

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

**GENERAL STRIKE IN FRANCE:
COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM,
WILL LIBERATE OUR CLASS**

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COMMUNIST SCHOOL BUILDS ICWP IN SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA, May 15—"I am fed up with the system. I want change," shouted a woman. When she was young, she had worked pouring asphalt with her young child on her back as she helped to construct highways in South Africa. She is also a veteran of the movement against apartheid.

Today she lives in a dilapidated house. There is a pile of garbage and a big pothole that makes it impossible to drive through. At times she goes to bed hungry. The change she wants can come faster because she joined ICWP.

A month of mobilizing the masses for communism has brought about change. Over 6000 *Red Flags*, and *End Racism* pamphlets were distributed in different townships. Masses of workers reading, discussing and spreading the ideas of communist society have created new members of ICWP.

We organized a weekend communist school to learn and advance the communist philosophy and science of change. About 150 people participated over the weekend. Many more could have participated

but we were limited by our resources.

The communist school gave us a glimpse of how our future communist society will function. The seeds of communism are here. We cooked together and sang together. Some comrades helped to hang banners, others cleaned the hall. The sound system was installed, chairs were arranged. Some comrades worked very hard, showing their commitment. Others learned from them and also contributed. No money changed hands. As a comrade said, it is time to "give it back to the working class; that is an aspect of communism."

Over the weekend we studied dialectical materialism, the communist philosophy of change (see www.icwpredflag.org for *Dialectical Materialism* series). We used many practical examples of daily activities where changes take place, including eggs and rugby balls, workers and bosses.

To make scrambled eggs we need an egg, not a rugby ball. To fight for communism, we need to mobilize

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COMMUNISM WILL END SUBCONTRACTORS ...AND THE RACIST PIGS THAT RUN THEM

WASHINGTON STATE, USA—Some 400 Machinist Union (IAM) workers struck Boeing subcontractor Triumph Composite Systems in eastern Washington last Wednesday. They are demanding equal pensions for all workers at Triumph and an end to the two-tier wage system that pays some employees thousands less than others for the same work there.

The company has moved hundreds of jobs to even lower-paying Mexico while getting millions in state tax-cuts that were meant to "preserve aerospace jobs." Ironically, it was the IAM that pushed these tax-cuts through in the first place.

On the other side of the state, CEO Peter Zieve of Boeing subcontractor Electroimpact has started an attack that might even be worse. Many of the 800 workers have protested his racist email tirades against "terrorist savages." Others have called him out on his "racist and sexist hiring practices."

"It's time for you to leave [the company]" was the CEO's response.

"One more for the good guys!" Zieve wrote after a worker had a baby. "I note that 381,000 terrorist savages have gotten into Europe this year," he added (referring to refugees from Syria, North Africa and the Persian Gulf region) "and if we don't make more babies the light will go out on civilization." Sounds like it came right out of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

Now Zieve's taking his racist campaign outside the company. He sent anonymous postcards to Mukilteo, WA residents warning about a planned "terrorist" mosque in the city. Unluckily for him, someone spilled the beans and exposed him.

For its part, Boeing assures big-time investors that the Triumph strike "will not impact production." The aerospace giant stubbornly refuses to comment on CEO Zieve's fascism.

Subcontractors Are a Capitalist Invention

The capitalists invented subcontractors to intensify racist super-exploitation. The survival of every major capitalist manufacturer

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the masses for communism, nothing less. Once we establish a communist society, to prevent capitalism from re-emerging, the masses must be mobilized for communism. The more we do that and the more communist relations advance, the better we will be able to prevent capitalism from coming back.

“This morning I was going to buy beer but a comrade asked me to come to the Communist School,” said a young worker who goes to sea on fishing trawlers. “We catch tons of fish, the boss makes tons of money and we remain hungry.” Strikingly similar to how tea workers in India described their condition! The young worker said that coming to this ICWP school has opened his eyes. He said he will recruit many of his coworkers to ICWP. He not only joined but took a big stack of *Red Flags* and other literature. He was encouraged to come to our school by the same comrade who also goes hungry at times.

Dozens of men and women comrades spoke in front of a large audience, most for the first time in their lives. A recently-retired auto worker introduced himself as a new member. A metal worker emphasized the need for the masses to grasp the communist philosophy of change. He explained that revolutionary communist ideas grasped by the masses become a material force that will destroy capitalism. A construction worker boldly put forward how the bosses use religions to divert workers’ anger away from capitalism.

Those who did not speak to a large audience felt comfortable being open in smaller groups. A woman who works in a plant that supplies seats to Mercedes Benz vividly described brutal conditions of working in an assembly line, speed ups and in return the workers are paid starvation wages. She said, “we don’t need the bosses; we workers can run society.”

Many women comrades gave rousing speeches denouncing the destructive effects

of capitalism on the working class. This shows the importance and power of winning more women workers to join ICWP and give leadership to all workers.

Every speaker joined ICWP and urged others to do so. Most participants have experienced hunger, starvation and deprivation. Their anger is turning into an unstoppable revolutionary force. Women comrades led all in singing revolutionary songs with exhilarating passion and tumultuous energy. It unified us all, gave us the confidence that change is possible and the vision of the future communist society.

Young comrades provoked serious discussion about communism and how it will work. A comrade who joined ICWP six months ago explained that in communism there will be no money. To satisfy the need of the working class collective decisions will have to be made in all aspects of life. Collectives will replace money.

The communist school and the process of mass recruitment have created many new problems for us and we are learning how to resolve them. The leadership here will meet to more deeply understand our strengths and weaknesses. The comrades are already thinking of recruiting thousands to our party. As they say here, *a luta continua*, the struggle continues. This is the way we are preparing the working class to take power.



