

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

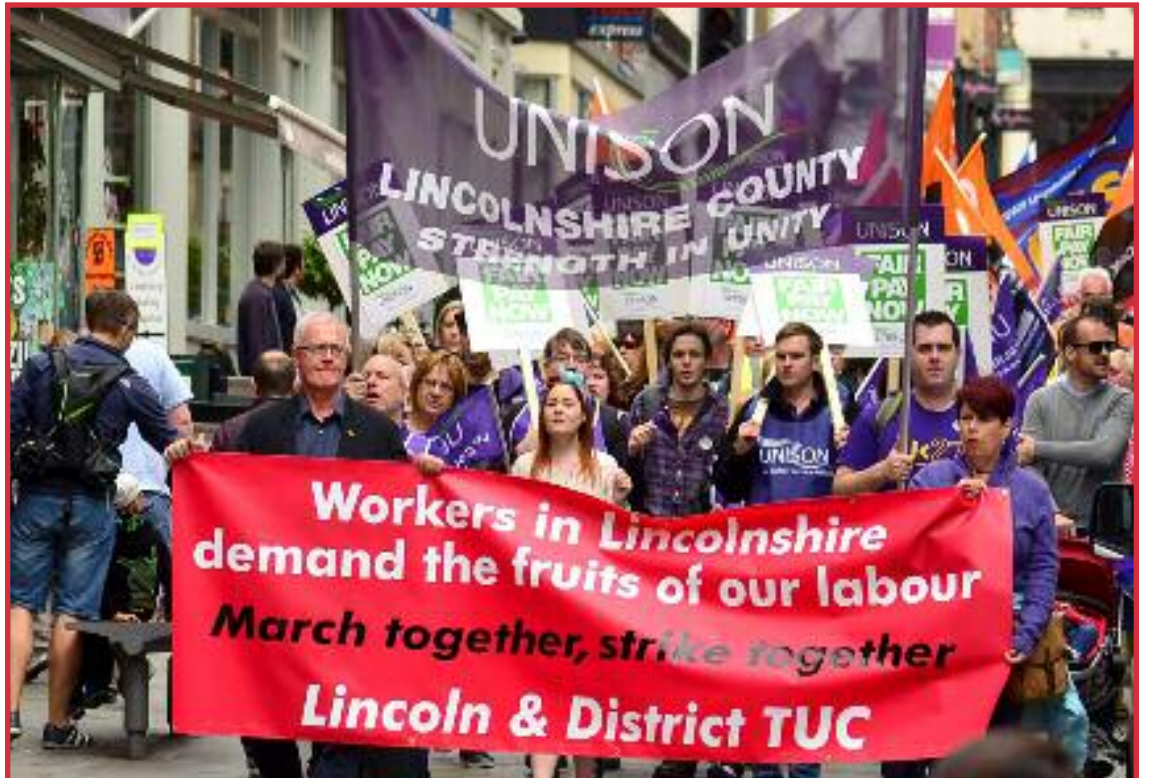
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

ONE MILLION PUBLIC-SERVICE WORKERS ON ONE-DAY STRIKE IN THE UK

July 10—A million public-service workers in the United Kingdom walked off their jobs in a one-day strike against austerity wages and cuts to jobs and pensions. Trash collectors, fire fighters, librarians, teachers, health and child care workers and many others marched in fifty cities.

Hundreds of thousands of government workers receive less than the official "living wage." Hundreds of thousands more are on "zero-hour" contracts (laid-off). Teachers also demanded the resignation of the Education Secretary.

Lincolnshire workers (pictured to the right) marched to "demand the fruits of our labour." The only way for the working class to enjoy the full fruits of our labor is by mobilizing for, and winning, communism.



220,000 Metalworkers and Engineers on Strike:

SOUTH AFRICAN COMRADES RAISE COMMUNIST IDEAS, RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

SOUTH AFRICA— Red greetings, comrades! The strike by steel and engineering sector workers started on Tuesday, July 1st, 2014. The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) has more than 220,000 members in this sector on strike.

The employers are holding out for a three-year wage agreement and continued use of the labour broker slavery system.

Whatever the outcome, the capitalists will continue their attack because capitalism cannot be made to meet workers' needs. The contradiction between the masses of workers and the bosses cannot be resolved through reform demands. It is ingrained in capitalism, which must be destroyed with communist revolution.

On July 13, we were joined by three new comrades. They had heard about the ICWP a while ago from word of mouth and promised us to join. But finally, today they made it into our meeting.

In our deliberations, we have

come up with a plan to design a simple leaflet that will contain the ICWP Logo, *Red Flag* and theme "Mobilize the masses for communism" and email address. We plan to distribute these at picket lines and in targeted areas where large numbers of workers are found. We will also distribute *Red Flag*.

There have been marches organized in all major cities. Workers were all out in their numbers in support of the strike. As usual we were on the march in a major industrial area.

The demands: a 12% wage increase across the board; R1000.00 housing subsidy; Scrapping of labour brokers; a one-year agreement as opposed to a multi-year agreement. The lowest-paid worker currently earns around R5,300.00 (\$500 USD) a month. The 12% wage increase, if granted by the employers, would take the average pay to around R6000.00 (\$560) a month.

Employers and the union have been engaged in negotiations. The employers revised their offer

See SOUTH AFRICA, page 4

Reject Fascist MTA-Union Contract

LET'S ORGANIZE POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST CAPITALISM

"In order to pass the contract, the union and MTA are bribing the Tier 2 operators with a one dollar an hour wage increase the first year," commented a Los Angeles MTA bus driver angrily. "But, there is much more to this contract than money and most workers don't see it," he added.

And indeed there is! The union hacks are gloating that "this deal provides a wage increase for everyone while....closing the gap between Tier 1 and Tier 2 operators by \$1.09." The gap stood at \$3.69; it will be reduced to \$2.61 by February 2017. At this rate it won't be until 2023 that Tier 2 operators' wages will equal Tier 1's. Yet, they do the same work!

This has been the norm since current General Chairman James Williams negotiated the 1997 contract. Now, he and his cabal are pretending to be knights in shining armor battling this gross inequality, which they knew would save MTA millions. This same contract negotiated part timers' wages never to ex-

ceed 80% of those of full timers.

Capitalists use wages to divide us, to try to divert us from seeing that we are one class who can act together against them.

