

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

MAY DAY MEANS MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

SEATTLE, WA — The capitalist crisis has given new potential to May Day in the US. May Day began with a general strike in Chicago in 1886 for the eight-hour day and was declared by the 2nd Communist International as the day workers worldwide march for workers' international unity. May Day always embodied both reformist and revolutionary potential. Since May Day can't be ignored, reformists, trade unionists and fake left groups are trying to strangle the revolutionary potential of these demonstrations. Mobilizing the masses for communism is our aim on May 1st.

The occupySeattle general assembly has joined the call for a May Day general strike. A pseudo-left group launched a campaign to withdraw the call.

Their argument was that the Occupy movement couldn't really pull off such a strike. Their real reason was that their handlers in the trade unions wanted to strangle this baby in the cradle. What's left of the establishment labor movement felt safer with the immigrants' rights march after work.

This fake-left group basically controlled the "worker outreach" of the Occupy movement. Their strategy was to get endorsements from the MLK Labor Council (King County). This reformist strategy made sabotaging the worker outreach committee easy.

It is true that the Occupy organizers don't have the base on-the-job or even in the schools to pull out tens of thousands. Nonetheless, the union leaders' attack on the "shut-down the port" demonstration last January and this latest betrayal by the reformist "left" have opened the eyes of young workers active in Occupy who still think the future lies with anti-racist organizing of the working class.

"How are we going to reach workers now that the old type of workers' outreach is dead?" asked one postal worker at a smaller

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LA METRO: WAGE SLAVERY MEANS KILLER STRESS

LOS ANGELES, CA—"They are killing us one by one!" said an MTA driver to a *Red Flag* distributor. He was echoing the sentiment of many MTA workers watching the chaotic scene unfolding in front of Division 15 on Wednesday, March 7.

Juan Herrera, an MTA driver for several years, lay sprawled on the lawn, having just left Assistant Manager Barbara Maycott's office. While meeting with her, he started feeling sick. He collapsed while stepping outside to get some fresh air and seek medical assistance. The paramedics came and took him to the hospital. The company doctor wanted him at work the following day!!

After helping drive Paul McDade, another MTA driver, to an early grave, is Barbara Maycott on a killing spree again?

Maycott called Juan into her office claiming a customer had complained that Juan

did not stop to pick him/her up. She was, however, unable to find this complaint on the bus camera's tape.

Nevertheless, to satisfy her sadistic appetite for causing maximum stress and pain to drivers, Barbara went "fishing," just as she did with Mike Turner and other drivers, searching the tape for any violation Juan might have committed.

She then accused him of not making a complete stop before crossing a railroad track. This violation calls for a mandatory 30 day suspension and possible termination.

Racist Maycott arrogantly proceeded to press this case, verbally harassing and threatening Juan. Stressed out and traumatized, Juan immediately became ill.

Stress, a product of class society, is turned into a deadly epidemic by capitalism

Capitalism's wage slavery is one

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Putin Elected Promising to Militarize Russia

TURN WORLD WAR INTO CLASS WAR FOR COMMUNISM

Vladimir Putin's re-election as Russia's president for a third six-year term, with the certainty of another six-year term after that, marks a major geopolitical world event.

It is a defiant message to US imperialism and its allies. With Putin, the Russian imperialists are stating in no uncertain terms that they are determined to decisively defend and advance their interests worldwide. They understand this means war: war on a global scale.

Putin understands this and he is willing to comply. "Vladimir Putin," reported the *Independent* from the UK (2/21/12), "sent shockwaves through the world yesterday when he said diplomacy has failed and Russia needs to rearm itself." Besides doubling Russia's military budget by 2015, he pledged an additional 23 trillion rubles (about \$780 billion) over the next decade to modernize the country's armed forces.

This is not only Putin's decision, but the consensus of the dominant sector of the Russian ruling class: "It's clear there have been plenty of discussions over the amount and timing of this large-scale financing." (Putin, *Being Strong: Why*

Russia Needs to Rebuild its Military, 2/21/12).

Although Putin claims this does not mean the militarization of Russia, facts paint a different picture. This effort will involve not only the defense industry but the whole Russian economy. The gigantic investment in modernizing the army and the military-industrial complex will undoubtedly have a huge impact on the economy, jobs creation and scientific research. Everything will be oriented toward war production.

Putin claims this is needed because Russia can't afford to be weak. Weakness, he claims, will encourage others to try to take Russia's vital resources. He also says that the US and NATO missile defense policies are pushing Russia to strengthen its aerospace defenses. And, although claiming that the "possibility of global war between nuclear powers is not high," he makes clear that Russia will never surrender its nuclear deterrent force.

Putin ends his article by claiming that arming Russia with the most advanced weapons of mass destruction will secure "lasting peace." All capitalist-imperialists claim this about arming them-

selves. Believing it is to believe in the tooth fairy. Workers need to take seriously the rearmament of Russia, the doubling of China's military budget by 2015 and the US "Pivoting towards Asia-Pacific." It all means that the capitalist-imperialists of the world are steadily moving closer to world war.

There is only one class on the world stage today capable of building a world without wars and destructive weapons. That class is the working class. We have no interest in exploiting or subjecting anyone. Our historic task is to end capitalism's wage slavery and its competition for maximum profits that requires wars.

Let's organize and prepare ourselves and the world's masses for revolution. We urge young people to go into the bosses' armies and factories to organize to turn world war into class war for communism. March with ICWP this May Day. Read and distribute *Red Flag*. Help distribute massively our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. Join ICWP to build the only movement that will bury capitalism forever.

Future articles will explore this more.

High School Students Comment on ICWP Dinner

"This was my first dinner and I am planning that this is not my last. I learned about how communism can solve many problems. I was able to get a good understanding of it. I enjoyed the songs, and everyone was very inviting and welcoming. I would suggest to anyone who has questions about communism to read Red Flag. Overall, the dinner was very interesting and insightful."

"The ICWP dinner was a fun and enlightening experience. It is somewhat difficult to imagine a society without any currency, although it is possible and history has proved so in the past. The people in the party have a vision, have a goal and definitely have a passion."

"I felt that I learned a lot from this experience, especially when we were debating communism. I would hope that there is another dinner in the future because I would love to go."

"I am really glad I went. I learned a lot and was able to meet more people like me who question the government and what they do. While there I learned that there are a lot of problems in this world and a lot of them are because of the government. I learned that workers can run themselves as long as everyone does their part. I learned that in order to do this, the party needs to be expanded in the Army and the Navy to get them on our side."