Likeness and Difference: Building ICWP Worldwide

The collective effort of the comrades in South Africa to build the International Communist Workers’ Party opens a new front in the Party’s internal struggle. These new experiences give the whole Party the opportunity to analyze our growth there and, most importantly, to analyze our work everywhere. In this process we must especially use the dialectical category of “similarity and difference.”

We know that there is uneven development, but are the workers everywhere in the world winnable to communism? Are the men and women workers of South Africa more different from, or more similar to, the workers where the rest of us live?

What political lessons can we draw from this experience to help us to improve our communist work? How can we see more clearly where we are and where we are going? How can the advance of some comrades in one place help the rest to have the confidence to move forward?

We don’t mean confidence that is only abstract, but rather confidence that comes from the practice of taking our ideas to the masses and from their response. There is an objective basis for confidence! We must use it to strengthen and deepen our practical work and to help us grow.

The whole Party should analyze this development very carefully and learn from the advances in South Africa. We should view objectively the obstacles and the potential we face today.

Growth also comes full of many political and organizational tasks, like organizing leadership collectives, clubs (cells) and concentrations of work. At the same time, we have to collectively try to resolve the personal problems of our comrades and readers.

The growth of ICWP in South Africa is a qualitative leap for the Party. It is a front where this greater mass practice gives us more opportunities to test our line of mobilizing the masses for communism.

We must also understand that this growth is a collective effort, from the articles and letters in *Red Flag*, to the mutual visits in international meetings, to the comrades and friends who make financial contributions.

The potential exists to develop dozens of new young and older leaders, women and men, who organize and struggle for a communist society. Collectively we are responsible for making that development happen and guaranteeing that our struggle is for communism, nothing less.

Forward, comrades, forward!



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“Living Wage” is a Capitalist Myth

JANITORS’ STRUGGLE SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES— “There won’t be a strike. We came to an agreement. We got a wage increase and our medical coverage will stay the same. The majority accepted it,” explained a janitor.

The new contract will give all janitors (Area 1, 2 & 3) a wage increase of 70¢ per hour the first year, 65¢ the second, and 55¢ the third and fourth years, for a total increase of \$2.45 an hour over four years.

“We didn’t go to the May Day March because our contract expired that day. We spent the whole weekend preparing for the strike. We know that we have to fight in the streets for the contracts,” another janitor explained to us.

Indeed, in Los Angeles this is a characteristic almost exclusive to the janitors. When they negotiate a labor contract, they organize mass demonstrations in the whole area. They let the bosses, the politicians and the working class know that they are fighting.

We in the International Communist Workers’ Party admire and very much respect the fighting spirit, the energy and commitment to the struggle of these men and women workers.

We appreciate the friendly reception that they always offer us when we participate in their marches. *Red Flag* is always welcome. Thousands of them gladly receive it. Our discussions are always pleasant, respectful and comradely.

When we distribute our newspaper, we explain to the workers: “Our struggle is for a communist world, without borders, money or exploiting

bosses. A world where we will collectively plan what to produce, produce it and share it according to each one’s need. No one will be the servant of anyone.”

We always have conversations like these:

“It sounds great, but can we live without money? Will it be possible?” asks a janitor.

“Yes, it’s possible,” interrupts another janitor. She takes a *Red Flag* and adds, “Our ancestors lived like that for centuries before the Spaniards came.”

“Yes it’s true. With the exception of the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas, which were exploitive class societies, the majority of them lived in pre-class communism. We want to go back to that—to their communist social and productive relations—but at a higher level using science and technology,” we explain, supporting the janitor.

Approaching another group we say, “Let’s fight to bury the bosses and their capitalist system with a communist revolution. We will end wage slavery and we won’t have to fight every four years for a contract that chains us to them.”

“It’s true,” affirms one.

“We can live without bosses,” says another.

“We do everything. What do they do? Nothing. Get rich off our sweat!” adds a third worker.

They all take *Red Flag*. All of this happens while they wait to board the buses that will take them to the march.

We continue distributing *Red Flag*.

“Listen, I heard what you said and I have also read it in your newspaper. You say that the union

struggle is in vain, that it leads nowhere. I think that is bad. It discourages the people,” observes another janitor.

“Yes, we maintain that trade unionism is a dead end for our class. It negotiates the terms of our wage slavery but can’t and won’t break the chains that tie us to the capitalists. The labor contract justifies and legalizes our slavery. Only communist revolution can end it.”

This new contract shows that we communists are right. Unionism keeps our class busy trying to reform capitalism, while blinding us to the need for communist revolution.

The achievements are at best temporary. Sometimes they only appear to be achievements. The janitors’ wage increase is one of those.

When the old contract ended, the janitors in Area One made \$15 an hour, or only 56% of a very minimal “living wage” for a family of two adults and two children. If inflation remains steady, by 2020 those janitors would still make only 59% of a “living wage.”

Obviously most households in Los Angeles need more than one wage earner to make a bare subsistence wage. The capitalists see to it that we never get much more than this.

With the union struggle sometimes we can temporarily achieve a higher wage than bare subsistence. But in the end, the capitalists relentlessly lower our wages to or below it.

That’s why we call on the thousands of janitors, who sympathize with our communist ideas, to join us in the fight for a communist world.

ICWP IN EAST LOS ANGELES ENCOURAGES WORKERS AND STUDENTS TO SAVE OURSELVES

LOS ANGELES, CA—On May 5th Hillary Clinton visited the campus of East Los Angeles College to a huge turnout of supporters, but not everyone was so ecstatic to see her. Protestors outside included supporters of Bernie Sanders, nationalists, protests of Clinton’s backing of the corrupt Honduran government that assassinated Berta Cáceres and lots of people looking for answers.

