

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



MOBILIZE THE MASSES TO END RACIST TERROR

MARCH 28, 2012--The February 26 killing of Trayvon Martin, 17, an unarmed black boy by George Zimmerman, 28, a neighborhood watch person, in Florida, highlights the continued existence of vigilantism in the US. Zimmerman's actions hearken back to the Jim Crow era following the Civil War, when blacks lived under the constant threat of racial violence by the KKK, the early twentieth century which saw a rash of lynchings of mostly black men, and the 1955 murder of fourteen year-old Emmett Till.

In 2009, a white border vigilante group broke into the home of a Mexican family in Arizona, killing the father and his eight-year-old daughter. Just a few nights ago in El Cajon, California, a Muslim immigrant from Iraq, mother of five, was found bludgeoned to death in her home with a note that read "go home terrorist." And on Saturday, the police in Pasadena, California, shot an unarmed black college student in what has been termed a cop drive-by. Until we smash racism and capitalism, turning our guns against the capitalists and their government, and fighting for communism, we will continue to suffer.

The growth of a movement for "justice" and the Obama's hypocritical statements highlight the anxiety of the ruling class to build illusions in the capitalist system. The media, and the slogan "Justice for Trayvon!" imply that if only Zimmerman (or racist vigilantes) were arrested, the "justice" system could take its course, and people would be satisfied.

But capitalism is the rule of the few over the many. and it needs racism to divide the working class, just like it needs a group it can super-exploit to keep its profits high. And the cops, the courts, and the entire legal system do what the capitalists need. So since capitalism needs racism, the legal system carries that out. But they also need people to believe in the system, and when they go to war they need youth, including black youth, to be willing to die for this system, so they need the illusion that the legal system can give you justice, avenge the innocent and punish the guilty.

The only thing Trayvon Martin was "guilty" of was walking while black. Trayvon and his younger brother were watching television and Trayvon decided to walk to the

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AFGHANISTAN MASSACRE SHOWS NEED FOR RED SOLDIERS

Staff Sergeant Robert Bales is accused of going on a March 11th killing spree that left 17 dead in southeastern Afghanistan. Although the massacre sparked protests in Afghanistan and claims around the world that Bales did not act alone, the US media is framing this as a case of an individual soldier who cracked under the stress of repeated deployments and using it to push for the draft.

Barrack Obama has "generously" sent money to the victims of Staff Sergeant Bales. This generosity, however, exposes yet again how disgusting this capitalist system really is. \$50,000 will go to the families of each of the dead victims, and \$11,000 will go to each of the wounded victims. This is typical behavior of a boss: say I'm sorry, write a check and call it a day. Surely, over 12,700 Afghani civilians murdered in this imperialist dog fight never received such compensation for their deaths. This doesn't even address the problem that imperialist war is causing in the lives of military personnel.

Sgt. Bales is definitely not excused for being the murderer that he is. If he had seen the military brass and bosses as the enemy, he could have organized to take his anger out on those who actually put him in harm's way for their profits, those whose drones have killed thousands of civilians.

But there is a larger beast that needs to be examined. And that beast is the system in which we live in. Eleven years in the military, with four wartime deployments, undoubtedly take a toll on many soldier's psyches in an imperialist army. From the beginning, the military instills a sense of separatism; it is us against the other—and the others are workers, like us. This capitalist mentality can destroy a soldier's compassion for innocent civilians in the battlefield. The capitalist system uses patriotism and racism to reinforce this division, especially between military men and women and the civilians in the occupied countries. This

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San Pedro Sula, Honduras. March 26 Teachers in the Dept. of Cortés shut down the schools this week because they haven't been paid. The capitalist crisis attacks workers worldwide, but trade-union struggles won't solve it; only communism will. That's why. ICWP is organizing in Honduras.

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Obama's Martial Law

COMMUNIST REVOLUTION WILL DEFEAT FASCISM

We don't use the word "fascism" casually. Capitalism is always violently racist, always repressive, always an armed dictatorship of the bosses over the workers and all of society. But what we're seeing today in the US *is* fascism: the most complete realization of a capitalist dictatorship preparing for destruction on an unprecedented scale, amidst intensified calls for national unity.

On March 16, President Obama signed the "National Defense Resources Preparedness" executive order.* "In peacetime and in times of national emergency," it reads, "the domestic industrial and technological base is the foundation for national defense preparedness." It spells out how top federal officials are becoming a Defense Production Committee that works with industry executives to gear up industry for war.

The Secretary of Labor (currently liberal California Democrat Hilda Solis) will "assist the Director of Selective Service in development of policies regulating the induction and deferment of persons for duty in the army." That means the draft! The Labor Secretary will also work with the Defense and Energy Secretaries, and with leading industrial capitalists, on "meeting the labor requirements" for national defense (war) purposes. That includes pushing the training programs they need, as has already begun at schools and colleges nationwide.

The Labor Secretary will coordinate an "effective labor management relations policy to support the activities and programs under this order," with the National Labor Relations Board and other agencies. Boeing and MTA workers will find "their" unions becoming full-fledged partners in martial law.

The Defense Production Committee can requisition anything it needs. This includes all means of transportation, regardless of ownership, including repair facilities. It includes all energy re-

sources, all farm equipment and fertilizer, all food resources and processing facilities, all health facilities and resources, all strategic and critical materials, and all usable water.

In 1938-39, on the eve of World War II, the US government made exactly these kinds of plans. Obama's executive order shows clearly that Washington and Wall Street are preparing for World War III.

The Federal Government is the executive committee of the US capitalist-imperialist class. Obama's order guarantees that the biggest bosses will be well-compensated for their "national defense" cooperation. Not the workers! This war mobilization confiscates our work and our blood for "the international competitiveness of selected domestic industries" and the survival of the US Empire.

Advance under Attack – Build the International Communist Workers' Party

Last December's National Defense Authorization Act lets the President target US citizens for assassination anywhere, as he could already do for non-citizens overseas. In March, H.R. 347 made it a federal crime to protest an "event of national significance" or anywhere there's a Secret Service presence. Both laws passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. There is no "lesser evil" in the bosses' political world.

