

# RED FLAG

## MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



Los Angeles May Day marchers mobilize for a communist world where workers will destroy all borders, working and sharing together for our class as a whole. This must be our response to the “immigration reform” of President Obama and the Supreme Court, who are reshaping deadly US immigration policy to maintain racist super-exploitation while building patriotism in preparation for even deadlier wars. (See pages 2 and 14.)



# WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

### Jean Mart Concentration Camp:

#### **GARMENT WORKERS FIGHT WAGE SLAVERY**

During World War II, the German capitalists built slave-labor concentration camps where they put Jews, communists, captured enemy soldiers, Roma people and others to work. At the entrance to many camps were signs that said “Work Makes You Free.” Under this slogan, the German capitalists worked millions literally to death.

Today capitalism proclaims that we all have the opportunity to “be all that we can be” – rich capitalists — if we work hard. This is another capitalist BIG LIE. If this were true, the garment workers in Los Angeles and the rest of the world would be among the richest.

Reality is different. The vile exploitation of this section of workers is more and more like the labor camps of Nazi Germany. The factory Jean Mart Inc., located in south Los Angeles, is a clear example.

Some 600 garment workers here produce two brands of luxury jeans: True Religion and Lucky. Every day they turn out enormous quantities of jeans that sell for millions of dollars. The average retail price for True Religion jeans is \$259. That of Lucky jeans is \$105.

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### LA MTA:

#### **COMMUNISM WILL END CAPITALIST CORRUPTION**

Alex Dinuzzio, MTA Regional Director of Maintenance, is being accused of gross misconduct together with a group of managers and supervisors and even some workers. This director reflects the capitalist values of greed, racism, and complete brutal contempt for workers. What are the accusations?

Embezzlement of funds, destruction of evidence to obstruct the investigation of crimes committed, openly racist actions, and some others. Dinuzzio has always been a rabid racist, which is no surprise. A few times he commented to some workers that his parents had been members of the National Fascist Party led by Mussolini. Everything indicates that the punishment of this group of petty thieves is only a strategy of the Board of Directors to cover something that has been happening for many years. According to rumors, the punishment that this fascist will get is much less than he deserves for his crimes.

They're going to let him retire with his manager's salary. The charges will probably be reduced to misdemeanors. During this whole process the union, ATU, didn't lift one finger to tell the

See MTA, page 2

### Boeing Union Does Bosses' Bidding:

#### **YOUNG WORKERS SEE THE SCORE**

Things have gotten really bad when the bosses' newspaper, *The Seattle Times*, starts praising the union. They did just that in their recent editorial “Dull News Is Exciting for Boeing, Its Workers” (6/14).

They were referring to the Aerospace Machinists Performance Program (AMPP) agreed to in the December contract extension. The details were finalized in June. The program will pay yearly bonuses of 0-4% of our salary. The payouts will be determined based on certain criteria: 20% safety, 30% quality and 50% productivity.

“Yeah, and 100% bullshit!” a friend summed up the sentiment on the shop floor.

Boeing workers are no fools. Immediately, they started making jokes about being led by a carrot on a stick. “Not even a carrot,” said another machinist, “a baby carrot!”

To add insult to injury, shop stewards together with frontline supervisors led the meetings to sell this glorified piecework plan, which is like the way garment workers at American Apparel are pitted against one another.

District President Wroblewski took straw votes

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## FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS, RACISM AND EXPLOITATION: A COMMUNIST WORLD

The vision of a borderless world inspires millions worldwide. Many, however, think it is impossible to achieve. Others believe that capitalist politicians can at least pass more humane immigration laws.

This is a deadly illusion. There is no such thing as a “humane law.” Laws developed with the development of class society. They enforce the racist exploitation and butchery of the exploiter over the exploited.

Only by organizing a communist revolution to destroy the bosses’ system, their borders and their rule of law can the working class create a borderless world without bosses and their racism, exploitation and oppression.

### “The Rule of Law” is the Bosses’ Rule

In deciding on Arizona AB1070, the Supreme Court ruled that only the federal government can decide immigration policy, not states. This makes the US Congress responsible for “fixing the US broken immigration system.” This is exactly what Obama and his imperialist masters wanted. Their “fix” is to pass the DREAM Act and the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (CIR).

The Supreme Court’s ruling, however, leaves standing the racist provision that allows the police to stop suspected “undocumented” persons and ask for their “papers.” This will be contested in the courts to further get workers to believe in the bosses’ rule of law. But in the event that the law is ruled discriminatory, the courts are likely to rule that all workers should be asked for their papers, possibly requiring a national ID card for all US citizens and residents, another step in developing a police state. Racist attacks on immigrants lead to attacks on all workers, soldiers and youth.

### Obama’s Executive Order Enables US Imperialists To Execute Bigger Wars

Millions have applauded Obama’s executive order halting deportation for 800,000 youth from 16 to 30 years old. Some see it as a humanitarian gesture, others as a cynical ploy to win the Hispanic vote. Both are basically wrong.

“Humanitarian” Obama has deported more people than any other president. His hands are soaked in blood from ordering drone attacks that murder entire Middle Eastern families. At least 20% of the 957 killed in Pakistan in 2010 alone were civilians: men, women and children.

Obama’s actions have his imperialist masters’

war needs at heart. Currently, the Obama administration is debating sending troops to Syria, which could escalate into a global conflict (see article page 13) which will require millions of boots on the ground.

