

RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM



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



SUMMER PROJECT VOLUNTEERS BRING COMMUNIST IDEAS TO BOEING WORKERS, see page 2



CAPITALIST CRISIS ATTACKS TRANSIT WORKERS AND RIDERS

OAKLAND, CA —“Something is happening and no one is responding to us...not the union, not Occupy,” one worker noted.

“They want people to work four or five years,” another added, “and not have benefits. We’re all expendable!”

“They hired 19 new people this month. They’re hiring people every week (new hires get paid less). I’ve been here 8 years and things are getting worse and worse.”

These were voices of Alameda-Contra Costa Transit bus drivers as we introduced *Red Flag* to them. An impressive 15% of AC transit workers took one or more copies. They could have been the voices of workers anywhere.

“Yeah, I already got the paper. It’s awesome. I’ll take three more for friends,” said one driver at the end of his shift. Many others took one more paper for a co-worker.

Another driver said she’d gotten the paper that morning. “I’ve been reading it all day,” she said.

Wherever we have gone we have found a working class hungry for an explanation of the all-around attack

they are experiencing. This has made them open to *Red Flag* and our call for communist revolution.

CRISIS AND WAR

Word has it that AC management’s new contract proposals include replacing some full-time jobs with part-time jobs, and a two-tier pension. Even so, riders will face more line cuts and fare increases.

Some people blame the Metropolitan Transit Commission, some AC management, and others the dues-collecting, do-nothing union. It’s true they all play a miserable role but they are not the cause of our stress.

Our stress comes directly from the crisis in capitalism itself and the sobering truth is that it won’t be resolved until we organize a communist revolution (which is no small task)!

While the crisis started in the US as a sub-prime mortgage crisis, it erupted worldwide with the collapse of Lehman Brothers and now shows up as a sovereign debt crisis in Europe

At heart, it is a crisis of overproduction. Capitalists have developed

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COMMUNISM--NOT REFORMISM-- BECOMES OUR DAILY BREAD

EL SALVADOR—“We must be disciplined as members of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP),” said an enthusiastic leading comrade.

“We completely agree with you. We have to make a more serious political plan for every meeting,” answered a young worker.

In this meeting, we discussed the work we have been carrying out as a party, and criticisms and self-criticisms arose.

“We must organize more workers and soldiers for ICWP,” concluded the first comrade.

We held this meeting in the mountains in the dead of night in the rainy season. We reported on the latest meeting of the Central Committee of ICWP, the plans and decisions that were made, how inter-imperialist rivalry attacks us wherever we are, and the need to write more for *Red Flag*.

The position of each one of the comrades was to push forward communist work in every area where they are. We discussed how to fight reformist ideas and convert every action into a struggle for commu-

nism. Young and not-so-young comrades were eager to make their evaluations of the work each one is carrying out in the countryside and the city.

One said, “We have a question: why in the old party did they tell us that we should put so much emphasis on struggles like strikes, work stoppages, and work in the fmln, and now you are asking for more work for communist revolution and less in unions?” An ex-guerilla fighter was very analytical as he responded, “It’s that this is a struggle between reform and revolution; we fight directly for communism and the old party stayed with reform.”

Another comrade commented: “During this year’s vacation my family came and we discussed *Red Flag*. I’m giving it to my brother who works in a factory in the western part of the country and for the first time I see him being enthusiastic. This really encourages me because I see that he takes communist ideas seriously. I’ve already explained to him that in Cuba communism doesn’t exist, even though the bosses try to tell us that Cuba is

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Capitalism Dead Ends: Summer Project Blazes New Trails:

COMMUNISM WELCOMES ALL TO PARTICIPATE AND CONTRIBUTE

“We got sold out,” said a Boeing Machinist. He had invited eight communist summer project volunteers to his house for dinner. One had asked what he thought of the new Aerospace Machinist Performance Program (AMPP).

AMPP ties us to the fortunes of the company. It’s a form of speed-up and collective piecework.

We all agreed that, as time goes by, programs like AMPP will expand. The company and the union have publically stated they want a larger percentage of our compensation to be based on “productivity.” The next generation of workers will bear the brunt of the attack.

“What can the veteran workers do to help this new generation?” asked this same volunteer.

“Not much in this situation,” our host unhappily replied. But in fact he himself is helping to change the situation.

State of US Labor during Capitalist Economic Crisis

The working class and the bosses are locked in a never-ending struggle in this system. There is only one way to resolve this contradiction in the interests of our class: communist revolution. Our guiding principle must always be to mobilize the masses for communism.

Militant, broad trade-union fights can bring some relief for certain sections of the working class when a particular country or business is on the upswing. In the 1950s, after World War II, when the US was a dominant imperialist power, US trade unions focused on winning small economic gains. In exchange, they promoted anti-communism here and abroad. The vast majority of the world’s workers paid dearly.

When the bosses’ system enters a global economic crisis, like the crisis of the last few years, the dynamics of that struggle change.

US union leaders decided their only future lies in saving the bosses by selling us on the need to sacrifice. More rapidly than many of us imagined, the small relief won by generations of fight-back since WWII has been stripped away.

Even these attacks on US workers won’t save US capitalism. Economic competition with emerging capitalists must eventually develop into military competition. When, we can’t say, but capitalism knows no other path.

Our friend’s pessimism comes from being trapped by the reform tactics of the last 60-years. We have to break free with a revolutionary plan.

Mobilize the Masses for Communism

The only way to get off this destructive path is to organize production for need, not sale and profits. When we produce for need, we can rationally organize our work force to provide for our class. We can welcome helping hands without worrying about new workers taking our jobs.

Today, we only have jobs if the boss can find a way to exploit us. Communism will eliminate exploitive jobs, replacing them with collective work.

The bosses will not allow us to elect our way to communism, nor can we reform this system to meet our needs. We need a revolutionary plan.

First, we encourage everyone to help expand our network of *Red Flag* readers. Groups of readers should form study groups to help us develop our communist vision and participate in the increasing class struggle.

We need letters from workers, like the helpful letters written by summer project volunteers on their experiences struggling with workers and soldiers.