Fascism arises, wrote R. Palme Dutt in 1934, during acute capitalist crises where the absence of revolutionary leadership leaves the working-class masses reined in by reformism. The crisis is here. The urgent need is for revolutionary leadership to mobilize the masses for communism.

Twentieth-century history proves that you can't defeat fascism with civil-liberties lawsuits, with militant trade-unionism, with pacifist civil disobedience, or with anarchist actions to "throw your body on the machine." We need to prepare our class for armed insurrection and the

draft, which the ruling class needs. This terrorist attack on Afghani families makes it even harder for the US to keep troops in Afghanistan. This makes the US rulers turn to Asia more urgent. (See article page 16.) The coming confrontations with Iran, China and Russia will require millions of American troops to again face imperialist war.

The military draft is being depicted as a way to spread the burden of war. Also, it becomes clear that recent publicity about all the PTSD at Ft. Lewis-McChord is to set up an argument to re-institute the draft. According to Representative Charles B. Rangel (NY), there are currently 15 million draft eligible men between the ages of 18 and 25 who are registered in the Selective Service System.

The problem is that a draft is a double edged sword. The ruling class knows that a military force under strain and not won to the "mission" cannot function efficiently on the battlefield. Frustrated and angry troops can quickly lead to an unreliable force on the ground. Yet, the same can be argued if a draft is forced on thousands or millions of Americans who do not agree with war.

The working class must be ready to organize

seizure of power, even under the most extreme conditions of repression.

Industrial workers and soldiers are key to this mass movement, just as they are to the capitalist rulers and their war plans. Every Party member, every *Red Flag* reader, must step up efforts to get our literature into the factories and barracks. Our youth shouldn't wait for the coming military draft or universal "national service." Seize the future! Become a communist industrial or military organizer now.

Communism Will Centralize All Resources in the Hands of the Masses

It's not "centralism" that's wrong with Obama's martial law. What's wrong is *capitalist* centralism: power concentrated in the tiny minority who use it to exploit us and wage wars of mass destruction. What we need is *communist* centralism.

Communism won't have a small "executive committee." Instead, the International Communist Workers' Party and its Red Army will draw the masses into continual collective decision-making about production, distribution, and the expansion of communism worldwide. We will all give and take leadership.

In contrast to the bosses' martial law, we'll use critical resources to meet the masses' needs. We'll build a world without private property, without borders and without war. Communism means a world where all work, share, and live as comrades.

Communism or fascism? It's in our hands! Build the International Communist Workers' Party! Mobilize for Communism on May Day!

* www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/03/16/executive-order-national-defense-resources-preparedness

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is what led to Sgt. Bale's monstrous crime. This is no excuse, but it is a reality.

Soldiers come back from war with mental or physical harm. According to the New York Times, about 30% of military personnel deployed have three deployments under their belt. Therefore, it is no surprise that at Joint Base Lewis-McCord "behavioral health visits rose sharply in 2010 to 101,000 from 93,000 the previous year" (*L.A. Times*).

Soldiers who fought in the Russian revolution in 1917 and the civil war which followed fought continually for years against the capitalists-imperialists who attacked the newly formed workers' state. Workers in China fought for 22 years against the Chinese bosses and Japanese invaders. Vietnamese peasants fought for 40 years. But since these red soldiers were fighting for their class with mass support against the capitalist-imperialist butchers, they suffered little post traumatic stress. US troops killing civilians and facing a population that hates them face a totally different situation.

This deployment burden is the excuse politicians are using to pave the way for the military



Russian soldiers joined with workers to make revolution in 1917

against racism and for communism in the bosses' military under any conditions, because as imperialist war spreads, we can and must win soldiers to communism.

As a leaflet passed out at schools in LA said:

"Young people, men and women, should consciously join the armed forces, not to defend the interests of the capitalist class, not to defend the capitalist system that is based on exploitation, racism and war. We should join the military to organize communist revolution and in this way create a new communist society. Without the soldiers, a communist revolution is impossible."



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RED FLAG : POLITICAL WEAPON IN THE FACTORIES

EL SALVADOR—During a social and political meeting, a group of women and men workers from maquilas commented about working conditions in the factories.

One of them said, “They divide us into groups of 7. We have to complete a daily production goal of 1,320 shirts, whose cost in the market is about \$35 each. That makes a total of \$46,200. To make them, we workers receive a wage of \$10 each, a total of \$70. That means that the bosses (from the owner of the factory to the owner of the store) keep in profit after paying wages, \$46,130 for each team, minus what they pay for rent and upkeep. In factories like this, there are more than 700 workers.”

“It’s incredible how the bosses of this factory keep millions of dollars and you workers get paid poverty wages,” a member of a European organization told one of the woman workers. The European organization had made an economic study and had been left shocked by the results found in these factories.

In the face of all this exploitation of the workers, we started to tell ourselves that we have to do more political work. We asked if more women and men workers are reading *Red Flag* and they told us that in a nearby factory, there’s a distribution of ten more copies of *Red Flag*. They also commented that the women workers in that factory are using the articles that we’ve written about the factories in El Salvador and other areas to politicize the other workers. A worker said, “We need to organize. If in the factory where our comrades work, they do it, why not here?”

A meeting was planned with more workers so they could fully incorporate as members of ICWP. It’s interesting and very important to know that these workers are communicating in the factories through *Red Flag*. The friends who are readers from the other factory use part of their lunch breaks to meet and discuss the articles in *Red Flag*. In upcoming articles, we’ll report on the advances with these workers who are about to join ICWP.

As we ended the luncheon, among bites of cake and mango we made plans for the May Day march and the plan for some of them to help distribute *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* massively in the march.



Distributing Red Flag in El Salvador, May Day, 2011

Building a base in the garment factories WORKERS WITH COMMUNIST IDEAS WILL MAKE REVOLUTION!

LOS ANGELES, CA--“You with all the other workers come to work to make the owner rich. In exchange, he gives you all a wage that’s not enough to cover your expenses,” said a *Red Flag* organizer to a worker who was waiting for the time to start work.

“What’s happening is that if you don’t study hard, you can’t get ahead, this is our fault,” responded the other worker.

“This is the lie that the bosses’ system that we live in puts into our heads. Why is it that there are so many immigrant workers here in this country who’ve studied hard and who even have degrees but who come here and work in the factories, restaurants and the fields?”

