

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

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RED SOLDIER WRITES: "PACIFIC PATHWAYS" MEANS WAR IN ASIA

Now, there is no way of knowing for sure when World War III is going to happen, but we only have to open our eyes to see the signs of what is to come.

All indications suggest that the next World War will be fought in Asia. The participants have begun making their preparations in the shadows. And although a multitude of media outlets have started making their speculations, the bosses have yet to reveal, to the masses, the destruction they are preparing to bring.

Currently in the U.S. Armed Forces we have a "training exercise" called Pacific Pathways going on. On the outside, this is a routine training exercise which consists of troops going to different countries in Asia, like Thailand and the Philippines and training with the local militaries while also helping to provide humanitarian aid.

The training mostly revolved around setting up field sites in the different countries and trying to become familiar with the terrain all while strengthening relations with those countries' Armed Forces.

To the untrained eye, this might not seem like anything out of the ordinary for the Armed forces to be doing but when we begin to dissect this training exercise and look at it from a communist point of view, we begin to see what's going on behind the curtains.

To begin with, why the sole focus on Asia? Next, what is the significance of us as troops learning the terrain and what is the importance of strengthening our relationships with those foreign militaries?

With these simple questions the onion already begins to unravel. It we consider that the expectations of where the next big war is going to happen is Asia, then we immediately answer the question of why the focus on Asia.

With that said, the answer to the next two questions become quite apparent. If we are accepting that Asia is going to be the next playing field, then why not know the turf as well as possible? Make it so that the troops feel as if they have home-court advantage. And finally, have as much sup-

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INDUSTRIAL WORKERS: KEY TO MOBILIZING FOR COMMUNISM

The following comments are part of a speech prepared by a young industrial worker for the Los Angeles Summer Project kick-off picnic:

Starting in Kindergarten, schools train us to be industrial workers. Show up every day! Be on time! Do what you're told! Don't ask questions! Don't learn too much!

Nearly all jobs under capitalism are like this, even the ones people go to college to get. We are trained to be wage slaves, motivated to work only by money. Everything in capitalism revolves around money. And we wage slaves get barely enough to survive..if that.

We need communism to get rid of money. Work will be motivated by our commitment to each other and our desire to make use of our abilities. Instead of buying and selling or even trading, we will share what we produce to meet everyone's needs.

In capitalism almost all of us are wage slaves, but there are differences too. I have worked at many jobs, like delivering pizzas, as a security guard, and in a mall. You can't really organize much on jobs like these. We are pitted against each other. We compete for hours or for the respect of the boss (so she or he will give you more hours). More hours means more money to pay bills.

I have also had industrial jobs. Now I am working in a place that repairs and ships aerospace-related devices. We're all the same, not in competition with each other. We all get up early to get to work on time. We all eat lunch together. We all go home at the same time and go to sleep early so we can get up the next day.

There is a reliance on everybody. These are the kind of social relations that we need for communism.

Working in industry, you learn valid skills that will be useful for building communism. It's not like being a security guard or working a cash register.

It's also a lot clearer how we are exploited. I am paid \$13/hour but the

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RED FLAG READERS: HELP BUILD A MASS COMMUNIST PAPER FOR A MASS COMMUNIST PARTY!

“What would you expect me to do?” asked an MTA worker before deciding to join the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

We want all comrades to be mass organizers for communism. We all should be thinkers and writers for communism.

The key to both right now is reading, writing for and distributing *Red Flag* to coworkers, friends and family as massively as possible. Our goal is to recruit them to the Party. We must train masses of workers, soldiers, youth and their allies as communist leaders.

Together we will organize and lead the communist revolution that will vanquish capitalism-imperialism forever. We will build a communist world based on collective work to meet everyone’s needs.

Communism will end money, wage slavery, exploitation, racism, sexism, borders or genocidal wars for profits. Our main goal will be to produce more and better communists.

What we do now is crucial. The future is built in the present. In particular, how we build ICWP and produce *Red Flag* today will influence how we build communism tomorrow.

Red Flag is the life blood of the Party. It must become the life blood of the masses.

History Shows: Communist Newspaper Key to Revolutionary Process

After the failed revolution in Russia in 1905, thousands of Bolsheviks (communists) were exiled, imprisoned, or murdered in the fascist Czarist repression. By 1912, only a few hundred active members, mainly in St. Petersburg or in exile, kept the Party alive.

However, the deepening capitalist economic crisis and the bosses’ preparations for World War I intensified the crushing poverty of the masses. The masses, often led by communist industrial workers, were propelled into motion.

By 1914, tens of thousands had joined the Bolshevik Party. In 1917 the masses, led by their Party, seized power over one fifth of the world’s surface.

This couldn’t have happened without the Bolshevik Party newspaper Iskra. At the height of the repression, when Party cells were decimated, they were painstakingly recreated in city after city from Iskra readers. The paper glued these

cells together with the Party center and with the masses. It prepared ideologically millions of workers, soldiers, youth and others for revolution.

But they were mistakenly won to fight for socialism. That was a form of state capitalism that evolved into the open capitalist-imperialist Russian state that today challenges US imperialism for world domination.

Still, the invaluable lesson we learn is that, like Iskra, *Red Flag* is indispensable for revolution.

We Must Fight Directly For Communism – Starting Now

Our class has the unprecedented historical responsibility to build a mass Party and a mass paper of a new type, based on the principle of mobilizing the masses for communism.

Workers worldwide today, like Russian workers a century ago, face increasingly vicious attacks from capitalism’s deepening crisis and the imperialists’ preparations for world war. That increases the urgency of massifying the fight for communism and building more communist centers internationally.