The ruling class wants us to believe that we need to vote in an elected official to solve our problems. But the reality is that we keep ending up with the same contradictory system that creates poverty, homelessness, war, and millions going hungry around the world. Bernie Sanders is supposedly the compromise because he is a socialist who still clings to capitalism in the end. ICWP encourages workers to fight for a system where we take state power and own the means of production. This will take a communist revolution—not elections.

The processes of communist decision-making must emphasize open, principled struggle. The communist society that we envision will not have elections at all. We envision a world where decisions are carried out collectively by a mass communist party that discusses the interest of the international working class who will also be responsible for struggling to produce the answers and make these big decisions. We encourage all

workers regardless of educational level to participate in these conversations. There will be only one class and we will have all of each others’ interests at heart because we will fight to protect the collective and expand and defend the revolution. The ruling class wants us to believe we aren’t fit to handle these types of decisions—that we need elected officials to save us.

Whose interest?

ICWP was on the ground in during the protest at East LA College distributing *Red Flag* and hoping to provide answers and most importantly our communist politics to the mostly student-run protest.

“Clinton is openly pro-war,” said a student. “Sanders at least voted against US involvement in Iraq.” We replied that Sanders supported the US invasion of Afghanistan and says that he will be relentless in combating terrorists. That doesn’t sound any more like a peace candidate than Obama, under whose watch the US has killed hundreds of civilians in drone attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“The FBI should arrest Clinton for using her private e-mail when she was Secretary of State,” said another upset student to a comrade who pointed out that this conflict between Hillary and the FBI was a conflict within the ruling class and neither side shares out interests. The question of

whether Hillary is trust worthy or not as a candidate came up a lot during the discussions at the protest, but we argued that workers can’t trust any politician. They promote the interests of the capitalist class—which are always opposed to the interests of the working class.

Trump’s campaign has sharpened fascist and openly racist ideology among a sector of American workers. At the same time, young people have been won to participate in the political process to stop Trump. The ruling class wins when the working class is convinced to choose the “lesser” of two evils, which would be either Bernie or Hillary.

Hillary Clinton ended her speech with promising the workers and students who attended her rally that they can win the race for the White House. Outside on the street, students were eager to learn about our politics, took *Red Flag* and gave donations. If Hillary Clinton could rally up support to try and win the Democratic nomination, ICWP can and will work twice as hard to build a mass communist party as we struggle to build confidence in ourselves to defeat capitalism at its root. Although Bernie Sanders has some young workers and students fooled with his progressive liberal stance we know that the only people who can truly save us are ngellourselves—the working class.

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General Strike in France

COMMUNISM, NOT SOCIALISM, WILL LIBERATE THE WORKING CLASS

In France, hundreds of thousands of youth and workers have taken to the street to protest against socialist François Hollande's new Labor law. The law strips away almost all the protections workers currently have against being fired. Not to mention cutting the minimum for overtime from 25% over regular wages to 10%.

The law is so unpopular even in the Socialist Party that Prime Minister Vals invoked a special clause of the constitution that allowed him to pass it without a vote!

Socialism is in the news these days elsewhere too.

In Venezuela socialist Maduro (Chavez' successor) has declared a state of emergency. The government has run out of money, electricity is on only a couple of days a week, and there is no food in the shops.

In Greece, socialist Alexis Tsipras is shoving another round of disastrous austerity down the throats of Greek workers and youth.

In Brazil, Dilma Rouseff of the socialist (and corrupt) PT party has been purged by a collection of the equally corrupt opposition parties led by her former running-mate. (See page 5.)

In South Africa, "revolutionary" socialist Julius Malema threatens to overthrow the "democratic" socialist ANC. And finally, in the USA, Bernie Sanders calls himself a socialist and is running for President.

What is socialism? What is communism? How is it different from socialism? These are questions on the minds of billions of people worldwide.

Communism (as the ICWP sees it) is the complete negation of class society. No more bosses, no more money and wages, no more exploitation. Everyone will work for the common good and be taken care of "according to their needs". These needs include food, housing and healthcare, and also education, culture and childcare. Racism and sexism will have their roots pulled up and, even-



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depends on them.

Triumph is doing what it was invented to do: find more ways to increase exploitation of workers. Zieve's racist and fascist politics comes from the same wellspring of wage slavery.

Communism will end subcontracting and the vile politics used to justify it. Each and every communist production center will provide workers what they need. Geography and company will no longer be a factor. In fact, there won't be any companies.

Facilities won't be divided between "subcontractor" and "heritage" (main) plants. Every production center will be flexible: able to produce what the working class needs at a particular time.

Worker will no longer be pitted against worker. There will no longer be the need to invoke racism or sexism to justify super-exploitation.

We will work collectively to produce not only



FRANCE, May 16—Thousands of railway, port and airline workers went on a political strike against Hollande's new anti-worker labor reform law, joining masses of students in the streets. Transportation has been snarled across France and even in England. This shows the huge potential of the mighty industrial working class! But reform struggles, no matter how large or militant, cannot meet the masses' needs for meaningful work and a decent life. Red Flag readers in France and everywhere must begin to organize political strikes for communism and point to the need for communist revolution.

tually, will be stamped out completely.

But Hollande, Maduro, Tsipras, Rouseff, Malema, the ANC and Sanders all believe in socialism, not communism. What is the difference?

Socialism retains money, banks, wages and profits, and all the good things of life are still for sale. The difference is that the government is supposedly in the hands of 'good guys' who rein in capitalism's excesses. So (in theory) workers lives will be better.

