

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

LET'S ORGANIZE A COMMUNIST POLITICAL STRIKE WITH TRANSIT WORKERS

LOS ANGELES--Since 1974, strikes in the US have either been defeated by the bosses, or have gotten few, if any, concessions from them. Entire unions have been wiped out or their membership substantially decimated. In 1983, 17.7 million workers were unionized. Today there are only 14.5 million.

Because of this, many workers don't want to go on strike. They correctly argue that economically they lose more than they will ever gain when the contract is signed. This is especially true because the treacherous union hacks end up giving up even more than what the bosses originally demanded.

Workers always ask: "If we always lose when we strike, why don't the bosses want us to go on strike? And, why are the communists of *Red Flag* calling for political strikes against capitalism and for communism?"

The bosses' reasons: economic and political

Economically, they lose money. The Bay Area Rapid Transit strike cost them \$74 million a day. The LA MTA 2000 strike cost them \$40 million per day. This cost would more than double today.

Their main reason, however, is political. When on strike, workers can see that the whole capitalist system is against them – the politicians, media, courts, police, and the armed forces.

Thus, workers begin to realize that they can never win playing by the bosses' rules or

within their system's limits and begin to look for radical alternatives. When presented with communist ideas, workers grasp them as our own and organize for revolution.

This is the bosses' worst nightmare. That is why both Democratic and Republican politicians are now introducing legislation to prohibit BART and MTA workers from striking.

ICWP's reason: make the bosses' nightmare a reality

ICWP calls for political strikes against capitalism to help organize the armed revolution needed to destroy capitalism and build communism. These strikes aim to mobilize the masses. Revolutions need their political support, and millions of trained fighters.

These political strikes are to ideologically win the masses, train them in the art of street fighting, and to reach out massively to soldiers and sailors.

The masses won't spontaneously come to us: We must go to them

Before we can mobilize the masses, we must first mobilize ourselves. Small picket lines at each division with "barbeque and beers" only isolate us from each other and from the masses. We need to go to the masses by massively taking to the streets.

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THE WORKING CLASS HAS NO BORDERS

While the US capitalist politicians argue over whether or not to pass an immigration reform bill, immigrant workers are being jailed, deported and families separated in record numbers.

Under Obama, by December 2013, there had been 1.9 million people deported—more than under any other US President. From 2010 to 2012, he deported over 204,810 immigrants who left behind children born in the US. This left tens of thousands of these children either fatherless or motherless, or both. This is consistent with the racist US judicial system which has incarcerated one or both parents of 2.7 million US children.

Obama has also extended "Operation Streamline," started by Bush in 2005. In Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, judges at the border treat crossing the border undocumented as a federal crime. In trials that last seconds, immigrants are sentenced to jail before being deported. The penalty for too many "re-entries" can go from 6 months to 20 years.

In spite of their squabbling over the immigration reform, US bosses need immigrant workers and their children to super exploit in their factories and military. They use increasing racist terror and jail to try to keep them from rebelling. But these attacks make many angrier and open to communism.

No capitalist politician will help workers. Comprehensive immigration reform, if passed, will put immigrants on a long, controlled path of slave labor and military service. No immigration law, no matter how "humanitarian," will end these workers' racist super-exploitation. This can only be done by eliminating capitalism and its wage slavery that requires racism-sexism, borders and nations.

Capitalism-imperialism can only be destroyed by mobilizing the masses for communism. ICWP calls on immigrant and citizen workers, youth, and soldiers to join the fight for a communist world without borders, wage slavery or jails. In communism, we will all be workers and comrades, welcome and needed everywhere to plan and produce, without money, what our class needs.

We invite all workers, soldiers and youth to march with ICWP on May Day for a communist world without borders.

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ICWP INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSES BUILDING A MASS PARTY

“A group of men and women workers in the sweatshops of El Salvador struggle daily to build communism through our Party, ICWP. They confront a myriad of obstacles, from having to get up at 4 am to get to work on time and then getting home at 8 pm, six days a week, to the fight against the union that defends the bosses. Even so, *Red Flag* and communist ideas are taking root among the masses in these export factories. We are learning to use *Red Flag* to create new communists,” said a Salvadoran comrade in a recent meeting of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

During the meeting we received revolutionary greetings from comrades in South Africa, who have mainly been in touch with us through the pages of *Red Flag*. (See adjoining articles). Our newspaper is spreading communist ideas among these and thousands of other workers, soldiers and students in Mexico, Honduras, Spain, and other countries.

“Our party is growing worldwide, and at MTA as well,” said a transit worker. He continued, “We distribute between eight and nine hundred of each edition of *Red Flag* at MTA. Many readers there are writing for and distributing the paper. Others contribute money. This has given us the opportunity to involve ourselves in struggles and recruit new members to ICWP to fight for a classless communist society. This process has helped us to become better communists.” He explained that recruitment is an entire process of ideological struggle between communist and capitalist ideas and practices in the workplace.

Our understanding of a mass party is that new members don’t have to be experts in Marxism, or to act like the most committed members. The main thing is that they are willing to see the Party as the guide to destroy capitalism and build a new communist society. Part of this should be to help with *Red Flag*, help economically, and be open to the struggle to improve their understanding and practice of communism.

We should welcome the experiences we learn from and the contradictions with which we will have to struggle. All levels of commitment are important: like the water in the river, those who come behind push those who are in front.

REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS FROM SOUTH AFRICA!