There is no such thing as equality. Workers and capitalists can never be equal. The capitalists own the means of production. We own nothing but our labor power which we must sell to them in order to survive. No wage parity can ever change this relationship. Only a communist revolution can.

Furthermore, wage parity can never make us workers equal to one another. Even if we earn the same wages, we have different material needs that under capitalism can only be met by different amounts of money. Therefore equality under the wage system is more than an illusion: It is an absurdity.

Since communism will eliminate wage slavery, we will contribute according to our ability and commitment, and receive according to need. Communist distribution will be based on satisfying everyone's

See MTA, page 3

BOEING WORKERS ORGANIZE COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN STRIKERS
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EL SALVADOR GARMENT WORKERS
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GAZA: WORKERS DIE IN BOSSES' FIGHT
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South Africa Metalworkers' Strike:**LET'S BUILD INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY
TO FIGHT FOR POWER!**

SEATTLE, July 14— Two hundred twenty thousand South African Metalworkers have been on strike since July 1 (see pg. 1). Hundreds of arrests and propaganda deploring strikers' "violence" have not slowed them down.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa is the country's largest union. The strike has shut down the GM and BMW auto plants, strangling production by cutting off the supply of parts. South African *Business Day* worries that it could "paralyze almost a third of the manufacturing sector."

The international press insists it's a wage dispute. Pay is important, but other issues create the most heat. The workers want the contract to last one year, not three. They don't want a prohibition on strikes around working conditions while the wage agreement is in place. They demand an end to the despicable practice of hiring workers through labor brokers that continuously steal a portion of the workers' wages.

**What we are really talking about here is:
"Who has the power?"**

This is a burning question for Boeing workers and the whole working class.

Boeing workers in the Puget Sound (Seattle) area will note that even the details are similar. Some subcontractors in the US recruit new hires from employment agencies that also take a cut of workers' pay. Workers are forced to tolerate this thievery in hopes of eventually being hired by the companies they actually work for.

US bosses tell on-site subcontractor workers

not to talk to regular Boeing employees!

The new Boeing 787 factory in Charleston, SC regularly hires contract labor to catch up production.

Last January, Boeing Machinists lost our defined-benefit pension, reflecting our powerlessness in the face of a full frontal attack by the company, its allies in the national union headquarters and the government.

The national headquarters openly sabotaged workers when they revolted. We are left tied to longer and longer contracts that impose a de facto no-strike regime.

Trade union ideology accepts that the capitalist has the power.

This is what South African president Jacob Zuma praised when he spoke at the glitzy launch of a new Chinese car and truck assembly plant in the midst of the strike.

"All parties know how to go about resolving any disputes that arise using the country's effective and efficient labor relations and dispute resolution mechanisms," he assured international imperialists. These "effective and efficient ... dispute resolution mechanisms" are as much a part of the bosses' war on workers as are the cops, tear gas and arrests.

If we want power to win this war, we have to go beyond the usual trade union solidarity. We have to build internationalism that takes aim at the capitalist system that wages war on us.

Solidarity, as defined by unions, has us cheering from the sidelines for one group of workers against another or one



group of bosses against another.. Communist internationalism puts us in the game. Every workers' struggle becomes our fight. We must make that a fight about communist workers' power and who should run society.

Communist internationalism shows that we can have the power.

Who has the power? We can answer this question unequivocally by mobilizing the industrial working class for communism worldwide. Right now that means building communist international solidarity with striking metalworkers in South Africa.

Boeing workers and all workers should follow the lead of our comrades in South Africa by joining the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). Our friends in the plants, and on the outside, can help by distributing the new Party pamphlet on the opportunities presented by the expanding numbers of industrial workers worldwide.

Boeing workers will be circulating a letter to our South African brothers and sisters to build the internationalism we need to wage this class war. Sign and distribute it! We encourage other workers to do the same.

Who has the power? We can have the power when we mobilize the masses for communist revolution!

Contact ICWP (see information below). Send letters to our P.M.B. and we will forward them to our Party branch in South Africa.



Read our new pamphlet:

**BIGGER INDUSTRIAL WORKING CLASS:
BIGGER COMMUNIST POTENTIAL
WORLDWIDE**

Available at:

www.icwpredflag.org



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MIGRANT WORKER IN QATAR : “READ RED FLAG”

Thanks for calling me regularly. I like very much to talk to you about the politics of what is happening in India, Bangladesh, Qatar and the world. I want to tell you that now I also speak to my friends about these things. My friends come from many countries like Syria, Gaza, Iraq, Philippines, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. I always tell them to read the *Red Flag* so they know what is happening. My friends like very much the article in the *Red Flag* about Qatar. We workers have a very difficult life here but when we read that many workers are organizing to end this system, it gives us many hopes for the future.

We also face much racism here. I work with many Arabic workers and they don't speak English but I feel we have the same problems. I want to talk to them about what I am learning about communism but I know now that the only way I can explain communism to them is if I learn Arabic. My friends and I work many hours and different days so it is hard to make regular meetings as you suggested to me, but we talk about communism and some articles of the *Red Flag* when we are able to have time. I hope I meet you soon.

MTA from page 1 need regardless of how little or how much we contribute. This is the closest we could come to the idealist concept of equality.

The new contract helps MTA intensify its reign of terror

The many changes to Article 27 also enhance MTA's ability to intimidate, harass, suspend and fire operators. One of those changes makes “fishing” officially permissible. (See letter, page 7)

When an operator is accused of violating a company rule, the supervisors use the video tape from the bus camera to press charges. “Fishing” is their practice of searching the tape, way before and after the time of the alleged incident, to look for any other violations the operator might have committed.

Operators hate this practice and complained about it. Now the contract states that for minor “infractions, the video review process will be limited to 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the time of the alleged incident.” For major infractions, it states that it is 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after.

In March 2012, supervisor Barbara Maycott went “fishing” and stressed Juan Herrera so much that he collapsed in front of Division 15. He was originally accused of not stopping to pick up a passenger. Maycott was unable to confirm this incident from the tape. After “fishing,” however, she accused him of not making a complete stop before crossing a railroad track. This calls for a 30-day suspension or termination. It caused Mr. Herrera to collapse.

Later articles will explain other disciplinary rules that allow MTA to more drastically impose their wage slavery on MTA workers.