"There were people, including myself that sought to bring real discussion to the table in order to reach a real understanding on the points of views of our peers, which was in my opinion, the greatest aspect of the event. The dinner and political discussion was great. I met people who really care about humanity and have their own ideals, and really, that's so important in life. I recommend to anyone to attend or even for them to hold a meeting like the one I attended."

ENTHUSIASTIC ICWP DINNER LAYS GROUND- WORK FOR COMMUNIST MAY DAY

Recently members of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP) held a 2nd Anniversary dinner and political discussion event in which close to 50 people participated. There was a good mix of seasoned and newer comrades; younger and older, black, white, brown, men and women. Included was a group of very energetic and enthusiastic high school students brand-new to the Party. A banner that adorned the room read "Mobilize the masses for communism." Red flags hung over the speakers.

A young black female comrade welcomed everyone as she eloquently and boldly told of how she came to the realization that she was a communist at a very young age.

Communist singers sang a beautiful updated version of the Italian Partisan song "Bandera Roja" (Red Flag), which everyone liked.

Then the moment came when a new young black male comrade reported on the ICWP's campaign of Mobilizing the Masses for Communism. The young comrade's report of the campaign of putting tens of thousands of copies of the manifesto in the hands of workers, students and soldiers worldwide and the need to fight for communism as the aspiration of the international working class led to an intense, healthy and good debate about communist ideas and how to put them into practice. The debate and discussion went on for a good while. It had to be cut short because the program was just beginning.

Next the singers sang the communist song "Obreros Unidos Jamas Seran Vencidos" (The Workers United Will Never Be Defeated). As the voices of the singers filled the air, scattered discussions and debates about communism could still be heard around the entire room. The atmosphere was energetic.

Two older latino comrades discussed the

world situation. Their presentation included copies of maps of the world which highlighted the Middle East, Iran, Russia, China and the Strait of Hormuz (the strategic narrow body of water through which enormous quantities oil and gas resources pass). They emphasized that the Middle East represented the region with strategic oil and gas reserves that the capitalists of the world would expand their wars to control.

For this, the speakers explained, the U.S. capitalists were preparing for World War III. They added that a unity between Chinese, Russian and Iranian capitalists was developing, and that recently Iranian and U.S. capitalists have been going back and forth with military threats and war exercises.

They explained that all warmakers will mobilize workers for war here and worldwide with patriotism, democracy, "the motherland" and, in the US, the "defense of the American way of life." They will put millions of our class brothers and sisters around the world into motion, but the history of revolutions during WWI and after WWII shows that the capitalists are not invincible. They can be taken. The final point was made that to make communist revolution possible we need to organize *Red Flag* distribution networks and build a massive ICWP in the factories and in the military now.

Because of time constraints, due to extended political discussion about communism, there was a brief report and discussion about the May Day March and mobilization plans this year. When the singers ended the program by singing "The International," we all rose with fists in the air and loudly sang the international working class anthem. Indeed it was a beautiful night, one that laid the groundwork for future struggles and victories and a great May Day. We have a world to win! Join us!



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Capitalist Hyenas Attack Immigrant Workers: **ORGANIZE ICWP'S RED WORKERS' ARMY**

In the capitalist system we workers have something in common with the bosses: the means of production, which make us depend on each other. This is true for Memo, Carolina, and Theresa. The three are united in the drama of all immigrants regardless of "race," or nationality, some having their families thousands of miles away, and not having the money to be close to them when they need to be.

Memo's been in Tijuana for a week, and is waiting for his wife to get together the \$5000 that the smuggler demands to pass him across the border illegally. He took an emergency trip to Mexico to visit his dying father. Carolina, around a table, tells her co-workers while she "trims" (cuts threads on the blouses) that her daughter wants to emigrate from El Salvador to live with her. She worries about the dangerous journey, and the money the trip will cost: \$9000. And Theresa, an Ecuadoran citizen of the US, worked three months for an agency, and they laid her off again. She can travel but she doesn't have the money to visit her mother who is sick with cancer. She also worries about her son who is in the army in Afghanistan.

Carlos Slim, the richest man in the world, is worried about seeing his net worth of \$69 billion drop by \$5 billion, according to Forbes magazine. This year, the annual list of bosses who have more than a billion dollars has grown to 1,226, with a net worth of \$3.7 trillion. However, it wasn't an easy year: 441 lost part of their fortune, almost as many as the 461 whose fortune grew. Slim shouldn't be sad. He still continues to be the king of the hyenas, followed by Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, and others who are on the prowl.

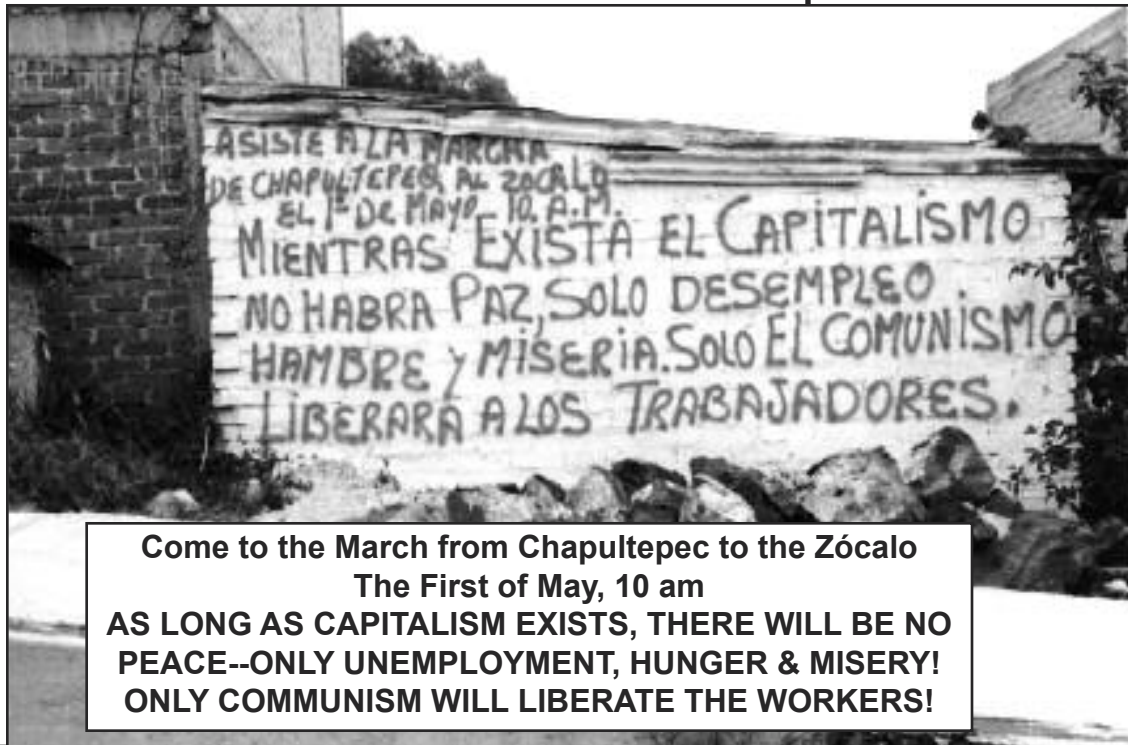
Immigration Reform: Not What Workers Need