So *Red Flag* must be able to train the millions of communist leaders our class needs. That can’t be done by a small collective. It requires the full participation of the masses.

“From each according to their abilities and commitment”

Everyone can contribute to *Red Flag*. No contribution is too small. All contributions are needed and appreciated.

Readers can send communist cartoons and pictures of workers’ struggles. More can learn to lay

out the paper. More are needed to translate articles to and from English, Spanish and other languages so that workers worldwide can participate in mobilizing for communism.

However, the most important contribution is to write for *Red Flag*. In its pages we share experiences, debate ideological questions, and offer constructive criticisms and self-criticisms to improve our practice and theory.

Writing should be done as collectively as possible locally, regionally, and internationally. We should struggle for articles and letters centered as much as possible on communism. This will help advance our political line and will give life to our slogan, “Everyone can be a communist leader.” Only in this way can communism triumph and endure.

The next most important thing is distribution. Don’t underestimate the power of *Red Flag*! Our Party in South Africa exists because one worker read *Red Flag* on line, joined and then organized ICWP around *Red Flag*. This must be repeated in many places.

Our new comrade at MTA first picked up a copy of *Red Flag* in the break room several years ago. He read it, liked it and kept on reading copies left by drivers on the buses. He used it to struggle politically with co-workers, friends and family.

When we first asked him to join the Party and explained what would be expected of him, he said “I already do that. I have been doing it for years.” We said that was great but not enough. One can’t be an effective communist leader without becoming a Party member and participating fully in Party life. A few weeks later and after a little more discussion, he joined.

There are hundreds of workers like him everywhere *Red Flag* is distributed. Maybe you, who are reading this now, are one.

The working class needs you to join too. *Red Flag*, ICWP, and the fight for communism are the present and future of the working class.



Comrade in South Africa Writes:

RED FLAG IS ICWP’S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON

I was in the public transport the other day going to town to get my passport. As I was sitting there with the latest issue of the *Red Flag* in my hand, a university student sitting next to me noticed that I was carrying the paper. But he had never seen it before, so he asked me what type of paper this was.

I explained to him that this was not a new paper but a revolutionary tool against capitalism. I explained to him this was the most important weapon in our arsenal to destroy capitalism. So he wanted to know more about communism because I told him that the S.A.C.P was not a com-

munist party but a socialist party because communists can’t sleep in the same bed with capitalists.

But we were on a taxi so we decided to exchange numbers. I gave him the copy of the *Red Flag*. He told me to call him so we could meet again because he lives close to my house.

We had a meeting on Sunday, but unfortunately some of my comrades could not attend. But there was this new comrade met during the week just like two other comrades. So we decided since all of them were not familiar with the philosophy of dialectics, we would talk about dialectics.

I was surprised how fast they understand the concept.

One comrade wanted to find out how we are going to destroy capitalism. The answer came not from me but from another comrade who told him that in order for us to destroy capitalism we must mobilise the masses for communism. That is the only way we can end the disease we call capitalism. We also talked about nationalism so we decided that, when we meet again we will talk about two things: nationalism and idealism.



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 487-7674
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA

EL SALVADOR: FIGHT AGAINST EVICTIONS SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST, NOT REFORMIST, SOLUTION

EL SALVADOR. The week of the extension was nearing its end; the eviction of the people in the community of El Espino, Antigua Cuzcutlán, was coming. A group of youth mobilized to go there the night before with our banner saying, "Fight! Win! Workers to Power," megaphone, rockets (fire works), and *Red Flag*, all to encourage the vigil and the next day's struggle.

When we arrived, there was an atmosphere of uncertainty. The community leadership had decided to leave. We began to talk to people; many told us the same thing, "We have nowhere to go."



We realized by their words, tears and anger that capitalism is to blame for leaving these dozens of families homeless.

We put *Red Flag* on a table while we unfurled the banner. Quickly some approached to take the paper. We told them there was an article about the community. Many took extras, including members of another organization. Because of logistical problems, we could only distribute the 25 papers we had.

As the night got cold, while we ate tamales, the group of youth analyzed the situation. In this group were communists, anarchists and social-

ists. We decided to go along with what the inhabitants and we decided collectively.

Community members exchanged words of support among themselves. The idealist sentiment of christianity led them to place their hope in their religion. With songs and prayers, the tears fell out of despair and oppression.

However, we continued chanting to encourage them and to give them a sense of the materialist struggle against capitalism. "The land is won with organized struggle," we began to chant.

"The struggle has to be here; it is you who decide to fight," "Men and women workers in South Africa, Spain and other parts of the world know about this and are with you," were some of the words of the comrade from ICWP.

We walked around the community to see if the police had come. At midnight the press came with two trucks with the judge's employees, plus two police patrol cars. Seeing that the vigil continued, the patrol cars and the trucks left.

The people didn't stop singing and talking, others telling jokes, while the coffee came. At 3:00 a.m. we decided to rest a little. We were all waiting for the moment that the police would come.

"It's the police," "They came!" The inhabitants sounded the sirens, and the fire works' rockets. It was 5:00 am. The Order Maintenance Unit, anti-riot arm of the fmln, came.

The banners, and all the men and women, were now at the entrance preventing them from pass-

ing. A Lutheran minister gave a pacifist speech. He mentioned the constitution, and that the police were here "to defend us," and even asked for applause for those who came with the job of repressing and evicting.

We tried to raise peoples' pride and fighting spirit. "Neither with bullets nor with judges, El Espino will not move." The people got excited and shouted the chants. In front of the police and the fascist media, we chanted against the capitalist Dueñas. "What title? What property? The Dueñas usurp the peoples' land."