This theory sounds plausible. But in practice, it has never worked. The bosses are driven to maximize profits and won't let themselves be restrained.

The socialists initially may introduce reforms – say, universal health care or food subsidies for the poor. But then something happens – the price of exports like oil or minerals collapses (Venezuela, South Africa, Brazil), or the banks lay down the law (Greece), or the bosses need to better compete with their rivals (France). All the good intentions go out the window and the socialists become 'realists' who have to make 'difficult' if unpopular decisions (like the French labor law, austerity in Greece, or raising tuition fees in South Africa).

the goods we need, but the communist ideology and leaders we need to succeed. No more bosses dedicated to increased profit no matter what the cost to workers. No bosses at all!

Racist Zieve opposes free education, particularly for black, latin or "foreign" students. "We do not want to waste the limited resources we have trying to train people who will fail," he told Electroimpact employees.

We'll turn our production centers into centers for communist education based on real work. Workers will collectively educate young and old alike. Production centers will teach how to produce and the science that makes production pos-

Communism has also been tried out, though not to the extent that most people think. For some 70,000 years, humans lived in preclass communism, sharing everything without money. In China, during the civil (guerrilla) war, tens of millions in the red base areas lived under the "supply system", which was basically distribution according to need.

Unfortunately, in both Russia and China, after the civil war was won the communists decided that the masses weren't ready for communism. So they restored money, markets, wages and profits. They believed they could manage the resulting capitalistic economy. In other words they became socialists! And in the end, failed, like all socialists before and after.

In China in the late 1960's the masses had had enough of socialism and rose up against it in the 'cultural' revolution. They tried, unsuccessfully, to move to communism. The ICWP commitment to communism, and our view of it, grew out of this history.

Only communism can end the horrors of capitalism, also known these days as "socialism." We need to mobilize millions and millions for a communist revolution. Join the ICWP and help make it a reality!



sible. Mass communist education fueled by the power of a united working class will transcend the limits of capitalist education.

Racist pigs like Zieve and super-exploiters like the Triumph bosses only exist because capitalism needs them. Communism will end their reign of terror with the reign of workers' power.

Imperialist Rivalry and Crisis in Brazil:

CAN'T END CORRUPTION WITHOUT WINNING COMMUNISM

Brazil's politicians are putting on a spectacle even bigger than the upcoming Olympics.

Some corrupt congressmen tied to US imperialism have impeached President Dilma Rousseff, Lula da Silva's hand-picked successor. Her vice-president, Michel Temer, is acting President. He is not eligible to run for office because he was caught violating election laws. His new cabinet includes no women and no Afro-Brazilians. It does, however, include the guy who headed the central bank during Lula's presidency.



Red Flag does not usually waste time on the ins and outs of capitalist politics. We mainly want our readers to understand how communism will work, not how capitalism doesn't work.

But understanding the situation in Brazil helps us fight the cynical view that "power corrupts." Communism can end corruption because corruption is rooted in capitalism, not in "human nature."

First, though, let's note that inter-imperialist rivalry is driving Brazilian politics. This rivalry was at the core of the deep divisions within Rousseff's "center-left" government. Many even call Rousseff's impeachment a US-sponsored "coup" (see box).

Lula and Rousseff were once tremendously popular. Brazil's rapid economic growth from 2003-2010 was largely driven by exports to China. It allowed the Workers' Party to enact social reforms that reduced poverty, unemployment and economic inequality.

But when the Chinese economy slowed, Rousseff could no longer make good on her promises. Declining oil prices deepened the crisis. Her policies were driven by the needs of global capitalism: austerity, higher interest rates, and less public investment.

In June 2013, over a million Brazilians marched to protest their declining standard of living. Many understand that things will worsen as Temer complies with International Monetary Fund demands.

In communist society, in contrast, everything will be driven by the needs of the masses. We will determine these needs through mass investigation and discussion. Local Party collectives open to everyone will be linked worldwide. "Think globally" will not be just a slogan but a way of life. We are beginning to learn to make decisions this way as the International Communist Workers' Party grows around the world.

Workers Need Communism, Not Democracy

"Every side has its hands dirty," commented a Brazilian teacher. "But I still have some faith about democracy." He added that "every day I'm fighting the mass media, cultural institutions. It's very hard. I think that as a teacher I am losing."

In communist society, education, culture and the media will foster values like collectivity, respect and unselfishness. They will help us learn to serve the masses in a society without bosses, borders or money.

Communist society will not work like the democracies or fascist dictatorships of capitalism. "Politics" won't mean voting for a

few people to run things. Instead the masses of working people will organize ourselves to be in charge. We'll try to get everybody to take leadership in small ways and large, as we do today.

Communist society will end corruption. There will be no excuse for anyone to live better than anyone else. There will be no money for bribes. The masses will criticize anyone who tries to use their position for personal advantage. We will try to get them to understand why such behavior is unacceptable.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) led masses in this struggle during the 1950s and 1960s. Books like William Hinton's *Fanshen* and *Shenfan* give us a very good idea of how it could work – and why it often didn't.

Some top CCP leaders fought for private plots and individual incentives. They intentionally sabotaged communist principles. Their Maoist opponents promoted socialist slogans like "from each according to work." These maintained the material basis for selfishness and corruption even amidst political campaigns to fight them.

Still, grassroots communists – perhaps millions – fought for communist social relations. Now, fifty years after the Cultural Revolution began, the capitalist press is pushing the lie that it was all horrible. Don't believe it! They made errors – some fatal – but there is much in their struggle to inspire us.