“It’s because that’s how life is,” said another worker. “Yes,” responded the organizer, “under this capitalist system, life is like that for all workers, black, white or latino, citizen or immigrant. We work to be able to produce profits for the boss. How beautiful it would be if we could work not to enrich a boss, but for our own needs. This is called communism. We need a world where in all the industries, whether its clothing, food, steel, or any other industry, we workers can organize and distribute the production from each according to their commitment and to each according to their need.”

Quickly another worker came up who had been listening to the conversation and said, “Communism doesn’t work. Look what happened in Cuba.”

“No, communism was never practiced in Cuba. Poverty, inequality, and privilege prevail in Cuba. This isn’t communism. This is socialism, or state capitalism. Fidel Castro was and continues to be a traitor to the working class,” responded the organizer.

“I’m from Nicaragua and I’ve read Marx, Lenin and Stalin and what they say is very good,” said this same garment worker. They were all waiting in front of the factory to start the new work day. “But the leaders of my country and of so many others betrayed the people; so much sacrifice, so much blood, and for what?” added this same worker.

“Yes, these were historic mistakes that we can correct if we start to mobilize the masses of workers starting now for real communism. If the masses understand communist principles, they themselves can put the revolution on the correct road and make sure that it doesn’t deviate,” the organizer answered him.

Three hundred workers in this factory read *Red Flag* each issue. They, like the workers in all industries, shouldn’t only discuss, debate and understand the communist ideas they find in *Red Flag*, but also take them to many other workers wherever they find them. We have to carry out the work of mobilizing the masses for communism now and in this way begin to transform the world. Join us!



SPAIN: BUILD ICWP RED ARMY NOW

SPAIN—Elections just passed in Spain with Mariano Rajoy and his right-wing political party winning, promising an end to the crisis, and to create jobs in the short run and a “better life for the Spanish.” The feelings in Spain are not the best after the change of hands (or owners) of the government. The number of unemployed in Spain in 2012 is at 4,712,098.* Neither Rajoy,



Red Flag Reader in Spain

with all his subordinates from the Popular Party, nor the “good intentions of the party of the left, PSOE,” have been able, nor will be able, to stop a crisis created not only by the government of Spain, but by all the imperialists all over the world who give orders to their puppets who run their global governments. The only thing that they’re worried about is to keep super exploiting the working class.

The battle for oil and other resources leads the working class to live in situations of extreme poverty, and unnecessary deaths due to inhuman conditions at workplaces like the mines of Chile or the exploitation of miners in Peru. The working class is suffering now, even more, the consequences of a rotten system driven by the ambition for power.

Once more the Spanish workers are suffering from capitalism and their desire to change the situation makes them go into the streets with movements like the “15M” or the ecology movements. The problem is that these movements don’t do

more than fight for reforms. We in the International Communist Workers’ Party have shown that the revisionists fight only to slow down the advance to a new communist system.

We are convinced that we have to mobilize the masses for communism, and this can only be done by working with the working class, taking them *Red Flag* and organizing study groups. In that way we’ll all be able to understand more about communism. In this way, the building of ICWP is putting theory into practice and also preparing the youth to struggle in a more direct way by joining the army to organize against capitalism. The building of the Red Army is now, and we as the base of ICWP are in charge of swelling its ranks, passing out leaflets, *Red Flag* and the documents that teach us the meaning of dialectical materialism. LET’S FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM!

--Comrade from Spain

(<http://www.rtve.es/noticias/20120302/parofebrero-2012/503459.shtml>)

Nazi Pope Visits Mexico

COMMUNISM: SOLUTION TO SINS OF THE CAPITALISTS

When we make a Communist Revolution, there won't be enough holy water for those who today seek to bathe in purity

Lamenting the drug violence and dressed in his white robes, and displaying the ring of a fisherman of souls in his extended hand, Pope Benedict XVI made his triumphal entry into a Mexico sunk in one of the worst crises in the history of the working class. With a high index of unemployment, galloping inflation, corruption by politicians and bosses, thousands of workers incited by the Catholic Church are putting their hope in this vision of this man who was, before being Pope, the president of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith (Sacred Inquisition) and before that, a member of the Nazi youth.

After Brazil, Mexico is the Latin American country with the most Catholics; 87% of the 120 million inhabitants are Catholics. This visit is of vital importance to the Catholic Church, which has lost many followers, especially because of the cases of child abuse, but which still serves as an instrument of the bourgeoisie (together with the US-backed evangelical Protestants) to keep people drugged with its message to the working class. Karl Marx's description that "religion is the opiate of the masses," fits like the papal ring on the finger of this visit, for which the drug cartels were asked to halt the violence while the pontiff is in the country.

The Mexican bourgeoisie wants to use the

papal visit as a palliative for the problems faced by the working class and they hope that workers drink the Kool Aid. The PAN, the party in power, hopes that the Pope's visit will help them in the upcoming election. But at this point, the workers have advanced in their struggle for the liberation of our class. ICWP and *Red Flag*, its proud informative and educational organ, have opened the eyes of many workers in Latin America and the world. With dialectical materialism and historical materialism, we will continue the struggle against religious mysticism.

Joseph Ratzinger was designated by the then-Pope John Paul II to chair the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith. He was the man who brandished the sword and safeguarded the doors of the doctrine. It was he who was in charge of leading the counterrevolution inside the Catholic Church. From this position he confronted Liberation Theology, a trend that was born in Latin America, to confront poverty, including, for some, taking up weapons. This trend in the church collided with the fascist tyrannies in Central and South America, which massacred tens of thousands of workers with the collusion of, in the case of Argentina, cardinals and bishops.

As the prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith, Ratzinger issued instructions against the Theology of Liberation, declaring that they used words like "hope," "love," and "salvation," as a reinterpretation of Marxist terms like

"class struggle." Monsignor Romero, murdered during the war in El Salvador, was a follower of the Theology of Liberation.

