

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



EL SALVADOR



LOS ANGELES

MAY DAY 2013

MASS MURDER OF BANGLADESHI GARMENT WORKERS: ATTACK ON WORKERS WORLDWIDE

After the Savar building collapse crushed and burned garment workers in Bangladesh factories, the bosses are closing factories that they suddenly call 'unsafe.' They are throwing tens of thousands of workers from the frying pan of brutal wage slavery into the fire of homelessness, starvation and slow death.

Forbes magazine, blood-thirsty champion of racist wage slavery, wrote, "Bangladesh is too poor to afford safe work places." In fact, capitalism is unsafe for every worker. Workers produce all value, but the bosses pocket most of this value, selling the product of our labor for profit. Competition among capitalists forces the bosses to squeeze workers even more. The end result: factories collapse, mines cave in, refineries burn and workers die.

Bosses need an army of unemployed to attack all workers

The existence of a large population of unemployed workers helps the bosses carry out such murderous attacks. Marx called this "a reserve army of labor." These workers, struggling for bare survival are forced to accept even more vicious working conditions and lower wages when the em-

ployed workers are maimed, injured or killed at work.

Factory closures for "safety" reasons are already swelling the army of the unemployed in Bangladesh. This will cause wages to drop not only in Bangladesh but in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mexico, etc. Compounding this downward pressure on wages is the crisis in Europe and the US, where workers are spending less and buying cheaper garments.

Unemployed Bangladeshi workers are desperately seeking jobs in Japan, the Middle East and Europe. In Spain, Greece, and Italy, they labor in the fields for months, often not paid any wages at all. About three weeks ago, some Bangladeshi farm workers in Greece, not paid for six months, went on strike. Their racist boss shot at them, injuring 26 workers.

Workers respond with strikes and mass violence

The workers in Bangladesh are not taking these attacks passively. The last six years has seen violent strikes and fight backs, often led by women workers. Each fire in a garment factory has seen workers striking and blocking freeways. Bosses fear that masses of angry workers will ulti-

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"NO HALF-WAY SOLUTIONS," SAYS BOEING MACHINIST

"One thousand one-hundred and twenty-seven!" That's how a Boeing *Red Flag* reader greeted a comrade as he came to work last week. "That's a hell of a lot dead—and too many orphans."

He was referring to the official count of those killed by the garment bosses in the Bangladesh Savar Plaza building collapse.

"Some around here are blaming the corrupt Bangladeshi government or the lack of unions, but I don't think that's it," replied our comrade. "I think it is the global capitalist system of production: a system organized for the profits of a few bosses, not the needs of the working class."

"That's it!" the reader shouted, tired of the half-assed solutions the bosses have been pushing in their media. He took an extra *Red Flag* to distribute.

In the U.S. and Europe, the press and a host of liberal coalitions push the lie that if the Bangladeshi workers had a voice through unions, they could keep the local bosses' greed in check. But the history of our class shows the disastrous results of this mistaken strategy. (See "General Textile Strike of 1934," page 4.)

Capitalism kills. No amount of good will or militant struggle to make it a more humane system will change its nature.

Nothing can fundamentally change until we produce for our needs, not the profits of the bosses. Bangladeshi workers are fighting back by the tens of thousands, often led by heroic women, supported by many more around the world. Nothing short of mobilizing these masses for communism will do.

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Syria: Rulers Debate World War III**OUR DEBATE: CAPITALISM OR COMMUNISM**

“One feels sympathy for U.S. President Barack Obama. Whatever he does in Syria, he is doomed.” - Robert D. Kaplan, Chief Geopolitical Analyst at the Strafor think tank.

The above quote succinctly captures the dilemma facing the US rulers’ dominant liberal imperialist wing – which invariably sets most of US imperialism’s national-international policies. Their public squabble about whether or not to invade Syria reflects this dilemma.

Time magazine asked Zbigniew Brzezinski and John McCain to each write an op-ed piece laying out the arguments for each side. Brzezinski was the National Security Adviser from 1977 to 1981 and has been for decades a major architect of US foreign policy. John McCain is a Republican Senator from Arizona and a presidential candidate in 2012.

Their articles’ titles are revealing. Brzezinski’s was: “Syria: Intervention Will Only Make It Worse.” McCain’s read: “Syria: Intervention Is in Our Interest.”

Fight over Syria: Fight for World Domination

Syria is presently a bone of contention between the China-Russia-Iran axis and the US and its European and Arab allies. It is part of the fight for world domination that will eventually explode in World War III.

Behind the Syrian discord, the real debate is about which strategies to implement to prepare for that global conflagration. Some of these top imperialist butchers think the Middle East should be at the center of this strategy.

They think they can regain their position as the top imperialists by re-conquering the region. Crucial to their plans is invading Syria to topple Assad. Iran would be next.

If successful, this would give US imperialism full control of Middle Eastern and Central Asian energy resources, which they would then use to flood the world’s oil markets, bankrupting energy powerhouses like Russia and Venezuela. China’s economic and military energy needs would then be captive of the US bosses’ whims. Once again, US imperialism would be the undisputed ruler of the world.

**No US vital interests are at risk in the Middle East**

Others in this gang of mass murderers believe this is a pipe dream. They know, however, that world domination requires full control of Middle Eastern and Central Asia energy resources. But, to regain that control they must fight the China-Russia-Iran axis. And, the place to fight them is not the Middle East but Asia Pacific. Their strategy is Obama’s “pivot” or “rebalancing” to that region.

Richard Haass, President of top US imperialist think-tank CFR, says that “Washington should try hard to avoid another costly war of choice” in the Middle East. He argues that a military intervention in Syria would be so costly and long-lasting that “It would be hard to justify so potentially costly and difficult an undertaking for less than vital interests.”

Besides, a US invasion of Syria and Iran could easily escalate into a military confrontation between an isolated US and the China-Russia-Iran axis. The Asia Pacific strategy, however, gives the US bosses more time to prepare for that war and to try to build the military coalition they need.