Although our aim is to build a society without money, right now we need all kinds of financial support. In particular, the increased circulation of our paper means we need more money for printing and shipping.

Networks, readers, writers, study groups, donations and recruits are all powerful revolutionary tools. Even so we know many more people who are disgusted with this system; who stand ready to help the International Communist Workers’ Party in many different ways. We should involve them!

For example, the friend quoted above not only opened up his house for dinner, but also provided housing and paid for volunteers’ food throughout the week. He thought we should find a way to open our homes to the millions of young workers left homeless and jobless by this crisis. He not

only did this in a small way, but he also found political meaning in his efforts.

There are many more like him! “Mobilizing the Masses for Communism” is not only a slogan to guarantee the revolution will succeed after we take state power. It means that even workers new to our politics can help develop this movement. As a veteran teacher told a crowd of people grappling with the possibility of communist revolution: “The future is bright!”



Summer Project volunteers distribute *Red Flag* to Boeing workers

Unionism Fails

Industrial Workers: Need Revolutionary Plan

JOLIET, IL —The Caterpillar strike has entered its 16th week. Eight hundred members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) are walking picket lines outside this huge construction-equipment plant.

Even in the midst of crisis the company’s profits have soared: up 78% in 2011, from \$4.2 billion to \$7.2 billion, on sales of over \$60 billion.

Meanwhile, new workers average \$13/hour, less than half the wages of veteran workers. Even so, Caterpillar is demanding a 6-year wage and pension freeze. New workers aren’t getting any traditional pensions at all.

The decrease in prevailing wages was set when the Obama administration bailed out the

auto industry. As part of the deal, auto workers gave up traditional pensions and retiree medical care. New workers started at \$13/hour. The union became the third partner in an evil trinity with the government and company to impose this racist, super-exploitive regime.

As reported in *Red Flag*, Lockheed, the largest US military aerospace contractor, eliminated defined pensions for new hires last month in Texas after a 10-week strike.

Immediately upon resuming work, the company instituted a new regime of petty harassment aimed at getting older workers to retire. They will be replaced with a new generation of \$12-13/hour employees. Not only didn’t the union fight these new work rules, but also they posted them on their website.

The engineers and technical workers’ union at Boeing, SPEEA, is about to give up traditional pensions for new hires. The damage can-

not be contained. Moody’s Investors Services predicts the four US aerospace and defense giants Lockheed, Boeing, Northrop and Exelis will soon end defined pensions altogether.

A neighbor at our Seattle summer project BBQ suggested that the law would not allow these companies to get away with it. A friend of the party who works at Boeing set her straight.

“The law says the company is supposed to contribute money to keep our pension fund solvent,” he explained, “but with the crisis, they didn’t want to. So last month they got their friends in Congress to change the law. We know better than to rely on the law!”

We have to expand our *Red Flag* networks. We need more workers to help us build collectives in the plants to plan revolution. Today, that means we have to focus on preparing a new generation to mobilize the masses for communism.



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Garment Workers Fight Migra Terror

COMMUNISM WILL END BORDERS, NATIONS, AND EXPLOITATION

LOS ANGELES, CA, August 14—One morning a few days ago, hundreds of men and women garment workers very nervously turned off their machines and went home. Workers from several factories had communicated with each other by telephone to warn that the Migra was around, patrolling the area like hungry jackals. There was a lot of fear that the Migra terrorists would go to these factories to arrest and deport workers, cutting the thread of life for them and their families. Some workers (mainly single mothers) only thought about their children: Who will take care of them? Who will feed them? For others it meant having to get as much as \$10,000 to return and face death in the deserts.

Capitalism, with its exploitation, racism, borders and wars, destroys the lives of millions of workers around the world. In these sweatshop factories, the bosses and their government make millions of dollars by exploiting the workers. The capitalists don't want to deport all the undocumented immigrants, because they need them for low-cost industrial production, and they need their loyalty so that they will send their children to the bosses' wars. However, they keep the whip of the Migra over them to keep them terrorized and disorganized.

The discussion with some of these workers was that they should take leadership in this struggle: increasing the distribution of *Red Flag*, confronting the Migra in a mass way, going out into the streets in a political march against capitalism, taking over the factories. We shouldn't accept these racist attacks passively. Many garment workers in Los Angeles have a history of struggle against deportations.

These workers are key in the revolutionary struggle for communism. They work in centers of industrial production and their children are and will be those who swell the ranks of the army. This recent experience of workers from different factories communicating by telephone gives us the certainty that a political concentration in a single factory can lead us to hundreds of thousands of workers through networks of our communist newspaper, *Red Flag*.

In the struggle for a communist society without borders or exploitation we must build unity between immigrants and citizens, among latin@, black, white, asian and muslim workers. The key is unity, based on communist ideas, between latin@ workers who come from Latin America with experiences in struggle, including armed struggle, and black workers who have fought in

a mass way against racism. Also those are the two key groups in the industrial centers and in the army. This will make it possible to give leadership to masses to destroy capitalism and its borders and to build a communist society.

The bosses use their police-Migra terror because borders are critical for capitalist domination and the exploitation in which they keep the working class. The bosses use their borders to divide and weaken us, pitting some against others. Nations, borders and nationalism are not part of human nature, but instead inventions of capitalism. They are part of the capitalist state apparatus to oppress all workers and fight against other bosses.

We workers must convert the terror into anger against capitalism. But even more important is to see that there is an alternative of building a world without borders or exploitation. Under communism, we workers can live wherever we want. We won't be forced to abandon our homes to seek work. Nor will we be stopped from moving when we choose to do so, nor have to worry about who will take care of our children. To win the struggle for communism, however, we workers must learn to unite across borders and reject anti-immigrant racism. Join us to fight for a communist world.



August 15—Hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth lined up at law offices and community centers throughout the US to fill out forms for “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” Obama’s program to halt deportation of undocumented youth between 16 and 30 with no criminal record for two years. These youth hope this will lead them to a path to citizenship and better jobs. Many will be forced to join the military and work in factories producing for the war machine for low wages, in exchange for temporarily halting deportation. These youth, future soldiers, workers and students, and their parents can see through the bosses’ patriotic carrot-and-stick deadly game to join the fight for a communist world without exploitation, bosses, borders, or imperialist wars.