But Liberation Theology was conceived as an instrument of the bosses to calm and co-opt the class struggle. In the aftermath of the Cuban revolution, Pope John XXIII issued two papal encyclicals calling for Catholics to engage in the struggle for "peace" and "social justice." They took hundreds of thousands of workers to the slaughterhouse. They didn't fight for communism, but instead believed in a just world of redistribution of wealth in which, with the love of God, bosses and worker could live in harmony. Another great deception, and another lesson for the working class.

Liberation Theology today supports Hugo Chavez and his "21st Century Socialism" that looks for nothing more than to support anyone who is against US imperialism, most specifically China in this inter-imperialist race for control of the world. There is no right or left in religion. But there are sympathizers to communist ideas, and they are welcome, and we must work with them, but to think that we must support them as an organization is a grave error. No trend among any religion seek to eliminate the exploitation of workers. Communism is the solution to the sins of the capitalists. We'll exterminate them like cockroaches and we'll liberate the workers for good.

Dear *Red Flag*,

Hoodies are popular in the Boeing plant because they are convenient when it suddenly starts raining, as can happen anytime in the Seattle area. That was my opening to start dozens of conversations Friday about the racist murder of Trayvon Martin and the cop cover-up.

I made it a point to start these discussions with white, latino, and asian workers as well as black workers. Everyone saw me starting these discussions so the justifiable outrage became more of a mass phenomenon instead of private conversations among a few like-minded workers of the same "race."

So far so good, but were we going to limit ourselves to the liberals' demands for Zimmerman's arrest and the police chief's resignation? I thought not, so I asked my shop mates what they thought we should do if we had communist power.

The Party will guarantee that we could mobilize for a mass public "trial," not only of Zimmerman,

but also of the whole police force. No convening of grand juries, endless arguments over the letter of the law and no more stonewalling. The politics about how racism undermines communist power would be front and center from the get-go. Punishment will be swift and unforgiving.

Actually, I don't think we would have cops in our new society. Nonetheless, we would still have public denunciation of organizations and individuals that did not respond promptly and decisively to a racist outrage like this -- including, if need be, Party members.

The more I think about, the more I am convinced that communist mobilization of the masses would eliminate such racist behavior more quickly than many can imagine. The capitalists say the decadence of their

system is human nature. We know better.

We've fought before in the union and on the shop floor against racist murder. We'll do it again, but this time we'll make sure our communist vision lights the way forward.

--Boeing Red



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store to get his brother some snacks. The decision would prove to be fatal, as neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman was on duty that day. Zimmerman saw Trayvon and called 911 to report a suspicious-looking individual. The 911 operator told Zimmerman not to pursue Trayvon, but Zimmerman ignored the orders and confronted Trayvon. A scuffle ensued, and Zimmerman shot Trayvon.

You'd think that in the current capitalist crisis there'd be a rise in bank robberies or attacks and robberies on wealthy people and their homes. The streets filled with Robin Hoods looking for their next rich victim. Instead we see more senseless attacks on black and brown people.

At no other time in recent history could it be any more obvious that workers have been completely screwed over by capitalism. There are no jobs. The jobs that exist are low-paying. We've

lost our benefits if we had them in the first place. We've even lost our homes.

The masses have been out in the streets in well publicized protests with Occupy in the US and the Arab spring in North Africa and the Middle East. But through all of this misery and marching, it's business-as-usual for the rich. On the other hand, our lives are more in peril. Not only from the stress and material deprivation of capitalism, but also from vigilante-style murders by the police, the official attack-dogs of the capitalists, and from the virulent racism of vigilante groups and individual racists.

The shooting of Trayvon Martin is part of a rise in vigilantism and racism against blacks, latin@s and Muslims in the US that has accompanied the current capitalist crisis. States like Florida have passed laws such as "Stand Your Ground" encouraging this kind of violence. Homeland Security has sponsored trainings on how to detect and report "suspicious people."

Racism is the ace in the hole of the ruling class. The rich are feeling threatened and need to make sure workers don't unite, so they foment more racial division.

Protests against the murder of Trayvon Martin have been organized in major cities around the US. The Million Hoodie March in New York drew a crowd of thousands and has been replicated in other cities. School children have walked out of class in protest.

Due in part to the public outcry over the lack of arrest in this case, Congress and the US Department of "Justice" have decided to investigate. But it would be a huge mistake to believe we can get any "justice" from the bosses' government. Trayvon's killing will not be avenged through the bosses' legal system or through anti-racist marches. Only communism can smash racism for good. Trayvon's murder should be a call to arms for the working class. The best way to avenge Trayvon's murder is to join ICWP.

“HUNGER GAMES” LEAVES US HUNGRY FOR REVOLUTION

“Everyone loves an underdog,” says Seneca Crane, head game-maker for the deadly gladiatorial combat among children in the future dystopia of “Hunger Games.”

That’s one reason why “Hunger Games” is so popular. The people of the Panem Districts are underdogs, dominated ruthlessly by the decadent rulers in the Capitol.

Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) is a fighter, but she’s also vulnerable. We root for her because we hate the cruelty and unfairness of the system, and because she struggles to escape its corrupting influence. “It’s like the Occupy movement,” a friend told a *Red Flag* reader.

But Katniss is no class-conscious revolutionary. She’s motivated mainly by personal loyalty, first to her sister and later to her allies Peeta and Rue. Director Gary Ross emphasized to the *LA Times* that the “assertion of her own individual ethics ultimately triggers a revolution.” No need to organize! No need to mobilize the masses! Just be a good person!

Katniss’s fans are already being steered into liberal causes that pose no threat to the real-world capitalist rulers. The Harry Potter Alliance has started the “Hunger Is Not a Game”

movement, partnering with the corporate charity Oxfam to collect food donations. A Brazilian Archbishop, Dom Hélder Pessoa Câmara, once said, “When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why they are poor, they call me a communist.” The producers of “Hunger Games” clearly want a generation of young adults to become saints, not communists.

SPOILER ALERT

The Hunger Games trilogy is actually anti-revolutionary, along the lines of the anti-communist classic *Animal Farm*. In the third book, an underground revolutionary group from the Thirteenth District (thought to have been destroyed) saves Katniss and convinces her to be its public face. During their final assault on the Capitol, Katniss discovers that the revolutionary President Alma Coin is just as bad (maybe worse) than her original enemy, President Snow, and kills her. The “happy ending” is that Katniss discovers her true love for Peeta, marries him, and has children. What happens to Panem is not clear and apparently not important.