Presently, they are signing new and strengthening old military treaties with China’s neighbors Japan, India, Indonesia, Australia, the Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea and Singapore. They hope these capitalists-imperialists will fight on their side. Big hopes!

While world rulers debate world war, our debate must be about communism

Communism or capitalism - production for need or production for profits, working class communist power or the capitalists’ dictatorship of wage slavery – these are life and death questions facing our international working class today.

Either the interminable super-exploitation of our class for maximum profits, which buried alive thousands of our Bangladeshi brothers and sisters, or a communist world where workers’ lives are society’s most valued assets.

Either the worldwide unending slaughter of our class in wars for profits and empires, or a communist world without borders, where we share the world’s resources to collectively produce to provide every human being with everything needed to live a dignified, productive and creative life.

Our choice should be clear: Life over Death, Creativity over Destruction

Whatever US rulers decide, the carnage of our class will continue unabated in Syria and the drums of WWII will continue to beat, louder and closer. Responding to the US rulers continuing arming of the anti-Assad forces, the Russian imperialists have sent naval vessels to the Eastern Mediterranean, and offered Syria sophisticated ground-to-sea and anti-aircraft missiles. War is also on their minds.

Make no mistake, the world’s capitalists-imperialists are determined to fight to the last drop of our blood for their profits and empires. We have no dog in that fight. We must choose communism and commit to join and build the International Communist Workers’ Party to organize the revolution that will wipe these mass murderers off the face of the earth forever.

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2013 Summer Projects
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- * Study groups
- * Social events
- * Rallies & more

Mobilize the Masses for Communism



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COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH STRUGGLES OF WORKERS IN BANGLADESH

GARMENT WORKERS: EL SALVADOR

“We need to keep doing more work in the factories.”

“I think that we need to distribute more Red Flags in this and other factories.”

“As they do in those countries [like Bangladesh], they exploit us here every day.”

Workers made these statements in a meeting with a group of garment workers from factories in El Salvador. They also stated that “solidarity among workers worldwide with those workers who died and with their families is only the beginning. We have to recruit more workers in memory of the fallen.”

Capitalism doesn't care about your life. It cares about profit. Is there anything more important to bosses than generating profits at the cost of millions of workers' lives in the world? Clearly not.

On April 24, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, workers refused to go into the factory because of dangerous conditions in the building. But the hunger that makes us workers sell our labor power forced these workers to go to work the next day when ordered to do so.

In a few minutes, the building collapsed, killing 1,127 workers. These deaths add to the capitalist system's continually growing list of victims.

Without realizing it, we die slowly in the factories, schools, hospitals, and barracks. Exploitation of the working class must end. The only way the world can fundamentally change

is with communist revolution.

Exploitation of workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh shows the murderous nature of this rotten capitalist system.

In Bangladesh, 3.5 million people work in sweatshops for a wage of \$35.89 per month, \$1.38 per day. Workers sell their labor power in deadly conditions.

Is the solution a wage increase? Better working conditions? NO. For this to end, we have to build a communist society in which we will work in safe conditions for the production of what we need, not for profits.

The lackeys of capitalism try to “fix” conditions like in Dhaka by writing laws to control working conditions and building construction. But bosses don't follow laws; if safety measures are implemented, they go to other places where they continue killing workers.



This is not the first time a labor catastrophe has occurred in Bangladesh. In 2012, 112 textile workers were killed in a factory fire.

The building in Dhaka didn't have even the most minimal safety conditions, but this isn't important when it's about making more money. So they kept telling people to work until the building collapsed.

This doesn't happen only in Bangladesh. In China, 27 workers recently died in a coal mine explosion.

Mango, an English design, J.C. Penney, Benetton, and Primark are brands that exploited the workers in the Dhaka factory. The profits from these brands together are incalculable. Primark, part of British Associated Foods, generates 8.235 million pounds sterling a year. You don't need to be a big economist to see how bosses get rich at the cost of millions of workers' lives worldwide.

The decision to win is in our hands; to win and put an end to capitalism. In our hands is the future, our communist future. When we distribute more Red Flags at school, in the factory, in the barracks, in the university or wherever we are, we are advancing toward this future and defeating this genocidal system.

The blood of these workers will not be spilt in vain. They are victims of capitalism and the day will come when the bosses will pay.

MTA: LOS ANGELES “

“What's happening comrade? Have you read *Red Flag* yet?”

“Yes,” W. answered.

“And what did you think?” I asked him again.

“This article about Bangladesh made me really mad. And that's what I'm telling you comrade. The system is going down. The attacks are getting sharper. But many here don't want to believe it.”

“It's not that they don't believe it, comrade. They know it, they feel it. They understand that the crisis is getting sharper, but there are still illusions that maybe there is still time to continue living as in the past. That's why our task is to ensure that when the workers decide to fight, they know that ICWP and *Red Flag* is the leadership to follow and that a communist society is the solution to all these problems.”

“So let's get to it; it's a piece of cake, comrade.”

This is part of a conversation between two comrades of ICWP in a mechanic shop of MTA. During this same week, we had passed out a leaflet about a driver who, overwhelmed by the economic situation, as a result of being arbitrarily fired by the MTA management, took the unfortunate and sad decision to end his life.

Little by little the discussion widened. And the comparisons between the tragedy in Bangladesh and the suicide of the MTA driver were made, linking them with one single culprit, capitalism. There were reactions of disbelief, anger, solidarity, etc.

So we asked the other workers if on the day we have a farewell party for D and G, we could discuss a little more about this for those who were not present at this time.

The day of the meeting, between speeches and jokes for the co-workers who were moving to other departments, we also made a presentation about the previously mentioned tragedies. And the meeting became a political forum.

An Asian worker said that it was inconceivable that these tragedies still happen with so many scientific breakthroughs.

Another worker answered that science costs money and that we poor workers can't buy it.