Your meeting marks a very important departure from reformism. As you deliberate, you should bear in mind that you carry the hopes and aspirations of the workers of the world. Building ICWP all over the world becomes the task of every revolutionary. Communists of the world must come together to chart the way forward. Over more than three centuries, the capitalists have enjoyed hegemony all over the world. They have been hegemonic by preaching the false doctrine of bourgeois democracy: The false and bad ideologies of nationalism, patriotism, nation-states, national anthem, national flag, national constitution, etc.

As you gather, the lies and illusions of democracy must be exposed. The question that we must pose is: Democracy for whom? Who benefits from these “democracies” all over the world? It is important to note that democracy is the bosses’ dictatorship. Anyone who talks of democracy as if it is neutral is wrong, that’s heresy. Historically they teach us that democracy is progressive because it replaced feudalism. But we know that it is false, truncated, hypocritical, moribund, a paradise for the rich, a snare and a deceit for the workers and the poor.

We have seen all over the world the rise of these bourgeois democracies with their attendant impoverishment of the masses. Trade unions are by their very nature reformist. Under bourgeois democracy trade union tops (officials) are easily co-opted to toe the line of the ruling capitalist class. We have seen all over the world, union leaders acting as fire-extinguishers, being called on to strangle militant action by the base of the workers. There are many instances where militant workers were prepared to sacrifice their wages until

the employers met their demands but union tops would betray their members, cutting deals with the bosses.

So what the workers in the US are experiencing is nothing new. It is the treacherous ploy made by the union tops to serve their masters. As you deliberate over the weekend these are tendencies that must be exposed for what they are. The union tops always represent the interests of the bosses. Look how easy it is for ex-union tops to fit into the governments of the day with ease. They become the butchers of the same workers they led.

It is encouraging to see workers themselves organizing independently of the state under the banner of the International Communist Workers’ Party, taking charge of their own destiny. The working class is the only revolutionary class able to take forward the struggle to liberate society as a whole. Other strata vacillate; they just follow the dominant class of the moment and cannot be trusted. Fertile ground exists for building ICWP all over the world because of the disillusionments suffered by workers at the hands of reformist parties. Patiently building ICWP is the revolutionary duty of each and every member.

Communist revolution by the working class internationally is the motor force for building the communist society. The international communist program must proceed directly from an analysis of the conditions and tendencies of the world economy and of the world political system taken as a whole in all its connections and contradictions.

Forward with communist revolution, forward! Phantsi ngongxiwa, phantsi! Down with capitalism, down! Down with sellouts, down! Away with capitalism, away! Viva International Communist Workers’ Party, Viva!

**Celebrate
International
Workers Day,
Thursday, May first!**

**March under the
communist banners of
ICWP for a world
without borders,
racism, sexism,
wage slavery.**

**We’ll produce to
meet the needs of
the international
working class.**

Join ICWP!



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SOLDIERS SEE REVOLUTIONARY RED

Money. It's always the same old story, how much we need, how much is owed, where to pull it from, where to keep it. Last fall, the government shutdown was all anyone could talk about regarding money, including here in the army. When the whispers of "shutdown" began to arise, it was rumored that soldiers would be losing a paycheck, although we would continue to work. This did not go over very well in the ranks. In fact, some of the most patriotic, flag saluting of my brothers and sisters in arms suddenly transformed before my eyes into strike-calling, fist-raising comrades.

One of the first times I saw a fellow soldier turn radical, we were waiting to be released for the day, and a few of us were sitting around discussing current events. A fellow soldier started talking about the possibility of us not getting paid because of the shutdown. He said that if he did not get paid he had no idea how he would feed his children or pay bills during that period.

At the height of his speech he stood up out of his chair and declared, "If I don't get paid, I will not work! I'm ready to go on strike..." as he turned to look around the room and said, "Are you with me?" I must admit, I was pretty stunned to see this person who is all (as we say) "Hooah Hooah" about the Army and about the US in

general, call for such a radical act. I told him I was "ready when you are." The others all agreed. That was the end of that discussion, for we were let go for the day a few minutes later.

As you may or may not know, we did not end up losing a paycheck, which quieted soldiers down for the most part. But discussions were still happening, which is good, because they can have unexpected consequences, as my second experience demonstrates.

Again, I was standing around talking with a group of soldiers about the effects of the shutdown, when someone brought up about people being kicked out of their homes on federal land and how Park Rangers had been sent an email from the President himself saying that they should make it as difficult as possible for people to go to the parks.

People started talking about how evil Obama is. Others said it was Congress, not Obama. Somebody made a joke about how the opposite of progress is Congress.

As people laughed, a soldier all of a sudden said, "We need to do what the Egyptians are doing. It's time we start a revolution."

Immediately the laughter stopped. There was a very brief silence. It was broken by the words, "Yea, seriously!"

Another chimed in saying, "If their army did it, why can't we?" You could sense the intensity. Many of these soldiers never imagined themselves agreeing with, let alone even discussing, such a thing. But here they were engaging in the types of conversations necessary to achieve a working class revolution.

Lacking in all this though, was organization with the International Communist Workers' Party and understanding the goal of communism, which could have taken these discussions farther than just words. The Armed Forces is made up of working class people that cannot be ignored. One way you can make sure this happens is by joining the ranks of the military under the leadership of ICWP and helping your class brothers and sisters see revolutionary red through discussion and by distributing **Red Flag**.

--Red Soldier

Red Flag Responds:

As the soldier is probably aware, events in Egypt have made it clear that the recent role of the Army was to support the officers in making a coup against the equally fascist Muslim Brotherhood. Communists aim to organize soldiers against their officers to ally with workers to make revolution.