The judge arrived at 7:00 am and gave them 30 minutes to vacate. Although some decided to take their things out, no one moved from the entrance. Then the police broke the circle without much resistance. The police went from house to house warning of the eviction.

At 9:00 am the governor of the department of La Libertad came. She, with the complicity of the leading community committee, proposed taking them to a shelter on the other side of the city and leaving their belongings stored in a warehouse. The people reacted furiously, saying, "NO!" "What will happen to us then?" The area of this shelter is one of the most dangerous and besieged by gangs.

A few meters from the community, there are lands belonging to the state. The inhabitants proposed that they be given this land. The governor's answer was a resounding "NO!" Then she said, "Well, we proposed this to you, now you all see what you will do," and left.

While the fmln government boasts that these five years will be a term of urban investment and congratulates the Dueñas for the great work they have done in building shopping centers, entire families took out their few belongings without a

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CLASS STRUGGLE AND INTER-IMPERIALIST CONFLICT IN MEXICO

MEXICO — The fight for markets and sources of raw materials has sharpened. The major powers (USA-EU-Japan on the one side and the BRICS led by China on the other) engage in trade wars, becoming real wars. They are selling weapons to their partners and arming groups of killers involved in drugs that the United Nations now proposes to legalize.

To build its industry in Mexico, the first bloc promoted laws that guarantee their investment. Their Mexican partners got rich from them, and hence passed the "structural reforms." Salaries and wages in Mexico are now lower than in China.

The United Nations reports through the International Labor Office (ILO) that the minimum wages in Mexico are the lowest in Latin America and the Caribbean. And the situation is getting worse.

The other powers, led by China, have grown enormously in Latin America, Africa and Asia, displacing the US. The cancellation of the two Chinese projects, the bullet train from Mexico City to Querétaro and of the store Dragon Mart in Cancun, is part of the inter-imperialist fight.

We workers do not win by supporting either side; we need to turn this imperialist war into a war for our emancipation, for the abolition of wage labor. The use of someone

else's labor for a wage is the last form of slavery. Now it can and must be abolished.

Education workers in Mexico are fighting against Education Reform, which they see clearly as the strict application of Labor Reform. They are in the advanced section of the mass protest against the misery created by the capitalist wage system. To them we say: your struggle could possibly achieve a temporary mitigation of the afore-mentioned exploitation. However, we need to eliminate it.

Therefore we invite you to join the struggle for the elimination of the capitalist system. Instead of forming fronts with bourgeois politicians like the late Hugo Chavez, Lopez Obrador, etc. you must help build the International Communist Workers' Party to overthrow all the capitalists, not only to remove "neoliberalism" as the reformists claim.

All capitalism is bad. We don't need to "re-found" it nor "rebuild" it. We need to eliminate it.

This is our purpose in accompanying you in this journey of struggle and our invitation that you join the International Communist Workers' Party to sweep away this system and build a communist system without exploitation that will meet all workers' needs. Join us!

CHILE: NEED TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST EDUCATION

June 13—Ninety percent of the teachers in Chile have been striking for three weeks. For over a month there have been massive marches of hundreds of thousands of teachers, students and workers in Santiago and throughout the country against education reform, heavy work loads, low wages, pension cuts, and the privatization of education.

Teachers are fighting against government reforms including standardized tests and evaluations. Two students were killed during one demonstration by the son of a business owner when they tried to put a banner on a wall of his business. This fascist act caused even more anger and actions among the students.

The Chilean working class has a long history of mass workers' struggles. At one time Chile had the largest Communist Party in Latin America, which was reformist and participated in the elections. Today the Chilean Communist Party is part of the government which is repressing the mass demonstrations.

Today, Chilean workers need to and can build a mass ICWP. The continuing struggle against the bosses' education system shows that our class needs to destroy capitalism, not reform its educational system, which is designed to serve the capitalists' profit needs and push their ideology. We need communist education. To achieve it, workers, students and teachers need to mobilize for communist revolution. Communist education will combine communist theory and work to prepare everyone to meet the needs of our class in a communist system.

African Union Summit:

COMMUNIST ORGANIZING IS BEST RESPONSE TO SPREADING US-CHINA PROXY WARS

SOUTH AFRICA — South Africa is hosting the 25th summit of the African Union. President Mugabe of Zimbabwe is the chairperson of African Union, which comprises 54 African countries. He made a scathing attack on South Africa and Nigeria for failing to oppose authorizing western air strikes in Libya which toppled Gaddafi's regime. At the same time, Mugabe pledged to lead Africa to rid itself of its colonial past. China is Zimbabwe's leading trading partner.

China has passed the US, European Union and Japan to become Africa's biggest trading partner. Libya under Gaddafi had enormous Chinese investment. As the US/EU-lead forces toppled the Gaddafi regime, Chinese infrastructure worth \$20 billion was damaged. China had to rescue over 40,000 of its citizens and its plan of linking Africa to Europe via Libya was shattered.

The Chinese capitalists realize that to secure their investments and the flow of oil and natural resources, they desperately need a military presence in Africa. The Mugabe government has agreed to allow China to build a massive military base in the mining area of Zimbabwe. China has also negotiated building a naval base in the strategically important country of Djibouti. The ships that travel through the Suez Canal have to pass through the choke point of Djibouti.

China is also negotiating with the Egyptian government to upgrade and renovate the Suez Canal through which a large amount of US, Japanese and European trade takes place.