Transit Bosses Send In the Clowns

WORKERS NEED TO ORGANIZE COMMUNIST POLITICAL STRIKE

LOS ANGELES, August 15—It's circus time again for MTA bus mechanics. Neil Silver and his cronies in ATU Local 1277 are presenting the “Vote on the Contract” charade. If it weren't so tragic, it would be hilarious.

The tragedy is not that Neil and his gang are outsmarting us to ram a “bad” contract down our throats. They are not fooling anyone. Everyone can see through their idiotic antics.

The tragedy is not that they are doing the MTA and US bosses' dirty work, forcing us to pay for the bosses' economic crisis and wars for empire and profits. Most MTA workers agree with *Red Flag* that these traitors are faithful defenders of capitalism and are rabid anti-communists.

No, the real tragedy is that we workers as a class are not yet organized to respond to the attacks of these traitors and their masters with a political strike against their charade. That would mean organizing a political strike against capitalism and for communism.

Reformist struggles and strikes prevent us from playing our historical role

We – the working class – have the historic task of building a communist world by burying capitalism once and for all. In today's world, reformist struggles are worse than useless. They prevent us from fulfilling this historical task.

Fighting for nickels and dimes, for pension

plans and health care, is not only fighting for crumbs but to perpetuate the bosses' wage slavery. Our fight is to take back the world from the racist capitalists-imperialists. Our fight is to break the chains that bind us to them by eliminating exploitation, money, wages, the market and production for profits.

Anything less leaves our class defenseless against the world's bosses' devastating attacks, as they prepare for bigger and wider wars, including World War III.

The bosses want us to pay for their war budget. That's why the MTA bosses have been waging a “reign of terror” against MTA drivers, using any excuse to fire older drivers to steal their pensions and hire new workers at half their wages. Only a communist revolution can put an end to the bosses' terror.

Unions, no matter how militant, are useless given capitalism's severe crisis

Many MTA workers believe that more honest and militant union leaders are the solution. Militant reformist union struggles, however, especially in today's world, are based on the illusion that capitalism can be made to meet our needs.

Greek workers under similar attacks have staged 18 general strikes in the last few months. Their unity and militancy have been unable to stop the bosses from drastically reducing their

wages, eliminating their pensions, health care and their jobs.

ICWP fights for revolution not reform

Unions were built to reform capitalism, not to destroy it. No matter how militant or who leads them, they end up serving the interests of the capitalists.

Many of the mechanics who showed up for the contract vote already knew *Red Flag*. Six took extra leaflets into the meeting. Afterwards, a dozen *Red Flag* readers from different parts of the city gathered outside the hall, where others joined them. They made plans to increase the circulation of the paper at their worksites. This is an important step forward!

Many MTA workers who read and distribute *Red Flag* are agreeing with us more and more that only communism can meet the needs of the international working class. More and more are agreeing with us that a communist revolution is needed to destroy capitalism and build a communist world. More and more must join and build the International Communist Workers' Party.

A political strike against capitalism and for communism, whether or not at contract time, would go a long way toward building the movement we need to mobilize the masses of workers, soldiers and students worldwide for communism.

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communist. He took two papers for other workers in the factory.”

We made the analysis that the work of each

club is needed for the advance of communist ideas. We shouldn't fall into individualism, but struggle collectively to make ICWP grow.

We ended by drinking pure mountain-grown coffee with bread that tasted especially delicious

at this time of night. And between tripping and falling and jokes about how some people don't need flashlights because they walk like tigers in the dark, we left for the city.

PERU: CLASS STRUGGLE SHARPENS, NEED FOR COMMUNISM GROWS



August 1 – The Peruvian government has extended a “state of emergency” originally declared in late May in response to sharp struggles led by indigenous people. The Peruvian masses are fighting \$multi-billion government deals with imperialist investors for oil, mining and timber projects in the Amazon that threaten the indigenous way of life. The eight-month-long protest against the Minas Conga gold mine project of the US-based Newmont Company escalated after government forces killed protesters earlier this summer.

Meanwhile, the Peruvian teachers’ union SUTEP (which held short strikes in June) declared an indefinite strike in late July. The teachers, poor like their students, are demanding 6% of the Gross Domestic Product for education and are protesting against the sharp attacks carried out in the name of “education reform.”

President Humala’s government claims that the emergency decree is against remnants of the Maoist “Shining Path” movement. In truth they are far more fearful of massive struggles like the one on July 3rd, when 2,000 people stormed government buildings and burned vehicles in Celenadin, near the Conga mine site. But the Conga struggle, like the teachers’ strike, aims to reform

Peruvian capitalism. What the Peruvian masses need is communist revolution to destroy it.

A vacationing US teacher saw SUTEP protesters gathered at the base of Macchu Picchu, heart of Peru’s profitable tourist industry. “We saw several loud and spirited marches around this small tourist trap of a town,” he wrote. “We spoke and expressed our solidarity and they cheered and clapped. We helped translate into English some of the slogans on their signs to communicate with the tourists.

“The next day, the teachers were marching again and blocked the road going up to Macchu Picchu. Soon the heavily armed police came in but the protesters wouldn’t budge. A brief melee occurred as the police tried to push the teachers off the road.”

We applaud this grass-roots international working-class solidarity! We hope it inspires *Red Flag* readers to get this communist paper, and the ICWP manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism*, to people we know in Peru and everywhere else.

Education Reform: Imperialist Tool

Recent Peruvian education laws impose a national certification exam and periodic competency exams, with pay based on exam results and possibly student performance. It aims to limit education for the children of the masses to basic literacy and computation. Behind this reform is the WorldFund, whose directors represent JPMorganChase, DeutscheBank, Credit Suisse, Bank of America, and Merrill Lynch.