"I'M JOINING ICWP IN THE STRUGGLE FOR COMMUNISM"

Comrades: I have recently made the decision to join the International Communist Workers' Party. This decision is based on the philosophical principles which Marx and Engels established to lead society to communism. One of these principles is first to abolish the private ownership of the means of production, which is the material basis and essence of the exploitation of humans. In this sense, I consider that one of the main problems in this capitalist society, where only surplus value matters, is access to the basic necessities of life: food, health, education and shelter. These and other problems have been discussed in some meetings with comrades of the party and readers of **Red Flag** in which I have participated. The conclusion has been: "There is enough for everyone. What must disappear is money and, as a consequence, the wage system. We must destroy capitalism."

After attending several meetings of ICWP in Mexico, the comrades made me the most cordial invitation to become part of the party, to which I responded appreciating the attention and obviously accepting to join in the fight for communism.

As communists and also party members, we must take the ideas to the workers, students, farmworkers, housewives, teachers, soldiers and unemployed, and in this way increase in numbers and quality to carry out the communist revolution. In this regard, it is essential that more people join and fight for communism. We must invite more readers and friends to join the party because surely thousands of **Red Flag** readers in the world are conscious that we live in forced poverty, in legalized slavery. We must take into account, also, the work to be done to spread and discuss communist ideology, the foundations of Marx, Engels, and Lenin...as we have analyzed and discussed collectively. To develop a revolutionary discipline, for example, we have studied the document *Combat Liberalism*, written by Mao Tse-Tung in 1937.

Comrades: we must unite the workers worldwide against capitalism. Let's lift up the communist flag. This is the only way we can achieve the world we want. Let's educate our children about communism so that we have a better world and a future free of exploitation, because in capitalism, only more hunger, poverty, injustice and exploitation await them.

--New Comrade

MEXICAN COMMUNITY SELF-DEFENSE GROUPS FIGHTING DRUG TRAFFICKERS NEED ICWP'S IDEAS

XALTIAGUIS, GUERRERO—In August of last year, 102 women joined the community patrols to defend against violence against the communities, and they will be armed. They are different ages, some are married and others are single, some have children and others don't, but all of them want security for their families.

The community patrols in Guerrero were established more than 15 years ago, after several community leaders had been assassinated. They have to defend themselves not only against drug traffickers but also against the abuses of the army, which has been used by the bosses to protect the investments they have in the different states of Mexico.

The security of the communities is an ancient practice, which the government now wants to control, fearing that they are losing control. Therefore they want it to be subordinate to the municipal police. The members of this security are elected from among the community members themselves. They are known by and know they must respond to the same community members, and they are not paid. That's why the government has attacked them, because they are not subservient to the rich.

While it is admirable that the women in Guerrero are concerned about the wellbeing of the community, there won't be security as long as capitalism exists, while the millionaire businessmen see the workers as labor power which they can take advantage of, making them work for a wage as they do in



the large coffee plantations in Guerrero.

There will not be peace as long as the ideas of the community or villages are influenced by worldwide imperialism of the big companies, which seek in these communities the supplies for their products to sell on the international market, as a way for them to get rich.

Drug Dealers and Government: Birds of a Feather

A different form of security from that of Guerrero has emerged in the self defense groups in Michoacán which have made an alliance with the government. On February 8, the self defense groups, the army and the federal police entered Apatzingan together to defend the property and investments of the companies in the municipalities of the area.

The fight between the drug dealers and the government in Michoacán is a fight between bosses. The Knights Templar represent a part of the bosses who do business selling iron ore to China. On the other side, the government of Peña Nieto, together with the use of the self-defense groups is trying to guarantee that these businesses work exclusively with US companies.

To achieve this objective, the government will invest 338 million pesos, (US \$26 million) in the infrastructure of Michoacán, to expand the highway system to better move products. Two years ago, this investment was 18 million pesos (US \$1.4 million).

See GUERRERO COMMUNITY PATROLS, page 4

MTA WORKERS NEED ICWP, NOT A NEW UNION

LOS ANGELES--The February 7 meeting for UTU Local 1565 was called by the SMART Transportation Division General Committee. SMART is the so called new union, but the players were the same: Victor Baffoni, James Williams and his gang.

They all sat at the table, dressed in suits and ties – looking very “respectable,” a perfect cover for the slimy, treacherous vipers that they are. They mainly kept silence. For the most part, the only speaker was Vic the Buffoon (as drivers call him, see letter page 7).

He sounded like a parrot that had only learned to say one thing. “I have read those issues and we will talk about them at the contract talks,” he repeated over and over, no matter what issues the operators inquired about.

He only changed his tune when he said that the “mechanics are at the gate.” It was a warning that the mechanics might go on strike any day now. If the mechanics did go on strike though, the “Buffoon” said, “We will tell you just what to do. I cannot tell what we will do because it is out of my hands.”

This is a clear indication that these anti-communist, pro-capitalist union hacks are plotting to use operators as strikebreakers, if the mechanics go on strike. Let’s not forget how treacherous these union “leaders” are. Here is a reminder of what happened when the MTA operators went on strike in 2000:

“Mechanics Refuse to Cross Picket Line. MTA: They reject union chief’s request to return to work. Only eight of nearly 2,000 mechanics appear to have heeded their leader’s call to resume work during the morning shift...a stinging public rejection of their union president’s request.” (*LA Times*, 10/04/2000)

Our brothers and sisters, mechanics and service attendants, gave Neil Silver, the then-president of ATU, a lesson in workers’ solidarity. We are confident operators will do the same to the “Buffoon,” the James Williams gang, and the new union.

Just in case the mechanics don’t go on strike and operators decide to walk anyway, these traitors are hatching other plans. They are trying to demoralize us. They are already talking of reduc-

ing our strike benefits from \$1,200 a month to \$600.