"Egypt and China agreed to work together on the Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road project. Sisi also promised Egypt would ac-

tively court Chinese investment for its New Suez Canal project, a \$4 billion project that will parallel the existing canal in linking the Mediterranean and Red Seas. The new canal is a natural fit for China's Maritime Silk Road vision, with the planned route already moving through the Suez Canal to reach Europe." (*The Diplomat*, December 2014)

The European and British capitalists have a history of over 500 years of dominating Africa for its natural resources. Their power and influence were considerably weakened after WWII as the US emerged as a dominant imperialist force. In the last 30 years the Chinese imperialists have replaced US in Africa as the major economic power. Rising China and declining US are on a collision course.

As Eric Draister, a NY based analyst, wrote: "All over Africa, the United States has tried to check the growing influence of China. From Nigeria to South Africa, Angola to Sudan, the US is engaging in a widespread proxy war with the expressed intention of maintaining its dominant position in Africa. Using its vast military resources, Washington seeks to cement its African hegemony using the same colonial tactics as every other empire that came before it."

This rivalry between the US and China will inevitably lead to major wars up to world wars for profit. Our party in South Africa is actively discussing how we can mobilize the masses now and survive and build for communist revolution before, during and after nuclear war. The recent xenophobic attacks on immigrant workers in South Africa have shown that we must build our party not only in South Africa but in other areas of Africa.

We are intensifying our internal struggle in the party to concentrate our work in the industrial concentration of the auto industry. We had a modest success of distributing *Red Flag* at auto plants and we have to follow up with the positive response we got from the workers. We realize that only the consistent work of building *Red Flag* readership with patience and struggle will ensure the growth of the party.



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company bills customers \$75/hour for my work! More hours means more exploitation.

But industrial workers aren't going to come up with a plan for communism just by being exploited. We have to bring them the idea of mobilizing the masses for communism.

Workers in the Party have a great opportunity to do this, long term, on the inside. We can build relationships on and off the job. We can have many conversations. But the Party also has a great opportunity to make communist ideas into mass ideas, from the outside, in ways we can't do without getting fired right away.

During the first ICWP Los Angeles Summer Project, I was one of the students who helped distribute *Red Flag* outside garment factories and MTA transit divisions. Now there are at least six hundred transit workers who have been reading *Red Flag* for five years. Even more garment workers read the paper. Some of these industrial workers have joined the Party. Others help distribute the paper.

So I am asking everyone to take part in the ICWP Summer Projects this year in Los Angeles and Seattle. And I hope that more young leaders will think seriously about going into industry, maybe before or after doing military work.



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port as possible.

By investing now into the foreign militaries, the bosses are hoping for a big return on the day the main characters face each other.

This is just one example of one of the many things the US is doing in the military in order to prepare itself.

As a soldier with communist insight, I feel like I might have a little more access to this information than most. Because even when talking to fellow soldiers, I get the sense that they are not fully aware of what we are heading towards.

That's a scary thing, because if even we inside the military do not fully grasp what is going on, then the masses must be even more clueless. Meaning they themselves are not preparing for the mass destruction that is coming for them.

Luckily, through *Red Flag*, we have the opportunity to let the masses know what is going on, so they themselves can begin to mobilize themselves and reject being victims of capitalism by turning the guns around.



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place to go.

The day before, a temporary injunction was filed to stop the eviction. At 10:00 a.m. officials called to say there had been a decision. They reported that they had accepted the appeal and that the eviction was unconstitutional.

This felt like victory for the moment. Hugs, tears, joy and jubilation followed. A march was organized in the community where the judge was. As victors, the inhabitants re-entered their community. Then we left. Many of them hugged and thanked us for having accompanied them. We planned future meetings with them.

Unfortunately the eviction is imminent, not only because of the laws favoring the capitalists, or because of the bourgeois fmln government.

But also for lack of organization. The reformist struggle does not bring any real benefit for the workers, except something temporary. Without a direct struggle against capitalism and for communism we cannot achieve anything.

The movement of the masses is constant, and we have to continue in the movement from the moments they are not visible until the moment of a direct struggle.

The Party's ideas were there and they have now reached the community, as they have reached the factories and the fields.

The communist struggle is a process and we have to make the workers conscious that this is a class struggle. There is no reformist solution.

COLLECTIVE WORK TO MOLD NEW HUMANS (PART I)

Communism creates real human beings. Anton Makarenko, author of *The Road to Life*, searched for the real human beings he needed to forge an educational collective. He never found them, but the travails over the eight years it took to mold the Gorky colony built them.

Over the past weeks, Mexican educators marched, struck and burned down two election offices. The demand was to end teacher evaluations based on standardized tests. In the last issue, *Red Flag* ran an article about roaming one-day teachers' strikes in Washington State. The demand was for more money for education.

The Gorky colony had different priorities. They had no budget to speak of. They relied on the labor of teachers and students. Together they forged an educational institution of a new kind, a communist educational system. They transformed the lives of these young thieves, waifs,

prostitutes and gangsters.

The colony was a commune of street kids that replaced a traditional school. A civil war followed the 1917 Russian Bolshevik revolution. It forced millions of children to fend for themselves without homes or parents.

Everything revolved around useful collective work. They "did not regard social education as a pageant of youthful souls unfolding, the right of the individual and similar poetical claptrap."

Much weight was given to the "discipline of combating and surmounting difficulties." Initiative was not "a sort of inspiration, coming from God knows where."

"Initiative comes when there is a task to be performed, responsibility for its fulfillment, and the demand of the collective."

The discipline of combating and surmounting

difficulties is as important today as it was then.