Multiculturalism and a Warrior Culture

In the movie, we never learn how the United States was supposedly destroyed, with Panem

(modeled on the Roman Empire) arising on its ashes. We do know, however, that US capitalism-imperialism, under Obama’s leadership, is stepping up its preparations for wider and deadlier wars (see “Martial Law,” p. 2). The young-adult audience of “Hunger Games” is slated to fight and die in those wars. What effect will the movie have on them? Does it glamorize combat? Is Katniss an argument for drafting young women? Do her interracial friendships and alliances (hated by some vocal racist bloggers) and her loyalty to comrades in battle reflect the rulers’ need for unity “in the national interest” to kill workers elsewhere? These are questions, among others, that we need to raise and discuss.

The generation targeted by “Hunger Games” will play a key role in the not-so-distant future. We need to prepare these young people to turn the bosses’ guns around in the midst of world war so that we can build communism, not Panem, on the ashes of capitalism. But first we must turn the bosses’ ideological guns around! Discussions about capitalist culture can help convince our friends that the working-class needs communists, not saints.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

International Working Women’s Day.

March 8 is recognized worldwide as International Working Women’s Day. The Socialist international proclaimed in 1910 that it would be celebrated every year on March 19, and it was first celebrated worldwide in 1911. Less than a week later, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, scene of a militant strike of Jewish and Italian immigrant women in 1909, caught fire. One hundred and forty-five workers died, leaping to their deaths on the sidewalk below because management had locked the doors to keep them from taking breaks. One of the demands of the strike had been to keep the doors open, but the workers had returned to work without winning that demand. Since that day, International Working Women’s Day has remembered those women, as well as the capitalist assassins who caused their deaths.

The culture and tradition of class society, from slavery to capitalism, has marginalized women as an object of reproduction and treated them as unequal to men, inventing the theory of sexism which claims that men are superior to women. This has facilitated the extreme exploitation of women. All religions have contributed to this as faithful allies of the exploiters.

Men are accomplices in this exploitation by accepting differences in wages, believing that we deserve to earn more than women. In a communist system, all wages will be abolished. Men are also accomplices in the home, by fai-

ling to take responsibility for the necessary work of the home, caring for children, washing, ironing clothes, cooking, etc.

Men and women have to unite for true equality. This can only be achieved when we work together as a working class to defeat the capitalist system and put in place a new social system to fully take care of each individual according to their needs. Under capitalism, it’s an illusion that women are making progress towards equal benefits when they get public jobs or are allowed to play sports, such as boxing. All this does is perpetuate exploitation and maintain reformist illusions.

In the last few decades, women have had to join the labor force to share the expenses for family survival. Nevertheless, most women still assume the majority of household responsibilities. Their suffering has doubled, since on the one hand they are being exploited by capitalism and on the other hand they are being exploited at home.

Women around the world are raising their voices against the abuse—physical and in other forms—abuse which shows that they are still far from achieving social equality. Despite some social progress that has been achieved through constant struggle, the reality is that under this system another 100 years could go by and women would still be facing injustices, oppressed and harassed by this monster that gives no truce.

The responsibility of the working class is to fight against all injustice against our brothers and sisters. As revolutionaries we need to struggle with our comrades not to rely on capitalism, which only offers poverty exploitation and social inequality. The change won’t happen peacefully or through false promises. Communist revolution is the only answer to all these problems. Our tool is our consciousness of struggle and we will all be architects in the construction of a new society under communism!

Men and women must unite to destroy this system that lives like a vampire off the division and abuse of our class. Join the international workers Communist Party. Read *Red Flag*.

--a comrade

Red Flag Responds:

Capitalist Sexism Attacks All Workers

We thank the author of “International Working Women’s Day” for his passionate call for unity among women and men workers to fight sexism. As he states, only communism will enable us all to live and work as comrades. Feminist reform movements will never end sexism.

But the comrade makes a mistake that is common in the feminist movement. He calls men “accomplices in this exploitation” of women on the job and later says that women are “exploited” by men at home. Communists must understand that men as well as women are exploited by the bosses’ sexism.

Lower wages for women drive down wages for men, too. Also, super-exploitation of women workers reduces household income, hurting everyone in the household. Most important, the gender segmentation of the labor force encourages us to believe that we’re more different than alike, when the opposite is true. Like racism, sexism is a “divide-and-conquer” tool that helps the bosses keep us all in chains.

Exploitation means that the capitalists profit by selling the product of our labor for more than they pay us for that labor. Workers, men or women, do not exploit their co-workers, even when they mistakenly harass or oppress them. The same is true at home. The bosses are the ones who profit (indirectly) from women’s unpaid work in the home because it lowers the cost of reproducing workers’ labor power and therefore their wages.

The writer emphasizes that we must always “fight against all injustices against our brothers and sisters.” That includes sharp communist struggle against the super-exploitation of women at work. It also means sharp, comradely struggle among our Party and friends against any sexist mistreatment of relatives and co-workers.

We hope that this comrade and others will write more about how the fight against sexism helps us mobilize the masses for communism and how communism will organize life so that we eliminate sexism.



Partisans in Macedonia fighting Fascism during World War II

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

I Realized I Was a Communist

I remember back when I was eight years old in 1992, the LA riots broke out. People had to stay in their homes. The city was covered with smoke from all the buildings of businesses being burned. People were looting from our corner grocery markets. It was a very chaotic scene for anyone, let alone an eight-year old."

I asked my mom, "Why are they rioting?" and she told me that they were angry because of the Rodney King verdict. The officers that beat Rodney were found "not guilty" when the beating was recorded and the whole world knew. She was angry too and so was I. She also told me, "This is not the first riot I've seen." In 1965, there was another riot. It was economically based. Blacks were angry because they could not have businesses. It was devastating to her to see tanks on the street. She had just moved here from Louisiana at

ten years old, and she wanted to hurry back.

When the riots in 1992 had died down and I was able to walk outside and around, when I saw buildings with spray paint on them across the top, "Black owned."