His executive order is a step toward passing the DREAM Act, which is supported by the Pentagon. It promises the above-mentioned undocumented youth a path to citizenship, if they complete two years of university or two years of military service. Another million undocumented youth would also eventually be eligible.

For economic reasons, the majority of these youth will be forced into the army. This will enable the imperialists to expand their wars without imposing a military draft. Eventually, however, their needs for global war will force them to pass it.

### US Imperialists Also Need To Pass CIR

CIR would put millions of immigrants on a tortuous 12 year “path to citizenship.” Once registered, workers will have to work for six years before eligible for residency. If unemployed for 60 or more days during this period, they could be deported. Getting their residency can take up to six years, because they will be placed behind all worldwide residency applicants.

CIR is designed to force millions of these workers to slave, for low wages and under fascist conditions, in the bosses’ war industries that feed their military machine. Millions more, including their 4 million US-born children, will join the

military either for patriotism, to expedite their “path” to citizenship or because of the draft.

As the bosses’ economic crisis deepens and their wars grow larger and more lethal, legal residents and citizens will also be forced into those war industries and under the same slave conditions. The “green card” draft will lead to a military draft of all the youth.

### This Sets the Basis For Unity Of Immigrant and Citizen Workers To Fight For Communism

Slaving and fighting side by side, immigrants and citizens - black, latino, asian, arab and white, men and women - will create the conditions for our Party to grow massively.

No boss, capitalist politician or law will end racist exploitation, deportations or imperialist wars. Only our Party, made up of millions of thinking, active workers, soldiers and youth mobilized for communism, can put an end to these evils.

We urge revolutionary youth to join the bosses’ military to mobilize fellow soldiers to turn the guns around and fight for communism. Others should go into the factories to build our Party in the bosses’ war industries.

Together, we will destroy capitalism, and build a borderless communist world based on collectively producing and sharing. Everyone will always be welcome everywhere because the more arms and brains, the better to produce for our class’ needs.



**MTA from page 1** workers about this or to try to win the workers to repudiate these kinds of crimes. Far from it, they showed sympathy for this band of thieves.

Several workers were fired during the reign of terror of these racists, some for involuntary accidents due to the pressure at work or from exhaustion. The union always justified or did next to nothing to defend these workers, some of whom lost their homes and confronted practically alone the nightmare of being unemployed. The union is one more attack on the workers.

But when Dinuzzio had an accident, he didn’t receive this treatment! Mr. Dinuzzio was involved in a car accident with a company car under the in-

fluence of alcohol. He left the scene of the accident and got the assistant manager of Division 5 to claim that he was driving. They found information in his computer about people he was harassing because of their “race.” In addition, he carried out illicit business deals with sub-contractors, from which evidence shows he made personal profit.

MTA and all capitalists use dogs like Dinuzzio to harass, exploit and pressure us workers. Until we organize a communist revolution and get rid of all exploiters and exploitation, there will be other Dinuzzios to be the bosses’ hatchet men. The bosses themselves steal even more than these thieves from workers everyday as capitalist business-as-usual.

Capitalism in decline needs discipline among its

ranks and won’t allow these small bosses to upset the apple cart. The majority of workers think that these attacks will be a pretext to implement stricter discipline against us workers, since the rumor is that in general they lost seven billion dollars. Meanwhile we haven’t had a contract for 3 years because they say they don’t have money!

Some *Red Flag* readers commented that this could be the beginning of a sharper class struggle, since it can’t be a coincidence that they started to institute work quotas in different areas. We asked some of them to get more involved with the Party, to become writers, distributors, and contributors, to bring these communist ideas to many more. Some plan to come to the Bar-B-Q to start the Communist Summer Project this July 1st.



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## EL SALVADOR: FACTORY WORKERS STUDY **RED FLAG**

EL SALVADOR—“Yes, I’ve read *Red Flag* several times. In the factory where I work, we had a strike this year because the boss didn’t want to pay us the extra hours that we had worked, and when we workers united, he had to do it. We saw that being united is the only way that they pay attention to us.” This was the first time that this young worker participated in a meeting of ICWP. He works in a textile factory, and he’s also the son of a comrade who’s giving communist leadership in two other factories.

A meeting had been planned for the weekend with workers from these factories, and we all arrived at the meeting place. Everyone came on time, like good communist fighters. The discussion began with the young worker’s comments, and one of the comrades in charge of the meeting summed up. “We workers spend a lot of time in reform struggles that take us away from the struggle for communism. The bosses some-

times will give in because this is a strategy in their plan, and they use the unions for this goal.”

The youth answered, “Hey, I hadn’t seen it that way. I’ll keep reading *Red Flag*.” This discussion deepened our understanding about what is reform and what is revolution.

Each participating comrade brought up problems that they face daily in the factories, and told how the supervisors do the dirty work of making them carry out the bosses’ production goals. The communist comrades related how the supervisors have separated them—the ICWP group—to try to halt the organizing work that they carry out in the factory, all of this with the complicity of the union leaders financed by the bosses. But instead of the workers being set back, they’ve gotten madder at the bosses and their servants and they plan to take the ideas of the International Communist Workers’ Party to other workers in nearby factories who suffer the

same capitalist oppression.

Two youths participated in this meeting: the one mentioned earlier and a young worker from a non-governmental organization, who has been a *Red Flag* reader and participated for the first time, giving her point of view. Her father also joined the final discussion giving excellent suggestions about the Party’s work for communist revolution. The young worker said, “What we workers need is more information like that in *Red Flag* so that we better understand the things you talk about.”