The discussion was broad, emotional, and the suggestion emerged to collect clothes, shoes, and other items to send to our comrades in need, and that we would also collect the money to send them. Also, that *Red Flag* should carry a message of solidarity to the family of the MTA driver and to the workers of Bangladesh.

The meeting ended because we had to go back to work. We left with a very high sense of international solidarity and in fact with a very solid step in the communist development of the MTA mechanics.

GARMENT WORKERS: LOS ANGELES

“Avenge our brothers from Bangladesh,” is the title of a leaflet that was distributed among garment workers where I work. “Where is Bangladesh?” asked a worker who read the ICWP leaflet.

Another worker answered, “I believe that its in India.”

“But that's real far from here,” answered the same worker who asked the question, and then he said, “And besides, what do we have to do with all of that.”

“But, wait a minute, what? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH US?” answered another worker, as he listened to the conversation. And, very upset, he continued, “They are workers just like us and what happens to them affects us.”

Within the “modern” buildings and sweatshops of Los Angeles that have the building codes of a powerful country, thousands of us workers are exploited, receiving miserable wages, the modern form of wage slavery.

The U.S. bosses, just like the bosses in Bangladesh, use various forms of enslaving us to those sewing machines, creating a huge competition amongst us, and other workers of the world. The bosses divide us by race and countries. They created their borders so that we wouldn't be concerned about what happens to other workers. They blind us from seeing that all of the world's workers are our class brothers and sisters.

In this factory, the bosses separate the better-paid work for those who put up with all of their orders and wage conditions. When a worker cannot go to work, for whatever reason, whether there is a health problem or a family emergency, the bosses modern way of punishing us is to give us the worst work and often times blame us for not delivering the product on time.

These bosses say to us that they are our “friends” and that they are worried about our personal development and that we are a “family,” a team. But we work long hours, 12 to 14 hours daily from 6 to 7 days a week so that we may be able to get the minimum wage.

And how is it that this is not our problem, when for similar reasons of exploitation, a Texas fertilizer plant kills workers. The buildings in Bangladesh, Texas and China are all similar traps for the working class.

To liberate ourselves from this exploitation and build a world where bosses, exploitation and borders do not exist, we need to organize ourselves in the factories, in the countryside, in the schools and in every corner of the world. *Red Flag*, our communist newspaper, is the flag of the world's workers. On a not too distant day we will avenge the deaths of millions of our brothers and sisters.

U.S. General Textile Strike of 1934

TRADE-UNIONIST IDEOLOGY BETRAYS WORKERS' STRUGGLES

The heroic Bangladeshi garment workers' struggle has sharpened the question of trade unions: Will unions "rein in the bosses' greed" as we hear from liberal organizations and the bosses' press? Or do unions rein in workers' anger, diverting it from the struggle against wage slavery?

Textile is garment's sister industry. In the US South during and after World War I, as in Bangladesh today, textile production grew in tandem with clothing fabrication. Then, as now, the bosses went searching for cheaper labor. They moved hundreds of thousands of textile jobs to the U S South, where brutal racism kept (and still keeps) wages low. They trained new workers just off the farms.

Never satisfied, the bosses forced these new factory hands to run more and more looms apiece in a hated practice called the "stretch-out." Then, in 1929, the global crisis of overproduction hit. Sound familiar?

Southern workers in the United Textile Workers (UTW) union began wildcatting in the summer of 1934. UTW president Thomas McMahon and his leadership team tried to isolate them.

McMahon spent most of his time hobnobbing with the labor cabinet honchoes in the Roosevelt administration. Roosevelt's "New Deal" included giving unions a clear place in the legal framework of the nation.

Unfortunately for McMahon, the textile wildcatters grew in numbers. By the time the UTW held its convention in the fall, there was no stopping them. The UTW leadership was unable to keep the strike from spreading.

In September of '34, 470,000 textile workers hit the bricks from Maine to Alabama in the largest general strike in U.S. history. Truckloads

of young textile workers sped through the back roads of the American South in what became known as "Flying Squadrons," spreading the walkout to any mill that dared stay open.

As in Bangladesh, the bosses responded with State violence. Local cops and the National Guard ended up murdering 14 strikers. But the bosses' violence couldn't defeat the strikers. Roosevelt and his "New Deal" for labor did.

Roosevelt asked the textile workers to call off the three-week strike. He asked the manufacturers to take back the strikers "without discrimination." The hated "stretch-out" was to be "studied"—to death! The UTW national executive council jumped for the deal despite hundreds of telegrams from locals demanding rejection.

The Textile Labor Relations Board (TLRB) was set up as part of the new "pro-union" legal framework to insure that strikers got their jobs back. Of course, manufacturers refused to give the strikers back their jobs.

As many as 100,000—mostly in the South—never worked in the mills again. Some workers described how the mills had been turned into armed camps with machine gun nests preventing strikers from even applying for their old positions.

Tens of thousands complained to the TLRB. It issued whitewashed reports on the progress of these complaints.



1929 Gastonia, North Carolina, Textile Strike

Headlines in the *New York Times* announced the results of the study: "Finds Few [Employers] Violate the Cotton Code ... Charges Dismissed as Work of Cranks or Misinformed Employees"

What happened in the U.S. textile industry during the Great Depression was no accident of history. That was the only outcome possible when trade-unionist ideology held sway.

The fourteen workers killed during the general textile strike of 1934, along with the thousands recently killed in Bangladesh, make the argument for communist revolution even more compelling.

The brave young workers who sped through the back roads of the American South to build a strike 470,000 strong are the forerunners of the hundreds of thousands battling the Bangladeshi bosses and the worldwide capitalist production system. Communist production for need, not profit, is the only solution.

BANGLADESH from page 1

mately fight to end the bloodthirsty system of wage slavery. After the collapse of the garment factory, a strike wave spread in Bangladesh. Over 100,000 tea pickers who earn less than 75 cents a day have joined the striking garment workers.