Communists Must Speak Truth to the Masses

Rousseff is charged with manipulating finances to make Brazil's economy look stronger than it was. All capitalist governments do that! Even Chinese and Russian socialist accounting methods created incentives for leaders to lie. They would exaggerate yields to make themselves look good, or make low-ball predictions to avoid selling grain to the state.

Relying on the masses means trusting them with the truth. In communist society, honesty will be the norm.

Today, our party does not exaggerate the size of our events or the distribution of our literature. If they are disappointing, we look self-critically at our work. We try to figure out what to do differently. We ask you to join ICWP to participate in this process.

These signs condemn the coup as capitalist and patriarchal and Temer as a coward, traitor and sell-out who does not respect the vote of the people.

INTER-IMPERIALIST RIVALRY IN BRAZIL: TRADE WARS CAN

BECOME SHOOTING WARS

Since the 1990s, Brazil has prioritized regional ties. It helped to create the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and its political counterpart Unasur. In 1995 the US tried to absorb Mercosur into its proposed "Free Trade Area of the Americas." That failed.

More recently Brazil has deepened ties with Russia and China.

In 2009, China surpassed the United States as Brazil's largest

trade partner. Chinese imperialism has invested heavily in Brazil, mainly in energy, mining, steel and agribusiness. It is diversifying into telecommunications, automobiles, machinery, banking services and infrastructure.

In the present crisis, China quickly announced plans to take advantage of "improved opportunities for investment" in Brazil.

Rousseff visited Moscow last year to sign important agreements for Russia-Brazil cooperation. Russia sought Brazilian expertise in deep offshore oil drilling. Brazil wanted Russian aid in space exploration.

The US and Brazil still have close economic ties. In 2013, however, these were strained by reports that the US National Security Agency had spied on Rousseff and Brazil's state-owned oil company (Petrobras).

Rousseff's government then ended a \$2 billion contract with Microsoft. It awarded a \$400 million satellite contract to a French company instead of a US one. It gave a \$4.5 billion fighter-jet deal to Sweden's Saab AB instead of Boeing.

Some pro-US Brazilian officials pushed back. They argued for a tilt toward US-led blocs like the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Recent US legislation gave Brazil more voting power in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as an incentive to do this.

Many think that the US orchestrated the attack on Rousseff as part of this fight. Aloysio Nunes chairs Brazil's Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is a leader in the impeachment movement. Nunes recently met with the chair of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Nunes also met with high-ranking State Department official Thomas Shannon. Shannon is a former US ambassador to Brazil. He was involved in the 2009 coup in Honduras and the 2012 Paraguay coup. And Nunes attended a luncheon sponsored by a company run by former Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

It's not easy to predict which bosses will win this battle of Brazil. Either way, the crisis will deepen, inter-imperialist rivalry will sharpen and the masses will pay the price. For now it seems that the masses are not won politically to support any bosses' faction.

Let's make good use of this opportunity to mobilize the masses for communism.



STRIKING TEA WORKERS IN INDIA CAN INSPIRE MASSES EVERYWHERE

The strike of the 6000 tea workers in Kerala, India (*Red Flag* Vol. 7, No. 7) is path breaking. It carries a lesson we can all use.

“Ideas,” the communist saying goes, “when grasped by the masses, become a material force.” Ideas challenge the accepted order of things; actions change that order! To become a communist is a call to action and a call to learn. We learn from the masses and, through the party, give back to the masses.

As women, mostly dalits, these tea workers are seen by capitalist society as ignorant, the lowest of the low. Seen through communist eyes, however, they are on the cutting edge of revolutionary practice.

Like other recent strikes in South Africa, India and China, they rejected the leadership of the official unions. In other words they understood and dismissed the role of unions as the last line of defense that capitalist production has against the needs of workers. But they did more.

Among their ranks was a significant group (we don't know if it was a leading group) that carried the message “We pick the leaves, we

heave the sacks of tea leaves, you heave the sacks of money leaves, there has to be an end to this.”

It is a powerful attack on the wage system. It is rooted in the day to day life of the workers. It emerges in the heat of a strike. It points to a demand far beyond anything that can be solved in a labor dispute. It crosses borders, continents, job distinctions. It only lacks a final call; “Smash wage slavery, fight for communism!”

We can apply it in Los Angeles among janitors in struggle: “As the sun sets we clean the floors, sanitize the workplace and haul out all the trash. As the sun rises you haul off all the profits. There has to be an end to this. Smash wage slavery, fight for communism!”

We can apply it to Boeing workers fighting lay-offs: “We machine the parts, we build the planes, you fly off with all the profits. There has to be an end to this. Smash wage slavery, fight for communism!”

We could apply it wherever we work.

And how will the tea pickers in India react when we do adapt it? Will they accuse us of tak-

ing their “intellectual property,” like Nike would if we used their “Just Do It” slogan? We think not. We bet they would feel directly connected to us, seeing their struggles in our struggles.

Cash or money, private property in any of its forms tears society apart, sows divisions. On the contrary, direct human-to-human exchange of ideas and actions builds solidarity and bonding across continents.

Making such connections, making them more and more often, is one of the key roles of the ICWP. When ideas are grasped by the masses they become a material force, a world force.

And so through the pages of *Red Flag*, the organizing and insights of striking women tea workers in Kerala, India can potentially guide the struggles of workers the world over. This is how communism works! It changes the existing order of things. It fights capitalist exploitation. It rejects money and profits. It rejects capitalist institutions like unions. It unites workers across all borders. It gives us an inspiring glimpse of what a post-revolutionary communist world will look like!