We ended the meeting with our communist understanding raised to a higher level and with the greater commitment that these women and men workers called for when they said, “We want to go up to the mountains and visit the farmworkers there one weekend, to meet them, socialize with them and learn more about the communist solution.”



### GARMENT from page 1

However, this wealth doesn’t benefit the garment workers. It ends up in the pockets of the contractors, owners, and stockholders of True Religion and Fifth & Pacific (owner of the Lucky brand). We are supposed to make ourselves rich by saving and knowing how to manage our money, but we get paid no more than the miserable minimum wage. Some earn more by working fast and being paid by the piece—repetitive work that destroys the body, leaving many crippled for life.

In addition, the millionaire contractor owners of Jean Mart don’t pay holidays, vacations, or medical insurance for the workers and their families. Not satisfied with this, these bloodsuckers fight over pennies with those who do piece work, always looking to lower their wages.

#### **It’s humiliating to make a living in this factory.**

With a security guard at the entrance, no one can enter without the company ID card. Many lose hours or even the whole day because they forgot or lost their ID. Some workers, among the hundreds who read *Red Flag*, made the following comments in an interview:

“Inside, it’s like being in a jail,” said a female worker. “There are cameras everywhere and they force us to always be working. Also, they prohibit us from talking to each other, from listening to the radio or music, even with headphones. They won’t let us use cellphones. This affects us a lot. In an emergency, how do we and our loved ones communicate with each other?”

“Yes!” commented another woman. “They don’t want us to stop producing for a minute. Also, they treat us as if we were thieves. That’s

why they have cameras at the entrance of the bathroom and they search our purses, bags and backpacks when we leave.”

“Those who give out the work turn us into Luis, the supervisor. If we stop working, we talk to each other, or use the phone, they gossip to the bosses. They act as if they were the owners, even though they are low-paid workers like us,” commented other women and men. “You say something or complain and soon those in charge are threatening to fire us. The way they treat us is humiliating.”

#### **We don’t have to put up with anything from the bosses.**

We produce everything that is useful in society and enough so that everyone everywhere could live comfortably. The bosses don’t produce anything. They are leeches who live off the products of our sweat. While they have more than enough, we lack the basic necessities.

We don’t need them, their money or their exploitation. We can build and administer a different world, a world where we produce only to

meet the needs of all workers internationally. Only in this way will we eliminate the poverty, hunger, and curable diseases that limit and destroy the lives of millions of us.

In our world, there won’t be borders or racist immigration laws used to super-exploit us. There won’t be supervisors or bosses, or the privileged whose job is to give orders. All of us, including leaders, will do mental and manual work to collectively produce and distribute what we need. Without money, privileges, and exploitation, we can again treat each other as human beings—with dignity and respect.

This is the communism that the bosses so fear and hate because it means the end of them and their system. That’s why they instill us with anti-communism. However, more workers see that the capitalist system—racist, sexist and given to constant crises and wars—doesn’t work. More workers are seeing communist revolution as our only alternative. Garment workers and all workers need to join the International Communist Workers’ Party to advance the revolutionary process.



## HOW SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

In the last issue of *RF*, a reader asked how communist soldiers could convince soldiers on both sides to turn their guns around when they are at the front without exposing themselves to being killed.

The questions posed are very interesting because the answers are directly linked to the history of our movement and to the plans of ICWP to improve on what has been done in the past. History has proven that it takes a lot of time, energy and commitment to influence and win soldiers in imperialist armies to join the working class in a communist revolution.

It takes years of political struggle to convince soldiers that their interests are not aligned with the interests of the imperialists, but those of the world's workers. How were communist parties able to convince soldiers on both sides? The an-

swer lies in the type of work that communist parties did in the past, as well as in the conditions faced by soldiers during world wars.

The Russian Revolution was the result of decades of organizing in the Czar's army and the factories. The Russian communists were keenly aware of the approaching World War I. With this understanding, they saw the urgent need to build a communist party with the goal of turning the imperialist war into a war for workers' power.

Russian communists joined the army and directed their leaflets and newspapers to the troops. When World War I erupted in 1914, 12 million Russian peasants, supposedly "apolitical and patriotic," were recruited into the Russian army. In the war's first year, a million were killed and many more were wounded and maimed.

By 1915, they began deserting the front. By

1917, what began as a trickle became a deluge. Millions deserted the front and hundreds of thousands joined the Russian communists in demanding an end to the war. Eventually, they were won to turn their weapons around and fight for the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

The fraternizing that took place in the battlefields of WWI was organized by communists in the Russian army and navy and communists from the parties of the Second Communist International that had

been drafted into the other European armies. When the Russian revolution was attacked by 14 imperialist armies, communists in these armies organized massive rebellions against their imperialist bosses' attempts to destroy that revolution. This shows the importance of organizing an international communist party.

In China, the communist party was influenced by the Russian Revolution. Even though the international movement lacked one single party leading the revolution, this movement was able to cross language barriers. The *Communist Manifesto* was published in almost every language. Oppression, like racism and sexism, has no language barrier. Soldiers around the world were convinced that the world around them needed to be changed and that revolution was the answer.

The reader asked, "How were soldiers convinced to turn the guns around without being exposed?"

This is an intriguing question because it points to the dedication and commitment communist soldiers must have since many communist soldiers may even die fighting for communism. But more soldiers die as long as capitalism launches its ever-deadlier wars for profit and empire! Again, it sometimes takes decades to organize a successful revolution. The Russians were organizing in the Tsar's military for about 15 years before the Bolsheviks successfully took state power. The Chinese Red Army organized and fought for 30 years before taking state power in 1949.