Some workers thought that the new union would get rid of the James Williams-gang, that SMART would be a “better” union. This was a pipedream. Some are talking decertification to bring in an even “better” union. There is no such animal.

Even if honest dedicated rank-and-filers took over the union, nothing much would change. Capitalism in crisis and on the road to global war is bent on taking away everything the labor movement has “won” in the last 100 years, and more! Unless we destroy capitalism-imperialism, hundreds of years later future generations will be fighting the same losing battles!

Don’t organize for “better” unions or union leaders. Join and organize the International Communist Workers’ Party. Only a communist revolution can end capitalism-imperialism’s reign of racist-sexist exploitation, mass poverty and destructiveness. One big step in this direction is to make our next strike be a political communist statement against capitalism.

POLITICAL STRIKE from page 1

Workers and students from South Africa to Bangladesh to Mexico do this. In the US, this tradition has been lost. An exception is the janitors: at contract time, these mostly Latin immigrant workers always take to the streets by the thousands.

Unfortunately, they are mobilized to fight for pennies and to appeal to or support Democratic politicians. Internationally, also workers and students are only mobilized for economic and political reforms, not for communism. That is why they continue being exploited and oppressed by capitalism-imperialism.

No reform, however, can end capitalism’s wage slavery, only revolution can. We must therefore organize demonstrations to take this message to the masses where they study, shop, and life, including military bases, or where they work, for example, in the center of Los Angeles where tens of thousands of garment workers depend on the buses to get to work.

Use Red Flag to take this revolutionary message to soldiers and sailors

Many MTA workers are veterans. Some are in the National Guard or reservists in the Army, Navy and Marines. Many have family and

friends in these units. The armed forces are the capitalists’ final line of defense.

When the police can’t control the masses, as during the 1992 Los Angeles Rebellion, the bosses call out their armed forces. A successful revolution requires their support. We must start the process of winning them over now!

Let’s get **Red Flag** to all our acquaintances in the military, ask them to help distribute it, write for it, join ICWP and recruit others.

Students should also be mobilized to support us

Many transit workers have sons, daughters, and other family and friends in high schools, col-

leges and universities. Let’s start building support among them now so that they could organize walkouts to join us.

The youth have always played an important role in revolutionary struggles, bringing lots of enthusiasm, creativity and audacity. **Red Flag** should also be our organizing and politicizing tool.

Seven thousand plus “multi-racial” MTA workers with thousands of family members and friends –some in their military uniforms– marching with revolutionary banners and slogans would inspire the masses worldwide. Let the bosses cringe at this sight! We have a world to win!



GUERRERO COMMUNITY PATROLS from page 3

Men and Women Members of the Self Defense Groups: Join the Fight for Communism

But for the working class, the change begins in these parts of the big puzzle; the communities. These have also been dragged down by a heap of wrong ideas based in patriarchy. The men have been considered as those who should give orders to the women and the women have been subjected to physical and sexual abuses by their same partners. This has been considered normal.

We have to transform ourselves into carriers of anti-sexist ideas, since men and women can learn to do work that is not considered only especially for one sex, like taking care of children, washing dishes, or heavy labor.

But only by eliminating the system of compensation based on money will we eliminate sexism. Being anti-sexist is only one step. We have to eliminate the difference between work in the factories and work that is done in the homes of the working class, which serves to reproduce the labor force for future bosses.

Even more important is that the communities be transformed into honeycombs of communist ideas. Weapons with bullets are not enough. We

need the most powerful weapons, which are the ideas of a completely new world. We need a world in which the woman is on the same level to propose decisions that benefit the whole working class. A world in which sexism will be considered betrayal of the working class, where no woman or man will be considered as superior or as more intelligent. We all have similar brains that can be ready to be filled with the best constructive attitudes that benefit society and nature.

But all of this will be possible when we workers take power and eliminate any form of ownership over nature. Nature is for all living things. Women and men of the working class, join ICWP.

TEACHERS LEARNING COMMUNIST LESSONS IN MASS STRUGGLE

MEXICO--The working class of the world needs to know that within the capitalist system, any reform struggle for small improvements is not a real solution. The struggle of the teachers' unions in Mexico is an example of this. Their struggle dates back to the Mexican Revolution (1910 to 1917), when thousands of teachers joined the insurgencies of Zapata, Villa, Carranza and Obregon. In 1943, with government intervention, the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE) was formed.

In 1979, a mass teachers' movement developed, from which was founded the National Coordinating Committee of Education Workers and Democratic Organizations (CNTE), in which several different political organizations came together, identified with Maoism, reformism, opportunism, Trotskyism, and others, all demanding reforms within capitalism. The SNTE, since its foundation, has been influenced and led by the government, responding to the interests of the bosses and the State. The CNTE has carried out some alternative education projects, built from the pedagogies of liberation, land, resistance, of social movements, among other intentions.

Their reformist projects foster the illusion among the children and youth that capitalism could improve. These plans include erroneous ideas about liberation for the working class. For example, they push nationalism, the superiority of a certain ethnic group (racism) and the defense of ownership of land (the essence of capitalism) and of natural resources. In recent years, the CNTE has led struggles against the reform of the ISSTE law (Social security-health care system), against the reforms of the Alliance for Quality Education and recently against the Education and Energy reforms of the Pact for Mexico.



Mexican Teachers, 2012

The struggles of the Mexican teachers (through CNTE) have taught us that even with massive mobilizations and protests, they have only won crumbs of wage increases that in following years are taken away again. The rulers, puppets of the capitalist bosses, have all their "legal" machinery to approve and modify laws to continue maintaining their empire. Some teachers say that with almost 35 years of struggle in the CNTE, they have only won negligible increases in wages and benefits that in a short time become less than enough to survive.