Obama declared this week that he promises an immigration reform plan if he's reelected. He said he will "put a proposal" on the table, but guaranteed that the final result depends on Congress. The words sound hollow. It's election time, time for false promises. Obama won with a high percentage of latino votes from those who believed him. This time immigration reform could become reality very soon. The bosses, coming closer to military confrontation with the Middle East and China, will need a larger military and the undocumented workers and their children are available material. With Obama's immi-

gration reform, they would be forced by law and some through gratitude and nationalism, to enlarge the bosses' army. That is the goal of the so-called leaders of the immigrants' rights marches on May 1st.

To look at it superficially, Memo, Caroline, and Theresa have no other alternative. Their "destiny" would be decided. They would have to passively accept the situation, the same that millions of immigrant and citizen workers go through the world over. But not everything is a road of thorns for the workers and neither is everything a bed of roses for the bosses. The economic crisis the bosses have created as some take over others, accumulating wealth in a few hands, is leading workers to more desperation, anger and fury. The workers are realizing the political potential that is in their hands. ICWP is becoming the key in this fight to the death with capital, organizing our own workers' army in the factories, schools, hospitals, and communities.

The money that is one of the causes of so much misery in capitalism will be abolished with a Communist Revolution. We workers won't have to go from one place to another to work and live decently. The danger of crossing deserts and mountains, being kidnapped by criminals, or crossing the sea in tumultuous waters using broken-down boats, will be part of historical study. The rich like Slim and all the vultures will have nothing to worry about ever. We'll destroy them with all their wealth, while the means of production are kept in the hands of the working class who will know how to take collective advantage of them for the wellbeing of our class internationally.



**Come to the March from Chapultepec to the Zócalo
The First of May, 10 am
AS LONG AS CAPITALISM EXISTS, THERE WILL BE NO
PEACE--ONLY UNEMPLOYMENT, HUNGER & MISERY!
ONLY COMMUNISM WILL LIBERATE THE WORKERS!**

MAY DAY from page 1

break-out group some comrades participated in. Soon a dozen workers were discussing the future of trade unionism, rank-and-file caucuses, the capitalist crisis and political awakening of masses of workers and community college and H.S. students, especially in the integrated South End. Everyone was disgusted with the fake left parties.

Some had heard how the Taft-Hartley labor law made general strikes and political strikes illegal. The union leaders welcome this law. They can cite it when workers pressure them to support May Day strikes. When the ICWP helped pass a resolution for a general strike against capitalism in the OccupyLA general assembly, it was going up against the government and the bosses' labor lieutenants in the unions on two accounts.

A key goal was to reach Boeing workers. Although time was limited, many agreed with our

Party that trade unionism couldn't address the crisis. Our comrades described the present day role of the Boeing union leadership: creating jobs through speed-up, harassment and lower wages (see *Red Flag*, Vol. 3, #3). In fact, the District president Wroblewski came out for more company profits at the last union meeting.

"Rank-and-file groups can't limit themselves to fighting for more militant unionism," said one veteran. "Although the industrial heritage plants still have unions, most workers don't--and we can't limit ourselves to trying to get unions in non-union settings."

"Maybe, we should start to think of other types of struggle," suggested another worker and organizer of the port demonstration.

Our job is not to organize unions, but to fight against a trade union mentality. Now more than ever, the political goal of every struggle must be to mobilize the masses for communism. Only

Chapingo:

PROFESSORS NEED POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM

MEXICO—This past February 11, the teachers' union of the Autonomous University of Chapingo began a strike demanding a wage increase of 20% and the restoration of benefits that they had been denied in spite of the fact that they were agreed to in the contract that has now expired.

We visited the strikers, distributing twenty five copies of our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and ten copies of *Red Flag*. First a female teacher and then a male teacher gladly paid attention to our ideas and were grateful for our support. We explained our purpose of organizing for a revolution to eliminate wage labor, money, racism, sexism, and borders.

Each of them, for their part, said that currently the young teachers don't have this information and that because of that the unions no longer fight for the interest of the workers. We said that for a long time unions have been part of the structure of domination and don't defend the workers' interests. The woman teacher said that the union leaders of UNAM (the National University) were partly to blame for the lousy wages since in the last few years they had accepted, without opening their mouths, the wage caps imposed by the government, without even attempting to strike. However, she thought that the unions could fulfill their function if the sellout leaders were eliminated.

We answered that it would be better to eliminate capitalism, since by doing that the workers, now masters of their own destiny, wouldn't need unions. She wasn't very optimistic. However, she was grateful even so that there were people promoting revolutionary change.

The male teacher was more open. However he said he believes in a peaceful change. Both agreed to keep in contact with us. For our part, we plan to come back to see these teachers and continue spreading *Red Flag* and the struggle for communism.

communism can answer the bosses' crisis and racism.

These workers agreed that these types of political solutions couldn't rely on the Internet, posters and leafleting alone--as good as these may be. You have to get to know workers, so some house meetings were planned. When you develop serious ties with workers, the potential for "a new type of struggle" becomes apparent.

These house meetings will be a good way to advance the ideological and practical struggle. Young workers in our Party can lead this struggle with those from Occupy.

This May Day there will be many demonstrations and rallies throughout the day. Each one promotes illusions about capitalism. The ICWP will bring our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to as many as possible. A general strike is unlikely, but the potential to build our Party and Communist movement is here today.

Courts and Laws are Our Enemies

MTA DRIVERS MUST RELY ON COMMUNIST CLASS STRUGGLE

Waiting for “justice” in the bosses’ courts? The case of falsely-charged and terminated Metro driver Richard Sedillo should tell you that you can wait forever and still not get a thing. Sedillo, along with three other drivers, was falsely charged with felony embezzlement in August, 2009 when Metro rolled out the TAP cards with only ten minutes of training for drivers. Although one driver was pressured into pleading guilty, the charges were dropped against Sedillo and the other two drivers. They were fired, however, and went through their retirement and other savings. A year later the charges were finally dropped. According to sources close to the case, Sedillo is still waiting, almost two years after the fact, for a judge to decide on his civil suit against Metro.