The WorldFund initiative aims to consolidate a broad (if unlikely) base of support for US imperialism in Peru to counter Chinese imperialism’s increasingly strategic relationship with the Humala government. Last November, China and Peru signed two major arms and trading agreements, while hun-

dreds attended the Fifth Annual China-Latin America Business Summit in Peru’s capital Lima. Chinese imperialists, too, are investing heavily in Peruvian mines, in spite of the militant strikes and environmental protests at its Marcona iron mines and elsewhere. (Evan Ellis, China Brief, v. 11 #21, 11/11/11)

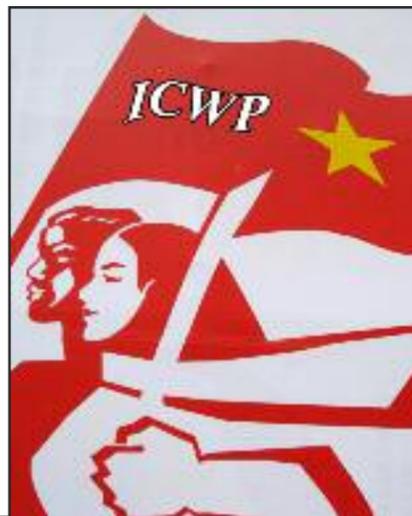
The capitalist-imperialists, whether from Wall Street or Beijing, and their Peruvian partners, destroy the Amazon and keep the Peruvian masses in deadly poverty. No wonder, then, that a World-Fund analyst complains that “the poor, who overwhelmingly send their children to public schools” don’t support its reforms.

Only Communism Can Meet the Masses’ Needs

The teachers’ union SUTEP promotes “radical pedagogy” (along the lines of the Soviet psychologist Vygotsky and the Brazilian educator Paolo Freire). They call for “social transformation, expressed in the goal of building an education that contributes to a substantial change in social and cultural realities.” (Jose Ramos Bosmediano, Intercambio, February, 2012) But this “transformative project” doesn’t confront the need to destroy capitalism. Instead it calls for a 20-year plan based on “development planning” and a “democratic, patriotic, and popular government.”

Bosmediano, like US imperialists, complains that the masses of teachers are not inspired by his supposedly “radical” reform program. In truth the masses are increasingly disgusted with capitalism-imperialism and rightfully cynical about trying to reform it to serve their needs. No amount of money, no torrent of radical rhetoric, can make capitalist education in Peru or anywhere serve the working class.

We must learn to organize for revolution and build communism, the only social-cultural reality that can enable us to meet all of our needs sustainably and collectively. In communist society, education will be linked to production and political power in the hands of the masses, organized as one International Communist Workers’ Party.



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so much industry in the world that they can no longer reap enough profits. Their profit rate won’t be restored until enough rival industry has been destroyed – through bankruptcies, down-sizings or war.

Unfortunately, war is the most efficient way to destroy a rival’s industry. It is also the most



costly. In order to expand the military budget education, health care and pension funds have to be downgraded.

IT’S NOT JUST AC TRANSIT WORKERS UNDER ATTACK: IT’S WORKERS THE WORLD OVER.

In California alone, cities like Vallejo, Stockton, and Compton battle bankruptcy. State governments are not far behind. Obama’s “State Budget Crisis Task Force” calls for the elimination of health and pension benefits for public sector workers! It comes in addition to the block grants to State and local governments already earmarked for cuts after the elections. These policies trickle down to the pen-pushers at MTC and AC who then try to saddle us with what amounts to a war budget.

In our lifetime, we have never witnessed the scale and severity of attacks like these. We were unprepared.

Even if the unions were led by fist-in-the-air radicals, they couldn’t get the job done. Over the last two years or so, Greek workers have staged 18 General Strikes and still have seen their jobs, pensions, health care and housing cut, cut and cut again.

Unions disarm us. They work on the idea we can negotiate a fair deal with the capitalist state. That is a fantasy. Capitalists and workers have diametrically opposed needs!

PRIVATE PROFITS OR SOCIAL NEEDS

Capitalists won’t organize a thing unless they can get a tidy profit from it. In fact they don’t just need profit; they need more and more profits and will stop at nothing to get them.

We, on the other hand, need housing, education, health care, food. We have no need to rise up above our class, but we do have a need to rise up and survive with it.

The last time a crisis like this erupted it ended in the Great Depression and the outbreak of World War II. It was only the massive destruction in that war that restored the profitability of capitalism and led to a new boom. That boom has now ended. We face a long crisis and the increasing threat of world war.

As we fight the coming attacks on AC Transit riders and drivers, we have to realize that the cause of our stress lies in capitalism. Society doesn’t have to be organized around production for private profit. When we organize it around the needs of community, crisis and war will become a thing of the past.

This is a massive task but a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. That journey begins with *Red Flag*.

The Bay Area comrades were energized by the response of AC transit workers to *Red Flag* and plan to continue to focus on developing *Red Flag* readers and distributors among them.

Appalachian Miners Slave or Starve

COMMUNISM WILL MOBILIZE LABOR POWER OF MASSES TO WORK LESS, PRODUCE MORE, SAVE THE PLANET

“Appalachia is engaged in a civil war of sorts over coal, with miners and their families pitted against environmental activists,” wrote Jason Howard. (“Appalachia Turns on Itself,” *NYT* 7/8/12).

The issue is mountaintop removal in the eastern part of the US. It is a form of strip mining that has permanently destroyed over 500 Appalachian mountains and left over 2,000 miles of streams buried.

“What we do to the land, we do to the people,” is a popular saying in Appalachia. It should be changed to “What capitalism does to the land, it does to the people.”

Today that saying rings truer than ever as scientific studies have confirmed that people living near the destruction are 50% more likely to die of cancer and 42% more likely to be born with birth defects compared with other people in Appalachia.

This is the vaunted “freedom of choice” which workers supposedly have under capitalism: to slave on murderous destructive jobs or die of starvation!

Yet even this “freedom” will be short lived for many coal miners

Coal in the region is getting harder and costlier to dig. Even with more workers, production has declined by 25 percent in central Appalachia’s underground and surface mines since 2004.

The industry is moving to Western states, drastically cutting its workforce in the Appalachian region. Wyoming, with 6000 miners, already produces more coal than ten times as many miners produce in West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Alabama, and Illinois combined.