A young comrade, recently returned from the U.S. Army, described her work on base. First she laid out the difficulties. The Army spends a lot of time and money indoctrinating the troops. Some thought the armed forces provided for their families, as the civilian world could not.

But then she told how she slowly convinced the troops to read and eventually distribute *Red Flag*. One decided not to become a border guard; one brought her friends around, etc. Troops are continuing to distribute the paper, even though she has left the base.

Organizing Communist Education

The Gorky colony organized to carry out collective work. The teachers worked alongside the students.

Permanent detachments were organized around areas of work. Some cared for the horses. Others forged and repaired metal tools. Still more built and repaired facilities, sewed clothes, cooked meals, etc. Each had a commander who attended commanders' meetings.

The colony assigned mixed detachments for temporary tasks like sowing or reaping. New temporary commanders were appointed by the council. Permanent commanders would become part of the rank-and-file for the duration. In this way, more became committed to the collective.

Everyone did not respond as the council hoped. In the next article we'll discuss the hard cases and the joy of collective struggle.

All quotations from *The Road to Life: An Epic of Education* by Anton Semyonovich Makarenko



Leadership meeting in the Gorky colony

HOW COMMUNISM WILL DEAL WITH ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

We are witnessing the escalation of police terror worldwide. The police are the rulers' primary line of defense against the increasingly informed angry masses.

The masses are progressively convinced, not only that capitalism cannot meet our needs, but that communism is our only solution! More and more often, the police's initial response is violence, which has become more militaristic.

While money and maximum profit rule, some among the masses will resort to anti-social behaviors such as theft, robbery, and murder. As long as people feel alienated in society, some will continue to take or deal drugs and be violent with each other.

Communism will abolish the material basis for much of this anti-social behavior because it will eliminate money and profit. As masses commit ourselves to running society, we will do away with the basis of alienation: the capitalist wage system.

Until then, these behaviors are criminalized and the penalties are steep. On a daily basis we see the bosses' racist courts sentence people—often teens—to facilities designed to warehouse them in prisons. There they learn to use anti-social behavior to their own temporary advantage. This, while the ruling class, the perpetrators of

the most heinous crimes, operate with impunity. Communism will abolish the class of exploiters and exploitation.

Not long ago, the police killed Eric Garner, an unarmed black man, in New York. Witnesses all said he had just tried to break up a fight. But five officers pounced on him and placed him in a choke hold, because they claimed he was selling "untaxed cigarettes." It should come as no surprise that, even though the city's medical examiner ruled Garner's death a homicide, the bosses' "justice system" cleared the cop.

In Communism, we would praise peacekeepers like Garner, not murder them. Violence would be our last option, not how we first engage each other.

If someone were found engaging in anti-social activity, we would convene a group, composed of workers and loved ones from their neighborhood, and intervene. We would first discuss with our comrade how their actions are anti-social. Then, we may need to secure the comrade's assurance of no further wrongdoing and ensure any follow-up assistance or treatment they may need in order to abstain.

If they repeat the same behaviors, consequences would necessarily be stiffer, but we must

always focus on preserving the comrade's humanity and dignity and ensuring that they see their true value to society. Where they have wronged someone, we will seek to restore relationships.

Where the comrade shows no desire to correct their anti-social behavior, they may need to be separated from society, but that would be our last resort, not our first.

Whereas capitalism serves to alienate, criminalize, and lock away, communism will rehabilitate, reconcile, and restore.

People commit crimes of opportunity because the capitalist system encourages us to see ourselves and our needs as disconnected from the next person's. It often leaves people desperate to fulfill their needs.

Yes, to an addict, drugs become an actual physiological need. In communism, addicts' needs will be treated as physical. And mental health concerns and every effort will be made to restore them as productive members of a collective. As society will be healthier for all, their recovery will take place in an environment where we will all be forming healthier, productive relationships with our neighbors.

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Critique of Frantz Fanon Part IV

FANON AND SEXISM

Previous columns have showed Frantz Fanon's mistaken ideas about a number of things, especially his illusions about capitalism and nationalism. At best, Fanon's writings about equality of men and women are wrong about what it takes to end sexism. At worst his comments are viciously sexist and reactionary.

A number of passages in Fanon's first book, *Black Skin, White Masks* [BS], contain outright hostility toward women and repeat outrageous sexist stereotypes. These include the vicious idea that women secretly desire rape. Most of these passages are far too disgusting to quote here, but we give one example: "Just as there are faces that just ask to be slapped, couldn't we speak of women who just ask to be raped?" [BS, p. 134]

Fanon treats black men who try to gain acceptance in European society by mastering European culture (as he did himself) quite sympathetically, but severely criticizes women of color who had gained status by marrying white men.

These open attacks on women disappear in his later writings, and in his last book, Fanon said that women should "have the same place as men, not in the articles of the Constitution but in everyday life, in factories, in schools and in assemblies." [*Wretched of the Earth*, p. 142]. The key question is how he thought this could be achieved.

In his 1959 book, *A Dying Colonialism* [DC], Fanon described the first 5 years of the Algerian war for independence. His ideas in the book about the restrictions imposed on women in traditional Algerian society are quite contradictory. He praised young Algerian women fighters who

had discarded the haik (a veil that covers the entire body). He also defended expecting women to wear the haik as an expression of defiance against French domination.