Today we have the huge advantage of learning from the past. Today we mobilize directly for communism, not socialism. Masses of soldiers, sailors and marines are open to fighting to build a communist world where we work and fight only for the interests of the working class, not for any boss. Together with workers and youth, soldiers and sailors will build the world we deserve.



Communist organizing in the czar's army and navy was crucial in the Russian Revolution.

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at each union meeting to gauge rank-and-file reaction. Mainly, appointed shop stewards and paid staff attend these meetings. Even they reported that only a small minority looked upon the AMPP favorably.

Wroblewski's reaction was to double down: maybe if the members see some payout this time, we can negotiate a bonus that is a higher percentage of our wage in the next contract. With union leaders like these, who needs bosses!

#### Union Busting or Dangers of Reformism

A teacher at one of our meetings called these kinds of programs "union busting," likening it to merit-pay contracts in the schools. But every industrial union in the US is promoting these programs. The role of unions today is to control workers' militancy and win workers to limit our view to reforming capitalism. They do the bosses' work.

Do these trade union leaders have a death wish? Hardly! A militant union may be able to get a few crumbs when a particular group of bosses are temporarily on the rise. Not so as capitalism is in crisis. Those union leaders most committed to a trade-union philosophy will end up being the biggest defenders of this system, and at our expense. If they don't see communism as the solution, they'll end up defending the bosses.

Take auto, for example. Average wages even a few years ago hovered around \$30/hour. Now they are down to \$15/hour. The biggest promoters of the government's redesign [aka bailout] of the industry were the UAW union leaders. They, like the captains of industry, consider the end of capitalism to be the end of the world.

#### Mobilize a New Generation for Communism

Boeing will be hiring some 59,000 workers in the next five years. A new generation of workers will replace those retiring. The union is having a hard time getting young workers to participate.



Who can blame them when the union leads the charge to impoverish them?

Many veteran workers ask themselves about the future these young workers will face. The liberals and reformers bemoan the next generation's hesitancy to embrace trade union ideology.

But trade unions have shown recently (and throughout history) that they have no answers, and this becomes clearer when capitalism goes into crisis. We have the opportunity and responsibility to mobilize these new workers for communism. The primary job of veteran *Red Flag*

readers is to not primarily to win young workers to be active in the union, but in the revolution. *Red Flag* youth should go into the factories to organize and lead party collectives.

Communism means no economic crises. It will organize production rationally for our needs. No longer will the capitalists and their lieutenants in the labor movement drive down our wages to save profit-hungry bosses.

*Red Flag* readers at Boeing are exposing AMPP. This campaign will show that first and foremost we workers need to build a new type of organization: a revolutionary communist party, the International Communist Workers' Party. That will be our goal during this year's summer projects in LA, Seattle, and Oakland.

## Syria: Imperialist Chess Game Could Lead to World War

### MASSES MUST DECIDE TO END THEIR DEADLY GAME

June 26—The mass rebellion in Syria that emerged during last year's "Arab Spring" has developed into full-scale civil war. The US and Russian imperialists view this rapidly-changing situation as a bloody chess game in which they sacrifice workers as pawns in their effort to checkmate their rivals. It will be up to the workers to overturn the board!

Assad's Syria relies on Iran and Russia for financial and military support, as well as for food and medical supplies. The US capitalist-imperialists are desperately trying to consolidate Assad's opponents into a pro-NATO coalition. They hope to tear strategically-located Syria from the Iran-Russia-China bloc.

These rival capitalist-imperialists are determined to prevent this. The Russian bosses' mouthpiece Pravda recently warned, "Any offensive from either side may even trigger the possi-

ble beginning of a World War." The UN pulled its observers out of Syria in mid-June, indicating that a peaceful resolution of the crisis is increasingly unlikely. Meanwhile, the death toll – combatants and civilians – continues to rise.

Until the Arab Spring of 2011, Syria and its neighbor Turkey (with US support) were close allies. Now Turkey serves as a base for the Islamic fundamentalist Free Syrian Army (FSA) and, with CIA cooperation, allows rebels to cross the 550-mile border into Syria. Over the weekend of June 23-24, Syria shot down at least one Turkish spy plane. Turkey admits that the plane was in Syrian airspace but threatens to cut off power supplies to Syria and possibly to engage its Army in the border conflict.

As *Red Flag* goes to press, rumors are flying. The situation is far from clear. In mid-June, for example, Iran accused the US and its allies of sending weapons and troops into Syria. At the same time, Russia's main weapons exporter claimed to be shipping advanced defensive missile systems to Syria, for use in case the US or other nations tried to intervene. Meanwhile, the Interfax news agency reported that two Russian naval vessels with marines on board were heading for Tartus, a Syrian port that houses a Russian naval base.

Also in June, the Iranian news agency Fars reported that Iran, Syria, Russia, and China would start "war games" in early July, involving 90,000 troops, 400 planes, 1000 tanks, 12 Chi-

nese warships, Russian atomic submarines and warships, aircraft carriers and mine-clearing destroyers, and Iranian battleships and submarines. Syria denied this claim, but Pravda repeated it a week later. Whether or not these "war games" take place, the Syrian civil war could easily escalate into an imperialist proxy-war or even world war.

