptian masses. It highlights the urgency of mobilizing for communism, not for local “independence” or other reforms.

On January 26, a Cairo judge sentenced 21 Port Said soccer fans to death for their alleged role in a riot last year after a match between Cairo’s Al-Masry team and Port Said’s Ultras Ahly club. When police intervened, that fight escalated and seventy Ahly fans, plus two cops, died as millions watched on television.

This was not, however, a typical soccer brawl. Members of Ultras Ahly were some of the loudest and most active opponents of Egyptian’s military government. Government officials blamed Port Said residents, Al-Masry team fans, and unspecified “revolutionaries” for the deadly riot. But many believed Ultras Ahly when it marched the next day, with hundreds of supporters, denouncing the government’s “security forces” as the real culprits.



The death sentences handed down on 21 Ahly members and youth sparked a new round of protests. Security forces killed over two dozen on the first day, and more at a funeral march the next day. As *Red Flag* reported last issue, the masses defied official curfews in Port Said, Alexandria, and other cities. They have continued to march, day and night, even in the pouring rain.

Anger has overcome fear. “Either we avenge you [martyrs] or we die like you!” many chant. But instead of vengeance or Morsi’s resignation, the masses need to fight for communist power.

Most news reports misleadingly say that this week’s strike was called by “soccer fans and students.” Yes – but most of those soccer fans are industrial workers! And the industrial workers of Port Said have a long history of resistance to imperialism (during the Suez crisis in 1956) and to the national bourgeoisie in Cairo.

The Egyptian rulers are terrified of this mass uprising that hasn’t been stopped by their intensifying repression. Now they are trying to cool things off with political distractions and offers of reform. They are encouraging local chauvinism in an attempt to blunt class consciousness. Such local “pride” is a dangerous aspect of the sports culture, especially in soccer.

Morsi is promising \$59 million dollars of Suez Canal revenues for devel-



opment and job creation in Port Said and two other provinces. Local politicians also want a share of the revenue from huge nearby natural gas refineries. Parliament has discussed a long-standing demand of Port Said businessmen to reactivate a free trade zone.

The masses aren’t buying it. In response to Morsi’s offer, crowds blocked the Mediterranean entrance to Port Said, shutting it down. Then workers at the Suez Canal Containers Terminal walked out and joined the strike. Thousands marched through the city, besieging city hall, the port authority, and other government buildings and holding sit-ins there. They seized control of the industrial zone, and disrupted the trains. Some marched in groups with banners identifying their workplaces.

Unfortunately, appeals to local chauvinism have influenced some to adopt the reactionary slogan, “The people want the Republic of Port Said.” Al-Masry fan club members, calling for the downfall of the Muslim Brotherhood regime, have declared the city of Port Said “independent.”

The workers of Port Said, like workers everywhere, need to declare ourselves “independent” of the capitalist system and its politicians, local as well as national. Instead, we need to identify ourselves with our class brothers and sisters everywhere around the world.

LETTERS

LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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

Nothing Should Be Bought or Sold

The whole world is dominated by the capitalist economy of buying and selling commodities. The same contradiction dominates the whole world: that between two classes, the exploiters and the exploited, who are the vast majority. There is one solution to this contradiction: a new world where nothing is bought or sold. The working class, and only the working class, has the task of fighting for and establishing this world through communist revolution. In order to achieve communism, the workers of the world need to unite. Since there is no Party to lead this struggle, it is essential to build a Party capable of organizing this battle to free the working class by abolishing the capitalist class.

--A reader in Bangladesh

RF comments: Thank you for your letter. We invite you to join ICWP which is the Party committed to mobilizing the masses for communism.



Bangladeshi Garment Workers Demand Back Pay, 2009

CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

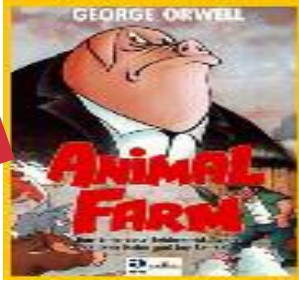
Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions (no more than 350 words)

Each issue will be discussing one of these "Top 10 Lies."

Top 10 Lies We R Taught

Capitalist Lies

1. Communism is dead.
2. We have "freedom" of speech, beliefs, expression.
3. Cops are your friends/only; bad people go to jail.
4. We have "equal opportunity."
5. The U.S. smashed the Nazis.
6. Humans are inherently power-hungry.
7. We need to vote to change things.
8. Capitalism runs on "supply and demand."
9. The government checks and balances ensures that nobody has too much power and our government works for the people.
10. Lincoln ended slavery.