Besides, these “now you see them, now you don’t” \$22/hour jobs come with a price. Miners are forced to slave under dangerous conditions in order to feed their families, or complain and get fired. So much for capitalism’s “freedom of speech.”

These choices are the inevitable outcome of a system that produces goods to be sold on the market to profit a handful of billionaires.

They are the inevitable outcome of a system

where the pursuit of those profits demands the cheapest resources and labor power possible. This, in turn, demands the wanton destruction of the environment and of workers’ lives.

The Appalachian miners have a long and rich history of militant class struggle against capitalism. Even so, they have been unable to stop the bosses’ vicious onslaught.

Reforms, no matter how militant, will not end capitalism. It must be destroyed with a communist revolution and replaced by worldwide communism.

Only communism can eliminate production for the market

Under communism production will be exclusively to satisfy the needs of the international working class. This will eliminate the market and money: nothing will be bought or sold.

Communism will accomplish what capitalism can never do: eliminate the use of contaminating, dangerous and destructive sources of energy. Capitalism uses them because they are the cheapest. Coal is among the cheapest, which means its production requires very little human labor power.

That is why the US is the world’s biggest coal producer. Today, with only 88,000 miners, it produces more than twice the amount of coal it produced in 1923 with 705,000 miners. Strip mining, coupled with modern technology, has contributed to this enormous increase in productivity.

Unlike capitalism, communism will produce everything society needs regardless of how much labor power is required. We will replace fossil and nuclear energy with clean and renewable alternative sources because our labor power won’t have a price.

Billions of workers who are unemployed or underemployed today because the capitalists can’t profit from their labor power will be integrated into the production process.

This extra huge source of mental

and manual labor power will enable us to collectively produce more and work less, while making workers’ safety and environmental protection top priorities.

By eliminating production for the market worldwide, communism will eliminate war.

Production for the market inevitably leads to the capitalists’ dog-eat-dog competition. As this competition becomes fiercer, who survives is decided on the battlefield, eventually on the battlefields of world wars.

Capitalism-imperialism is rapidly approaching this point now. Workers, soldiers and students have no dog in this bosses’ dog-fight. Our future lies in mobilizing the masses for communism.

The bosses claim the world is too small for us, that we have overpopulated it. The world, however, is too small for them as they constantly fight over who controls it and its natural resources, like coal and oil.

Communist revolution will eliminate these butchers. Then we will make this world livable for communist generations to come. Join this historic struggle!



Militant miners in Harlan County, West Virginia, fought cops and scabs in 1976 to win a union contract, but West Virginia miners today still face capitalism’s murderous conditions.

CAPITALIST RELATIONS OF PRODUCTION STRANGLE THE EARTH AND ITS WORKERS

This Earth of ours is not this Earth of ours. Nothing tells us more clearly than a new discovery of oil. Coming out of the bowels of the earth and supplying (along with natural gas) some 65% of the world’s energy needs, you would think that discoveries of new fields would usher in promises of regional prosperity and security. The opposite is true.

The Eastern Mediterranean, a beautiful sea embracing spectacular beaches, is now cursed with the discovery of oil. The countries that border it – Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Egypt and Cyprus – now make up an arc of poverty (Greece), murder and destruction (Syria), military occupation (Palestine) and political uprising (Egypt).

Because oil is central to industrial production and agriculture (producing fertilizers), it is always profitable. Because oil is still traded on world markets in US dollars, it is vital to maintaining the financial supremacy of the US. Because the modern military runs on oil (the US



Army in Iraq and Afghanistan uses 16 gallons per soldier per day), control of it is indispensable to US military dominance.

All this means that the discovery of oil in any particular region of the world converts it immediately into a battlefield of geo-political rivalry.

The relentless demands for austerity by the mainly US and German financial markets forced the Greek capitalists and their government to sell off the majority of their shares in the gigantic oil and gas fields that lie offshore. Their less-publicized demand was that Greece abandon its plans to link up with a Russian pipeline bringing oil from Central Asia. At the same time, US ally Turkey demanded that if Greece continued to drill further in the Aegean Sea, Turkey would treat it as an act of war!

Cyprus, for the moment, is on the fence. It has ties with Israel, which plans to use it as a bridge in a pipeline that will export oil from Israel’s Mediterranean field to Greece and Europe, and thus compete with Russia. On the other hand, it has strong political ties to Russia and might well

host its fleet if Russia gets kicked out of its Syrian base. Meanwhile, Turkey claims Cyprus has no rights to drill since the Turkish Cypriot Government was not consulted.

Lebanon, which claims that one of Israel’s offshore oil fields lies partially in Lebanese waters, has been bluntly told by Israel that they “will not give an inch!” The Obama administration, however, backs Lebanon. It is silent, of course, on the 15-year ban Israel has effectively imposed on the small but viable gas field off Lebanon’s Gaza coast.

When the geological surveys discovered gas, they produced another hot spot in the geo-political struggle over which imperialists will dominate the world. That, in turn, has given us a snapshot of the revolutionary period the world is entering. It’s a period where the forces of production (the raw materials and technical skills we have developed) are being strangled by the relations of production (the banks, money and private property) that capitalism has produced. It’s exactly those relations of production that the communist revolution the ICWP is building will destroy.

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Seattle Summer Project: *Red Flag* Advancing

A dozen comrades participated in the 2012 summer project in Seattle, learning how to take communist ideas to workers and soldiers.

Industrial workers are key to communist revolution, and we concentrated on taking *Red Flag* to Boeing workers. The struggle at Boeing is sharpening and we are advancing. In one instance, a worker took *Red Flag* only to throw it to the ground, and the worker right behind him told our comrade, "Give me two." The Boeing bosses are afraid that workers will take communist ideas as their own, and several times, the police, like cowardly slaves who defend their master, tried to run us off the street to stop distribution of *Red Flag*. But that didn't stop us from giving out our literature to hundreds of workers.

Although we went, morning and afternoon, to these factories, we still had time for study groups. As communists, we understand the need to combine theory and practice, and we discussed history, political economy, sweatshops and the bosses' plans to promote US imperialism.