I hated racism at that point. I didn't understand why. Why do people get treated differently because of the color of their skin? Why do the police beat up black people? At only eight years old I did not know the answers to these questions, but I did know that I hated the system. I thought that if there were riots when my mom was a little girl and riots while I'm a little girl, then there will probably still be riots when I grow up and have a little girl and she would have to go through the same thing.

When I was fifteen years old I met the old party. My English teacher, who was in the party, invited me to a rally against police brutality. The police shot a Hispanic man named

Jason Rodriguez, killing him in cold blood for no justifiable reason. After the rally, I began participating in study groups and reading the party's paper. I learned that what we called a "riot" was really an anti-racist rebellion. I learned how capitalism needs racism to separate the working class, that there is only one race, the human race, and the only important difference between people in America and all over the world is that most people are poor and few are rich and production all over the world is for sale or profit, not for human need.

Malcolm X once said that you can't have capitalism without racism, and because of all this I am a communist and will always be. The first time you realize how much you hate racism and really want it to end, even if you're only eight years old, you might be a communist and not even know it.

--LA comrade

Build ICWP in Occupy Movement

Over 100 people marched in a demonstration on March 24 organized by Occupy San Diego against the U. S. and Israel starting a war with Iran. Speeches in a park before the march and at the Federal Building afterwards denounced the Iran and Afghanistan wars and some discussed imperialism. One speech argued that the real problem is capitalism, and that wars, economic crises, and education that aims at war and competition can't be ended without getting rid of capitalism. That speaker did not say, however, what to replace capitalism with or call on people to fight for communism. After the demonstration, Occupy had a General Assembly to consider two proposals about opposing war with Iran. One of these resolutions called for a "post-capitalist and moral political economy" but it was rejected because it explicitly attacked capitalism.

Having this debate was a step forward, but a movement against imperialist war is bound to fail if it does not understand that capitalism inevitably leads to imperialist war, and only communism can end capitalism.

ICWP members in San Diego need to work harder to help anti-war activists understand this.

--Comrades learning in the struggle

To Those Who Have Given Us Lessons in Life

One day I made a decision and this decision means contributing with my life to change this rotten capitalist system that's killing us day by day. It kills us physically and mentally, making us useless at being able to love others and makes us indifferent to pain. With illnesses like your cancer, the cancer that is killing relatives of comrades, and kills all signs of hope, but nevertheless I still believe. I believe in humanity, I believe that as people we can unite, we can love, we can direct our fury at destroying this capitalism that killed us, that is killing us and that will continue killing us.

Today I want to say that there are people who teach us the value of life. Sometimes I get intimidated, but I don't give in. Sometimes my eyes fill with tears, but I continue to see. Sometimes I don't want to walk or wake up, but I continue doing it because inside I carry love, the love of humanity, and fury, the fury against the bosses who, without caring that they kill us day in and day out, continue promoting their rotten world of profits, their sicknesses.

I get up and I keep walking. I have hope and I believe in the "utopia" of Communism, because Communism makes me keep walking,

because I know that it will come and that all of humanity will live in the world that the bosses have stolen from us.

Today I don't see you, nor do I see the others, but I can feel them, because I met you and I know you all, because you are an inspiration for the international working class, because I know that in thousands of places there are people like you, loving people who without understand-

ing it suffer, thousands of children who die of diseases, fathers, mothers, entire families who suffer the ravages of capitalism.

But I know that there are people who, without any interest other than a different world, are here as I'm here in front of you, in front of you all, and they keep fighting, "IN HONOR OF MY WORKING CLASS, OF MY COMRADES" and I say, thank you for these lessons of life, thank you, because you were and are our source of hope, of fury to keep struggling, of never wavering and, if we do, we get up and continue.

It's up to us to continue for you, for you all, for our class brothers and sisters, with the security that all of this will change, and change because your lesson and lessons of life that will not be forgotten, because your history was written and thousands will read them, because today I wrote of you, because you are of our class, because you are brave for us, because there are thousands like you who teach us to live and who make us more human, humans to fight.

In these days when the sun doesn't want to shine, I dedicate these lines with love to you, to our working class and to the comrades who I know are living difficult times like yours. However, they continue in struggle. Let's fight for a world where the tears will be for joy and if there's pain, this pain will be shared among our whole working class. Let's fight for Communism.

Young Comrade from Mexico

About Mental Illness

I've worked as a social worker for the past 13 years and I enjoyed reading the article under "Frequently Asked Questions," but think it could have made it more clear that not only does capitalism create most mental illness that exists, it also diagnoses those that are not able to conform to their system as "mentally ill."

In the mental health field a diagnostic manual used to diagnose mental illness has been expanding since Freud. It currently includes almost 450 disorders and a new edition DSM V is coming out soon that will likely add even more.

The mentally ill are stigmatized and overly medicated. The solution under capitalism is "cure the individual" rather than get rid of what caused the individual to become ill to begin with.

--Red Social Worker



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LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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

**Republic of El Salvador, Central America
FELLOW WORKERS:**

YOU ARE: The most important labor force in El Salvador.

YOU ARE: The motor that drives the economy.

YOU ARE: Those who with your labor power year in and year out make the millionaires of El Salvador richer while you get only crumbs.

YOU ARE: Those who are fed up with the unfulfilled promises of the capitalist politicians.

YOU ARE: Those who are paid too little by the bosses who don't allow you adequate nutrition for you and your families.

YOU ARE: Those who should not attribute your precarious economic situation to destiny, bad luck, or, much less, to God's punishment. You can move forward to improve the current situation, but you should never fold your arms in the face of adversity. In this case, permit me to tell you that there is a ray of hope and that is the International Communist Workers' Party, ICWP.

To get to know about this new party, I cordially invite you to join the march that will take place this May 1st to commemorate international workers' day. There you'll have the opportunity to talk with comrades of ICWP who, during the march, will be distributing their newspaper *Red Flag*.

Fellow workers, you can't allow conformity, disillusion, lack of interest, accommodation, depression or an inferiority complex to dominate your thinking. In this world, we are all important. These old beliefs have been imposed by worldwide capitalism to keep us far away from reality, and thus to keep us in an ally called exploitation that seemingly has no way out.