The French colonial administration had tried to make Algerian women their allies against the nationalist movement. Demonstrations in which women publicly removed their haiks were covertly organized by the French administration in May 1958. Fanon responded to European criticisms of the haik as an attempt to undermine Algerian culture and as an expression of European rape fantasies [DC, pp. 42, 45]. Some of Fanon's comments on unveiled women have their own air of fantasy, however. [see DC, pp. 58-9]

Fanon's most serious error about sexism was not his own attitude, but his belief that participation by women in the Algerian nationalist movement could eliminate sexism:

"The unveiled Algerian woman, who assumed an increasingly important place in revolutionary action, developed her personality, developed the exalted realm of responsibility. The freedom of the Algerian people from then on became identified with women's liberation, with her entry into history.... This woman ... was ... bursting the bounds of the narrow world in which she lived without responsibility, and was at the same time participating in the destruction of colonialism and the birth of a new woman." [DC, p. 107]

A significant number of women did take part in the armed struggle in Algeria. About 11,000 were registered as veterans after the war, but the actual number is probably much higher. It is true that women's involvement in mass struggles can

help weaken the grip of anti-woman ideology. In Algeria, however, they were fighting for the wrong thing, the illusion of "national" liberation. The positive effects of that movement on women were in fact limited to a fairly small number of women and were largely reversed by the new nationalist government.

Fanon paid little attention to the material, economic basis of sexism. That basis is the wage system, which can never produce equality for the mass of women and men workers, and must be destroyed to end sexism, something "national" liberation does not do.

The fight for gender equality is a key part of mobilizing the masses for communism. Communism can't be created by a few leaders, but the masses themselves must decide and then do what they have decided. This is impossible without the full participation of women in all areas of social life.

Eliminating the wage system is necessary for gender equality, but so is a determined ideological battle against sexist ideas. Fanon seems to have thought that sexism can be ended by women's involvement in anti-colonial wars alone. It is ridiculous to think that the battle of ideas is not necessary, and specifically that the fight against religious justifications of sexism, whether from Islam (dominant in Algeria) or other religions, can be avoided.

Only the mobilization of the masses for communism, led by women and men workers, can end sexism. Fanon's ideas do not help do this.

LOS ANGELES TRANSIT WORKERS: BECOME COMMUNIST LEADERS!

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles City Council approved a minimum wage of \$15 an hour. "This is a giant step in the struggle to combat social and economic inequality," said the Vice President of ATU Local 127, the mechanics' and service attendants' union.

Never under any circumstance can inequality be fought this way. According to several MTA workers, this represents a slap in the face to the working class, a mockery, a trick.

"What do you think, G?" I asked a co-worker.

He answered angrily, "This is nothing; by 2020 (when it goes into effect) this increase will be far below the cost of living."

"And you, W, what do you think?"

"It's a joke, but some people are fooled and believe the story," he answered.

G answered him, "No comrade, its not that people swallow the pill. The workers know this won't solve their problems but they feel that they can't do anything to change the situation."

MTA workers who read *Red Flag* understand that this increase is only the cheap politics of the democrats and their lackeys to get votes for the next election.

Workers Commitment will guarantee Communism

With communism inequalities will not disappear automatically, but through an organized working class led and steered in spreading communist ideas. We are not only concerned with the victory of armed revolution, but understand that after the revolution, this struggle will continue. The loyalty, enthusiasm and initiative of workers convinced of the hard tasks we will face to make the communist society function will be needed.

Some revolutionaries of the past achieved the defeat of their capitalist governments. In most cases this happened with a small leadership leading the hopeful masses who had a vague idea of what they considered freedom.

Until today, a communist society has not existed. We understand that to achieve it we have to carry out, starting now, a patient but urgent struggle to win the masses to understand that communism is the only alternative to get rid of this cruel, ruthless system.

Many people ask how the Party will guarantee that the leadership doesn't sell out, that the conditions don't return to being the same or worse than when we began the struggle. The International Communist Workers' Party, through its manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* has made it clear that as soon as we take power, we will abolish the conditions that in the past engen-

dered the retreat of the communist movement..

We will abolish money as the main evil, and abolish privilege of any kind. We will organize society with the participation of all those who are willing.

We will not tolerate racist, sexist or individualistic attitudes or practices. Production will be to meet the needs of the whole society, not to enrich anyone.

To achieve this new society it is necessary to consistently build communist consciousness in the working class. This is a long term task. It begins with the introduction of revolutionary communist ideology. After the introduction we know a little more about what a person thinks, if he or she likes communist ideas, or if the person is reactionary out of conviction, or if they only know the bourgeois lies about communism.

There our struggle begins, and as it advances, new contradictions arise, but the level of political understanding rises.

We are also now presenting the worker with new tasks, in addition to reading *Red Flag* and helping distribute it: asking if they will join the Party. And it is there where there is a knot that often discourages us. Instead of continuing to fight and trying to advance the struggle, we abandon it and jump to another process where the contradictions seem less sharp. That is how many times when we are at the point of recruiting workers to the Party we fail to recruit them due to our weakness.

This article will be read by many MTA workers and friends and we ask you all, for the sake of the international working class, to take this step and join the party decisively and with commitment.



POLITICAL STRUGGLE IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE PARTY

Suggestions for New Guidelines for Red Flag

It's exciting writing for *Red Flag*. No one has ever produced a paper arguing directly for communism. We are breaking new ground, developing new guidelines and we are not afraid of confronting mistakes. That's good because not all our attempts succeed and, for me, the editorial page in the last issue was confusing.