To mislead the workers, the bosses are desperately building nationalism and fundamentalist religious parties. Local and international bosses are

also pushing trade unionism and reforms as the "solution." But the lie that capitalist greed can be ended through reform is a deadly illusion.

In spite of these poisonous ideologies and unions, very large numbers of workers are eager, willing and determined to fight for their class interest. However, without recruiting masses of these workers to our party, the bosses will prevail. We must not allow this sick system to bury or burn more workers.

Communist ideas dominate workers' action

After the Savar building collapsed, masses of workers and students risked their lives to save their class brothers and sisters. Aspects of communist consciousness surged forward in the midst of poverty, deprivation, despair and death. A fifty-year-old worker put his home address in his shirt pocket, telling his friends and family where it was in case he didn't return alive. With a hammer and the dim and fading light of his cell phone, he disappeared in the twisted heaps of ce-

ment and steel to save the workers trapped deep inside. There were many brave workers like him. Some did not come back; others were able to save the trapped workers.

Bury capitalism! Communism is the future!

We must figure out how to translate these aspects of communism in workers' lives into conscious commitment to joining the Party to seize power for communism. Wherever our Party is active, we must struggle with our friends to build solidarity with the Bangladeshi workers. We should advance this heroic fight-back by recruiting more readers, distributors and writers for *Red Flag*. This struggle will strengthen our Party, and we will build the basis for workers in Bangladesh and internationally to join our Party.

Under communism, contrary to capitalist wage slavery, alienation, and depression, society will produce for our needs, not for profits. There will be no unemployment; every one's work will be needed. Producing for our needs without money will be the most fulfilling, creative and satisfying activity. Everyone will contribute according to their ability and commitment.

From the rubble of Savar, ICWP must emerge with more vigor and determination.



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Carbon and Capitalist Crisis:

NO OBSTACLE IS TOO GREAT FOR THE MASSES, MOBILIZED FOR COMMUNISM

“People are always imagining new ways to live, and then figuring out ways to remake the world to suit what they’ve imagined,” wrote journalist Elizabeth Colbert in 2006. “As the effects of global warming become more and more difficult to ignore, will we react by finally fashioning a global response? Or will we retreat into ever narrower and more destructive forms of self-interest?”

As long as we allow capitalism-imperialism to rule, its relentless pursuit of profits for the few will become increasingly destructive to the masses and our planet.

Once we mobilize the masses for communism, we can and will rescue ourselves from the rubble of capitalist destruction and remake our world.

“Carbon levels reach 400 parts per million”

This last happened when dinosaurs roamed the earth. Today, symptoms of global climate change include drought in Syria, raging wildfires in central Asia, wildly destructive storms in North America, and rising seas that threaten to engulf entire island nations and coastal cities everywhere.

Carbon levels have trended steadily up as industrial capitalism emerged in 19th-century Europe, fueled by fossil carbon and living slaves. Now they are skyrocketing (see graph). Capitalist competition demands constantly increasing production and mechanization in its drive for maximum profits. Coal, oil, and natural gas are gobbled up, along with workers’ lives. The byproducts include carbon contamination, chemical pollution, and nuclear war.

US capitalist-imperialist rulers see the dangers but cannot avoid them. On one hand, they urge Obama to use fascist “executive power” to impose emissions caps and taxes. These may shift the economic burden of carbon pollution but can’t strike at the root of the problem. On the other, they complain loudly about China’s increasing energy consumption, beating the drums for eventual world war and encouraging “fracking” in the name of “energy independence.”

The problem isn’t that humans, like other ani-

mals and even plants, change our environments while they evolve and adapt to them. The problem is that our imagination is limited by ruling-class ideology. It’s that the ruling class uses its state power to enforce its own narrow and destructive self-interests: short-term profit and long-term domination.

We need to imagine, and then create, a way to live without money or bosses or borders: a global communist way. We must react, not with despair or reform, but with revolution.

Capitalism squanders our labor power, producing whatever commodities can be profitably sold so that capitalists can hoard our labor as their private wealth. Communist society, in contrast, will mobilize our creativity and labor to develop clean sources of energy. We’ll produce only what we actually need, and distribute it where it’s most needed.

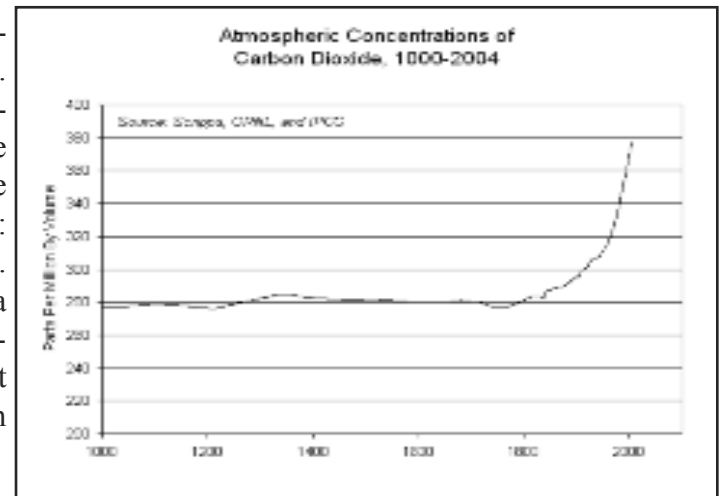
Capitalism-imperialism remakes the world in whatever way maximizes profits, disregarding the inevitably disastrous consequences. Communism will remake the world intentionally, according to mass communist consciousness of present and future needs.

Understandably, many find climate change depressing. Capitalism-imperialism has wrought seemingly irreversible destruction. Worse will come, especially when imperialist conflicts explode into another world war. Large areas may become uninhabitable. Communist power will emerge amidst the rubble.

The masses will dare to save ourselves from the wreckage of capitalism, as Bangladeshi workers fought to rescue their class brothers and sisters from the rubble of the recent factory collapse there.