In the middle of a recession, Metro decides to institute a fare system with insufficient training for drivers, and when things don’t go like they think they should, they blame the drivers. Sedillo,



who had a clean record for nineteen years driving for Metro, gets charged with a felony, loses his job and his retirement, and burns through his savings with not even an apology from Diane Frazier and Metro management. And Inspector Ladage admitted under oath that while he was interviewing those four drivers, he did not take one single note and relied on his memory. How is it possible to ruin the lives of the drivers and their families without notes? He even admitted that there was no true reason why these four were chosen. This could happen to anyone!

The United Transit Union to which Sedillo had paid dues for nineteen years, was no help at all. “Go get you a private attorney” is what they told Sedillo and the others. What is now becoming clear is that the courts are no better. The bosses like to proclaim that the government and the courts are neutral, above the antagonism between workers and bosses. But every time anybody goes to court they can see the game: District Attorneys, defense lawyers and judges all talking about lunch dates and golf scores while they try to get innocent defendants to take a plea or a settlement.

Marx had it right. The cops, the courts and their entire legal system are part of the capitalist state. The government is the executive committee of the ruling class, deciding how they to carry out the decisions that are most advantageous to the bosses, the 1/10th of 1% who own the means of production, the banks, factories, and agribusiness. They keep the working class blindfolded and fooled into thinking that we have a say in how things are done. Electing a more honest judge or a smoother talking politician is no solution for us.

We have to kick them all out of power and set up a communist system without money, without bosses, cops, courts or judges.

We’ll have mass public transportation, though. And we’ll learn how to organize a transit system that doesn’t depend on TAP cards or fares, because we won’t have money. We’ll have a lot more buses, because we won’t have any bosses making money off of the manufacture and sale of high-polluting private automobiles. We’ll also have lots more subways and light rail, some form of “car service” for people who need help getting around, and a lot more bikes and bike lanes. When production and transportation are organized to serve our needs, rather than the bosses’ profits, we’ll come up with much more reasonable ways to move people and stuff around.

A communist society where people participate in planning production based on ability and commitment and distribution of goods and services according to need will solve a lot of problems before they even begin. Embezzlement? It won’t even exist because we won’t have any money. And someone who tried to appropriate collective property—like a minivan—for his/her own private use wouldn’t answer to a judge in a courtroom somewhere, but to his/her fellow workers and neighbors.

More and more Metro drivers and mechanics are reading, contributing to, and distributing *Red Flag*. We invite them and all readers to think about how we will solve these problems in a communist society, and send their ideas to *Red Flag*. Join us in marching for communism on May Day and actively participate in mobilizing the masses for communism.

METRO STRESS from page 1 same work for the rest of their lives or even for extended periods of time. For example, millions will be trained to drive buses, trains, planes and other means of mass transportation. They will perform this function whenever needed without ever having to work while sick or while having family or emotional issues. If needed, someone will always be there to replace them.

Also, our wages, a fraction of what the bosses steal from the value we produce, are also another source of enormous, unrelenting and unending stress. The stress of not having enough money to provide for our families’ basic needs drives tens of millions of our class worldwide into early graves every year.

Only communism can end capitalism’s deadly stress.

Under communism, there won’t be money. Neither will there be jobs, the bosses’ code-word for wage slavery. There’ll only be collective communist work. Nobody will ever be fired or deprived of their basic needs for not working.

All will be struggled with to contribute to society according to their abilities and commitment. Everyone, however, will receive according to their needs, regardless of how little they contribute. Only this can end capitalism’s dreadful curse of “work or starve to death,” and the enormous deadly stress it creates.

Communist collective work will make working on mass transportation stress-free

Under communism no one will do the

We will eliminate individual cars and the waste, congestion and stress they create. Communist collective work that guarantees everyone’s basic needs will wipe out much of the antisocial behavior that capitalism’s wage-slavery job culture breeds.

No one will be stressed out from not having a job, hating their job, worried about being late to their job or anywhere. However, whatever antisocial behavior may pop up, will be dealt with collectively, by drivers and passengers.

To build this society we need to mobilize the masses for communism to destroy this monstrosity called capitalism

As the economic crisis deepens, bigger wars explode and the world’s capitalist-imperialists accelerate their preparations for World War III, things will only get worse for workers nationally and internationally.

Our solution is communist revolution. We urge all *Red Flag* readers to march with us on May Day, May 1st, and join ICWP in mobilizing the masses for communism to throw the bosses and their murderous system in the garbage bin of history.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will become of the mentally ill, people with physical disabilities, and others who may have difficulty contributing under communism?

This was one of the many good questions asked at our second anniversary dinner.

In a communist society, there will be a lot less mental illness than now. Eliminating exploitation and competition will eliminate tremendous pressure. Healthy collectives will be developed to meet all needs—food, comradeship, physical and mental health and defending and expanding the fight for communism.

What happens to people with mental illness under capitalism? For them, as for all workers, capitalism can only offer more misery. We have no power or control over important aspects of our lives. We don’t benefit from our labor; the bosses do. That can make many lose self-respect.

Our class has nothing to gain from saving (reforming) capitalism except more wage slavery. The fascist bosses suck out every last drop of our blood, sweat, and tears and toss us aside when we’re no longer useful in producing for their maximum profits. At the same time, the bosses push individualism on us, which is counter to our needs, contributes to mental illness, and keeps us from uniting to get rid of them.

The ruling class responds to crisis by imposing cutbacks on us and sending us to war. Taking more from workers with so little left has catastrophic results. Double-digit unemployment and accompanying speed-up, working multiple low-paying jobs, cuts to benefits and social services make jobs more dangerous and increase the need for mental health services. The bosses respond to this growing need by slashing such programs!

Consequently, those they deem least useful suffer the most. While cutbacks hurt all workers, particularly cuts to public health, two groups much affected are those with special physical and mental health needs. Most mentally ill are either homeless or in prison. This **See FAQs, page 13**

Universities Gear Up for World War

COMMUNISM MEANS EVERYONE A STUDENT, EVERYONE A WORKER

“No cuts, no fees! Education should be free!” was the chant heard during walk-outs at many Cal State University campuses on March 1.

“That’s only going to happen in a communist society,” *Red Flag* sellers told our fellow students at the Southern California campuses where ICWP has members. “In a capitalist society, education is to train us for wage slavery.”