It started with the drought in California, went many places, and ended up with the strange formulation that "Communism is thinking for yourself but acting for others..." The image of a world where "thought" and "action," "self" and "others" are at odds with each other is an image the alienated world of capitalist production creates. Under capitalism "our" labor (through which we survive) is controlled by "others" (the bosses who employ us). I think it's more accurate to say we want the communist revolution to smash this crazy, alienated way of living. About a hundred years ago the communist psychologist, Vygotsky, came up with a more powerful observation. "We become ourselves," he said, "through others." Fortunately, the box alongside the article produced a healthier more revolutionary image. Reacting to severe water shortages in their area in the 1970s, local communists mobilized their communities and voluntarily constructed breath-taking new irrigation systems. "We become ourselves through others" could well be the title of that picture,

But better yet, the text alongside the picture points out how elements of the "Communist" Party attacked these workers and undermined them. This points to

a weakness our speculations (and these speculations are useful) about a future communist world often produce. They present an a-historical world where all the problems of capitalism have been solved, not with a magic wand but with a communist revolution. Here in this real, historical, world communists fight communists. "The *Red Flag* is waved against the *Red Flag*." In short, political struggle is as dominant a feature of a post-revolutionary world as it is of a pre-revolutionary world.

Speculation and imagination about the future is a vital component but the fight for communism is also rooted in the actions and mobilizations we call for today. "We call communism," Marx and Engels used to say, "the real movement which abolishes the present state of things."

So here's my suggestion for some guidelines:

- 1) Write! Follow the example of our comrades in South Africa. The fingers that can make a fist can type a text!
- 2) Don't be afraid of mistakes. Only comrades will "correct" them (and they in turn will be "corrected" by other comrades). "We become ourselves through others!"
- 3) Try not to "visit" too many places in one article.
- 4) The fight for communism has a past as well as a future!
- 5) Communist ideas are needed now, today. They are always the leading edge of struggle.

A comrade

Think for Yourself, but Act for Others

In the most recent issue of *Red Flag*, there was a statement in the editorial which I questioned. The last paragraph of the editorial on page 2 said "Communism is built on thinking for yourself but acting for others."

Although the "acting for others" part made perfect sense to me, the "thinking for yourself" statement confused me.

I mentioned this to a couple of comrades and we discussed what that might mean. When I read the phrase, to me it meant "I know just as well as anyone else what is right in any given situation." I thought of my father, who believed that each person had some special knowledge which did not come from his/her life experiences, but somehow was inherent to that person (inner voice). To me, this is a very idealist way of thinking. As communists, we believe that our ideas are rooted in the material world - including what we read, experience and discuss with others. Because we have different backgrounds and experiences, our ideas may differ widely. But what we are looking for are the ideas that most closely align with material reality. In this way we can analyze and move forward to change the world to be run by and to benefit the working class.

However, the comrades I discussed this with thought that "thinking for yourself" actually meant to be sure to put forward your ideas in discussions, meetings, etc. We look at the political work we have done, analyze it, talk about mistakes and successes, struggle with each other to do more, then analyze it again. Our understanding depends not only on theory, but on putting it into practice and constantly changing what we do to better our work.

Then, once all opinions have been heard, discussed and struggled around, we can formulate a plan of action and improve our communist theory. We follow this to the best of our ability to be able to see if it is correct. This makes sense to me.

They suggested I write this letter, as others might have had the same question about this phrase that I had. I hope this helps!

Comrade in Seattle

Talking with Friends about the Fight for Communism

During the last three months, the work has been focused on discussing and analyzing with some friends about the social, political and economic problems afflicting us as a society and fundamentally about the political ideology of our Party (ICWP). That is, about mobilizing the masses for communist revolution, to abolish capitalism (its base and essence of exploitation) and with it class society.

Although this task is not easy, I must admit, it enriches the conviction that we must prepare to face the ideological struggle. Some questions arise. For example, a friend asked, "Will we all be equal in communism?"

In this sense it is argued that "equality" is an abstract term and, therefore, subjective. In communism, we will all receive according to our needs and contribute according to our abilities. There will be no division of labor—manual and mental. It will be fundamental to develop



this in practice, as Comrade Mao Zedong suggested in his time. In these terms we will be equal.

Is communism a dictatorship? An interesting and complicated question. Dictatorship in class society is the position of a political class over the working class, where a government imposes its authority, like US imperialism.

The dictatorship in communism, therefore, must be only of the proletariat in order to bury the bourgeois state. This dictatorship should be abolished once capitalism has been destroyed. We should understand that at the beginning, in the fight for communism, it would be this way - to deal with the reactionary capitalist current.

Finally I must point out the importance of the political doctrine of our party, which is developed as our understanding advances, a task that has not been easy since we began this struggle. However Comrades, we must spread the ideas, and grow in number to carry out a communist revolution, because surely thousands of people—and also readers of *Red Flag*—in the world are already aware that we live in forced poverty, a legalized slavery.

The members of the International Communist Workers' Party make a call to unite; let's organize within the ICWP, let's defeat capitalist tyranny with communist revolution.

Comrade in Mexico

ICWP: Political Home of Workers Worldwide

Greetings comrades!

Reading the *Red Flag* does wonders. It both refreshes and soothes the minds. The consistency with which the political line is carried throughout the articles is gratifying for want of a better word. The *RF* doesn't beat about the bush, it doesn't mince the words. I found this to be unique and very impressive.

The death of seventy-two workers killed by fire while locked up in a Philippine shoe factory is put square on the bosses' system. It doesn't call for useless commissions of inquiries to find the truth.

In the next article, I like the assertion that is made, "There are no good capitalist masters." It exposes the bankruptcy of reformist parties and the lies they are peddling to please their masters at the expense of the workers and the poor.

Indeed, there are many labour and political groups that are militant but reformist all over the world. The *Red Flag* doesn't stoop to their level of attaching labels instead of dealing with the content. ICWP is the political home of the working class of the world.