LETTERS

The Change is Now

The collective here is becoming very strong and new comrades are learning from practice. A young comrade said, “If I had not met you (ICWP), I would be wasting my life thinking of I, I, I, joining drug gangs and being an alcoholic. I want to thank you for opening and advancing my hatred of my conditions to the root of the problem—capitalism. Now I always think of we, we, we. Our Communist School is a huge advancement for the international working class and I want to contribute to it financially.” And so we got a contribution from a comrade who would have been killed or made useless by capitalism.

We are all very encouraged by changes happening quickly in our lives so we can dedicate ourselves to communism. Another comrade correctly said, “It is our party.”

We are all working over 18 hours a day to make the coming school a beacon of hope and change for the international working class.

—A comrade in South Africa

What would we be if we did not mobilize for Communism?

Thirteen years ago I began my university studies. One night when I was returning from school, a man followed me on the road to my house. He tried to rape me.

This event changed my life in several ways. First, the situation made me very depressed. I no longer wanted to live. Second, it drove me to enter a religious institute to become a missionary for about a year and a half. The aim was to heal my heart and to find meaning in life that at that moment I was losing.

In addition there were conflicts at home due to my younger brother's illness (epilepsy). He is now 23 years old and doesn't walk or talk. There was also my father's alcoholism and the poverty that drove another brother to emigrate to the US, a step toward the disintegration of the family.

At that time I had no class consciousness. Nor did I think that capitalism was the cause of all these events that were destroying the family. Nor did I think about our working class around the world. Like me they suffer from the ravages of a

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS



May Day, Mexico, 2016

system that exploits us and condemns us to death, taking away the hope, confidence and dignity of human beings.

Today, with all this going on, plus femicides, trafficking in women, gender violence, that is sexism and racism around the world, I am happy to belong to our international collective, that is, to our ICWP. It has given me the political clarity to be able to contribute to this historical process of the liberation of our international working class.

And I am here, like all our comrades worldwide, struggling against our internal contradictions. We strive every day to contribute to the training of the people who need to kill the capitalist bosses and their whole system.

Today, together with my class brothers and sisters and comrades, I hoist our banner in my heart. I encourage all our class brothers and sisters to remember that despite everything we experience under capitalism, we must not stop fighting.

Today more than ever, we must have the certainty that our Communist society is possible. Those of us who are nothing today will be all, as the comrades in El Salvador said so well.

And here we are. The commitment to our

struggle guarantees us that we are mobilizing the masses for Communism. We are making it the priority in our life, because, as I say to friends who have read our newspaper, “Can we live in another way? What would happen with our life if we were not communists? If we didn't fight for a world in which each person receives according to their needs and gives according to their commitment and capacity?”

So, now I ask all the comrades and class brothers and sisters around the world, what would we be if we did not take in our hands, the responsibility to liberate our class? What would we be if we did not mobilize for Communism? Join ICWP!

—Young Comrade in Mexico

We Need Communist Revolution, Not Voting for a Socialist

The phenomenon of Bernie Sanders has aroused the curiosity of young people in the US. He has proclaimed that he is a social democrat. He proclaimed a war on the rich,

calling them the 1%, claiming that the middle class has disappeared, offering that public colleges should be free and that we all should have universal health insurance.

He compares the United States with other nations of the first world (like Denmark and Sweden which have Social Democratic governments), claiming that they live better and that workers have more benefits. He has proclaimed his so-called political revolution, which makes the bosses uncomfortable, but doesn't scare them. Sanders has shown how the Democratic system is not so democratic and even if it were, the bosses will only give us crumbs.

He only wants to reform the capitalist system. He wants to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour when the bosses can raise the cost of living whenever they want to.

Sanders has called on the youth to vote for him. The truth is that nothing will change without a true communist revolution. We shouldn't believe that by voting or wanting to reform a constitution the bosses will obey.

—A Comrade



Communist School Shows How We Can Change History

First, I want to thank the comrades who made the Communist school possible. It really inspired us and it really makes us want to do more, to want to go out there in the world to mobilize the masses for communism, as many as we can.

In my perspective, the day of the school itself really went well because of the theme of the communist school that day. We were talking about change. We were not only talking about future change; we were talking about change that was already there in front of me. Because there were comrades in the last conference who were at the communist school and who were participating fully, engaging as if they had been inside the party for years.

And so it really showed me on that day that it's not difficult for the masses to trust in our political line and transform into being active members of the party. So that's the change, that's one of the things I took from the day of the school.

It was really inspiring to see those comrades inside my collective who we had recruited in the last conference and how they blossomed into really fully fledged communists, who are dedicated members of the party.

—A Comrade in South Africa

Los Angeles May Day: Marching Toward Communism

The ICWP celebration of the May Day Dinner and March was the culmination of another year of communist political struggle. Maybe all the work carried out during the year was not fully reflected in all our friends in the base of the party participating in these events as we hoped or wished. However this year brought many who are getting involved and who are becoming communist leaders.

The leadership committee of ICWP in Los Angeles played a very important role in carrying out the May Day dinner with its speeches, play, communist chorus, the decoration of the hall, the sound system, in addition to coordinating the transportation for our base and their friends to the event.

We should feel proud because these are completely communist activities. Our collective is composed of women and men workers, ex-sol-

diers, and teachers. Courageous and determined, we are struggling firmly against the odds in the advance to conquer each new inch of enemy territory.

We understand that we are the advance guard of a great Red Army. In our ranks we still make many mistakes. We personally have many weaknesses that slow our advance. But with our dialectical understanding and our practice, and without fear of criticism and self criticism, we will overcome our weaknesses and get closer and closer to the final victory of communism.

We know that we are not marching alone. Many other workers in different countries are also marching, confident that the political line of ICWP, of Mobilize the Masses for Communism, will be the path to victory.