Many students took *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. As the discussion was held amongst the students on ideas of how to reform budget cuts, comrades explained communist ideas that instead of trying to reform capitalist education, we should fight for a new system that doesn’t involve money, working

for wages, and production for profit. We explained that private or public, capitalist education serves the in-

terests of the capitalist class. We had a sign that said “Smash Capitalist Education,” which was a real contrast to the other signs of “We are the 99%” and “No cuts!” It led to several conversations with students, a couple of whom gave us their contact information.

Students in the Cal State system, like students elsewhere, are being faced with fee hikes and class closures, making it more expensive to go to school and harder to graduate at the same time. This situation, combined with the realization that their degrees get them huge debt and no guarantee of a job that will pay the bills, has contributed to a growing anger among college students.

Many Cal State campuses are commuter campuses, where working-class students live at home, with families who are struggling to make it as well. Many work full- or part-time while going to college. The economic crisis and long-term unemployment have hit their families as well. But many students and their families still have the illusion that if students work hard enough, they will get a degree which is the ticket

to a “middle-class lifestyle.”

But the crisis of capitalism is making it clear that the “middle-class lifestyle” is a thing of the past. As

the US moves increasingly toward World War III, cutbacks in social services, layoffs in the public sector, and the elimination of union jobs are pushing US workers farther down into the “wage-slave lifestyle.” Public education is more and more geared to meeting the bosses’ needs for war and fascism. Cutbacks in programs like ethnic studies and literature, increases in programs like police science and industrial technology show the way things are going. The US bosses are gearing up for world war and to control an increasingly angry working class.

Instead of limiting our struggle to fighting against fee hikes and cutbacks, we have to look at the system the university serves, and fight for a new system based on share-and-share alike instead of the dog-eat-dog system we have now. In a communist system, instead of organizing education and production for the profits of a few, we’ll bring production and education together to build on the knowledge that workers have about work, and set it free to create a better quality of life for all of us. Everyone will be a student and a worker their whole lives, and we’ll work for the benefit of our class, not to make a few blood-suckers even richer than they already are.

We’re planning to bring a contingent of our fellow students to our activities building for a big march on May First. We are planning more study groups where we read and study our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* so our fellow students—and ourselves—can understand better the differences between capitalism and communism, and fight for communism now.



MEXICAN BOSSES’ EXPERTS FEAR WORKERS’ REBELLIONS

MEXICO, FEBRUARY 24--A meeting was publicized that took place at the College of Mexico, where experts met from UNAM, Colmex and the Center of Research and Economic Teaching in an “International Seminar on Social Protests in North Africa and the Middle East.” In the event, they concluded that the conditions exist to generate rebellions in Mexico, and that what’s missing is only the spark that would cause this to happen. These experts declare that this situation is caused by the increase in poverty and unemployment. Furthermore, they pointed out that in North Africa and the Middle East, 190 million people are less than 30 years old, of whom 75% don’t have a job. Similar conditions exist in Mexico.

Through the work that the bosses’ universities carry out, they’re well informed about the situations that they would like to control. They also develop technologies that help maintain the exploitation of the workers and also maintain the illusions that through going to school we can get out of poverty. The government is planning to

finish, in this six-year period one hundred institutions of higher education of which, at present, 87 are oriented toward science and technology. These schools will train skilled low-paid workers for industries to try to attract more US and other companies to Mexico to super-exploit Mexican workers.

The Mexican bosses know about the possibility of rebellions and that’s why they’ve been preparing. In a recent report, the president mentioned that they had increased the number of federal agents from 6,000 to 35,000, all this under the pretext of fighting drug traffic. Besides the use of armed forces, they are trying to pass an Initiative of Criminal Chains that in the future doesn’t only apply to drug dealers but also to any worker who opposes the government. Fascism is the bosses’ final solution, even with their plans of apparent social aid in housing and health care.

But we workers must have our own plan. The solution won’t come from the government, nor from the universities. Our plan must be to organize our party, ICWP, in the places where we work

or study. Our plan must be to win the hearts and minds of millions of workers to fight for communism. That’s the way we’ll eliminate the poverty and unemployment that capitalism causes.

When we workers build a communist society, we won’t need universities or their thinkers. Studies of the problems of workers in other parts of the world will be to make decisions about how to help them resolve their problems, whether that means sending raw materials, food or workers. There won’t be any private property that justifies unemployment.

We need to build unity between employed and unemployed workers. Both suffer the oppression of capitalism, some with the fear of being fired and with slave labor wages. And the others are dying of hunger. Under communism, there won’t be workers’ rebellions because there won’t be repressive governments or bosses who control the food and who decide to produce to satisfy only their own needs. Everything produced in society will be for the benefit of each member of society, not just for a small group. Join ICWP!

FAQs from page 4 includes many soldiers, as profit wars wreak havoc on body and mind. Many are spat out by the war machine with paralysis, missing limbs, brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Back home, veterans’ battles really heat up, as they and all workers must confront the cuts in the public health industry and the Veteran’s Administration. Homelessness, addiction, and imprisonment can be the result of not receiving needed help. Where social services fail, criminalization of those labeled “useless” steadily grows.

The question may have referred to those with severe physical challenges, developmental disabilities, and mental health needs. The capitalists

have no use for them because they cannot buy, and thereby exploit, their labor. So often, people are locked away, thrown out on the street and/or denied treatment. Funding is cut or disappears.

A communist society will be built on the principles “share and share alike (in scarcity and plenty)” and “from each according to commitment, to each according to need.” Society will be designed collectively, to encourage mental and physical health. The most basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, education, and health will be collectively guaranteed from the outset.

Since communism will be organized to meet workers’ needs, we’ll learn and develop the necessary services, accommodations, and treatments, early on. We’ll figure out ways that people with

disabilities can contribute and what they do contribute will be appreciated. Productive work that helps the collective helps people be healthier and feel that they are contributing to the good of all.

Members of society will honor the contributions of all according to their commitment and encourage everyone to develop new skills and knowledge. Where one is otherwise unable to mentally make a commitment, society will meet the person’s needs.

We invite the youth who asked about how communism will work to send in their comments about this and all other questions. We invite you to join ICWP, spread *Red Flag* and our manifesto, *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, and to march with us on May Day!

A DIALECTICAL LOOK AT THE APPEARANCE AND ESSENCE OF ELECTIONS

Elections are a cheap disguise (although they cost a lot of money) appearing to give workers a voice, but actually they serve only to cover up the fact that the capitalist class monopolizes political power. Elections, and democracy itself, are the sheep's clothing used to hide the wolf of the dictatorship of capital. We need to work for qualitative change that exposes to all workers the bosses' political dictatorship and trashes the myth of democratic elections.