Vote no against capitalist wage slavery! Reject the contract and help organize a political strike against capitalism and for communism.

El Salvador:

WORKERS OVERCOME FEAR; JOIN ICWP

EL SALVADOR—“I've overcome my fear,” said a comrade in a meeting with workers from several factories, mostly women. “In the last strike we almost got killed. We had some very difficult days. The union negotiated with the bosses. I had read *Red Flag*, but had not attended any activity. When we got to the first meeting I felt relieved when I heard the people leading the meeting talking about the role of unions, saying that they only prolonged the enslavement of the workers.”

“I could not believe it. A fellow worker and I were in total agreement. It was exactly what we were living through. We were fighting in the streets; they were spraying us with fire extinguishers and beating us while the union leaders negotiated,” pointed out a very excited new comrade of the International Communist Workers' Party. “I am very happy to be here. Thanks for inviting us; I want to learn more about the line of ICWP,” she concluded.

When the meeting started, each of After the international report, a comrade asked if anyone knew that today the World Cup ended. Immediately a comrade responded:

“In the factory where I work, the bosses organized a competition for production and have called it the World Cup. They placed a flag on each module representing a country. Where I am is Ivory Coast. This week the factory round of sixteen is ending, and at the end of each round at 3 pm they tell us which modules have qualified.”

“What the bosses want is to raise the bar and set it there,” pointed out a leader of the workers.

“The prizes,” the worker continued, “are, for first place, a trip to a resort, and for second place, lunch with the factory owners.”

“Wow, what prizes!” said sarcastically another comrade from the same factory who was assigned to Croatia.

“The person who supervises my module likes to win and wanted us to increase production, the quality and quantity. I don't go along with these things just because the supervisors order it, because I believe that this is super-exploitation. They don't want us to go to the bathroom so as not to waste

time; also if there are three mistakes in the clothes they take it out of our pay.” When the comrade recounted this, all the comrades reacted with outrage.

A worker indicated that it was necessary to read *Red Flag*, and that working men and women have to pay attention to the MTA articles and how they relate to workers' struggles all over the world and how they can be resolved in favor of the working class.



May Day El Salvador 2014

“I have decided to join ICWP. I want to learn more and organize more comrades to communist ideas. I'll be at the next meetings of ICWP, plus I'll have a notebook and pen to write down everything we go through in the factory,” the worker concluded.

The meeting was attended by young men and women workers who are beginning to work in factories and want to know more about the International Communist Workers' Party. Some of the comrades, women garment workers, brought their parents, one of whom was very active in the meeting and made it clear he wants to continue in ICWP.

We ended the meeting with tasty chicken and rice and, for dessert, snow-cones which were welcome in the midst of the 36° C (97° F) weather. At the factory the world cup has not ended, but workers, men and women, will score one on capitalism, organizing for communism. Read and distribute *Red Flag*.

JOIN ICWP!



July 15—As *Red Flag* goes to press, Long Island Railroad (LIRR) workers in UTU are preparing for a July 20 strike, the first since 1994.

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) wants to double workers' contributions to health care and make them pay into the pension funds forever (instead of for 10 years). MTA also wants to double the time it will take workers to reach top pay, from 5 years to 10 years. Workers have been on the job without a contract since 2010.

The bosses seem to want to force a long strike that they hope will weaken the union. New York Gov. Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio, and the New York Congressional delegation agreed that the US Congress will not intervene to prevent a strike. NY MTA chief Tom Prendergast said that “the MTA today has a far stronger . . . plan. We're better prepared than we were in 1994.”

Thus, LIRR workers are on the defensive. Trade-unionism can't get them – or any of us – out of the box we're in. Even a militant strike that tied up the city beyond the bosses' expectations wouldn't move them forward. These workers, and all of us, need to make our fight against capitalism itself.

Red Flag readers, especially bus operators, mechanics and service attendants at Los Angeles MTA, should prepare for communist solidarity with the LIRR workers in case of a strike. That means spreading the call for a political strike against capitalism and for communism. It means spreading *Red Flag* further than ever – if possible, to transit workers in New York City.

Pictured above: LIRR strikers block a station during their 1987 strike.

Gaza:**ANSWER FASCIST TERROR WITH COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM**

Once again, the murderous Israeli war machine is raining death and destruction on Palestinian workers. This is capitalism in action, slaughtering workers from the Middle East to Ukraine, to Sudan to Colombia. This carnage will continue until the international working class destroys genocidal capitalism with communist revolution.

Communism will eliminate the need to wage war over natural resources like oil. What's more we will eliminate the use of environmentally destructive energy sources. In communism, everything will be shared and planned collectively by workers to meet the needs of our one international working class. We will have no oppressors—whether Israeli, Palestinian, US, Russian, or Chinese.

These butchers are fighting for world domination but we workers pay the price. Israel's "Operation Protective Shield" with its continual bombing has killed hundreds of Palestinians, including children, and has left over 17,000 civilians homeless.

Israeli Bosses Whip Up Racism, Attack Palestinians

This latest carnage was provoked by the supposed kidnapping of three missing Israeli youth. The Israeli government knew, however, almost immediately that they had actually been quickly killed by two Palestinian nationalists. A few days after they went missing, a car was found with bullet holes and their blood in it. Yet the media repeated the kidnapping lie for over two weeks to whip up racist hysteria among the Jewish population and garner international support for the Israeli bosses' murderous onslaught on Gaza.

Motivated by these lies, some racist Israeli

youth, suspected of having links to right-wing extremist groups, kidnapped and burned a Palestinian teenager alive. The police also beat up his cousin. Hundreds of Palestinian youth were attacked and arrested. Netanyahu tries to justify the oppression of Palestinians and the confiscation of their land and resources by highlighting Israeli suffering and hiding Palestinian suffering

Imperialists Fight for Middle East Oil

This horror is played over and over. Israel, however, has been used as a racist murdering machine to help US imperialism control Middle Eastern oil. This rampage is to try to weaken the China-Russia-Iran axis, US imperialism's main competitor in the region, by attacking Hamas, a client of Iran.

Israel is taking advantage of the fact that Hamas distanced itself from Iran in 2012 by refusing to support Assad and siding with Qatar. In response, Iran cut off its aid to Hamas, creating a crisis for the Islamic nationalist group. This imperialist competition will eventually explode into WWII.