Several teachers in Mexico are learning the urgency of a real change. They know ICWP and want to spread communist ideas (see *Red Flag*, page 1, Vol. 4 #18). We are also learning that the teachers are interested in communism and want

to know more about it. Men and women teachers in the CNTE are understanding that it is not through democratization of a union that we can liberate the working class from capitalism. Better leaders and new unions will not resolve the problems of the working class. Unions are an instrument for political control of the workers; the union leaders preach anti-communism and maintain the ideology that capitalism can be reformed in the workers' interests. The teachers of Mexico and everywhere in the world must struggle to destroy capitalism. Fully satisfying the needs of all humanity will only be possible with communism.

Today's most powerful bosses, the US and China, are making reforms to their system to have a working class that is educated, trained and controlled to operate their system and to fight in their coming local and world wars over control of the world. This bosses' dream comes at the expense of the workers' dream. It's either the bosses or the working class. There can be no harmony for both classes in capitalism. Our system is communism.

In ICWP we want many teachers to become communists, so that they help to spread communist principles and build communism in their classrooms. They need to bring the ideas of mobilizing the masses for communism to these reform struggles, like those against Education Reform and the other reforms in the Pact for Mexico.

Even though we have distributed and sold hundreds of copies of our manifesto Mobilize the Masses for Communism and thousands of *Red Flag* newspapers to teachers in the CNTE, our efforts must increase. We need more teachers to increasingly join us to make this titanic task possible. The bosses' days are numbered. Join ICWP.



**COMMUNIST EDUCATION
FOR
CLASSLESS
SOCIETY**

*NEW ICWP pamphlet
coming soon!*

Sochi Olympics:

U.S.-RUSSIA WAR PREPARATIONS ARE NO GAME

The hype is that the Olympic Games are supposed to unite people all over the world. The reality is the opposite. Now more than ever, they are being used to build patriotism as the rivalry between the imperialists—which will inevitably lead to World War III—is sharpening.

Part of the long term preparations for this inevitable clash is demonizing their enemies, while building patriotism. The US media has led a drumbeat of attacks on Russia. The day before the Olympics started, the *NY Times* editorialized against Putin and Russia for being "undemocratic." They hypocritically attacked the "repression, the cruel new anti-gay and blasphemy laws and the corrupt legal system...in which political dissidents are sentenced to lengthy terms on false charges."

US imperialists, however, carry out similar and more vicious attacks against the world's workers, including workers in the US! What about the millions they slaughtered and maimed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the drone attacks that murder civilians from Yemen to Somalia to Pakistan, the jailing of over 2.5 million men and women, 70% of

whom are black and latino, and Obama's record-breaking mass deportations?

The fight over the Ukraine

Behind the US bosses' use of the Olympics to demonize Russia are the efforts of US bosses and their European allies to wrest the Ukraine from the Russian imperialists. This is a decades-long ongoing struggle with its ups and down for both the US and Russia.

After the Orange Revolution, 2004-2005, the US bosses and allies thought the Ukraine was in their pockets. The Russians, however, gained the upper hand again when their man Yanukovich was elected in 2010.

The US has invested over \$5 billion to "democratize" the Ukraine. They hope the current unrest will usher in another Orange Revolution. It is part of their continuing attempt to encircle Russia, and reduce it to a second rate regional power. In 1997, Zbigniew Brzezinski, then a major architect of US foreign policy, wrote, "Without the Ukraine, Russia ceases to be empire. Ukraine is the Western outpost to prevent the recreation of the Soviet Union (read: the

Russian empire)."

Talking about the Ukraine crisis, US Assistant Secretary of State Nuland was taped in a phone conversation saying "F**k the EU." This tape exposed the US bosses' dirty tricks. "The essential revelation was that high-level US officials were plotting to 'midwife' a new, anti-Russian Ukrainian government by ousting or neutralizing its democratically elected president—a coup," said Prof. Stephen F. Cohen in *The Nation*.

It also revealed the US bosses' frustration with the German bosses who, while apparently supporting one of the leaders of the Ukrainian protests against Yanukovich, are actually only half-heartedly supporting the protests. The German bosses resent the US bosses' "heavy pressure to engage in actions the Germans want to be left out of, while the Russians see the Americans as a threat to their interests, and there are politico-military interests that Germany and Russia have in common." (*Stratfor*, 3/12/12)

Russia for its part is also using the Olympics to build patriotism to further its imperialist goals.

See SOCHI, page 6

El Salvador Election Circus:

DON'T VOTE FOR THE BOSSES, FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

"I don't vote for bosses," wrote a worker on one of the ballots which the oppressor class gives us to elect the person who will administer the capitalist system for the next five years.

For more than two years, the electoral politicians bombarded us with all their alienating apparatus to choose between them which one can "do it better." But what is best for the workers is the organization to struggle for communism.

With a whole campaign to make it easier to vote, with campaigns to motivate people to go to the polls and with the electoral parties filling you with promises, they expected greater participation in these elections. However, these elections had fewer voters than the two previous Presidential elections.

The masses are waking up, rejecting the false hopes and promises of the candidates. They open their eyes and see how history teaches us that elections are not the solution. They are the oxygen of a system that is in a coma.

The day came, 2.6 million went to the voting

stations, between traps and strategies, fights between class brothers dressed in different colors while their candidates hug, laugh and talk like great friends. The bosses' mass media, vomiting a string of illusions and lies, also spent the day like this. Once again, the circus performed its function.