In US elections, there are two parties: the Democrats, who appear to the masses as standing for social programs; and the Republicans, who appear to stand for small government and religious issues. However, if we scratch the surface appearance, we find that there are no serious differences between, for instance, Obama and McCain during the last US presidential election. Both wanted to fund the war in Iraq and escalate the occupation in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both agreed that the main focus of foreign policy is the War on Terrorism, and agreed on expanding the military. Both agreed to the Patriot Act, a policy permitting government to monitor people's phone calls and internet usage, to use warrant-less wiretaps, etc. Each had his own stealth form of pushing the military draft. Obama proposed national service; McCain proposed to expand Americorp and ROTC.

The essence of elections is determined by the bosses' class interests. This essence is the inner, hidden nature of what primarily drives elections, and it explains why elections are needed at all. Understanding the nature of elections involves analyzing the needs of the capitalist class and figuring out which policies and politicians serve those needs best, while still appearing to workers that they have a choice.

The appearance and essence of elections to-

gether compose a contradiction; they depend on each other for their existence but are opposites. The phony election process appears to be genuine and tries to hide from the working class the essence of elections: the tyranny of capitalism over workers' lives.

The capitalist-driven essence of elections is commanded by the mechanisms of capitalism: competition, the anarchy of production, inter-imperialist rivalry, etc. The bosses cannot control these mechanisms. As the development of capitalism leads again and again to inter-imperialist world war, the bosses permit only candidates wholeheartedly workers to die for their profits. The bosses only permit candidates who advocate policies that do not disturb the usage of tools that maximize exploitation, such as racism, sexism, nationalism, the wage system, which is wage slavery, and money.

The resolution of contradictions requires a qualitative change, a transition into the opposite. Currently, the appearance of elections is crucial to disguising and maintaining capitalist dictatorship. Workers need to bring about a qualitative change that transitions this situation to one where the essence of elections becomes apparent: expose and abolish the capitalist-driven election process that perpetuates wage slavery.

Considering the limits of both the appearance and essence of elections, voting guarantees the perpetuation of all the tools to maximize exploitation and capitalist power; it maintains the status quo. The qualitative change grows closer as we continue with our quantitative work to organize and strengthen ICWP in all areas. We need to write, read, donate to and distribute *Red Flag* to strengthen our connection to the paper and also to strengthen *Red Flag's* connection to our working class, to cast aside false hopes in voting and

instead turn to actions that hasten communist revolution to abolish capitalism and build a system without exploitation.

Red Flag Editorial Comment:

This article does a good job at explaining that elections hide the dictatorship of capital over the working class. It doesn't make it clear that there is no way that elections can serve the working class. In a communist system, there won't be elections. We won't decide things by voting.

The way the Party works now is a model for the way communism will work in the future. Leaders are and will be chosen by workers and others who have confidence in their comrades' leadership in developing and fighting for our communist ideas and uniting us to mobilize for communism. We do and will make decisions by analyzing, discussing and struggling to advance the fight for communism, to advance the interests of the international working class.

Voting is a passive act that doesn't require our full participation. Communist centralism, however, means that all comrades and friends actively participate in the discussion and the work of understanding, spreading, and developing communist ideas and practice. All will participate in planning and carrying out and evaluating production and distribution in all their social relations.

The bosses' definition of politics is a passive process of electing someone who will do all the leading. That's the opposite of communism, in which masses of workers through their party will lead every aspect of society to guarantee that the needs of the working class are met.

A DIALECTICAL LOOK AT THE APPEARANCE AND ESSENCE OF UNITY IN SPORTS

History shows that soccer originated in China, dating back from the 2nd and 3rd centuries BC followed by England in the 18th Century when they started modernizing it and introduced it to the rest of the world.

Throughout history, soccer was used by ancient empires as political propaganda to divide the countries. Today is no exception. Although often overlooked, sports and politics are intricately intertwined. For example in the 1978 World Cup in Argentina, the dictatorship in that country utilized the World Cup as an instrument to show the rest of the world that there was supposed harmony within the country.

The 1930's, 40's and '50's marked a new turn in the sports field when political leaders of fascist regimes created a global political atmosphere. Mussolini and Hitler were architects of promoting fascism, nationalism, and racism in soccer

and other sports. These dictators could see that fostering nationalism in soccer would divert many of the youth and other people away from the main problems in the society. They associated sports with an extension of military training.

In this new era we can clearly see that capitalists haven't stopped following the examples of their old masters with new influential marketing techniques in soccer. The 21st century has witnessed an increase in euphoria that arises every day between the famous classic "Real Madrid vs. Barcelona," a tremendous battle on the field as well as off between fans, particularly in Europe, the USA and Latin America.

The rules that apply in soccer are parallel to those applied similarly by our whole society which are uniform, unbreakable and ultimately non-negotiable. The objective of sports worldwide is a double-edged sword for imperialism as

they strengthen their empire and at the same time exploit and create separation between workers.

We can analyze and conclude that capitalism teaches us to measure the athletes, based on strength, superiority and of course to be defenders of the system. Thus it is that while we continue to let ourselves be manipulated by this system, participating in discussions or attacking our same class, then unwittingly we become complicit with the same system which, seeing it in perspective, does not benefit us in any way whatsoever. On the contrary, it affects us by taking us away from the real issues that occur in our lives.

Soccer is indisputably fascinating. It's the sport that is played the most on our planet. Unfortunately it has been affected and taken to another dimension by the same corruption that this system offers us.

How I imagine sports will be under Communism:

I think that winning medals and titles in competition should be abolished. The athlete as well as the whole working class will be free of all types of exploitation. Sport will be practiced collectively, exclusively as part of the exercise that human beings need to live a healthy life.

No athlete will be seen as superior or inferior to another. Let's say, "Enough!" to division based on nationalism! Help us to fight this capitalist evil and contribute to building a new communist society. Social equality for all! Strength is on our side! It depends on us to make the change happen!



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.

Communist Education

Many of us in ICWP see education under communism as completely different from what exists now. There's a phrase used repeatedly by school administrators so they can look good: "lifelong learners." Under capitalism, the meaning of this phrase is warped in many ways. Under communism, we all will be lifelong learners. Since our education will no longer be controlled by an exploiting, oppressing class and profits won't exist, we'll all be able to learn many, many skills and acquire many different kinds of knowledge throughout our life-times.