We had a forum about the military to discuss among the project participants the importance that soldiers have in the moment of revolution and how history has taught us to organize soldiers and that it is possible. A veteran of the US war in Iraq and one from the Vietnam War era told us about the real reasons that soldiers join the army (crime, unemployment and the need to support their families) and the rebellions that occurred at the base that we were to visit the next day. We role-played discussions with soldiers to prepare to talk to soldiers about their experiences.

We visited the base at Fort Lewis, and talked with soldiers and their families. We talked to them directly about communism, because we know that we needn't be afraid of talking about communism with soldiers, since they are also part of the working class and are equally exploited. Although some of us were frustrated that some soldiers rejected the paper, many soldiers smiled and took *Red Flag* with pride when we told them it was a communist paper.

It's inspiring to see how the soldiers are open to our ideas and willing to talk to us. Many started to question why they are sent to fight in the bosses' wars. In a neighborhood near the base, for example, we conversed with an ex-soldier about who is the soldiers' real enemy. We said that the US bosses pose Iraqis, Afghans or Iranians as the enemy, when in reality they them-

selves are the enemy of the working class. At the end of the conversation he and his friend took *Red Flag*.

On the last day of the project, ICWP participated in the "Everything 4 Everyone" festival. Many conversations and discussions, both at our literature table, those of other groups, and in general meetings led to new contacts. The masses are open to communist ideas; new contacts will become future members.

We ended the project with a barbeque that included Boeing workers, neighbors, friends, summer project volunteers and new contacts, sharing as comrades, satisfied and more convinced that the fight for communism is the fight of the working class. Several young people who had not been involved with us before said that they wished they had read *Red Flag* and *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* and discussed it as a group before the summer project. They would like to be in study clubs and distribute *Red Flag* with ICWP during the school year. As one comrade said, "We are not in a dark night, but in a morning of radiant sunlight where the workers are rising up and raising the red flags of communism."

—Summer project comrades

Oakland: "*Red Flag* is for the Working Class"

This summer, members of ICWP traveled from Los Angeles to Oakland to take *Red Flag* and our manifesto *Mobilize the Masses for Communism* to workers, students and soldiers there. We were tired, since we had come from a four-week summer project, ending with a communist school, in Los Angeles. But the conviction of our ideas and the sight of how open workers are to communist ideas inspired us to continue with our work.

We focused on transit workers, going out in the mornings and the afternoons to take them our literature. (See article page 1) Most inspiring were the responses of drivers who had taken the paper in the morning, and put it in the front windows of their buses, or who took two to five extra copies for their friends and fellow workers.

"If you came to tell us Obama's no good, we already know that," said a driver. "We came to tell you they're all no good," we responded. "Who are you for then?" asked the driver. "The working class," we responded. The driver took the paper.

At San Francisco State University, over one hundred students took our paper and manifesto. The very first student we approached wanted to know all about our ideas. She was among those who gave us their contact information and asked us to send them *Red Flag* every two weeks.

Comrades also went door-to-door in a working class neighborhood and distributed dozens of *Red Flags* in a nearby shopping center. The conversations in this community concentrated on the attacks on the local elementary school. "Parents and teachers fought successfully to keep the local school open," we said. "But capitalist education can never meet the



Comrades take *Red Flag* to protests against police murder in Oakland and Anaheim.

needs of our children."

In this integrated neighborhood, many workers, young and old, black, latin@ and white, agreed that capitalism and capitalist education have failed their children. Comrades in the East Bay will return to these neighbors with future issues of *Red Flag*.

We ended this project with a dinner with Bay Area comrades and friends, and a good discussion about the role of *Red Flag* in the mobilization of the masses. There was a lively conversation about the London Olympics, how the bosses use these games to promote nationalism, and how sports will be in a communist society. This discussion will be described in a future edition of *Red Flag*.

—LA comrades

Form *Red Flag* Study Circles

It was really a pleasure to attend a political education class held by the ICWP. The invitation was cordially accepted and I considered it an honor and a privilege to attend.

The topic of the class was the Marxist theory of productive forces. It was very exciting to see revolutionaries having discussions on these topics. What was also very cool was how all topics were discussed in simple terms. The majority of the people in the class shared comments, with all having the opportunity to read the article being discussed. I learned a lot.

There are political trends I have known for years who have never invited me to any political education class (but they are always hawking newspapers and asking for money. Go figure!) So, the ICWP has outdone them from Day One.

I also liked that the class was bilingual, with participants coming from all ages and colors of skin. This is so cool, as the youth are the future of the revolutionary class struggle, and the youth will learn the ins and outs of making communist struggle from 1) engaging in struggle and 2) from those who have made struggle before them. Both elements were present during the class.

The class leaders encouraged all to learn, participate, ask questions, and never strayed from the topic of the class. When participants had comments or concerns that were not specifically covered in the class, they were encouraged to write an article for the paper. This demonstrates that the paper is the property of the members and participants of Party activities.

People who read *Red Flag* should get involved and form study circles to study the paper. You will learn a lot about making revolution against capitalist imperialism.

---An Inspired Reader



ICWP at the Everything 4 Everyone Festival

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THIS IS THE PAPER OF THE WORKING CLASS. WE GET NO FUNDING FROM THE CAPITALISTS, THEIR FOUNDATIONS OR NGOs. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP PAY FOR THE COSTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Sailors in the Fight for Communism

From its founding, ICWP has realized that mass support for communist revolution inside the imperialist military is critical for the victory of communism. As *Red Flag* reports, our party has already begun organizing for this. Many members of our study group recently read a terrific book about revolutionary sailors in the Russian Revolution of 1905. The book is *Red Mutiny: Eleven Fateful Days on the Battleship Potemkin*, by Neal Bascomb, published in 2007.

Bascomb tells the thrilling story of how communist sailors (then called “social-democrats”) organized to take over the Tsar’s fleet in the Black Sea and use it to spread revolution. Before their revolt was ready, however, a mutiny broke out on the battleship Potemkin in June

1905. When the Russian bosses brought other ships to attack the Potemkin, their sailors mutinied, too. I won’t spoil the story by telling what happened in the end, but the book makes clear the power, selflessness, and courage of the working-class sailors who mutinied.