After the voting ended, all were waiting to find out the final result. The question was whether at the end, one of the three would win in the first round or whether there would be a second round. The ballots were counted. The circus does not end. It won't end until we abolish it. Elections are one of the tools of capitalism to survive its crisis.

The struggle for communism is the only option for the working class. In communism there will not be elections. The leaders of the working class will win this position by fighting every day for the collective wellbeing of the class, not with propaganda.

As they reached 100% of the votes counted, some celebrated and others protested, until finally

it was decided: there will be a runoff. The FMLN, the party of the "left" won 48.93% while the party of the right, ARENA, won 38.95%.

It is important to mention that the party that forced the second round is that of the ex-President Tony Saca, who won in 2004 as a candidate of ARENA. Now this fascist launched his candidacy with the movement Unity. He won 11.44% of the votes. Since none won more than 50%, in a month, the circus will return to reopen its doors.

The FMLN and Unity officially expressed their interest in working together to achieve an electoral victory. The FMLN will make an alliance with Tony Saca, showing that there is no honor among capitalists and thieves.

Gone are the reform struggles of the FMLN against NAFTA, the anti-terrorist law, the super-strong hand and the sending of soldiers to Iraq. Now we "must unite for a better El Salvador" when in reality they think "If to win I must ally with the devil, I will do it."

Five years ago we said it, and today we repeat

it: *the FMLN does not represent the working class. They represent the interests of a non-traditional capitalist economic power in the country.* The FMLN, with more chance of winning the Presidency, affirms increasingly that they are the new chosen ones of the capitalist system.

This is not a process from one or two years ago. It is the result of a reformist, revisionist line. They wanted to make people believe that they would enter the system "to transform it."

The capitalist system cannot be reformed or transformed, it must be destroyed. Our goal must be that all the workers who vote and those who do not vote join ICWP to build a communist revolution.

May Day, San Salvador, 2012, workers reading ICWP pamphlet *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*



"ANOTHER SIMULATION OF DEMOCRACY"

EL SALVADOR—On February 2, there was another simulation of capitalist "democracy," the results, a second round, while the masses swallow so much hypocrisy, so many lies, so much Hollywood-style spectacle: lights, noise, marketing, nothing left behind. All of this while we're organizing, mobilizing, and struggling for communism.

Here it's a debate between fascist politicians. Here it's changes that won't change anything. Two parties, you could say, traditionally, one from the right and the other from the left—but it's not really like that. Here there are only parties of the right which hope to take advantage of the privileges of the system on the backs of the real interests of the working class. It's true,

like they say, "the left is anticapitalist or it's nothing," and "those who aren't against capital are in favor of it." Just like all over the world, the parties of the left bourgeoisie are supporting the capitalist system, private property, and exploitation of labor. We mustn't let ourselves be fooled.

It's funny that once again, in spite of an increase in the number of people voting from one farce to the next—oops! I meant to say from one election to the next—it's always 53%, without counting the blank ballots. The majority of workers are indifferent to these simulations; they have lost confidence in politicians and in the system—a system which at the same time teaches them about reality through its own greed. Maybe because it's the same promises in every election, but with different disguises so

that our poverty is not so obvious.

Although the world seems to be falling apart before our very eyes, and maybe it will if we don't do anything, the future and its generations expect more from us than passive complaints that keep us from dreaming or talking about revolutions. That doesn't mean that we're not doing it; we're communists, comrades.

We're closer than we think to ending the capitalist system, from the hour that the workers will realize that capitalist elections only take us to a death without hope. Everything will change when the working class, united, goes to the streets to make revolution.

"The working class doesn't vote; it organizes and fights for Communism."

Until Victory!

--Comrade in El Salvador

SOCHI from page 5

The opening ceremony was a tribute to imperial Russia of the past and to the grand aspirations of Russian imperialists of today to become a dominant, if not the dominant, imperialist power.

Putin and the Russian bosses squandered over \$50 billion to showcase Russia's imperial resurrection, while Russian workers face a life of hardship. Their exploitation and impoverishment can only intensify as Putin has pledged to modernize

70% of Russia's armed forces by 2020. War can't be too far beyond the horizon.

The ideology of the Olympics, like that of capitalism itself, is based on competition and nationalism to win youth and workers to fight for one imperialist or another. This is the deadly trap that ensnared some of the Ukraine protesters who are fighting and dying for "democracy." Instead they need to join the fight for communism.

Workers worldwide, however, have the same interests: to get rid of capitalism and build a

world which meets our needs. Worldwide, we need to mobilize to get rid of capitalism-imperialism with communist revolution.

We need a society based on cooperation and collectivity. In communism we won't have imperialism, nations or the Olympics. We won't encourage competition, but instead collectivity in sports and everything else in a world without borders. Sports will be encouraged for everyone—for health, fun, and camaraderie, not for money, nationalism or world domination.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

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.

“Workers in South Africa are ready and eager to join our party, the ICWP.”

The working class is patiently waiting to be shown the right direction. I have made contacts with a number of my acquaintances who are waiting for the next step. I'm going around meeting comrades telling them about the prospects of building the International Communist Workers' Party where we are. We see protests everywhere, even where I stay the mayor was chased away by protesters as he was trying to address the masses. People in general are disillusioned by the current administration run by the bourgeois nationalist-African National Congress alliance. So the ground is fertile where I stay to recruit members to join our party, the ICWP.

As soon as I get the *Red Flag* pamphlets I will hit the ground running. The working class in this country has been misled for more than a century but there are pockets of enlightenment everywhere. These are what I will target to spread the message. Development by its nature is uneven. My task therefore would be to take the ideas to the remotest areas where lordism is still rife. But as I say I am comfortable with my ability to recruit members for our party, ICWP.