According to the US bosses' mouthpiece *The New York Times*, "the opposition [to Assad] remains a fractious collection of political groups, longtime exiles, grass-roots organizers and armed militants, divided along ideological, ethnic or sectarian lines." The best-armed group is the Muslim fundamentalist Free Syria Army. This does not bode well for US imperialism. "For the United States," says *The New York Times*, "the conflict is a bundle of risks and contradictions."

The Syrian masses shouldn't choose between different imperialists. No imperialist power, no faction of the national capitalist class, no "democracy" or "rule of law" can meet their needs and aspirations. None of the half-dozen so-called leftist groups active in Syria has the approach of mobilizing the masses for communism. Yet communism is what workers, students, soldiers, and the masses need, in Syria as elsewhere.

We are not pawns. We are the makers of history and of the future. Syrian soldiers are deserting in increasing numbers and turning the guns around. But what will they fight for? It must become a communist revolution. We urge them, and you, to join the International Communist Workers' Party and build a future without borders or bosses or bloody wars for bishops or kings.



## Racism, Patriotism Go Hand in Hand

### LIBERAL CHURCH ACTIVISTS OPEN TO COMMUNISM

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, June 25 — "Show your love for America by loving undocumented immigrants who are American at heart," preached a minister to thousands at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) convention last week. "We are the flag! Please rise and sing 'America the Beautiful.'"

This shows how "imperialist bosses want to use [Obama's executive order on immigration] to win latin@ and other immigrant youth and workers to believe in the system, to patriotically toil in their war industries, and to join their military," to quote an ICWP leaflet distributed at the convention. Attendees responded with interest to this leaflet and to communist ideas raised in various sessions.

The convention's big draw was the chance to stand in solidarity with latin@ immigrants who are under sharp attack in Arizona. The highlight was a night-time rally of thousands outside Sheriff Joe Arpaio's "tent-city" concentration camp for immigrants. Church people joined Phoenix activists who rally here regularly. "We are with you!" chanted protesters in English and Spanish, loudly enough for the prisoners to hear.

The anti-racist spirit was great! But UUA officials worked hard to channel it into pro-boss liberalism instead of working-class solidarity. They urged a "laser-like focus" on the official message: "stand on the side of love" and "get out the vote." They scripted the convention even more than usual to keep delegates passive. They used uplifting religious language and music to sugar-coat patriotism and reformism. They broke their own rules to limit discussion. But they could not escape their own contradictions.

UUA officials, prompted by Phoenix-area indigenous-rights activists and a recent UN confer-

ence, promoted a resolution repudiating the "Doctrine of Discovery." This was a 15th-century papal declaration that Christians (actually, the rising European capitalist class) could claim and subjugate lands already occupied for thousands of years by indigenous peoples. The US Supreme Court enshrined this doctrine in US law (Johnson vs. McIntosh, 1823) and "Manifest Destiny" became its slogan. It remains the legal basis of anti-indigenous racism today.

So many delegates were horrified when "America the Beautiful" lyrics appeared on big screens:

"O beautiful for pilgrim feet  
whose stern impassioned stress  
a thoroughfare of freedom beat  
across the wilderness!"

Katherine Lee Bates wrote these words in 1893 as the US began rising as an imperialist-capitalist power. This hymn of Manifest Destiny was popularized in 1913, on the eve of the first imperialist world war.

Despite many complaints, UUA officials offered only a lame apology.

In contrast, a *Red Flag* reader, addressing hundreds, angrily pointed out the contradiction. She suggested that rejecting the Doctrine of Discovery should lead to rejection of all national borders and the patriotism that attaches to them. "Many of us in our heart of hearts want 'no borders' and affirm the right of workers everywhere to move freely around the world," she said. "We must make a mass issue of this. And we must start a conversation about how it could be realized." She said she thought it would require abolishing pri-

vate property and capitalism itself. There was scattered applause, and a friend later told her, "Good work!"

Participants in another session brainstormed a "vision" of home health care that would respect both the workers and those receiving care. "A world without money, where all have their needs met, and all work is done out of love, to meet those needs," one of us said. This was very well-received. Better still, an old friend agreed to distribute *Red Flag* in another city, and a new friend agreed to help translate *Red Flag*.

Our Party concentrates on mobilizing for communism among industrial workers and soldiers, not in liberal churches. Our members in churches, unions, and community organizations focus on our friends at home, not on large conventions. However, our experiences at the UUA convention should encourage all *Red Flag* readers to make communist ideas mass ideas, wherever and whenever we can.



## STRIKING TEACHERS MUST REJECT REFORMISTS AND LEARN AND TEACH COMMUNIST IDEAS

EL SALVADOR--A few weeks ago, hundreds of teachers from the organization Rank and File Teachers carried out a work stoppage in different schools throughout the country demanding government higher wages and a decent pension for the teachers from the fmln government.

The government's answer in the face of these actions was to disparage the teachers. Using the social networks, the television and other media, they launched a campaign against this strike. "No to the strike; the students need classes;" "This strike violates the rights of the students;" was the message that the government of the fmln was sending to its base and the population in general.

These declarations some years ago would have been attributed to a private company and not to a party that calls itself on the left. In their zeal to keep power, they have launched this type of campaign against all actions against the government, above all, any attacks on Sánchez Cerén, Minister of Education, former leader of the teachers' union, and fmln candidate for the presidency in 2014.

It is ironic that Sánchez Cerén was the founder of ANDES 21 of June, the Teachers' Union, and a leader of the fmln during the war and that he carried out a great number of work stoppages, strikes, and demonstrations. But now he says that these actions "violate the right of students to receive an education." This position betrays the memory and lives of hundreds of teachers who

were murdered, disappeared, tortured, and riddled with bullets in their classrooms for carrying out these types of actions.