“Learn from Dazhai”

Until the 1960s, Dazhai was a bare-poor village on barren Shanxi mountain slopes in China. Drought prevailed, except when torrential rains drowned the crops. Everyone except a few landlords toiled ceaselessly to survive. During famine years, whole families died.



The bitter struggle against nature continued after Red-led villagers expropriated the landlords. They soon made tremendous breakthroughs, led by an outstanding communist, the life-long landless laborer Chen Yonggui.

Chen Yonggui recruited himself to the Chinese Communist Party and soon became village Party secretary, based on his bold determination to put communist ideas into practice. For starters, unlike Party leadership elsewhere, Chen Yonggui insisted that he and all village leaders work daily in the fields with the masses.

Chen Yonggui led the village masses to think and act collectively. They transformed their harsh environment, building and irrigating fields on mountainside terraces and reclaiming land by diverting rivers. Toiling through three brutal winters, they conquered the floods in Wolf Den Ravine by building an arched dam designed by the unschooled Chen Yonggui.

Dazhai soon began exporting grain and inspiring millions in China and beyond. Mao called on everyone to “learn from Dazhai.” But Chinese Communist Party leaders who praised Dazhai for its technical accomplishments obscured its main achievement: transforming social relations of production and ending the division between mental and manual labor.

One lesson we take from Dazhai is that the masses, mobilized for communism, can overcome capitalist devastation and even global climate change, and remake the world.

COMMUNIST MAY DAY IN EL SALVADOR

From the early morning of May Day, enthusiastic comrades from every corner of the country prepared to distribute **Red Flag**, Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC), and the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) leaflet.

Masses of workers who hungrily search for a solution to capitalism in crisis expect communist literature.

Months before, ICWP clubs worked to organize the logistics of distributing literature and preparing banners and shirts to take communist ideas to the May Day marchers. We had more members this year willing to bring communist ideas to the masses.

This year, the governing party, the Faribundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN), took advantage of the march to show the country the new oil company, Alba Petroleos, which will dominate markets and give birth to a new Salvadoran bourgeoisie.

Although, the leaders of the most important unions have sworn their loyalty to the new bourgeoisie and its party, the FMLN, the masses have not been silent about speaking out on the problems of the health care system, security, gangs and drug trafficking, all results of a capitalist government and system that tries to

fool the masses while arguing they are the “left.”

At the march, workers took **Red Flag** with enthusiasm; groups of workers asked me for three copies of **Red Flag**. They will take the papers home and distribute to more workers and their families who will learn about the international work of our party. Other comrades had similar experiences distributing our literature. The specter of communism is indeed spreading among the masses.

It was awesome to see our clubs marching with workers under the slogan “Fight to Victory; Workers to Power.” In El Salvador’s main streets, we saw workers sitting on the sidewalks or, while marching, reading our communist literature with great interest.

To the extent that the masses realize that the FMLN government and any electoral party are incapable of solving the problems of hunger, poverty, and delinquency, the masses are open to new ideas. They are searching for solutions to these problems that result from voracious capita-

lism which seeks to increase profits and cares nothing about the cost of workers’ lives.

The efforts of comrades committed to the struggle for Communist revolution resulted in distributing thousands of Red Flags and hundreds of MMCs at May Day.

The struggle to build a communist world continues and more workers are joining the ranks of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Revolution or Death

We will win

A comrade in El Salvador



Which Ideology for the Popular Patrols in Mexico?

To put an end to exploitation, the use of wage labor by the capitalists, and the different forms of oppression that accompany it, we workers need to understand this relationship. We need to constitute ourselves as a Class, which means that we must build a Party: the organization that fights the capitalists for power. Without that, other organizational efforts will be fruitless.

Eighteen years ago, in the mountainous region of the state of Guerrero, Mexico, as a response to the crimes that they were victims of, the inhabitants of remote small villages began organizing armed “community patrol” units.

As crime got worse, aggravated by drug trafficking, the organization expanded, forming the Regional Coordinatorship of Community Authorities (CRAC), whose call for “self-determination” is influenced by the multiculturalism that claims to represent the “original people” of the villages and by revisionism (false communism).

The poverty of the workers and the absence of natural resources in the region meant that, historically, the capitalists and their government took little interest in the region until the “community patrols” became a political force of opposition, even though it never went outside of institutional channels.

Drug trafficking is part of capitalist life and, with the pretext of fighting it, the world’s governments have taken fascist steps against the working class and the population in general. In Mexico these steps serve as a violent instrument to attack immigrants from Central and South America who are traveling through Mexico to the US.

Now that the “community patrols” have joined with the teachers of Guerrero and Michoacán, the state governments are seeking to “regulate them” and have begun to confront them.

The militancy of the people in the mountain villages and the teachers of Guerrero and Michoacán shows the potential for struggle of the working masses of Mexico. But to fight for power, the working class urgently needs to change its mode of thinking and make communist ideas and practices their own, joining in building ICWP
--Comrades in Mexico

Workers in the Middle East React to ICWP Leaflet About Bangladesh Factory Collapse

The response of a reader in the Middle East after receiving the ICWP leaflet calling for communist revolution in response to the factory collapse in Bangladesh:

What pride might a man have that his studies and predictions on the brutality of industrial development of the capitalist type may be vindicated more than a century and a half after his death? Actually, the repetition of these horrors of capitalist development would have brought up only feelings of the utmost contempt and disdain instead of “vindication” in old man Marx had he lived today. How foolish now seem those intellectual philistines who uselessly prattle about the “specificity” of Marx’s analysis when he wrote Capital based on England’s path of development. Isn’t the same sort of squalor that the English workers once lived in, or the malnourishment of their children, or the cramped and hazardous conditions of work, or the twelve-hour days a feature of life in the countries of the subcontinent also?