--Comrade in South Africa

Distributing *Red Flag* at MTA

As we were distributing *Red Flag* outside a transit division last week, some workers were discussing a possible strike. One worker said to his friends, “They will try to turn the public against us. The media will say we're selfish and greedy.”

A *Red Flag* distributor said, “Yeah, the bosses will use their media to say that, but what if transit workers had the slogan ‘Transportation for workers' need, not for profit?’”

One of the workers said, “That would be different. Then they would see that we're on the same side. I would carry that slogan on a sign.”

“That would be part of a political strike against capitalism and for communism,” said the *Red Flag* distributor.

Another worker at another division said, “Well if the union would organize around that slogan, that would be much better.”

“The union won't organize around that slogan,” said the comrade, “but *Red Flag* readers can mobilize the workers to strike for that slogan and others, like abolish wage slavery.”

“Sounds interesting, but let's see what happens,” said the operator.

As workers talk about the possibility of a strike, they are questioning the old trade union politics and tactics and are looking at the revolutionary communist alternative that only *Red Flag* offers. Transportation and production will meet human needs when we build communism.

The bosses' media will work overtime to try

to pit transit workers against the workers and youth who depend on the buses. By calling on the whole working class to fight for a system that meets our needs and not the bosses' profits, workers can mobilize to unite all these sectors of society against capitalism and for communism—it's an exciting prospect!

Other slogans MTA workers could consider are: “Soldiers, join our class war, not the bosses' war!” “Nothing bought, nothing sold; sharing is our goal.” “A classless world will be a borderless world!” What slogans do readers suggest?

We invite transit workers and other friends and *Red Flag* readers to march with us on May Day carrying these and other slogans calling on their fellow workers to support a political strike against capitalism.

--*Red Flag* Distributors

CHARADE

At L.A. transit, the Union General Committee and company are going around the locals trying to make the membership feel good about the representation. They dress in three piece suits and want to look professionals but they are just puppets who are not allowed to say anything, a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g. The status quo is written all over. It is a one-man show. Vic, the buffoon is the one delivering pathetic speeches. The buffoon can run circles around a used car salesman, he is that good. You'll feel glad that he pretends to be on your side. However, if you listen to him closely, you will hear that he sides with management, even on main issues, what a shame!

Yes, the Union supposes to be one of the last democratic establishments, but we are in a dictatorship environment. Management says and Union Officials agree without considering the membership. If you really sit and review the concessions that our Union leaders have given up in the last few contract negotiations, you will easily realize that our “fearless” leaders are not working for us!

At recent meetings, members pleaded for help, any help. The answers by Vic, the buffoon, to all the requests were “we will try, we will try”

UNION: An organization formed for the purpose of serving the members' interests. The politics and self-centered interests of our leaders are killing us. Yes, no one wants a strike but there are issues that merit it, especially for future negotiations. It is in MTA's best interest for us to go on strike for the first month because of how the finances are structured.

Last contract proposal was a bait and switch. Often, they do not disclose all the issues and we find out too late to be able to do much about the sell-out. The system has us segregated. If the issues that you care the most are not fixed, then do not agree with the proposal.

As an issue of negotiation, (since manage-

ment does not want to negotiate in good faith) we should request 40 hours per week of pay for as long as they force us into a strike. If management knows that we are ready and willing to fight, then there will be no strike. However, if we are forced into a strike, we should under no circumstance sign any agreement until we get job security, 23 and out with medical and no tiers.

It is time; the rank and file must establish a firm stand, we are sick and tired of abuses from Management and Union leaders. Elections are coming up! Window of opportunity, Decertification!

--MTA driver

***Red Flag* comments:**

We thank this driver for his very informative letter. However, we respectfully disagree with his conclusions. See article pag. 4.

**DIALECTICS,
from page 8**

abstract principle that a person's will should never contradict itself by willing one kind of action for him- or herself and another kind for other people.

Kant hoped that “reason” would have a non-material influence that would make people follow his principle. His morality tried to appeal to the conscience of the rulers, but he opposed revolution or even public protest. Kant condemned exploitation, but capitalists are certainly not going to get that Kantian message, since exploiting labor is the heart of their system. It would be hard to find a philosophy less helpful to workers' struggles, which explains why Kantianism became popular with revisionists all over Europe, who tried to substitute idealist “moral socialism” for “dialectical socialism,” that is, communist revolution.

In the next column we will discuss the communist fight for dialectics.



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CHINA: THE CRISIS IS THE SAME BUT DIFFERENT! (PART 1)

Hundreds of millions jobless, suicide rates spike, hunger, starvation. . . everywhere the increasing misery of workers meets with “austerity schemes” of government. It leads us to the bitter realization that capitalism advances through crisis. And then it dawns on us that this capitalist crisis allows the working class to advance the fight for communism too.

In most cases the cause of the crisis lies in overproduction and a fall in the rate of profits. More goods are produced than the working class can afford to buy, and therefore more than the bosses can sell at a profit. These crises destroy inefficient enterprises. They then concentrate capital into larger, more powerful groupings and open up wider markets in which the surviving enterprises can realize their profits and grow again. Capitalism advances.

Certainly that is what happened when the world was gripped by the last major crisis in the late 1960s. It emerged from it in the 1980s and began a record-breaking expansion. Between 1982 and 2007 the world economy tripled in size.

This is even more remarkable because the previous period of growth from the end of World War II until the late 60s has been termed the “Golden Age” of capitalism. Wages rose, productivity grew and memories of the Great Depression and World War II faded.