Thousands of workers worldwide identify with the line of our Party, because it is not the invention of a few "wise revolutionaries." Instead it is the result of the critical study of the history of the class struggle with all its successes, but even more important, with its failures and mistakes. Our political line is not a dogma; it is a revolutionary science.

That said, we must return as spiders to weave webs of *Red Flag* readers. Let's go again to the factories, the shops, the fields, barracks, and schools to recruit new members. As a young student said in a speech in the play at the dinner, "Let's mobilize our co-workers, relatives, and friends but let's start with ourselves, giving more to reach the goal of a world without borders, without wages, without racism, without wars, that is, a communist world."

Let's strive to make our next May Day is much more successful, correcting the mistakes we made in this one and struggling to bring those who did not attend this time and also their friends and relatives.

We have nothing to lose but our chains; we have a world to win.

—Worker comrade in Los Angeles

Self Criticism For Not Putting Forward Communism

EL SALVADOR—"The anger of the workers, the death of the exploiters!" "If you want to rob, Aznar will show you how to do the job!" The youth chanted these and other slogans in front of the hotel where the Asociación Nacional de la Empresa Privada (ANEP) was holding its annual national meeting for private enterprise (ENADE).

ANEP invited José Maria Aznar, the ex-President of Spain to speak about how to fight corruption. The funny thing is that he has been sanctioned and fined for evading taxes and exposed in the famous Panama Papers for creating "ghost" companies.

A group of young friends and members of ICWP met as a collective to plan the protest. We discussed the direction we wanted to give the demonstration, taking into account that it would be through an alliance with other organizations. We decided that it would be a call to the class strug-

gle. Under the name "EVADE" ("tax evasion") we designed signs, flags and slogans that would encourage class hatred.

On the day of the event, about 250 of us walked through the most exclusive streets of San Salvador. For a few hours, we workers took control of the elite neighborhood. When we reached the hotel, the businessmen at the entrances were astonished and hurried inside. Others left quickly in their cars. We saw the biggest exploiters in the region parading in front of us. The atmosphere became tense and tempers heated.

"Why are you walking faster?" some asked.

"In the factory they scream and insult the workers, but in the street they cower in front of us," a youth yelled at a recognized maquila boss. Behind the insults and shouts was the class hatred.

This activity triggered a series of actions and direct attacks against the bosses, exposing us because of emotional impulses.

Analyzing this activity objectively, we need to highlight certain aspects. It was primarily conceived and planned by members and friends of ICWP, but it was not for communism. It is not enough to have an anti-capitalist mobilization or a mobilization for class struggle. We must always mobilize the masses for communism. We need to bring the idea that only the abolition of money can put an end to capitalist corruption.

The working class must be conscious that we should not fight for the bosses to pay their taxes or that politicians not be corrupt. These actions are part of to the nature of capitalism. As long as money and capitalism exist, the rulers will be bribed to benefit a group of bosses.

We must be conscious that the bosses' exploitation, repression and enrichment at the expense of our labor power and the scarcity we face will never end if we do not fight directly for communism.

The activity provided an opportunity to speak with internationalist friends and with a group of women fighting for clean drinking water in their communities. However, we did not have enough copies of *Red Flag*.

From this activity we can learn lessons from the mistakes and successes we made as a youth collective. One thing is clear: we will not let the bosses have even a moment of peace. The working class is each time more conscious that capitalism doesn't work. We are the ones who must show them the correct path, communist revolution.

—Comrade in El Salvador

Red Flag adds: The courage and boldness shown by the friends and comrades is part of what the working class needs to make a revolution. But the most important thing is our communist political line. The masses already have hatred of the capitalist system. What they don't have are communist ideas. If we don't take them these ideas it means playing the bosses' game and believing that the capitalist system can be reformed. We invite them to take this communist boldness to the maquilas, the students and the farmworkers.

LEARNING IN COMMUNIST SOCIETIES, from page 8

How Will Children Learn in Scientific Communist Society?

The world today is more complicated and interconnected than it was 10,000 years ago. We don't live in isolated small groups, and we don't expect to live that way in a communist world. Collectively we know a lot more – too much for everyone to become competent at everything.

So the ways in which children will learn to become adults will be both different and similar to

pre-class communism. For small children, they will probably be mainly similar.

Instead of highly-structured schools, children will mainly learn through their own mixed-age play. They will watch and imitate adults, and gradually begin to work alongside them. They will learn to read and write in much the same way. Older people will always be available to help and encourage them.

There is a qualitative difference between being a "child" and being an "adult" but all people have so much in common! As we envision our communist future and fight for it, let's think about what we'll all learn and how. Let's imagine and fight for a world in which learning and working, work and play, will be united for all.

Read more about hunter-gatherer children: Peter Gray, *Freedom to Learn* (blog posts)

Lessons in Dialectical Materialism

ADVANCING IN WAVES

Recent news in *Red Flag* shows the party in South Africa has a big opportunity now to recruit new members. This rising wave means working hard to consolidate members who need to learn our line and have many questions and disagreements. This work can't be done by the South African comrades alone. The whole party needs to help them expand. We must raise money for literature and transportation, of course. More importantly, however, we must learn how to build international relations of solidarity and struggle. We must learn from each other so the advances of the party in one place help the party to advance in many other places. Dialectics can help us understand why this is so.

An earlier article discussed some of the twists and turns in dialectical development, particularly in the communist movement. We mentioned the law of the "negation of the negation," which means that when qualitative change is followed by a second one (two "negations") the result is never quite the same as what you started with, even if it is similar. Here we discuss one way of thinking about the negation of the negation law that was popular in the communist movement in China about 50 years ago. That is the idea that movements go forward in waves, where the next wave is different from the last one, and if we are successful, rises to a higher level. This is what we are trying to do in our work in South Africa.