Hamas' crisis deepened when the defeat of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt further isolated it. The smuggling tunnels between Gaza and Egypt have been closed by the Sisi government. When Qatar's aid failed to materialize, Hamas returned to the Iranian camp. Israel was further emboldened to attack Hamas because Iran is busy dealing with the jihadist ISIS threat in Iraq.

As Usual, US Bosses' Hypocrisy Has No Bounds.

In spite of Obama calling on Netanyahu to stop his attack on Gaza, the US has militarily supported Israel with \$3 billion every year for "self defense." The F16's and Boeing-made Apache helicopters

now being used to bomb and shoot Palestinians came from the US.

Stop Capitalist-Imperialist Killers by Mobilizing for Communism

This murderous attack by the Israeli government on Palestinians is fueling justified working-class mass anger worldwide against the Israeli fascist government and its traditional US imperialist masters. But waving the flag of the capitalist Palestinian leaders diverts us from the road to workers' liberation from capitalist terror. Instead we need the red flag of communist internationalism and revolution.

Many, including Jews in Israel, and Jews worldwide, are organizing against the attacks by the racist Israeli government. Jewish and Palestinian workers have everything in common with each other and nothing in common with the Israeli or Palestinian capitalist bosses. They and other workers worldwide should answer this mass murder of our brothers and sisters in Gaza by fighting for a communist world with no capitalist-imperialist butchers and their junior partners Hamas, Hezbollah, etc.

Racism, nationalism and patriotism are the bosses' tools to win us to unite with them to kill, die and accept the murder of our working class brothers and sisters. But all workers have the same interests. Only by uniting against capitalism, and mobilizing for communism can we end the rule of fascist capitalism-imperialism and build a communist world that the international working class deserves.

As the bosses build their deadly nationalism to prepare for World War III, we must spread **Red Flag** and communist internationalism.

SOUTH AFRICA from page 1

upwards some in an attempt to end the strike. Employers have used a lock-out clause to lock-out workers. So, workers are picketing outside their workplaces.

Strikers Say: "To Hell with the Economy"

The bourgeois media uses the five-month long platinum strike that ended recently to blackmail engineering workers to bombard us with capitalist economic jargon about the negative effect the strike would have on the already-fragile economy. We are told that in the first quarter the economy has contracted, that it will be downgraded by the rating agencies and thus unable to attract foreign direct investments.

Workers are saying to hell with the economy. In capitalism, when it's in the boom, employers are raking in huge profits and when it is in downturn, they still enjoy big profits while workers are on the receiving end all the time. The steel and engineering sector workers' strike continues!!!

These strikers need to see that the alternative to the bosses' economy is communism, where workers will produce only to meet our needs, with no profits or bosses.

**SHUMAYEZA ULUNTU
NGOBUKOMANISI**

**(That's Mobilize the Masses for
Communism in Xhosa.)**

Numsa has snubbed the revised new offer by employers, but its general secretary added that they are not 'far apart' over a new wage offer of



10% that is tied up with a three-year agreement, use of labor brokers and youth wage subsidy (wage incentive scheme).

Numsa is fighting the wage incentive scheme, which displaces older employees. Its leaders took to the workers for consideration a "new revised offer" from employers, mediated by the ministry of labour: 10% year-1, 9.5% year-2, 9% year-3. Numsa rejected outright an attempt by employers to sneak in a two-tier labour market (paying below rate to the new-entrants).

For now, the demands for a one-year agreement, a ban on labor brokers and housing allowance seem to be relegated to oblivion.

Contract negotiations only set the terms of our exploitation as wage slaves, whatever the wage increase. Wages are the chains that bind us to capitalism.

At a recent party meeting, comrades shared their own personal experiences. It was a moving moment, comrades relating their stories at the hands of employers with poor and unsafe working conditions and meager take-home pay. That is the nature of capitalism. Workers must destroy it.

Phambili ICWP Phambili! As we were deliberating on a number of issues it became evident that communist revolution will sweep away the remnants of Queen Elizabeth and all the monarchies along with General Motors and the whole capitalist system.

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World Cup is Over

WHO'S WINNING THE CLASS WAR?

Now that the World Cup is over, the question arises: "Who won?" We aren't talking about teams, but about classes. Was it the imperialists of the world, represented by FIFA, or the workers of the world, represented by the Brazilian masses?

Everything is a struggle between opposing forces. On the one hand, nothing happens unless there's some sort of profit in it. On the other hand, nothing happens without some sort of participation, willing or not, of the working class.

From its start football (soccer) carried that contradiction. It started as a game played and watched by the industrial working class. It grew alongside the industrial revolution in Britain, with the founding teams of the English Football League in the new industrial cities whose populations had exploded as migrants came to work as wage slaves. They formed amateur soccer clubs as a way of building community among strangers, fulfilling a need of the working class.

The game spread throughout the world as a by-product of British imperialism.

Up until 1914 British capital accounted for 42% of world investments, and football caught on in areas where British investments were influential (like Brazil and Argentina). Building prestige for Britain, from the beginning it served imperialism.

In the last twenty years the scope of football worldwide has expanded as rapidly as the industrial working class has grown. Migrants flee rural poverty to search for industrial work in South Korea, China, South Africa, Nigeria. Local soccer clubs build community, but also

nationalism, with local clubs organized by national, and sometimes even local, origin. And a new important element has entered the world of soccer: television.

A powerful ideological tool, television works day and night to rob us of our working class consciousness. It works to make us think of ourselves as consumers, and to make us forget that we are the producers of all the value in the world. The World Cup promotes another deadly idea - nationalism. Hundreds of millions pour their passions into nationalist slogans in a dangerous display of false consciousness.

The way we work reminds us of how useless nationalism really is.

Copper, mined mainly by men in Chile, is joined to tantalum from the Congo and tin from Peru or Australia, combined in design in the US or Norway to be manufactured and assembled mainly by women in the Philippines or China as cell phones that will be shipped all over the globe. That's how in the real world we survive - by workers of the world combining their talents and energy day in, day out. How, then, do we come to celebrate our sport - football (soccer) - waving nationalist flags?

The answer is that for the first time in the history of the modern World Cup, the Brazilian masses have shown us we don't have to. Their year-long heroic struggle against the inhuman waste of a FIFA-run World Cup that builds stadiums and makes \$billions grabbed our attention. Although the power of the demonstrations eventually waned in face of the brutal repression of the Brazilian state, there was one final

demonstration that impacted the competition itself.