The deaths of hundreds of workers in Dhaka from the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse, or the hundreds who were burned alive in Karachi in the Baldia Factory fire, are a small price to pay for the ludicrous profits exploited out of their labor

by these animals that we call “capitalists”. What sweeping regulations were implemented after the Baldia Factory fire? Who knows of any new measures taken to prevent these disasters again? It isn’t unreasonable to expect the same forgive-and-forget attitude towards Bangladesh’s vampires, who in collusion with the government, chain their workers to a life of misery, to toil endlessly until their bodies give out for profit.

Yes, hundreds of deaths are a small price to pay for profits. An example will be made of a few rotten apples for appeasement, and even that may be too luxurious an outcome considering that the owner of the factory in Rana Plaza is a politician of the ruling Bangladesh Awami League. But the barrel full of rotten apples, no one will dare to shake up, because that requires an attack on the “freedoms” of the whole capitalist class in Bangladesh. Further, an attack on the whole capitalist class, such as sweeping factory and labor regulations, presupposes the existence of a strong labor movement that can push for these changes in direct opposition to the freedom of all capitalists to destroy the lives of workers.

The workers of the world must open their eyes and see the capitalists for what they are: mortal enemies. Everywhere, in every country, they are the same. The workers of Dhaka are as saddled with the dead weight of the capitalists as the workers of Karachi are. For all the differences in language, culture and traditions, the problem of workers is everywhere the same.

On May 1st, International Labor Day, let the working people of the world unite!



STILL FIGURING OUT HOW COMMUNISM WILL WORK:

LOS ANGELES – “Money’s horrible. This social system based on it is a disaster,” declared a member of our study group. “Our mentality is so colonized by money!” said another, who had brought a friend for the first time. We continue to wrestle with questions about how communism could work, this time with a larger and very lively group.

One comrade has read a lot about communist history and often brings up examples. This time she made copies of excerpts that showed some mistakes communists made in building socialism in Russia and China. They said openly that the masses “weren’t ready” to organize themselves so the Party had to do it instead.

In contrast, our Party insists on mobilizing the masses for communism. That idea had inspired the comrade to share the historical materials and to struggle with others to read and analyze it. We don’t believe in having “experts,” especially around developing our political line!

Some had read those materials and more, bringing the discussion immediately to a higher level.

Again the discussion began with “process” questions. Several of us have experienced problems in other groups that insist on “consensus” (general agreement). Determined naysayers can hold everything up. Important disagreements may be suppressed when people feel pressured to jump on the bandwagon. Ideals may be compro-

mised to get everyone on board.

Processes of communist decision-making (now and in the future) must emphasize open, principled struggle. We must develop mass communist consciousness.

Once decisions are made, we need to act in a unified way – like getting to the right place at the right time for a May Day march or a battle. Even then, however, we will revisit political disagreements as we evaluate the work through criticism and self-criticism.

Without money, will there ever be votes? Representatives? People kept asking.

A comrade offered that the key issue is not “process” but “relationships.” For example, workers in a bike factory might meet every morning to evaluate and plan the work. In a nearby refrigerator factory, workers might take turns serving on a leadership committee instead.

But the same principles would guide them: mass participation in decision-making, no special privileges for anyone, social relationships of production are primary.

“Why do I insist on process,” someone wondered aloud, “even though I agree that mass values and consciousness are the main thing?”

He worries that in his small, closely-knit church they “battle all the time.” Sometimes people say “we’re all about love – don’t worry about structures” when others try to point out oppressive structures. He’s also concerned with how

communism will protect minorities, unlike the persecution of religious pacifists in the early Soviet Union.

We want to learn more about collectivist societies and non-hierarchical mass movements in the past and the present. Someone mentioned the international Christian Bruderhof movement whose members “feel called to a way of life in which all are of one heart and soul, no one possesses anything, and everything is shared in common.”

What about the indigenous mass movement in Bolivia? Factories taken over by workers in Argentina? A town in southern Mexico where people took turns being sheriff?

A teenager who’d mostly been listening had a lot to say at the end. “Is it a normal thing to want more, because we’re used to being limited?” she asked. “So when everything is free, will people hoard and there will be chaos?”

She answered herself: “Before capitalism came, like the native American people, they used to share and help each other out. Sooner or later we’ll come back to our senses.”

She continued: “Like food drives, clothes drives, blood drives we do today – people do it out of kindness because it’s the right thing to do. At first in communism we may not want to share but people will do it because we have to do it.”

We’ll write more about other parts of this discussion. Meanwhile, we hope that readers will respond.

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INDUSTRIAL WORKER JOINS AND STRENGTHENS ICWP

In the factory where I work, an African co-worker has been reading *Red Flag* for about 3 months. One day he said to me, "I need to talk to you at lunchtime." I was surprised at how serious he spoke.

At lunchtime he said, "*Red Flag* says we should join and I want to know what I need to do to join." I was even more surprised. I didn't expect this from my co-worker.

We talked more the next day. I responded to his question, "To be a member of the Party you only need to have class consciousness and be open to learning and teaching communist ideas."

The time to deepen the discussion was short and we agreed to go out on the weekend and invite another friend who could help with translation since language limited me in deepening the discussion of basic themes about communist ideology.

At the weekend meeting, my two friends seemed happy and confident as if they had known each other for a long time. The exchange of ideas developed in a friendly way while we enjoyed snacks.

"What do you think about communist ideas?" I asked.

"I feel comfortable with these ideas because they are my ideas. Otherwise I wouldn't be here and wouldn't have invited you to my house. I like what *Red Flag* says about the struggle against racism and sexism."

He said, "I am now ready to be one of the members of the community and even to strengthen the party because it is the fundamental solution for the working class."

We agreed that as active members, we must organize among our co-workers and friends. We made plans to see each other outside the factory and invite two more prospec-

tive members. We promised to write collectively for *Red Flag* and to meet outside work to broaden our political understanding.

Several days after the weekend meeting, my co-worker said, "I am very pleased to join your organization; when I was in Africa, I couldn't join the movement because of a critical situation."