Like the communist movement in the USSR, the movement in China made very fundamental errors that led to its downfall. Chinese communists did not realize that socialism is just a form of capitalism, one that turns into obvious capital-

ism, the situation in China today. Worse yet, the Chinese communists made repeated alliances with Chinese capitalists in the name of nationalism. Despite these errors, the Chinese communists spread dialectics widely, and many of their ideas and experiences are still valuable.

"Advancing in waves" means that a process can move forward quickly for a time and then pause or fall back before advancing again. A political movement cannot make a maximum effort all the time, but needs periods of intense activity followed by evaluation and consolidation. Lenin described many movements advancing in waves (including counterrevolutionary ones). Mao Zedong compared wave-like advance to an army that attacks, achieves its objective, and rests and rearms for the next attack.

In 1958 Mao described the dialectics of advancing in waves:

"... a wave-like form of progress is the unity of opposites, deliberation and haste, the unity of opposites, hard work and dreams."

Mao argued that advancing in waves is an objective, necessary feature of a movement, not something people get to choose or avoid. After we go all out to mobilize the masses for a march or a conference, we must consolidate the people we have mobilized. We must deepen the relationships we have built. This allows us to intensify the political struggle for a deeper understanding of communist politics. We organize party clubs and other political structures and make a plan for work that our stronger forces can carry out.

Here is an important example from Soviet history. By 1923, after the revolutionary war was

over, the communists realized that there were not enough industrial workers in the party, only about 12%. They decided to recruit workers "from the workbench" in large numbers. When Lenin died after a long illness, the party appealed to workers to join to honor him and follow in his footsteps. This was called the "Lenin Enrollment" and several hundred thousand workers joined in a short period, raising the percentage of industrial workers to about 35%.

This big opportunity created a big problem, the problem of educating the mass of new members in communist theory and practical work. This meant producing a lot of new study materials that made sense to people with limited reading skills: new magazines and pamphlets, study groups, leadership training, etc. Once this hard work was done, the new worker members made a fundamental change that prepared the party for future advances.

The mass of industrial workers in the party were a key force in a number of ways. The wrong ideas of party "oppositionists" (Bukharin and Trotsky) were rejected by many workers. When the rural capitalists ("kulaks") withheld grain from the cities in 1928, the party sent armed workers to confiscate it. The kulaks' grain strike made it clear that the Soviets had to have collectivized agriculture, so the party recruited more than 25,000 communist industrial workers to move to the countryside in 1930. These workers were critical to the success of the collectivization campaign.

All movements develop in twists and turns, catastrophes and leaps forward. If we make mistakes, a deep trough behind the wave can pull us backwards. If we don't consolidate the people we have mobilized, we'll start the next mobilization from scratch, and we'll be on a constant, demoralizing, treadmill. Instead of advancing to a higher level, the victory can turn into defeat. We must seize our opportunities, advance if we can, and learn from our mistakes if we do not. But that is how we mobilize the masses for communism, and now is the time for our wave to rise in South Africa.



Communist School in South Africa, May 2016

In Communist Societies:

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY AND WORK, NOT SCHOOLS

Communism will change many things that we usually take for granted. Here's a big one: how children learn to become adults.

Schools organized into age-segregated classrooms first appeared in the United States in Quincy, Massachusetts, in the 1840s. It was a period of rapid capitalist industrialization there. But this assembly-line model of schooling really took off when assembly lines began to dominate manufacturing.

Schools as we know them treat children like objects that are passed along a conveyor belt. At each stop (grade) a worker (the teacher) adds some new component (curriculum). The final product is supposed to be an adult worker who meets the "specs" of capitalists ready to exploit him or her.

Communism will end the tyranny of the conveyor belt over production workers and the tyranny of age-segregated schools over children.

Children, like older people, are human beings first, last and completely. In communist society they, like everyone else, will participate in making decisions about their lives. Young children will mainly learn through self-directed mixed-age play.

Adults will help them learn what they want to learn. We will all encourage each other to learn and do new things throughout our lives. Especially we will learn different kinds of work and the knowledge that goes with them.

How Children Learned in Classless Hunter-Gatherer Societies

All people were hunter-gatherers for tens of thousands of years before the rise of class society. We have no direct evidence of how children learned to become adults then. But some geographically isolated hunter-gatherer societies survived into the second half of the 20th century before imperialism destroyed their way of life.

We call these societies "pre-class communism" because people worked, shared, played and made decisions together without money or bosses. In all such cultures, children spent most of their time playing and exploring in mixed-age groups.

Sometimes we mistakenly think that they didn't have much to learn. But they did!

Future gatherers had to learn a lot about what plants were edible, where and when they grew, how to separate the edible parts and sometimes how to process them. They had to learn to make baskets and other tools.

Future hunters needed to learn about hundreds of species of animals, their habits and how to track them. They, too, had to learn to make tools and become skilled at using them.

Hunter-gatherer children also had to learn the geography and weather patterns of the large territories they occupied. As adults they would need to build shelter, make fires and cook, avoid predators, treat illnesses, deliver babies and care for infants. Equally important, children had to learn to build group solidarity through stories, music, dance and ritual.

They didn't learn this in "school." They learned mainly through self-directed play and exploration. They observed adult activities, imitated them, incorporated them into play. Adults might offer a bit of help when children wanted it.

Children began gradually to contribute to actual production when they felt ready and willing. "From each according to commitment and ability...." After all, kids want to grow up! Play turned into work, but work retained a playful spirit even into adulthood.

See [LEARNING IN COMMUNIST SOCIETIES, page 7](#)