Striking teachers surrounded and stopped the buses carrying the Brazilian team to their training ground. The very teachers who ten years ago were nurturing these players were passionately insisting "There Will Be No World Cup!" TV commentators try to analyze the spectacular collapse of the Brazilian team. None of them mention the obvious: their isolation from the masses that nurtured and produced them - the Brazilian working class.

Which brings us back to our opening question, who won the World Cup? Our answer is neither class—yet. It's gone to extra time. Although FIFA was able to complete the competition, the mass demonstrations showed that the masses will no longer live in the old way.

Who wins this World Cup now depends on us.

If there will be no FIFA-run World Cup, we need to ask ourselves what will soccer look like in a communist society? Won't it reject nationalism and build internationalism? Won't it reflect the day in, day out, co-operation of men and women that creates all the value of the world? Without doubt, with the elimination of money, all sports will promote health and collectivity, not profits!

These are not idle speculations. In their opposition to the World Cup, the Brazilian masses have shown the potential that our revolutionary communist movement must turn into reality. Join us!

Ending Racist Mass Incarceration: Part II

LET'S MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

"The weight of our criminal justice experiment continues to fall overwhelmingly on communities of color, and particularly on young black men. ... Mass incarceration ... cannot end soon enough." - *NYTimes*, 5/25/14

"What's up when you and the leading US imperialist mouthpiece have the same line?" a *Red Flag* reader asked a Stop Mass Incarceration organizer.

Some will see this as a victory. They will use reform of drug laws, the release of elderly prisoners, etc. to suggest that "the system" can work if we fight long and hard enough. Some will also claim, paradoxically, that reform victories help build an anti-capitalist revolutionary movement.

We disagree. You can't build for revolution by fighting for reforms. You can't build communist consciousness or communist society by mobilizing around capitalist ideas. This was a mistaken strategy of 20th-century communist organizers on the job and elsewhere.

Their strategy involved a "united front" between workers and "lesser-evil" capitalists to fight the "extreme right." It meant not talking openly about getting rid of the capitalist system altogether. It turned communist movements into patriotic reform groups and contributed big-time to the restoration of open market capitalism in Russia and China.

Capitalism imprisons us in a thousand ways, from wage slavery to the chains it puts on our minds. (See "Racist Capitalism Is the Real Criminal," *Red Flag* Vol. 4 #22) The forms change, but harsh repression and racism are inescapable in capitalism.

And so is world war. Therein lies the contradiction. To avoid defeat at the hands of competing capitalist nation-states, capitalists must field

an army of those they have so viciously repressed and exploited - and hope we don't rebel.

That's why US imperialist leaders are uniting for "Criminal Justice Reform."

(See *Red Flag* v. 5 #9).

A recent Brookings Institution conference on mass incarceration featured former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin (now co-chairing the Council on Foreign Relations.) Rubin declared that "our current policy regime, with respect to incarceration ... is socially and economically counterproductive, socially and economically destructive."

The chief World Bank economist, George Stiglitz, wrote that "in the eyes of the rest of the world and a significant part of its own population mass incarceration has come to define America." He urged that "it is not too late to restore our position in the world and recapture our sense of who we are as a nation." (*NYT*, 6/29/14)

These rulers build reform movements against inequality and mass incarceration in order to strengthen their racist system and prepare economically and politically for World War III. We must take the opposite path: Mobilize the masses for communism.

Communism Will End Capitalist Prisons and Wage Slavery

Communism will end private property and the laws protecting it. It will destroy the exploiting class that uses its state (police, courts, prisons, etc.) to intimidate and suppress us. Ending the wage system and money itself will destroy the material basis of the anti-social attitudes and habits that capitalism teaches us, including racism, sexism, and selfishness.

We will mobilize the masses to struggle ruthlessly against class enemies who fight to restore

capitalism, and to struggle sharply but patiently with comrade workers who go astray. We will unlearn capitalist social relations that lead us to see others as objects to be used.

Fighting for and building communist society teaches us new ways of working and living collectively, cooperatively, and with mutual respect.

Billionaire Supports "Radicals": Who's Selling Out?

The billionaire George Soros dedicated his life to currency speculation and anti-communism. He's a crucial link between US imperialism and the supposedly grass-roots movement against mass incarceration.

Critical Resistance got Soros money. Angela Davis got her Soros fellowship in 2003. Michelle Alexander wrote *The New Jim Crow* on hers. Soros funds the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights and CIVIC, which opposes mass incarceration of immigrants.

Right-wing bloggers think Soros is a communist who has betrayed his class. No way! He's an influential member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He aims to save capitalism from its own contradictions. In 2012, Soros made headlines predicting social crisis, class war, and riots in the US streets.

When a comrade brought up these facts at a dinner party, one friend remarked, "At least he's doing some good." Another disagreed: "You have to suspect his motives."

But the main issue isn't Soros's sordid personal history. It's the strategic choice facing the working class: Ally with "lesser-evil" capitalists and get coopted or smashed as they lead us into imperialist war? Or lead the masses in building the communist road to a world that meets our needs and allows us to realize our aspirations!

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

Thomas Piketty's *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*

BOSSES SEEK BAND-AIDS; WORKERS NEED REVOLUTION

Thomas Piketty's book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, has been an Amazon top-seller recently, which is remarkable since it's a 700-page economics text. Piketty amasses a mountain of data that he uses to show that inequality in income and wealth has increased greatly in the US and many other countries over recent decades, comparable to what it was before World War I.

Wealth and Capital



Piketty focuses on the growth of wealth, which he describes as the same thing as capital:

“I define ‘national wealth’ or ‘national capital’ as total market value of everything owned by residents and government of a given country at a given point in time, provided that it could be traded on the market.” (pg. 48). Piketty doesn't understand capital as a social relationship of capitalists stealing surplus labor from workers.

This misunderstanding of capital produces some weird results. For Piketty a worker's home is capital, even though it doesn't generate surplus value for the owner. Piketty counts an imaginary rent that homeowners supposedly pay themselves as profit for the homeowner, and he includes stocks, bonds and workers' retirement savings and life insurance policies as capital, even though they are not used to make a profit.