Rank and File Teachers is under the leadership of Dagoberto Gutiérrez, leader of the Revolutionary Tendency, which also wants power through elections. They say they are "more left" than the fmln when in reality they want the same thing as the fmln does.

The electoral politicians are false "progressive" leaders who benefit from the exploitation and poverty of the worker so they can become the administrators of the system. The workers, teachers, students, and farmworkers shouldn't allow themselves to be manipulated by these false leaders. The working class must organize in a party that fights for a communist society.

The working class must understand that elections are not the solution, that only the struggle for communism will bring us a society in which the workers will have and will produce everything that we need.

We must start to build this new society, beginning by building study groups and distributing *Red Flag*. That will put us on the road to mobilizing the masses for communism.

The teachers must be part of this struggle to eliminate the capitalist system and build a communist society in which education will be for all, where students and teachers will have everything they need to make education optimal. Education will be a fundamental part of the society that we're building. There won't be any more exploitation or poverty wages, since we will eliminate money as the source of these evils.

Communist education will leave behind the methods used currently since they only prepare the students for capitalism. The students will have a quality vocational and theoretical education. We'll implement education that unites theory and practice, where learning takes place in the factories, schools, and hospitals. We won't just carry out tasks, but people will be both manual and mental workers and involve everyone in this process. No one will only have one specific task.

Teachers must fight directly for communism to achieve real transformation of education. In that way there won't be any more tricks by electoral parties and false leaders.



## OBAMA DEPORTATION POLICY WHITEWASHES DEADLY TERROR AGAINST IMMIGRANTS

Last week Obama announced that the U.S. government would suspend deportations of some undocumented youth. In fact there has been a big increase in deportations under the Obama administration, officially 400,000 in 2011, and 1.2 million during his presidency. But mass deportations are only part of the U. S. bosses' efforts to maintain super-exploitation of immigrant workers. Hundreds of immigrants die each year trying to cross the desert in the southwestern U. S. Dozens drown in the "All-American Canal" in the California desert. In addition to these deaths, the Bor-

der patrol regularly murders immigrants at the US southern border.

In May, 2010, Anastasio Hernandez Rojas, an undocumented construction worker who lived in San Diego for many years, was deported to Mexico. He was caught by the Border Patrol when he crossed back into the US. Hernandez was taken to the San Diego border crossing and repeatedly kicked by a Border Patrol agent. After he tried to file a complaint against the agent, Hernandez was separated from others being deported and driven off in a truck by the agent who kicked him.

Passersby saw Hernandez handcuffed on the ground being beaten by the agents and heard him calling for help. Over a dozen agents Tasered him five times until they killed him.

Like at least eight other murders of immigrants by the Border Patrol in the last two years, San Diego police took no action against the killers. A recent PBS TV program broadcast a video uncovered by an activist that showed the murder of Hernandez, who was lying handcuffed on the ground, contradicting lies by the San Diego police. Just after the program was broadcast, U. S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder announced that he would not prosecute Border Patrol Agent Jesus Mesa Jr., who shot to

death Mexican teenager Sergio Adrian Hernandez-Huereca in June, 2010, in El Paso. Trying to show that some Border Patrol thugs will actually be punished, the U. S. Attorney charged Border Patrol agent Luis E. Fonseca with a civil rights violation for choking an immigrant they identified only as "UA #1."

U. S. borders are enforced with police terror because borders are critical for maintaining capitalist domination and exploitation of the working class. Borders enforce poverty and misery for millions of workers and divide workers of different countries against each other. Nations and nationalism are not part of human nature, but inventions of capitalism, part of the bosses' state apparatus for oppressing workers and fighting other bosses.

There will be no borders and in fact no separate countries under communism. Under communism, workers will be able to live wherever they wish. They won't be driven away from their homes by the need to find work or prevented from moving when they choose. To win the fight for communism, however, workers must learn to unite across borders and reject anti-immigrant racism. In particular, we must mobilize around communist ideas to protest murders by the Border Patrol on a large scale, linking this struggle to the mass protests against the murder of Trayvon Martin, Kendrick McDade, and other victims of racist murder.



We're not fighting for "Justice" but for power to the working class and an end to all borders

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### TALKING ABOUT COMMUNISM WITH SOLDIERS IN MEXICO

"Who are you? Are you organizing a coup?" These were some questions of a young soldier who we encountered with five other soldiers while distributing *Red Flag*. Without fear, I told them that today more than ever the working class, students, farmworkers, industrial workers, and in this case soldiers should unite to fight against the bosses.

I commented that in spite of the long history of rapes and murders of our working class by soldiers, I and many like me have confidence in the power that they have to join the side of the working class and to turn their guns around against the State at the time required.

At the beginning I was nervous but I got confidence from the work I was carrying out. I told them that the bosses are killing us with poverty, insecurity, unemployment, and that they send soldiers to kill our class. A soldier commented that there will not be another '68 (the 1968 massacre of students by soldiers). But I commented to him that they still send them to kill people. I said that now I was approaching them because we have the conviction that in the future you soldiers will turn your guns against the State and the bosses, and that I was certain of this.

The young soldier asked me for an address or email in case they decide to write, and I gave it to him. This activity, like our previous one of distributing 30 *Red Flags* in a University with a young comrade and a friend, have taught great lessons and have allowed us to see the interest in the newspaper. As we give it to them, they start turning its pages and reading the articles.