-Salvadoran Veteran Fighter

Stress and Capitalism

The front page article in *Red Flag* titled "LA Metro: Wage Slavery means Killer Stress" noted, "Stress, a product of class society, is turned into a deadly epidemic by capitalism." However, this statement fails to clarify that our response to stress is actually innate and has helped humans survive thousands of years.

While our normal stress response is healthy—it motivates us, provides us added energy, and even improves memory and enhances our immune function—too much has the opposite effect.

Our normal stress response shuts down when we no longer need it. However, researchers have found that the working class has so much constant stress that our body no longer shuts down the

stress reaction—not even when we sleep!

Our body continues to release stress hormones that release cortisol and glucose into our system that our body is no longer able to manage. The constant high heart rate and blood pressure also cause wear and tear on our system. The constant stress lowers our immune system, causes areas of our brain to shrink, inhibits our memory, and causes heart disease and diabetes.

Thus a better-worded statement would be "Stress—a normal body response—is turned into a deadly epidemic by Capitalism" because this statement is completely true.

Truly, the only solution to this sick capitalist system is a communist society.

--a comrade

WHAT ARE COMMUNISTS LIKE?

Communists are people who aren't interested in accumulating wealth exploiting others. To be a communist means to be disciplined, strong, and brave politically, decisive.

The worker becomes a communist; he's not born one. He acquires his qualities as a communist due to his experience at work, and through practice in class struggles, always orienting himself with revolutionary communist theory.

Communists are decisive and energetic in their decisions, particularly in the struggles against the enemies of the working class, the bosses.

Communists never give up in the face of the capitalists' attacks and aren't afraid to risk their lives in the workers' struggle; they think of life, not death, and never betray the working class.

Communists are realistic; they understand well that the bosses have a strong and criminal repressive apparatus, but that they are not invincible.

Communists are sincere, convincing in their arguments, friendly with their co-workers. They are radical in their points of view, especially against the bosses' ideology; they never accept the bosses' propaganda against communism as the truth.

Communists are internationa-

lists: they respect and appreciate all workers of the world. They fight against racism; they don't accept any form of racism; they see their co-workers as equal regardless of "race", nationality or sex.

Communists are always in the lead in struggles against the bosses. They understand the strategy and tactics; when to attack the enemy and when to retreat. They struggle against individualism; they understand that collective power is better than any individual action. Therefore, they understand the need to build the party of the working class, the International Communist Workers' Party, and fight for communist revolution.

The members of ICWP are certainly proud to belong to this party, because in it they improve everyday as true revolutionary communists. JOIN ICWP NOW.

--Veteran of the struggle in the fields

The Red Flag editorial collective wants our readers to know that we are far from being the perfect communists described in this letter. As the writer says, we are in the Party to become better communists as we fight to build a better world with the masses. We invite you to join us!

Mobilize the Masses for Communism!!

**March on May Day!!
May 1, 2012**

**No Borders!
No Racism!
No Money!
No Bosses!
Workers of the World,
Unite!
From each according to
commitment; to each
according to need!**

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Iran from page 16

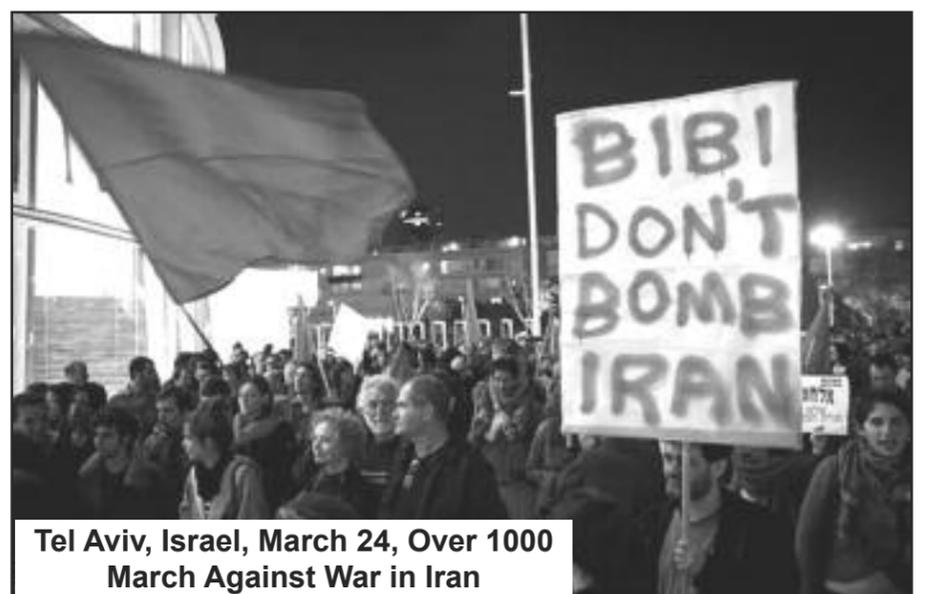
the possibility of a war far beyond Iran. As the Obama administration was asking the world to leave Iran or face US sanctions, India sent its largest trade delegation to Iran. As one member of the delegation said, "We are here to stay before, during and after the war."

To prepare for the coming war in Iran, the US bosses need a huge, motivated standing army. The wars in Iraq and impending defeat in Afghanistan have fatigued and demoralized the standing army. Since they don't yet have the army they need, the US military strategists have already prepared plans to simultaneously attack over 10,000 Iranian targets with massive air power, including using nuclear weapons. The Iranian counter-attack would come with devastating consequences by destroying US interests in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Israel and other Gulf countries. Sooner rather than later, there will be a world war. If it's not this scenario, it will be another one (see Syria article, page 16).

Millions of workers have died in the last two decades in various oil wars in Middle East and Africa. It is time for the working class to turn wars for profit into communist revolution for seizing power from the capitalist bosses. This is the struggle for establishing a communist society worldwide, a society where there is no money and each and every individual contributes according to their ability and receives according to need. This MAY

DAY, it's urgent to spread the fight to mobilize the masses for communism. Help this fight. Join us!