Now, as comrades, we plan to develop communist relations with our co-workers and grow the party. Our work as a party is to seek out our co-workers, especially the most advanced, win them to the party, and develop them as communist leaders so they can help win others. Developing communist relations is part of the process by which our party will grow.

Welcome comrade; together we will open the way for others to join us to build the road to a red dawn.

Capitalism Killed Oklahoma Tornado Victims

"I used to live in Oklahoma," said a comrade, angrily. "Tornados are just an everyday thing there. For that, rich people have underground shelters in their houses. I knew a doctor who had one, but not in the little house where we immigrants lived.

"In apartments you can't find that kind of tornado shelter. If a tornado starts to come it destroys everything like we saw now. Even the elementary schools didn't have shelters."

At least 24 people, including nine children, died in one of the worst tornado disasters in US history. Hundreds more were injured, and tens of thousands left homeless in Moore, Oklahoma, by a huge storm that followed the same path as a 1999 tornado that destroyed 8000 homes.

These are not "natural" disasters. Storms become disasters because of the social conditions in class society. Furthermore, climate changes resulting from the capitalist system are responsible, at least in part, for increasingly deadly storms (see article, p. 5).

In communist society, would anyone even live in an area known as "Tornado Alley"? If we had to, we'd make sure that there were shelters and warning systems in place.

Capitalism is vicious. Capitalism is callous. "You have a limited amount of funds. You set priorities," said an Oklahoma Emergency Management chief, making excuses.

It would cost an estimated \$600,000-\$1,000,000 to retrofit one school. That's just about what Raytheon gets for one Tomahawk missile.

"They were just openly saying it was a matter of FEMA and red tape, that it was openly about the money," remarked a comrade. "I was wondering about a parent who lost her child at that school, what conclusion would she draw? Would she conclude we need a new society?"

Those of us who see the possibility of a new society – a communist society – must mobilize the masses around that vision and that plan.

"In communism we'll build shelters, yes?" said the comrade who used to live in Oklahoma. "It's not just whether it's costly or not.

"In a communist society we'll do what it takes to save lives of the working class, not to make profits by analyzing whether it is cost-effective

or not. In capitalist society, profit comes first—from Bangladesh to Oklahoma—and the lives of the masses of the working class are not taken into consideration."

--Angry comrades

fmln Promotes Oil Companies' ICWP Promotes Communism

I went to the fmln's May Day march. I felt that few marchers were enthusiastic about expressing the injustices of capitalism. Most of the marchers were there only because they felt obligated to an international oil company which claims to support workers' social justice issues. However, this same company required some of its employees to work on May Day. The march seemed to be a public relations event for businesses. Where were the slogans of the activist leaders of the supposed left party? From what I observed, the fmln is no longer left.

The fmln no longer makes it a priority to lead workers' struggles to fight against capitalism and for another social system. Its leaders want to manage and grow businesses so they can climb the business ladder and become part of a new bourgeoisie. Some of its leaders have already gone down this road. This is why some people no longer identify with the fmln and don't march on May Day.

However, when I approached marchers with *Red Flag*, many readily accepted it. In our work, we see that more workers are interested in reading *Red Flag* and no longer see communism as a monster that will take away what they have. They are beginning to see that communism, led by the International Communist Workers' Party, is the alternative to capitalism.

-A comrade in El Salvador

Red Flag breaks down borders in the fight for communism

A young comrade from El Salvador wrote a letter in Red Flag about the preparations and actions for May 1st and about the struggle for communism. Dozens of high school students from Los Angeles in the United States read the letter and responded.

"Hello young comrade. The determination that you express in this letter can change the way many people think. Communism will happen one way or another, and this letter, I think, is a very big step towards communism. Keep

writing, I'm with you 100%. Today, May 1st, there is a march in downtown Los Angeles, and a lot of people that represent *Red Flag* and other people supporting communism will be there. I will go to this march to support and shout at the top of my lungs. Soon we will kill this system," wrote a student.

Emphasizing internationalism and the necessity of being part of a party, another student wrote, "Dear comrade friend, what your letter says sound good, united and organized in the International Communist Workers Party we can achieve anything if we make it a point, we will march and write so that the people can know that we will reach our goal because everybody in this world is worth the same."

Another student demonstrated his solidarity in this way, "You are a very good example of a young communist. I read your letter, and how cool that you're a comrade of *Red Flag*. I would one day like to be a comrade from *Red Flag* as well. I will march with the International Communist Workers Party and I will do it not for me but for all the workers of the world. Also, so that everyone can know who we are. Hopefully one day we'll see each other and march together side by side on the same street, for what we want. Keep fighting and don't give up, forever until victory.

The comments show the development of the communist internationalism that is required to mobilize the masses for communism and communist revolution.

Another young lady put it in these words, "Young comrade from El Salvador, I want you to know that together with one flag and with the same objective we will walk towards our inevitable future, it doesn't matter how small the place where you're from is, the important thing is that the International Communist Workers Party has young people, as yourself, with enthusiasm to march for communism. I'm sure that you all the way from El Salvador are doing an excellent job, keep it up. We're good. The effort that you, myself, and the rest of the comrades are making is worth a lot, very soon we will see excellent results. Fighting for the workers of the world is our mission. We will achieve our goal. I hope that all goes well with you all."

CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE

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

Top 10 Lies We R Taught

Capitalist Lies

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

The class that rules, determines a society's culture. Capitalist relations lead to moral decay.