Bascomb is an anti-communist who tries to prove that the role of communist sailors in the revolt was exaggerated by Soviet sources. He also tries to show the sailors as only fighting to get rid of the Tsar, not for communism. Despite these defects this book makes clear the revolutionary capabilities of sailors, and the vital role they can play in communist revolution.

Although not mentioned in the book, it is ironic that a second mutiny in the same place helped the revolutionary Soviet government survive capitalist attempts to destroy it after

the October Revolution of 1917. A communist-led mutiny in the French navy in Odessa in April 1919 forced the French government to withdraw from the Black Sea and end their attempt to destroy the communist forces there.

--Red Reader



Writing for Red Flag

I'm trying to write a letter about how to write for *Red Flag*. How do I start?

Let's see. Who am I writing for?

Readers who have ideas or experiences that would make the paper better. Who don't usually write stuff. That's most *Red Flag* readers. And people who write for school but not communist stuff.

Now what's the main thing I want to get across? "Just do it!" Tell your idea or story or question to somebody. Now that you've put it in words, write the words down. Don't worry about spelling or grammar or all that.

Now show it to a friend or bring it up in your Party club or study group. Do they get what you mean? Can they help you make it clearer? Write down the changes.

You could stop here and send your letter or article in to *Red Flag*. We can fix up any little mistakes.

Rereading this, I realized that I left out something really important. What does this have to do with communism?

Communist writing (all communist work!) is a collective process. We do it to help mobilize the masses to destroy capitalism. It's not to impress somebody or to win a prize or get a grade. So we need to make sure that the communist ideas are as clear and up-front as possible.

That should have been the beginning of this letter. So here's the second draft:

Red Flag Needs More Writers

Communist writing (all communist work!) is a collective process. We do it to help mobilize the masses to destroy capitalism. It's not to impress somebody or to win a prize or get a grade. So we need to make sure that the communist ideas are as clear and up-front as possible.

Most *Red Flag* readers have ideas or experiences that would make the paper better. Very few write these up so that we can all benefit from them. We need more writers!

How do you start? "Just do it!" Tell your idea or story to somebody. Now that you've put it in words, write the words down. Don't worry about spelling or grammar or all that.

Then show it to a friend or bring it up in your Party club or study group. Do they get what you mean? Can they help you make it clearer? Are there repetitions or minor points that should be cut? What needs to be added? Write down the changes.

You could stop here and send your letter or article in to *Red Flag*. We can fix up any little mistakes.

kes.

But if you're writing a story or an idea (rather than a question) it's better to take another look. Ask your friends and comrades to help figure out how to relate your story more clearly to communism, or how to make your communist point more sharply.

Now some readers are good academic writers. They often need to review their articles to keep them short, break up sentences, and use more common words.

The main things are: Your ideas are important. You have a responsibility to share them. Don't be afraid to make mistakes! We're all learning how to do the work better – together. We're all working to envision how the communist world will be.

— LA teacher

PS: The last sentence was suggested by a comrade who read the second draft.

Racism, Nationalism and the Eurocup

The Spanish workers enjoyed the Eurocup, the dream of seeing their soccer team win its second Eurocup. Inside this “great” soccer business we found ourselves in a bar with other South American workers who wore the shirt of the Spanish national team along with some Spanish workers who reproached them for wearing the team shirt without being Spanish. Racism came from all parts of the building until a worker said, “We aren't Spanish but, yes, we are workers like anyone of us who finds themselves here.” Another worker also said, “We aren't stupid, borders are only imaginary lines that the rulers create to divide the working class.” At the end the racist people who have sold out to the system left the building and we could talk with some of the South Americans who we met there and some of the Spanish workers who didn't agree with the racism of the others.

We enjoyed the soccer game and took advantage of the opportunity to talk about the worldwide economic crisis that workers are suffering. We left the address of our website so they could read *Red Flag* and we urged them to join our International Communist Workers' Party. We all agreed that to improve things, the working class will have to make a revolutionary communist change and that for that, we have to mobilize and organize the masses for communism. We communists have to talk with the workers so that they join our party and organize to get rid of the capitalist system.

--Communist Soccer Fan

Racism and Nationalism in Sports: Deadly Capitalist Weapon

Getting together with some friends, we analyzed events around the world, especially the situation with Syria and Iran. We concluded that because of the tensions among the imperialists, the drumbeat is more and more threatening and points towards the beginning of World War III.

Then we talked about the barbaric racism that exists in the whole society. A recent example was the European Soccer Cup in Poland and the Ukraine. Some players had shown their opposition to the racist insults directed at black players by the hooligans and other fascist fans. Some players had threatened not to participate or to leave the soccer stadium if the federation EUEFA didn't do anything to control this problem. The federation has been accused of not taking this racism seriously, especially the president of EUEFA, Michel Platini.

Racism and nationalism in Poland and the Ukraine in soccer and in society in general is the scenario that occurs in the majority of countries in Europe and the rest of the world. This wave of violence against black players is nothing new. In past times they were prohibited from participating in sports. Now their integration into professional sports represents big business, but racism continues to be active.

Another, and perhaps the most important, aspect of this Eurocup was inter-imperialist rivalry, with a US-French campaign disparaging the Ukraine and Russia. An article in the magazine *Foreign Policy* indicated that some European politicians didn't agree with playing in the event in the Ukraine, and asked that it take place in Hungary or Germany. The French cabinet, including the President François Hollande, announced that they wouldn't travel to the Ukraine. In retaliation for all these official incidents, Ukrainian officials threatened the leaders of the EU countries, telling them that they were reviving Cold War methods and taking sports as a hostage.

The conclusion is that organized sports is only a branch of the rotten capitalist tree and a mortal weapon to keep workers divided. The bosses create and use nationalism and patriotism to divide the working class. The way to combat this monster is to fight for communism.