I commented to a friend who came with us, "Do you think 30 papers are too few?" He answered, "Yes, 30 can be few but in the right hands they can be more than a thousand." For his part the young comrade commented to me that he felt more confident to speak and offer the newspaper and that he no longer feels as much fear as before.

We're taking small steps to take our newspaper to students, workers and soldiers, because we have the certainty that capitalism will be destroyed with Communist Revolution. Students, farmworkers, industrial workers, soldiers, let's fight for Communism!

—Red Youth

### MTA: Women and Men Unite Against Sexism

As we were distributing *Red Flag* at MTA Division 8, with an article about manager Ralph Gray, some workers told us why they thought Gray was transferred from Division 8 to Division 7. They said that an incident occurred in the 1990's in which a worker witnessed Ralph Gray in the women's restroom while two women workers were there. Recently the CEO of MTA was notified about this incident and it trickled down to the Division 8 manager who investigated it. The two women were interviewed and a few days later, Ralph Gray was transferred. The strong speculation is that MTA took action against Gray because of this incident.

If Gray was approaching women in their restroom, he deserves more than the slap on the wrist of a transfer. But this problem goes dee-

per than Gray! Capitalist culture is sexist and racist to the core. Capitalism uses sexism to try to divide women and men workers, paying women less, which hurts the whole working class. Women workers are exploited and portrayed as sex objects. Sexist managers like Gray think they can get away with sexist acts because they think workers won't complain for fear of losing our jobs, or that others won't back them up.

The logic of capitalism is "every man for himself." The logic of communism is "An injury to one is an injury to all." Women and men workers have the same interest in building unity to wipe out the racist, sexist bosses and their poisonous ideas and practices.

Workers who cheered Gray's removal need to become readers and distributors of *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. MTA and all capitalists make their profits by exploiting and degrading women and all workers with willing lackeys like Ralph Gray. To put an end to this exploitation, we need to mobilize for communism, where all workers will treat each other with respect as we collectively produce and transport people and goods to meet our needs, not for any boss' profit. There will always be other Grays until we destroy capitalism with a communist revolution.

—LA Comrade

### Crisis of Over-Production by the Numbers

The current intractable crisis of overproduction was triggered by the emergence of new manufacturing powers. As reported in the last issue, vast supplies of cheap labor initially fueled the rise of China's and Germany's industry.

The U.S. research consultant IHS Global Insight confirms this trend. It reported that manufacturing has reached its highest percentage of total world output in more than a decade. It suggests that a new industrial revolution--after four similar growth spurts over the past 250 years --is underway.

Germany was the only country among the "developed" nations that saw its share of world manufacturing increase (to 6.4 percent in 2011). In contrast, the U.S. saw its proportion shrink to 18%, dropping 1.2% in only one year, to a new post-WWII low. China consolidated its position as the number-one manufacturing powerhouse.

Only capitalism can turn the increased production of hundreds of millions into an economic disaster. And this is only the beginning. As imperialists fight over the crumbling remnants of their crisis they will plunge the world into more war and eventually world war.

The working class has no choice. We must eliminate the crisis-prone capitalist production system. Communism will organize production for our needs, not the bosses' profits. We can then celebrate the increased value produced by our hands.

--Industrial worker comrade

### Take the Masses Seriously

The U.S. bosses are spending \$billions on the upcoming presidential and congressional elections. Add to this the extra \$billions in free publicity oozing out from every media orifice. All this is to sucker the masses into thinking they have a say and a stake in the capitalist system.

*Red Flag* has exposed the election farce

from Mexico to Greece. I was struck by a particularly good piece of writing exposing this charade in the last issue.

The editorial went beyond just stating that elections were the bosses' game. It included a box, "Greek 'Leftist' Reassures Capitalists," quoting the Coalition of the Left (Syriza) leader Tsipras. Syriza almost won the election after a mere eight years of existence by promising a "left" alternative to the capitalists' attacks on the Greek workers.

The box showed how Tsipras in his own words promised loyalty to the very system those who voted for Syriza were disgusted with. This type of detailed writing is an example of how to "take the masses seriously." It's what we have to do to win masses to mobilize for communism--the only way to escape the bosses' nightmare crises.

—Impressed Reader

### Reality or Illusions?

Comments about the letter "Do we live in reality or do we live in illusions?" in the last edition of *Red Flag*.

I think that the question is very good and I see that at the same time the writer answers the question in part when they say we need to convert passive and sleeping consciences into active and awake ones. But in essence, the question is *Can We Win Communism?*

And in the same edition there's an article with the title *Why Communism Can Win*, which is the first in a series and I think its part of a good answer to the question.

I would also like to invite Fervent Reader to join a study/action group to discuss more deeply your question because I think that your letter shows a great worry and desire for life to be different. In essence I see a communist inside you and you should let this force come out to help us build this communist world that we need so much.

It would be interesting for other readers to send in comments about your letter.

--A Comrade



ICWP has published our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*. It's available in English and Spanish. Order your copy or copies. Please send donations for the costs of printing and mailing. We also ask for your suggestions and criticisms.

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

## CAPITALISM CAN'T BE REFORMED TO MEET OUR NEEDS

In the last dialectics column we asked when truly new things happen in history and when patterns repeat. Some people claim that history always repeats itself so that our struggles for communism must end up like the failed revolutions in Russia and China. The rest of this series will show that, in fact, communist revolution not only can succeed, but represents the only way to meet our needs.