The division between physical and mental labor will be eliminated. Farmworkers will also be agronomists; doctors will also empty bedpans; mechanics will also design the machines; those sewing clothing will also design the clothes; construction workers will also be engineers and architects; well, you get the picture.

Skills will no longer be learned in isolation, but rather we "lifelong learners" will apply what we learn to tasks that are necessary for our society. We will learn because we want to serve the collective (and we'll understand that the more we know, the better we can do that) and because we're born with a desire to learn. Learning and mastering skills give us joy. Capitalism relies on "rewards" outside ourselves in order to function—"rewards" like money, having control over other people, higher grades...communism won't require any of that.

Capitalist schools teach us that we should desire to "be our own boss." (Lorraine Hansberry, a communist who wrote *A Raisin in the Sun*, used the conflict between this disgusting idea and serving the working class as the theme of her wonderful play.)

There won't be bosses under communism. Communism will teach us to desire to do as much as we can for the working class. Right now, despite the capitalists' best efforts, the vast majority of the workers of the world already have that desire, whether they're consciously aware of having communist ideas or not. Workers' sacrifices for each other—and for our class—prove that every day. Capitalists can never understand that, since, like the criminals they are, they have no loyalty. Under communism, we workers will joyfully destroy capitalist ideology and replace it with ideas and a culture that serve the needs of all of us.

--Red Teacher

Coming War Demands Communist Discussion Now

This past weekend, I talked to a young married couple who are very close relatives. They said that the situation is very difficult and that they were sure that before they get old, there will be a third world war. They know that I'm a communist and wanted to hear my ideas about this. I told them that it's an inter-imperialist war, in which the strongest empires in the world are fighting over world domination. Now the sharpening of the rivalry leading to war is happening mainly between the US and China. I explained to them that war implies the destruction of the whole infrastructure, the means of production, the lives of workers on both sides, and in the middle are the profits for the bosses from the wars.

What's happening in Syria can be seen as the beginning of a third world war. For a moment they commented that they kept the hope that maybe it won't happen. The young man said that if he could, he would make a refuge to protect his future family. Then as he understood more, he said that at the start it's better to do what was within his grasp so that it would be a quick process in order to minimize the blood spilled. They understood that war is inevitable and that even if all the honest people in the world united their hands and carried out pacifist events, we couldn't stop the warmongering bosses.

The topic led to a discussion that lasted until two in the morning. The next day I talked with another comrade from ICWP. He told me that the discussion had been good and that taking on this topic was a great advance, after many years of friendship with my relatives. But he criticized me, commenting that we could take days, weeks, months, and even years talking and breaking down all the capitalist tricks, but that it's urgent to explain communist ideas, to make the proposal for a society without classes, where money doesn't exist, a society where we work to meet all the needs of humanity, without drastically damaging the environment; where each person contributes according to their abilities and receives according to their needs. He said that we need to spend more time talking about communism and ICWP directly, that is to mobilize the masses for Communism. Next, at the advice of the comrade, I'll give this couple Red Flag and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to read.

--Communist Woman

Fighting for Communism is a Life Time Commitment

At our anniversary dinner, I had the privilege of saying a few words about Milt Rosen, a long-time dedicated revolutionary of the working class. When he and his comrades realized that the old Communist Party had turned into its opposite, they took the serious step of founding a new party, Progressive Labor Party. He led PL for a long time. During his leadership, he was always fighting for the advanced line of the party. Under Milt's leadership, the understanding of the need to fight against racism and nationalism advanced. When PL rejected nationalism as the ideology of the bourgeoisie and severed relations with the Chinese Communist Party in the PL rejected socialism in 1982, it was under his leadership. Then the line was advanced to fight directly for communism. This was a break-through for the communist movement.

Because he had Parkinson's disease, he stepped down in 1993. After others took over the leadership, it was shifting far to the right. There was a serious struggle between left and right in the P.L., which eventually turned into its opposite. Finally his political struggle gave birth to ICWP which is committed to mobilizing the masses for communism.

I met him in 2005 when he was in a home-care facility. It was a privilege for me to meet this devoted communist revolutionary. Every time I visited him, the first thing that he said was, "What's new?" His eyes were always on the ball. In one conversation, I asked him if it was possible for the working class to take power after World War II. His answer was that the working class was armed and determined to fight to the last, but the communist parties were "chicken-shit". They could have seized state power in most of Europe.

Finally in July 2011 his journey in life came to the end. We stand on the shoulders of giants. If it were not for them we would not be able to see the failure of socialism and advance the line to fight directly for communism. As Milt used to say, facts are stubborn things. Milt Rosen was one of the giants who led to advance the fight for communism, not socialism. His contribution to the struggle of the working class is priceless. His legacy will live with ICWP and the international working class. Long live communism!

—LA comrade

KONY 2012 from page 16

class because students were talking about it. Afterward he asked, "What is the only country that dropped nuclear bombs on people?" The US, of course – twice – killing 200,000 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in four days. "Why aren't we talking about CAPITALISM 2012? Capitalism destroys lives here and around the world. We don't need to 'arrest' it. We need to kill it." Many students agreed. Then they watched the video in another class and decided to plan something for the "Invisible Children Day of Action." It's a continuing struggle.

"You can't have capitalism while caring for humanity," a community college student told his campus club after describing US imperialist interests in central Africa. "We need a global community not based on monetary exchange but on need."

Communism Liberates Our Best Instincts

Yes, we – the working class – must take up arms against those who exploit, oppress and destroy us.

Yes, we must care as deeply about our sisters and brothers living halfway around the world as those in our neighborhoods.

But we'd better not support one murderous capitalist against another. Our immediate task is mobilizing the masses for communism: the abolition of borders, wage slavery, and private property.

Communist society won't need "charities" because nobody will be better-off or worse-off than anyone else. Everything we do will be to help each other. All productive activity will be organized "from each according to commitment, to each according to need." Children will not be exploited, but encouraged to contribute in age-appropriate ways.

Communist solidarity will organize workers' detachments to fight for communism alongside comrades elsewhere who are still struggling to destroy the capitalist-imperialist oppressors.

Communism means the fullest development of our human potential, as individuals within a worldwide collective. You who care about humanity and the children— march on May Day for communism with the International Communist Workers' Party!



“Kony 2012”- Invisible Imperialism

SAVE THE CHILDREN – FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

Young people connected to the Internet now know that Joseph Kony, head of the “Lord’s Resistance Army” in central Africa, is a vicious brute. But before sending \$30 to the “Invisible Children” foundation, consider this:

The “Kony 2012” video appeals to our best instincts: solidarity, compassion, our desire to make a difference. But its Big Lie is that capitalism-imperialism conducts “humanitarian wars.” It mobilizes us to demand that Obama and the US ruling class use their military to “save the children.”