GROWTH ENDS IN CRISIS

Then the new crisis began in the late 60s. It too was a crisis of overproduction. Bretton Woods (the International Monetary Conference that set up the US-dominated monetary system) and the post-WW II monetary agreements began to fall apart. Socially and politically, the youth of the world exploded in protest against both versions of capitalist relations of production – socialist



January, 2013 — Chinese migrant workers in Beijing confront police after a sit-in at a construction firm, protesting unpaid wages.

(state capitalist) and market economies. 1968 saw the Prague Spring in Eastern Europe, May '68 in France, the student uprising in Mexico City, the Cultural Revolution in China and so on.

World capitalism was reorganized. In the 1980s it emerged from crisis, searching to re-establish a “reasonable” rate of profit by massive investment in East Asia, especially China. The Chinese “Communist” Party saved world capitalism. Through cuts in entitlements, it prompted the mass migration of hundreds of millions of farm workers from the country to the cities. It created a workforce of 150 million Chinese migrant workers who can’t live “legally” in the cities and had to submit to the tyranny of the factory or starve. Production took off and profits grew.

Between 1990 and 2005 the working class of East Asia increased nine-fold--from 100 million to 900 million. To-day more than half the world’s workers live in South and East Asia. In fact, at 750 million strong, China’s working class is 1.5 times larger than that of the 30 richest countries combined.

GROWTH ENDS IN CRISIS AGAIN

But every capitalist expansion ends in crisis - a

crisis usually connected to a crisis in overproduction and a falling rate of profit. This crisis, starting in the USA in 2008, is no different. In 2012 China produced 716 million tons of steel - almost half the world’s production - but its steel industry has the capacity to produce 900 million tons! “From chemicals and cement to earth movers and flat screen televisions,” the *Financial Times* (6/17/13) pointed out, “Chinese industry is awash with excess capacity that is driving down profits inside and outside the country and threatens to further destabilize China’s already shaky growth.”

What we are describing may be a problem in China but it is not a Chinese problem. When China fights overproduction by closing down some steel mills, miners

in Brazil, Australia, South Africa and other countries are laid off, because China consumes 60% of the world’s iron ore imports. Other major manufacturing industries will experience similar scenarios.

The scope and scale of the present crisis suggests that it is far from being worked out. In form it is a crisis of over production (the likes of which capitalism has resolved in the past). In content (its size) it points to a period of sustained instability where the impulse for mass movements - whether fascist or communist - will gather urgency. The masses move against the attacks, looking for a solution to their problems. The bosses try to win them to nationalism and racist attacks on other workers. But given the alternative, workers will fight against capitalism and for communism. Never in the history of capitalism has the industrial working class been so huge. We are entering a revolutionary period. It won’t be easy but we have a share-and-share alike communist world to win.

Next issue we will discuss the size of the problem and the dangers of war.

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

WHY PHILOSOPHY MATTERS: REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

Philosophy is always connected with politics, but the connection of dialectics with revolution is particularly close. This is easy to see in the development of revisionism, that is, the reformism and the rejection of revolution that began in the communist movement in the late 1800s. At that time the communist movement called itself “social democracy.” Social democrats organized for socialism as a stepping-stone to communism, a strategy we now know to be fatally wrong.

As the contradiction between revolutionaries and reformers developed into a definite split in the socialist movement, the term “social democrat” came to be used for the anti-revolutionary side, while the revolutionaries called themselves “communists.” By the time of World War I, the reformists got the upper hand in the large Socialist Party of Germany (SPD), and turned the party into an arm of the German state. The SPD voted for the imperialist war in 1914, helped the government to suppress protest, and helped kill leading communists during the failed revolutions in Germany in 1919.

The best-known statement of the revisionist line came from Eduard Bernstein’s book *The Preconditions of Socialism*, published in 1899. Bernstein was an SPD intellectual, editor of a socialist

newspaper and associate of Frederick Engels until Engels’ death in 1895. His book denied most of what Marx had shown to be the laws of motion of capitalism. He rejected the labor theory of value, and claimed that big economic crises and the concentration of capital in the hands of a few billionaires did not have to happen under capitalism. Instead of revolution, Bernstein said that socialism would be gradually achieved by winning elections, trade union organizing, and the influence of the SPD in the government. These ideas are still typical of social democrats today.

Dialectics and Revolution

Bernstein claimed that dialectics was responsible for the central role of revolution in Marxist politics. He complained that Marxism falsely maintained “the immeasurable creative power of revolutionary political force.” Bernstein said workers’ lives would gradually improve under capitalism so that revolution is unnecessary, but that “Hegelian principles,” that is, dialectics, deny this.

Actually, scientific dialectical analysis of capitalism shows us that its crises never end and its contradictions must become more intense, leading eventually to communist revolution. So revisionists must oppose dialectics, since they oppose

revolution.

Reformism and Idealist Morality

Bernstein and other revisionists wanted a replacement for dialectics, and they picked the idealist morality derived from the 18th-century German philosopher Immanuel Kant. This is the opposite of the materialist morality developed by Marx and Engels. They emphasized that the working class has a “task” or a “calling” that we ought to carry out, overthrowing the capitalist system and reorganizing society as communism. This is an “ideal of the revolutionary tasks laid down for an oppressed class by the material conditions” we live under. Communist moral ideals derive from the needs of the working class oppressed by capitalism, and what we can accomplish by mass mobilization for communism.

The revisionists decided to go “back to Kant” to avoid justifying revolution. According to Kant, morality does not aim at the welfare or happiness of humanity, but only at the rational action of individuals. Kant hoped that God exists and has created the world so that good actions would be rewarded with happiness, but denied that anyone could prove this. He derived morality from the

See DIALECTICS, page 7