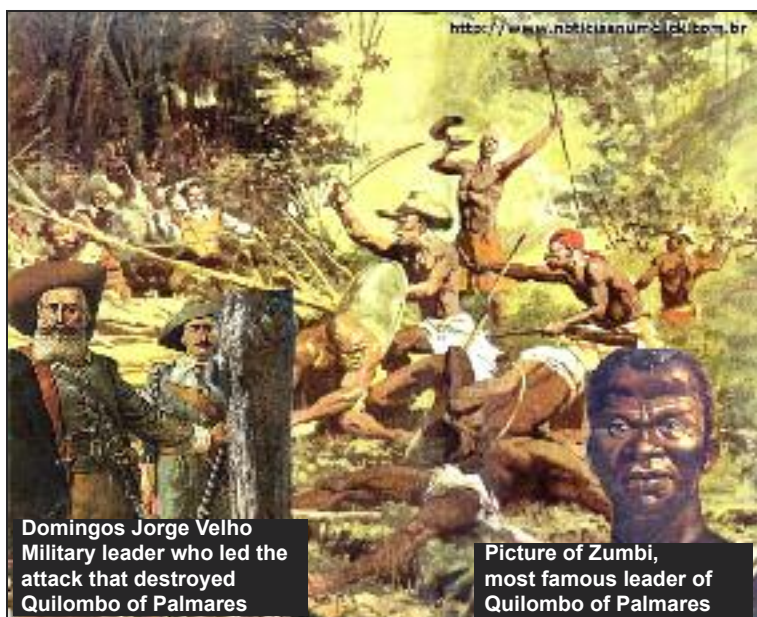


MOVIE REVIEW:

QUILOMBO SHOWS THAT COMMUNISM IS POSSIBLE

We went to a movie night that ICWP organized. We watched a movie called "Quilombo." This movie was very interesting because it showed how communism would work. In this movie Palmares is a place that we all dream of at some point. I say this because we all want a place where you can be treated the way you want to be treated. Also, Palmares is a place where it doesn't matter what "race" you are, it's a place that's free.

The movie narrates the true story of a revolt of slaves, in the early 17th century in Brazil, who kill the Portuguese masters and flee to an isolated



Domingos Jorge Velho
Military leader who led the attack that destroyed Quilombo of Palmares

Picture of Zumbi,
most famous leader of Quilombo of Palmares

★ The Truth: ★

It was primarily the Soviet Red Army and the Communist-led partisan bands spread all over the world that destroyed the German, Italian, and Japanese fascist Axis. In this brief article we write about the Eastern Front.

From 1941 to 1945, over 80% of the Nazis' total fighting strength was deployed against the Soviets. It was not until mid-1944, when it became apparent that the fascists had been resoundingly defeated by the Red Army, that the Second Front was opened by the U.S. and its allies primarily to stop the Communist advance beyond Berlin. However, US education and movies confuse us by making it seem that the US defeated the Nazis worldwide—even on the Eastern Front.

It took the Nazis about three months of fighting, using less than a third of the army, to conquer those ruling classes of West and Central Europe. On June 22, 1941, more than 3.5 million German troops (**250 divisions**), aided by Finns, Rumanians, and Hungarians, launched an attack on the Soviet Union along a thousand-mile front. Such a gigantic attack force had never been assembled before (Nazis conquered France with **50** divisions; D-Day in Normandy had about **60** Nazi divisions).

As war raged on longer than Nazis had anticipated it was common for Soviet troops to fight to the last man. By November 1941 the Germans had lost nearly 1 million men, but continued to advance, surrounding Leningrad and advancing to Moscow's suburbs. **Workers poured out of their factories armed with rifles, lead pipes, and Molotov cocktails.** There was no thought of abandoning the capitol and handing Hitler such an important symbolic victory.

On December 5, 1941 the fascists were thrown back 40 miles from the gates of Moscow. This was the first major defeat for the Nazis in World War II.

corner of the nation, which they place under their control. Other escaped slaves, indigenous people, and various disenfranchised and disenfranchised whites join them and under their charismatic leader Ganga Zumba, they begin to create their own new society.

For close to a century Quilombo of Palmares survived and defended itself as the Portuguese tried everything they could to crush the new society these free men and women were creating.

After the movie we had some discussion. A comrade said, "I think that the part where the kid told the 'king', that all he does is give orders points out that communists don't want kings or anybody else giving orders." I think that this movie teaches us how we could bring out communism in a way that a lot of people would join us and agree to it. This movie was very deep and inspiring.

The movie had good lessons. It showed how you should never give up no matter how much the government doesn't "approve" of our beliefs. If we are going to fight for communism we

It was not until the summer of 1942 that the Nazi Army started making forward advances again. However they were held in Stalingrad. Even after the Nazis had captured 80% of the city, communists refused to step back, which helped buy time for a counterattack. Finally, in January 1943, preparations for the counterattack were complete and the Red Army surrounded the Nazis. The Nazis refused to surrender (Hitler's direct orders). The Battle for Stalingrad cost the Nazis 1,500,000 men. **The Soviet victory was the strategic turning point of the entire war.**

The summer of 1943 saw one last Nazi offensive, Operation Citadel, marked by the Battle of Kursk, the greatest tank battle in history. The high point of the battle came when the main Soviet tank army hit the Nazi tank advance head-on. By the end of the afternoon, the Nazi tank divisions were burning piles of junk, or in full retreat.

The summer of 1944 saw one Red Army victory after another. The fascists were chased through Eastern Europe all the way to Berlin.

However, the courageous Soviet Red Army did not fight for communism, but instead for a united front with the US and other imperialists against the German Axis. Today we need to learn from the correct aspects and the errors of the Soviets to organize a Red Army that mobilizes the masses for communism.



should always be together and not forget what we are fighting for. We fight for the people who aren't treated the same as everyone else. We are also fighting for ourselves because we are tired of having the capitalists step on us. This movie shows us how to take a stand.

The movie also showed how free men and women can never have a peace agreement with slave owners just like we workers can never have a peace agreement with the capitalists.

A big weakness in the story of Quilombo was that there was a charismatic leader that led the people. This limited the people from actively being involved in the decisions and the actions to be taken. With communism we would mobilize the masses of workers to be actively involved in all of the decisions and in all of the actions in the building and the defense of the new society.

I think people should look at this movie and get familiar with the history of Quilombo. We need to learn from the history of the struggle to create a world free of racism, exploitation and inequality. In everything one does there is a lesson.

--High School Student Comrades