Piketty shows that inheritance, a very large source of wealth in the past, is growing again and he predicts it will continue to increase in the future.

The “Rate of Return”

Piketty claims that “capital” (i.e., all wealth) tends to have a constant rate of return throughout history of about 4 or 5 percent, even well before the age of capitalism. He defines the rate of return as “the yield on capital over the course of a year

regardless of its legal forms (profits, rents, dividends, interest, royalties, capital gains, etc.) expressed as the percentage of the value of capital invested.” (pg. 52) When you count imperialist wars and economic crises, however, you see big departures from 4% - 5% (see graph below).

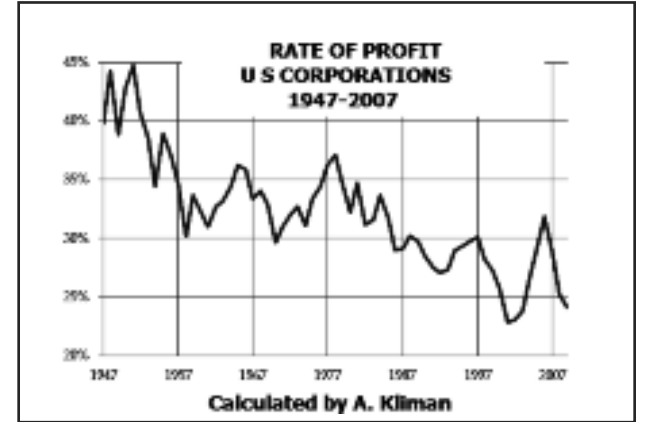


The Falling Rate of Profit

Piketty claims that the central contradiction of capitalism is that the rate of return on wealth is usually higher than the rate of economic growth, so that inequality becomes greater and greater. Marx argued that the real problem is that the rate of profit falls, even if wealth increases.

Piketty claims to prove that Marx was wrong about the tendency of the rate of profit to fall unless exploitation increases. He does admit, however, that Marx would be right unless there is “permanent growth in productivity and population.” (pg. 228)

Once capital is properly defined, not as any income from owning something, but as the income from businesses that exploit labor, data from the same sources as Piketty's agree with Marx's ideas, and show that the rate of profit has had a clear tendency to fall for a long time (see graphs).



Piketty's “Solution”

Like Obama and many liberal policy-makers in the US, Piketty sees rising inequality as bad for the capitalist system. He thinks that if workers are forced to accept a smaller and smaller share of national income the eventual result would be “proletarian revolution and general expropriation” of capitalists. Piketty's solution to rising inequality is a world-wide tax on wealth. He admits that it would be practically impossible to do this on a world scale, but proposes starting with a wealth tax in Europe that would tax the largest fortunes by 2% per year.

Inequality, “National Unity” and War

Piketty's book has been praised to the skies by liberal economists. They like it because he argues that rising inequality is a fact and isn't a good thing, and because he holds out hope that capitalism can be fixed. Some US capitalists do understand that rising inequality tends to make workers more angry, less patriotic and more difficult to control. They are particularly worried about getting workers to accept the huge casualties and the financial costs of a future imperialist war with China.

The ability of the US bosses to keep inequality from rising is very limited, however. Right now they can't even agree on a small increase in the minimum wage, or on limiting Wall Street bonuses, much less putting a big tax on their own wealth. Imposing big wealth taxes would weaken giant corporations in their competition with foreign rivals and make the fall in the rate of profit worse. So the best they can produce will be a few band-aids, while the opportunities for communist revolution grow.

CÉSAR CHÁVEZ: NO CHAMPION OF FARMWORKERS

In 1970, César Chávez was the object of admiration by the liberal bourgeoisie for the victory that he had when 33 agricultural companies signed labor contracts with the United Farmworkers' Union, of which he was president. To him went the compliments, the cheers, the flattery and all kinds of praise; his was the crown of a great champion.

But for the workers who participated in the strikes and struggle, what were the compliments? None! That's because for capitalism, the workers are worth nothing. Those who are valuable are the rich, the politicians, the leaders of bourgeois organizations, of the bosses' unions.

In capitalism, from these kinds of reformist struggles come the opportunist leaders, those who presume to be fighters for the workers but who are in reality the real traitors.

I had an experience that illustrates this: A few years ago, I was invited by the UFW to a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the farmworkers' strike in Delano, California, because of which they won recognition of the United Farmworkers'

Union. I attended for two reasons. First, because I was active in that long strike from the beginning to the end, and five more years that were no picnic.

And second, I wanted to have the pleasure of seeing and greeting old fellow fighters, men and women who fought together with me in that strike. After the meal, a woman organizer of the union approached me and said, “I have heard a lot about you and I wanted to meet you.” Well, after we greeted each other, we continued talking about this and that. We talked about how many organizers the union had and how prepared they were, and why there were so many farmworkers without union representation.

To this she answered that the union had 35 organizers, but without any preparation. And talking about this, I also asked her, “And so today the union is celebrating the anniversary of the strike, because of its being the best weapon for farmworkers in struggle?”

“Yes, that's how it is,” she answered me.

Then I added, “If the strike is the best weapon

for farmworkers in the struggle, why does the union prohibit strikes by the farmworkers in the labor contracts?”

This question surprised her; she looked at me directly with her eyes open wide and answered, “Yes, that's true!”

If a union has so many organizers, but without adequate preparation, what politics do they use when they talk to the workers? And what kind of union is this? The reader can answer.

In communism, the revolutionary communist politicizing of the workers will be constant and therefore there will not be any politically ignorant workers. In this way, the society will be strong, well-structured and worthy of being communist.



LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Health Care: Communist vs. Capitalist

I have been a health care worker for over forty years. I have performed the same job for the last 30 years as an ultrasound technician.

Everyone knows that the health care industry has become one of the biggest money making scams, reaping trillions of dollars in profits over the last 30 years. To maximize their profits, insurance companies are continually cutting back reimbursements for services in hospitals and clinics.

Hospital workers are being forced to work longer hours with increased workloads, similar to the “speed-up” models that dominate the auto industry, insuring higher profits year after year.

For example, the more ultrasound tests that we perform, the higher are the profits made by the insurance companies. Our labor creates their profits. Workers are being monitored by sophisticated computer applications to make sure we are producing enough tests.