US imperialism doesn’t save children, it massively kills them. Clinton-era sanctions against Iraq killed half a million children. Secretary of State Albright said on TV that it was “worth it.” How many more have been murdered in Iraq and Afghanistan by US “humanitarian” intervention?

Ugandan dictator Museveni, a convicted war criminal and US ally, kidnapped thousands of child soldiers on his way to power: Kony’s model. Backed by US AFRICOM troops, he presides over arbitrary arrests, torture, and sexual assault. Forced labor has one in five Ugandan children toiling, often in hard, dangerous jobs. Last September Museveni’s police fired at work-

ers on strike against British America Tobacco, killing several.

Over sixteen million children in the US live in poverty, including at least one fourth of black and latino children. Racist capitalism treats people as commodities to be bought and sold. No wonder that child abuse (including sexual abuse) is rampant. Almost only in the US are children sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole.

AFRICOM, Ugandan Oil, and World War

“Kony 2012” justifies sending US troops to central Africa. Some critics speculate that Obama was motivated by the recent discovery of oil in central Africa. But the US rulers are preparing for a much larger war – world war – against China and Russia. They are focusing on politically reliable sources of oil, closer to home. Nor is central African oil critical to China. Instead, as the US rulers are pushed out of the Middle East, US-China rivalry is focusing on the Asia-Pacific region.

As “Kony 2012” went viral, bloggers worldwide began to expose its rotten politics and outright lies. They noted that the wealthy “Invisible Children” foundation spends almost nothing on

the Ugandan children they claim to help. Now mainstream media are hoping out loud that these “little mistakes” won’t detract from the main message of “Kony 2012.”

That message is the attempt to make the US military an appealing option for youths who are rightfully cynical about US imperialism. The rulers want recruits who believe in their wars, instead of joining only because of the economic or green-card “drafts.” And when they need to reinstate an official draft, they don’t want mass resistance.

We’re not against joining the military. In fact we urge youth to join, to win soldiers to turn the guns around and destroy capitalism with communist revolution.

Communist Struggle: Key to Class War

A friend from El Salvador posted “Kony 2012” on her Facebook page. A relative posted a comment: “The generals paid by the US killed hundreds of thousands in El Salvador and Guatemala. Where is the video about them?” She responded, “I hadn’t thought about that.”

A teacher comrade watched the video with a

See Kony 2012 page 15

Capitalism’s Insane Crisis of Overproduction Leading to World War:

WORKERS NEED REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

Workers around the world recognize that capitalism has been in a severe crisis since 2008. All the capitalist institutions tell us that it’s a banking failure (the sub-prime crisis), or the sovereign debt crisis in Europe. They hide its true nature: it’s a crisis of overproduction.

The bosses push their lies because they want to steer our anger against secondary aspects of the crisis. Their media wants us to worry about the Chinese. The Occupy movement want us to tax the rich. The unions want us to march for jobs despite the fact that in Greece they have had eighteen general strikes and still see massive cuts in jobs, pensions, health care!

The truth is that there is too much productive capacity in the world for the capitalist class to operate their factories and make the profits they need. That is the situation the media and the leadership of Occupy and the unions want to hide from us. A crisis of overproduction sounds insane, and it is. Past societies, hunter-gatherer (pre-class communism), ancient slave civilizations and feudal societies, all experienced crises, but they were crises of scarcity, not overproduction.

A crisis of overproduction will be impossible when we organize a Communist society because production will be to meet social needs, not to produce profit.

By contrast the aim of capitalist production is to produce maximum profits. As a result, its history is full of crises of overproduction, some severe, some less so. In fact, regardless of the misery inflicted on the masses, some capitalists actually advance through crisis. By destroying productive capacity, forcing plants to close, laying off workers and sharpening competition for jobs, some capitalists destroy some of the excess productive capacity of their rivals.

The present crisis has been developing since the 70’s. As a result it has all the hallmarks of a severe crisis. Severe crises demand destruction on a massive scale. It is at this point that capitalists rely more and more on their nation state to build their armed forces and discipline the working class and prepare for war.

In this way, crises present opportunities to some capitalists. By driving down wages, capitalists can temporarily restore a higher rate of profit. The US auto industry was on the verge of extinction, for example, at the start of the crisis. The government intervened with a bailout that demanded massive cuts in wages and benefits. Now the industry, paying workers \$14 per hour instead of \$28, is making a profit, while the working class is poorer.

Yet in severe crises, like today’s or that of the 1930’s, state interventions in domestic economies are not enough. They don’t destroy productive capacities on a global scale. It takes war to do that. It is estimated that World War I, which was sparked by a severe crisis of overproduction, destroyed one third of the world’s wealth. And World War II, developing out of the Great Depression, was even more destructive.

Today, in the middle of a severe crisis, we are not yet dealing with World War. However, we are in a period of wars for world domination, aimed at conquering new markets, preserving old ones and destroying the productive forces of rivals.

Eventually they will explode into World War III.

In the last twenty or so years the US has crippled the productive capacities of two medium sized industrial countries (Yugoslavia and Iraq) and helped invade a third (Libya). All of them had closer ties to its international rivals, the Russian and Chinese capitalists. These wars for world domination, spurred on by the crisis of overproduction, will sooner or later explode into global war. Today both Syria and Iran are potential flashpoints in this developing confrontation.

The unions’ demand for jobs won’t stop that world war. In fact in the 1930’s Depression, the Nazis took Germany from mass unemployment to labor shortages as they prepared for World War II. Attacking finance capital alone won’t stop it either. What some leaders of Occupy who attack big banks and support credit unions say differs little from Nazi pre-war propaganda. “Capital itself is not the scourge of the human race; the insatiable thirst for interest of big loan capital is the curse,”

argued Nazi ideologue Gottfried Feder. And attacking Chinese workers is no answer either. They too are seeing factories closed down and moved to exploit even cheaper labor in places like Bangladesh.

Tens of thousands of honest activists are being drawn into these reform movements. Their anger is being channeled into demands that the capitalists can and will accommodate. Workers’ only solution is to eliminate capitalism itself and fight for a communist world where production is based on need, not profit. The fight for Communism is now. We need more communists now to distribute *Red Flag* and win masses to understand that by mobilizing for communist revolution we can build the society dedicated completely to meeting workers needs.



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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