Join ICWP and united we'll fight this capitalist ogre and build the new communist society!
—Comrade in Los Angeles

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

CAPITALISM’S FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTIONS LEAD TO CRISIS AND WAR

In the previous articles in *Red Flag* on political economy we explained how in the labor process under capitalism the workers are paid only for a portion of their working day. This is the value of our wages, or variable capital. The bosses pocket the value produced by workers but not paid as wages, as surplus value, or profit.

In order to produce commodities, the capitalist boss buys the means of production (raw material, machines etc) or constant capital, and buys our labor power. When the commodity is sold in the market, profit is realized because workers are not fully paid for the value of what they produce. The capitalists compete for maximum profits or face takeover by rival capitalists.

Understanding the relationship among these concepts gives us powerful tools to understand capitalism and how crisis develops, giving us opportunities for revolutionary change. As communists committed to building communist society we must grasp these concepts.

The Rate of Exploitation:

This is the ratio of unpaid to paid labor and it gives us an idea of how much exploitation is taking place in a factory. For example, in a garment factory in an 8 hour work day, if the workers spend 2 hours to produce their wages and spend 6 hours producing value for the boss, the rate of exploitation is $3 = (6/2)$

The organic composition of capital, or capital to labor ratio: (Capital costs divided by labor costs)

This is a way of looking at the relationship between the constant capital (machines and raw materials) to the value of variable capital or wages. As capitalism becomes more and more advanced, the bosses are forced to buy more expensive machinery in order to remain more productive than their competition. This increases the organic composition of capital, increasing the share of constant capital like machines in it. Workers are increasingly replaced by machines, but the machines create no

value. Only workers create value. For example in the jewelry industry the capital to labor ratio is now 0.21 to 1.0. For every \$1 spent on labor, \$0.21 is allocated for capital costs.

The rate of profit :

The rate of profit is the ratio of profit to the labor and materials which are input. The capitalists’ interest is to increase the rate of profit. They do that by bringing in machines. But any increase in machinery will reduce the rate of profit unless the rate of exploitation changes. **It is a fundamental contradiction of capitalism that when the capitalists try to increase production, efficiency and profit by investing in machinery and laying off workers, this very action makes the rate of profit fall.**

In the jewelry industry, the use of technology in place of human labor has increased over the past 5 years as electronic data exchange and inventory management systems have taken over many daily tasks. During this time, wages have decreased, and workers have been cut.

As bosses invest more in machinery and raw materials, the rate of profit tends to fall. The bosses’ only source of profit is the exploitation of workers. So as the boss lays off workers and produces more with more machines and fewer workers, his rate of profit falls. This is the key to understanding the law of capitalism that Marx called the tendency of the rate of profit to fall.

In the next article we will talk about the capitalists’ constant battle to counter the falling rate of profit and how this makes the crisis worse and how crisis opens the doors for communist revolution and construction a society based on the needs of the international working class.

The final article on the series answering the question “Does history repeat itself?” will be in the next issue.

V = variable capital (portion of value produced by workers that they receive in wages. Also called living capital.)

S = surplus value (value produced by workers but not paid as wages)

C = constant capital (means of production: raw materials, machines, etc. Also called dead capital.)

(1) Rate of exploitation s/v

A higher rate of exploitation means that the bosses are getting a bigger share of what the workers produce. Either wages are decreasing or productivity is increasing.

(2) Organic composition of capital c/v

Capitalist competition forces bosses to put more money into expensive machinery.

Workers are replaced by machines, increasing the organic composition of capital, but the machines don't create value.

(3) Rate of profit $s/(c+v)$

Capitalists need the highest possible rate of profit. Any increase in c or v will reduce the rate of profit.

(4) Another formula for the rate of profit:

$(s/v)/((c/v)+1)$

We derive this formula by dividing the numerator and denominator in formula (3) by v .

This expression shows that if the rate of exploitation (1) stays the same and the organic composition of capital (2) increases as it must, the rate of profit falls. To maintain the rate of profit, the bosses must increase the rate of exploitation - or find some way to reduce the organic composition of capital.

CLASS STRUGGLE SHARPENS IN SPAIN

The Spanish workers are fuming! You can feel the same anger when talking to almost any worker in the street: there’s no work, wages are stagnant, the banks have carried out spectacular open robbery and it’s the working class which will have to pay for this thievery. Meanwhile the political parties charge approximately 16 million Euros (\$US 20 million) every three months, as the BOE (*Official State Bulletin*) published last week, reporting on the subsidies received by parties represented in the Congress of Deputies (Communiqué in Spanish:

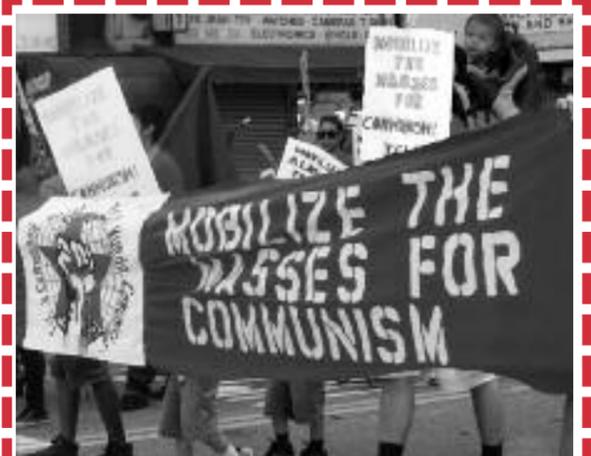
<http://media.zenfs.com/es-ES/blogs/nacional/BOE-ayudas.jpg>).

The people are going into the streets to protest these injustices. Union leaders are having a field day building themselves by saying that we have

to fight for reforms. Meanwhile the Spanish government says that Spain is like its athletes who have highs and lows and that when an athlete is hurt he tries to recuperate 100%. We in the International Communist Workers’ Party know that the struggles have to be for a communist revolution, that we don’t fight for reforms because capitalism can’t “recuperate” to meet workers’ needs.

The clashes with the police are more frequent now and, logically, more violent. Not even journalists are spared the rubber bullets and the clubs carried by the dogs who guard capitalism. The struggle sharpens and this is an arena that we in the ICWP are taking advantage of to mobilize the masses for communism.

—Comrade in Spain



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

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