Recently I have been forced to go out on disability, because of a repetitive stress injury. Not an unusual occurrence for hospital workers.

The model in hospitals is just the same as the assembly line speed-up mentality. This high production environment doesn't respect nature. The work environment not only causes injuries to many hospital workers every year, but also leads to lousy medical care. Hospital workers are working in pain and under constant speed-ups, which diminishes their capacity to do these important diagnostic tests and procedures correctly and accurately every time.

How would this change under communism?

First of all, health care would not be for profit. It would not be a privilege as it is considered now, but a fundamental right of the working class.

All workers in many capacities would be involved in the development and the administration of health care. No one worker would be responsible for the same job for thirty years, making injuries inevitable.

All healthcare workers will be cross-trained and most training will be on the job as well as in the factories, farms and other points of production. Doctors will not be separated from other workers in elitist universities.

Workers will not have to travel to faraway medical centers to receive topnotch care. All communities will have access to the best care, with well-trained staff, up-to-date equipment, as well as continuing education, childcare and eldercare. The working class would truly be working together for the needs of all the people, as it should be in a workers' society.

—New Jersey Health Care Worker

Bosses Fear Garment Workers Reading *Red Flag*

When a comrade was distributing *Red Flag* outside a garment factory, the boss came up in his SUV. He rolled down his window and said, “Give me one.” In a firm tone the distributor answered, “No, this is for the workers!” Surprised and with a mocking smile, the boss said, “I work



LOS ANGELES, July 12—“You all are doing very good work here,” a teacher told a comrade who was distributing *Red Flag* and the new ICWP industrial pamphlet at a rally supporting postal workers who oppose the privatization of their jobs. A thousand teachers and other public workers from the convention of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) joined postal workers and marched to the Staples Center, protesting the “postal centers” already in 80 Staples stores.

Many stopped to take pictures with the ICWP banner (see above) or to talk with comrades from whom they had gotten literature earlier in the convention. Our comrades were excited and a little surprised by the very warm response we received.

The protest was an example of the new strategy of the AFT leaders to mobilize members around radical-sounding reforms in order to corral them into the Democratic Party. In this way they will help the main section of the US ruling class – the imperialists – to roll over the Tea Party Republicans who stand in the way of their war plans. (More next issue.)

too.” Quickly, the comrade answered, “That’s not true.” He turned around and said to another worker who already had *Red Flag*, “He said that he works.” The worker smiled and shook his head.

In a few minutes, the boss got out of his SUV and, trying to intimidate us, started to take pictures of the distributors with his high-tech cell phone. “Don’t take pictures of the youth! If you want a picture, take one of me!” said another comrade defiantly. By then, the first comrade had come and told the boss “Stop taking pictures!” The boss approached the comrade and started shaking his finger in the comrade’s face. “Go to hell! Get away from me!” shouted the comrade.

Suddenly, two security guards and a supervisor came up to defend the boss. A few workers had gathered around and others had left the factory to see the show. “You can’t take photos without our consent,” the comrade shouted to the boss. “You’ve taken pictures of this place,” yelled the supervisor.

The shouting match continued for a few minutes while the other comrades kept handing out *Red Flag* to passersby, who watched the show with some amazement. Finally, the boss turned tail and he and his lackeys left. The distribution of *Red Flag* to happy hands continued.

The bosses are afraid that the workers reading *Red Flag* will realize that a society with no bosses—a communist society without exploitation—is possible. That’s why, when they see the potential of workers’ organization, they take repressive action—but this only shows their cowardice and fear.

We, the workers, are the ones who run the factory, we are the ones who produce everything. The bosses need us; we don’t need them. We must bring communist ideas without fear of the bosses’ response. As we continue to distribute *Red Flag* at this factory, we must do so all over the world. As networks of *Red Flag* and ICWP continue to grow, the bosses’ fear and cowardly attacks will increase. Their attacks must not go unanswered. We must continue to fight until we have wiped capitalism from the face of the earth.

—Comrade Distributors of *Red Flag*

Transit Union:

Subservient to Bosses

Our Union Leaders have decided once again to do what is in the best for the union’s coffers and MTA, not the membership. They are subservient to the company, not to the membership.

Contract Proposals: It is often hard to read between the lines. Last contract proposal, we were told that mirrors and tires were going to be “Incidents.” Where is it written now? How has MTA applied it?

How come we don’t get paid for ARBs, Second Levels, Interviews, etc? These are company business that we have being doing free, for too long.

Article 1: Wage increases: Prices will rise statewide because of the recent state wage increase. Are we really gaining anything?

Article 27: gives MTA a pass to eavesdrop and write up operators to fire them. Technology

has given MTA major advantages, especially with new buses equipped with live feed and higher recording capacity.

It should say: Reviewing any video will be solely to investigate incidents or accidents.

Article 47: Humor is always good, ask a Union Officer: How long must I work without getting sick, to enjoy the new benefit? Answer should be: over 24 years! So, crack-up! Article 47 says that we can transfer any hours over 2,208 hours into 457 or IRA at 100% value.

The General Committee decided to split and conquer us by setting up separate meetings and the ratification vote through the mail. In case you did not notice, the ballot envelopes were see-through.

The General Committee will determine how they will run the election of the General Chairman and then the nominations for General Chairman, anybody can be nominated. If the Chairmen do not allow the membership to elect the General Chairman, we should divide and conquer them later this year, at election time. It will be our response.

Those that attended the special meetings heard the same bullshit, “This is the best contract that this union can negotiate.” The time has come to draw the line, and fight for a change. Why must we put our trust in a broken union, filled with broken promises, offering a broken future? Let’s make a stand.

Decertify this union; we still have time to do so, before it is too late!

—MTA bus operator

Red Flag comments:

Thanks for your useful letter. We agree that this union is on MTA’s side. But, all unions are on the capitalists’ side. Trade unionism by its very reformist nature is not out to destroy them but to make their system “better.” Thus trade unionism is pro-capitalism.

We therefore disagree that decertification is the solution. No union or union leader can ever change trade unionism’s nature. We need to discard it as a capitalist ideology, replace it with communist ideology, and the fight for communism.