*(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/oct/06/oil-us-dollar-threat-to-america>)



**Tel Aviv, Israel, March 24, Over 1000
March Against War in Iran**

Syria & Iran: U.S., Russian-Chinese Bosses Face Off

SPREAD RED FLAG NOW IN BARRACKS AND FACTORIES

The beating on the imperialists' war drums about Syria and Iran seems to have subsided some. But, let's not be fooled. It is just the calm before the storm. The US and the China-Russia imperialists are still at each others' throats. The temporary toning down of their bellicose rhetoric only means that their dog fight to control the world has just taken a more insidiously lethal turn.

US bosses and their allies suffer a set-back in Syria

Obama and his underlings in NATO were unable to pull off a regime change in Syria like they did in Libya. In the UN Security Council, both the Chinese and Russian imperialists torpedoed a US sponsored resolution backing an invasion.

Also, the US bloc vainly hoped that the opposition inside Syria would be militarily capable, with minimal assistance, of overthrowing butcher President al-Assad.

Now, trying to recoup their losses, the US and its allies are talking about increasing "nonlethal" aid to "rebel" groups in Syria. They are also hosting a "Friends of Syria" meeting in Istanbul, Turkey on Sunday, April 1st.

This means that, although ruling out direct intervention for now, the US bosses and their allies are determined to arm and train the "rebels" for a prolonged and bloody civil war.

Russia's gang is trying to avert a wider Syrian civil war

The Russia-China-Iran bloc is against civil war in Syria, but it is also against regime change in the USA. They do see the need, however, for al-Assad to implement some reforms, step down and allow for the creation of a more inclusive government.

That's why in the UN Security Council,

China and Russia supported the UN-Arab League's proposal by Kofi Annan for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian problem. After meeting with Annan, Assad accepted his cease fire proposal.

President Medvedev of Russia said that, "Perhaps, it is Syria's last chance to avoid a bloody civil war." You can bet he is not holding his breath. Russian shipments of arms, war planes and sophisticated missiles to the regime have not abated.

Iran is key to the interimperialist dog fight for world domination

In the Middle East, Iran is the US bosses' main enemy. They attack Syria, a close Iranian ally, hoping to weaken and isolate Iran. This, they think, will either cause the Iranian regime to topple or set it up for an easy invasion.

However, China and Russia are the US bosses' main enemies, contesting them for world domination. Iran is key in this fight. Neither China nor Russia can rise if they allow the US to control Iran's strategic energy resources.

US rulers debate among themselves and with Israeli rulers when to attack Iran

For months now there has been a lot of hype about an imminent Israeli or US attack against Iran's nuclear facilities. The question is not if the US will attack Iran, the question is when.

In an article, *The False Debate About Attacking Iran*, the *New York Times* (3/24/12) concludes: "Outside Netanyahu's (Israel's Prime Minister) aides and a fringe of raptors, just about every expert thinks that a military strike at this time would be a catastrophically bad idea. That's not a debate, but a consensus."

Neither the US nor the Chinese-Russian imperialists are ready now for war over Syria-Iran

Such war can easily escalate into world war. The military gap between the China-Russia bloc and the US is still huge. Both those countries, however, are investing massively in their armed forces and military-industrial complexes to catch up.

The US, on the other hand, needs to rebuild its industrial-military base and is a long way from winning its working class to patriotically fight and die for its profits and empire.

Whether the imperialists are ready or not, world war is coming

Before World War I, the imperialist butchers faced similar problems. That did not stop them from going to war. Today, everything the capitalists-imperialists do, including backing mass movements or events, is to prepare us for global war.

The Syria-Iran issue will not go away. Obama's pivot towards Asia-Pacific is to deny China the oil and natural gas it will need to fight that war by controlling all the sea lanes over which they are transported.

Iran possesses those vital energy resources in large quantities and China has built the infrastructure to transport them safely by land evading the US sea traps. The US will have to take Iran out. When? That is their problem.

We must grasp the urgency to build our revolutionary forces

We need to massively build the International Communist Workers' Party among industrial workers and soldiers. Only then can we turn the imperialists' bloodbath into a revolutionary class war. Russian workers did this during World War I, and Chinese workers during World War II. Unlike them, we mobilize the masses directly for communism not for failed socialism, which is state capitalism. Join us!

Decline of the Petrodollar

INTENSIFIES MOVE TOWARD WORLD WAR

On March 20th, the Iranian bosses started trading oil in the currencies of China, India, Japan, Europe and in Gold. For the first time since WWII, trading of a large volume of oil is taking place in currencies other than the US dollar. The US bosses' control over oil has allowed the Federal Reserve to print dollars at will and force the rest of the world to depend on dollar reserves, as well as forcing the oil-producing countries to accumulate dollars or reinvest in the US economy.

The US bosses have been in a panic over the Iranian move for quite some time. They are using Iran's nuclear program as an excuse to isolate and eventually militarily attack Iran. However, after disastrous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the US bosses are the ones who are weak and isolated. In open defiance of US sanctions, Turkey, China, India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan and many European countries continue to buy Iranian oil.

In 2009, a leading British newspaper reported, "China, Russia, Japan and several of the most powerful Gulf States are actively plotting to end the decades-old practice of buying and selling oil in dollars." The article went on to reveal that, "Secret meetings have already been held by finance ministers and central bank governors in Russia, China, Japan and Brazil to work on the scheme, which will mean that oil will no longer

be priced in dollars.*

The move away from the dollar means significant weakening of the US bosses' power globally. When oil is traded in dollars, any devaluation or decline in the dollar would have a disastrous effect on the economies of other countries. However, emerging capitalists in China, India, Brazil and other countries do not want to be at the mercy of the dollar. This is truer today because, since 2007, the US bosses have printed trillions of dollars to keep their economy afloat. The newly emerging capitalists and oil-producing countries do not want to be left with worthless mountains of dollars.

In the year 2000, the weak Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein started trading small amounts of oil in Euros. However, the effect on the dollar was dramatic. In two years, the dollar lost 18% of its value compared to the Euro. The US bosses could not watch such a steady decline and 2003 invasion of Iraq followed.

The Iranian move away from the dollar is significantly more damaging to the US economy than any challenge to US imperialism in the past. Sooner or later, the US bosses will invade Iran militarily. However, Iran's alliance with the emerging imperialists China, India, Brazil, and Russia creates

See IRAN, page 15



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