In this column we will discuss laws of motion. It is necessary to understand what Marx called the “laws of motion of capitalism” if we are to know why the evils of capitalism must repeat. Our task now must be to change these laws of motion by mobilizing the masses for communist revolution.

A key feature that distinguishes a law from a mere pattern is its necessity, constraint, or limitation. A law of nature exists when natural causes force things to happen according to a certain general pattern.

Things that are not compatible with the law are forced not to happen. Newton's Second Law of Motion, for example, says that a thing that moves must change speed or direction at a rate that is proportional to the force that acts on it. No other pattern of motion is possible, that is, “allowed”

by nature.

A second feature of a law is universality: a law is a pattern that always happens or never happens in a specific system and under specific conditions. What always happens might be only a tendency or statistical average, like the law of capitalism that the price of something is proportional—on the average—to the amount of labor it takes to make it. In any case, a law is a regularity that can be relied on.

The concept of a law of nature is different from a piece of legislation, but these things do have something in common. The common element between laws of nature or economics and laws made up by a government is constraint or limitation.

If the capitalist government makes a law, they force people to obey it by threats of jail, fines or death, even if capitalists disobey the law themselves. In physics, natural causes force or constrain the behavior of objects.

There is, however, a basic difference between these two kinds of law. In a law of nature or economics, the constraint is not imposed from the outside (like the cops and courts), but results from internal causal factors.

The law of the falling rate of profit, for exam-

ple, guarantees falling profit rates unless certain kinds of counteracting factors are present. This is one of the laws of motion of the capitalist system, and it results from changes in the technology of production that are driven by competition between capitalists. Nothing outside the economic relations of capitalism makes this law work, and it does not apply to other economic systems.

Unlike legislation, economic and natural laws operate whether or not we can formulate them in a language. Marx wrote that the apparently accidental events that occur in economic competition are actually carried out and regulated by inner laws. These laws only become comprehensible when many events are considered together and carefully analyzed.

The reason that we must consider laws when we talk about repetition in history is because they tell us which patterns must repeat. There is no general law that history always repeats. For particular systems, however, there are laws that determine that history does repeat in specific ways, like the capitalist system's law of motion that economic crises must happen over and over again.

The next column will deal with arguments against the existence of the laws of motion.

## COMMODITY PRODUCTION: MAKING MONEY OR MEETING NEEDS?

In the last issue of *Red Flag* we explained that under capitalism, capitalist bosses own all the means of production and they produce commodities that are bought and sold in the market place for profit. The means of production are tools, factories, and raw materials. All commodities are products of the labor of the international working class. Cars, houses, food, airplanes, furniture, clothes, medical care, etc. are examples of commodities.

Vacant homes outnumber homeless people in United States. Recent figures count at least 3.5 million homeless people and 12 million unoccupied homes. Why can't the homeless people legally move into the unoccupied homes? Because the banks who own them are not interested in their use. They are interested in the rent money or mortgage. Similarly, over 43 million people in the US live in poverty and often go hungry. Yet there is enough food to feed everybody in the world.

This is a contradiction at the root of every commodity. A commodity in capitalist society is produced for exchange and not for use by the producers. Things are not produced for their social needs, but rather for their exchange value in order to make profit.

### So what is exchange value?

Exchange value simply is a ratio at which one commodity is exchanged with another. The exchange value of a commodity is determined by the amount of labor that is required to produce it. So we can say for example that 5 pounds of bread equal one shirt. What we mean is that the amount of time spent to produce 5 pounds of bread is the same as the amount of time required to produce a shirt. The exchange values of commodities are expressed in the money form by their price.

**Use value:** Every commodity has a use: it satisfies certain social need. This is a use value. For example, bread nourishes us and fills our stom-

achs when we're hungry.

### The contradiction: Use value and exchange value

Now we can see that every commodity has two contradictory, opposing aspects: use value and exchange value. When we buy a commodity this contradiction is not obvious or visible. But tension in a capitalist society is rooted in this fiercely antagonistic contradiction between these two aspects of a commodity. It is this contradiction that brings two classes – the working class and the capitalist class — face to face with opposing interests.

Let us take a simple example of a capitalist boss who owns a bakery. This boss has no use value for that bread at all. You cannot use and exchange at the same time! The boss is only interested in the bread for its exchange value in order to make a profit. The use value exists only for the person who buys the bread. This logic applies to all commodities.

In capitalist society, the production is for exchange, and not for its use. So why do we, the working class not produce things for use? Because we do not have control over the means of production. The only way for us to satisfy our needs is to buy things with the money we get by selling our labor for wages. So our labor power is a commodity like any other. To reproduce it and to survive, we need money under capitalism. We exchange our labor power for the money we need to buy the necessities of life. If the boss can't make a profit off our labor, we can't sell it, and the bosses condemn us to death.

**In summary:** Commodities have a dual nature – use value and exchange value. The bosses are interested in the exchange value to make profit; the working class is interested in its use value to meet social needs. Under capitalism, the exchange value of a commodity is primary. If you don't have the money, you can't buy bread, no



matter how hungry you are. And the bosses will let the bread rot in the store before they give it to the hungry people who need it.

This contradiction is at the root of all the problems, crises and antagonisms of capitalism. How does this affect you, your coworkers and the struggle at your workplace?

In a communist society, there will be no money and no exchange value, no commodities and no exchange. We will produce only to satisfy the needs of the international working class.

**NOTE:** In the last issue, we incorrectly stated that labor power is one of the means of production that the capitalist owns. That is true in chattel slavery. In capitalist wage slavery, the workers sell their labor power as a commodity.