Comrade in South Africa

MUTINY AND REVOLUTION

Navy and Army mutinies occurred many times in the military forces of capitalist countries during the twentieth century. In a number of cases these mutinies were connected with revolutions, helping to start them or defend them. This article is a short summary of mutinies in the Russian, German, U. S., Chinese and French forces, and the role they played in several revolutions. None of these revolutions fought directly for communism, but they provide lessons for ICWP's military work in mobilizing the masses for communism.

During the First World War, the Bolsheviks (Russian communists) did extensive political work in the Tsarist army and navy, winning the support of many soldiers and sailors. During the February Revolution in 1917, sailors in the Kronstadt naval base revolted, killing a number of officers. The revolt quickly spread to other Russian ships in the Baltic Sea, which were taken over by a Bolshevik-led sailors' committee.

This revolt and the strikes and demonstrations in St. Petersburg soon forced the Tsar to resign and give way to a bourgeois government. Eight

months later, the Bolsheviks seized power in the October Revolution. Sailors played a big part in the fighting and served as key communist troops in the civil war that lasted until 1921.

In Germany in June 1917, a strike begun by coal shovelers in one ship spread to others. The issues were bad food, bad treatment and opposition to the war. The government responded with prison and death sentences, which temporarily stopped the mutinies. As the war was coming to an end in October 1918, German admiral von Hipper planned a suicidal final naval battle with Britain, prompting sailors to revolt in the Baltic and the Kiel naval base. The revolt spread to other cities and towns, and quickly led to the removal of the Kaiser and the end of monarchy.

Even before the end of the war, Britain, France and the US sent armies to the Russian far north to fight the new revolutionary government. The US troops were involved in some heavy fighting against the Bolos (Bolsheviks) but many US troops saw no reason to keep fighting. A group of them drew up a petition, refusing to fight any more after March 15, 1919, and planned a mutiny. The mutiny was betrayed and didn't come off. The leaders were put on trial but the brass let them off and soon pulled the troops out.

Sgt. Parrish, a leader of the mutiny, wrote of his "anger for a clique of blood sucking, power-loving, capitalistic, lying, murdering Czars and Army officials who keep these people in this ignorance and poverty.... they all call me the Bolo leader, and my platoon the Bolo platoon, because every man in the platoon signed that petition protesting against conditions and fighting the Bolo after the Germans had quit."

At the same time the French government intervened in southern Russia/Ukraine to support the White Russian army fighting the Soviet republic.

In January 1919 a French infantry unit refused to attack the Soviets. In April sailors mutinied on several ships in the Black Sea, raising the *Red Flag* and singing the Internationale. The sailors demanded that the ships go home and tried to prevent shelling of Bolshevik forces. The mutinies soon forced the French government to send the ships back to France.

A mutiny on the light cruiser Chongqing played a major role in the defeat of the nationalist Guomindang (GMD) during its civil war in China with the communist-led Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) in 1949. The ship was assigned to prevent PLA forces from crossing the Yangtze River into southern China. After the mutiny, the Chongqing defeated nationalist ships sent to attack her, but was attacked by aircraft and damaged. The mutiny led to great loss of prestige for the GMD, which soon led to the defection of the rest of the navy to the PLA side, allowing the PLA to cross the Yangtze. This so weakened the GMD that they had to be evacuated to Taiwan, effectively ending the civil war and allowing the People's Republic of China to be established.

Many of these movements were motivated by immediate issues like bad food and imperialist war, but they all had leftist leadership, usually communists. All made a big difference in the revolutions of the time. These movements show us that especially in times of war, sailors can be won to fight for communism if they have communist ideas. This gives us confidence that we can build our own Red Army during the current crisis and the imperialists' preparations for world war. We should be inspired by these brave and determined rebels to recruit large numbers of soldiers and sailors as we mobilize the masses for communism.



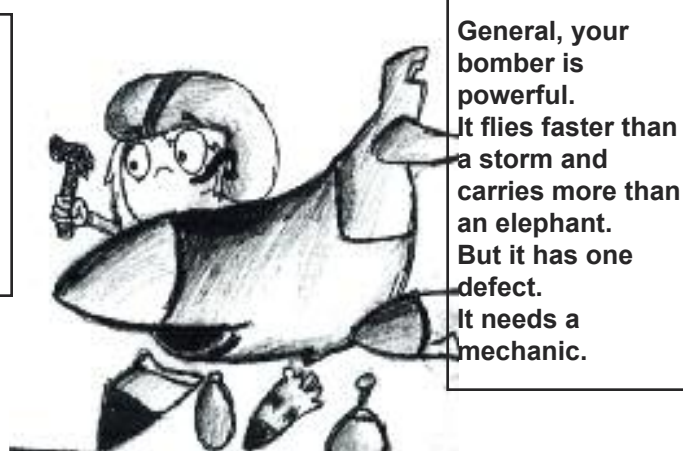
Russian mutineers in March 1917. Banner reads: "Death to the Bourgeoisie"

"In January 1919, a French infantry unit refused to attack the Soviets. In April sailors mutinied on several ships in the Black Sea, raising the red flag and singing the Internationale."

SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES: CRUCIAL FOR COMMUNIST WORKERS' REVOLUTION



General, your tank is a powerful vehicle. It smashes down forests and crushes a hundred men. But it has one defect. It needs a driver.



General, your bomber is powerful. It flies faster than a storm and carries more than an elephant. But it has one defect. It needs a mechanic.



General, man is very useful. He can fly and he can kill. But he has one defect. He can think. -Bertolt Brecht, 1939



Let's join ICWP To fight for a Communist Revolution

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