BOOK REVIEW

In George Orwell's *Animal Farm* (1945) animals symbolize actual people and events in the Soviet Union's history. Three pigs represent Lenin as "Old Major," Stalin as "Napoleon" and Trotsky as "Snowball."

Old Major inspires the animals on Manor Farm with the vision for a new society, where their collective work meets their needs. Upon Old Major's death, Snowball and Napoleon fight for leadership, during which time all the animals revolt and overthrow Farmer Jones (Tsar Nicholas II). They establish guiding principles, highlighted by "All animals are equal." Soon, the two leaders neglect their comrades' political development, and don't help with the work. Napoleon builds his power, while Snowball obsesses over building a windmill. Fighting aside, all pigs enjoy greater privilege and soon declare "All animals are equal... though some are more equal than others." Napoleon throws Snowball off the farm, kills his enemies in "show trials," and uses private security. All the pigs move into the farmer's house and begin practicing some of his habits, like drinking alcohol, walking on two legs, wearing clothes, associating with humans, and whipping the animals. Near the end, aging horse Boxer, who has made a strong commitment to building their society, can give no more. Instead of receiving his promised retirement, he is sold to a glue factory. At the end, the animals see the pigs alongside humans and notice that they resemble their former masters.

Although we gain an important lesson to ensure that communist leaders serve their class, Orwell reveals himself as anti-communist and anti-worker. He sees all leaders as corrupt and views the workers as dumb and gullible. Examples are that, although the animals banished their human oppressor, they are easily controlled by a few smart pigs and there's no

The Truth of the Matter:**We Need Revolution, Not Band-Aids!**

In *State and Revolution*, written in 1917, Lenin argued that "The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class shall represent and repress them in [government]."

Under capitalism, rulers further their class interests by trying to take revolution out of our minds and direct our anger back into the system they need us to believe works. When voting, we are really participating in a capitalist illusion that we have a choice.

Campaigning is like a series of commercials that try to get us to act against our best interest. In reality, the rulers select the person best suited to fill their needs at the time. The illusion generated by the elite tries to obscure class lines, eventually leading to infighting between the working class over which exploiter is "better." The practice of voting in a capitalist system is like putting a band-aid on a tumor!

Under communism, we wouldn't need all these theatrics, where our enemies seek to convince us that they're good guys, or that they share our interests.

Right now, some workers are still under the illusion that capitalist leaders have our best interest at heart. Yet they attack us at every turn!

We don't need our class enemies to lead us. Instead we should run society and collectively make the decisions that directly affect us.

Workers around the world are fighting valiantly against the results of a failing capitalist system, but lack the revolutionary class consciousness to target the system itself and to fight directly for communism.

Workers must realize our revolutionary potential and begin asking ourselves the hard questions. For example, how would leadership look under communism and how would we designate it?

We don't have all the answers yet, so we need your help to figure it out. Keep reading and discussing these things and consider submitting your ideas to this page.

fight-back when they start noticing things may be going in the wrong direction. The author serves the ruling class's interest by ignoring victories under Stalin, such as reorganizing production and mobilizing society to defeat the Nazis. Orwell spends many pages describing Napoleon's purges. He ignores Stalin's need to rid society of the capitalists created under Lenin's New Economic Policy, which mistakenly encouraged small-scale capitalism.

We know many teachers assign this book, but with this article and possible follow-up articles, we can see through Orwell's lies.

**~Our Spring~
by Langston Hughes**

**Bring us with our hands bound,
Our teeth knocked out,
Our heads broken,
Bring us shouting curses, or crying,
Or silent as tomorrow,
Bring us to the electric chair,
The shooting wall,
Or the guillotine.
But you can't kill
All of us.
You can't silence
All of us.
Kill Vanzetti in Boston and
Dmitroff rises
In Germany
We're like those rivers
That fill with the melted snow in
spring
And flood the land in all
Directions.
Our spring has come.
The pent-up snows
Of all the brutal years
Are melting beneath the rising sun of
revolution.
The rivers of the world
Will be flooded with strength
And you will be washed away-
You murderers of the people-
Killers and cops and generals,
Kings and billionaires,
Diplomats and liars,
Makers of guns and gas and
guillotines.
You will be washed away,
And the land will be fresh and clean
again,
Denuded of the past-
For the time has given us
Our spring
At last.**