Scandal at Veteran's Administration Hospitals Reveals Bosses' Cynicism

RED SOLDIERS CRUCIAL TO REVOLUTION

During a patrol in Iraq in 2008, I asked a battle buddy a question while sitting in a Humvee overlooking a voting site: "Have you ever wondered about coming back to Iraq in 5 years to see how this all turns out?" I saw his hopefulness and also his skepticism when he told me that all this money being spent in the Iraq war should benefit the Iraqis, but he wasn't sure how long the improvement would last. The cost my friend is talking about is more than 2 trillion dollars, according to the Huffington Post. The Iraq war also cost millions of civilian and military casualties.

Later that year, about a month before coming home, our unit lost a soldier through an IED. A despondent air overtook our squad. We were furious and gloomy. And again we questioned how our efforts would pay off. I remember explaining how the bosses around the world are always fighting each other for the capitalist interests, but we're in the middle, and always will be, until we make a communist revolution. A friend responded, "This war isn't worth it. I just want to go home."

And now 6 years later, I'm sure all these friends are remembering how we were sent to patrol the Iraqi streets in 130-degree heat. My buddies are sitting in front of their television witnessing another civil war occurring in Iraq. Deep in their guts, my veteran friends know how false were the bosses' promises of prosperity and well-being for Iraqi workers. In fact, these same veterans are experiencing the cruelty of the U.S. government at home.

On that same television set, we hear stories like that of Army veteran Doug Chase, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He and his wife went to a veteran's hospital and applied for medical care. Doug waited four months and got no answer. Two years later, the Veteran's Affairs finally

responded to Doug, urging him to make an appointment. But Doug Chase had already died, and his wife was furious at the letter's statement that the VA is "committed to providing primary care in a timely manner and would greatly appreciate a prompt response."

A young friend with whom I served in Iraq recently attempted to apply for medical assistance for post-traumatic stress. He is currently unemployed and facing psychological stress. But he has been denied services. Another Iraqi War veteran friend is close to hitting his 20-year service with the Army. He tells me that the Army is trying



Banner at a protest at Fort Hood, Texas, demanding better medical care for Iraq-era vets

its best to not promote him and pushing him to retire early.

This is the tip of the iceberg. Recent exposés have estimated that more than 120,000 veterans were left waiting or never got care. These delays were covered up so that administrators could get bonuses. The Obama Administration has a serious political problem on their hands: recruiting soldiers for U.S. imperialist wars is hard enough without a failing VA. hospital system waiting for

them when they return. This has put pressure on the V.A. to make at least a few cosmetic changes to help recruitment.

But soldiers are only cannon fodder for imperialists. The bosses attempt to use our time, body and mind for their war benefits. Our need as a class is communist revolution, which is the opposite of the bosses' needs for profit and world domination.

It is no surprise that Obama recently nominated Robert McDonald as the Head of Veteran's Affairs. McDonald is the former CEO for Procter and Gamble, an American multinational consumer goods company. He also has connections with United States Steel Corporation and Xerox, which is the leading company that handles VA benefits processing. These bosses are not on our side! The V.A. will continue to give bad service. It doesn't matter who is in charge, soldiers will never get the medical care they need.

Our job is to spread the word to all soldiers that we must mobilize the masses for communism. Our full strength lies in the power of workers, soldiers and students amassing to organize a communist world that takes all lives into account. Soldiers are crucial to this task. Red soldiers, who understand that they are part of the working class, will ally with workers to seize power, rather than be used by the bosses to attack our class sisters and brothers.

Before, during and after a revolution, we soldiers together with the rest of the working class will guarantee the best medical treatment for every person in society. This is a world we must all dedicate ourselves to. A communist world is worth fighting for. My veteran friends know the reality of this ruthless capitalist system. They, along with workers, soldiers and students around the world, should join ICWP.

SAILORS TALK ABOUT A BETTER SOCIETY

Sailors are some hard working people. It doesn't matter what their rate is: you could be a cook or an Information Technician. Every sailor is first a sailor, and their specialty second. Many of the jobs and qualifications are universal for all sailors, and these things give sailors common experiences that bond them together.

Sailors must work together. Living on a ship requires living in tight spaces with lots of other people. So many aspects of ship life are, by necessity, communal. Ship life influences the way sailors think about life, both philosophically and politically.

I had a conversation with my friend Greg on deployment about the current state of capitalism and possibilities of replacing it with another system. Greg told me there couldn't be societies better than our capitalist one. But instead of justifying why capitalism is the best system (and trying to explain away all its problems), he wanted to shoot holes through the idea of a system that could replace capitalism.

Want to live alone and away from everything?

Greg mentioned that communism focuses too much on community and doesn't accommodate those who wish to live on land alone and away from everything. We talked about how a person recognizes herself as an individual through her community, and more generally through her society, in which she lives and learns.

Her individuality, and even her values that praise individuality, are largely a product of her

culture. And culture stems from how society produces for itself. It's not a coincidence, for instance, that culture in slave society held beliefs that some people were inherently inferior to others.

Why do challenging work if no money's involved?

Greg's next issue was that a communal society lacks incentives for people to pursue the extensive training needed for complicated skills, like medicine and engineering. Greg started with a philosophical claim about human nature. He claimed that an essential feature of our nature is to be greedy. Justifying arguments with human nature claims, however, is a shady business, since they're notoriously inconclusive.

One person may propose that humans are naturally greedy and then cites examples from her experience; another person claims we are naturally altruistic and also cites examples from her experience. We could also propose, instead of assuming a static human nature, that our nature largely corresponds to the society and historical time period in question.

But more often than not, claiming that a characteristic is inherently natural, as in saying "she has god-given talent" or "she is greedy by nature," serves more to discourage discussion and investigation than it does to help us understand our latent capabilities.

If we consider Native Americans living in North America during the 1600s, for example, their communal society and its corresponding



Sailors aboard aircraft carriers Midway, Coral Sea, Constellation, Forrestal and Kitty Hawk, among others, organized mass rebellions against racism and the Vietnam War.

ideas conflict with the claim that humans are naturally greedy. But if we consider businessmen, like Donald Trump, who understand people as either wealthy or lazy, then it's no surprise they see humans as inherently greedy.

When we suggest that greed is part of human nature, we have to ask ourselves how much of that claim stems from ideas we absorb from capitalism. Ideas like these strengthen the status quo and make progress more difficult.

Maintaining the status quo of capitalism makes sense to the few people who benefit from the system. Of course, the rest of us make up the working class, and we would all benefit from a communist society that places our interests first.