



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

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

TRAYVON/ ZIMMER- MAN VERDICT: MASSES FED UP WITH RACIST CAPITALISM



Summer Project Volunteers Distribute Red Flag at Boeing Factory in Seattle--See article page 8.

TRAYVON VERDICT CALLS BOEING WORKERS TO STRIKE AGAINST RACIST SYSTEM

SEATTLE, July “You can talk all the mess you want,” said an angry machinist, referring to the demonstrations against the Trayvon murder trial that reverberated throughout the Boeing factories, “but if you want things to really happen you have to hit [the bosses] in the wallet.” We were discussing political strikes against the system.

“We want more than to hit the capitalists in the wallet,” added a Summer Project participant. “We don’t want any wallets! We want to end racist capitalism altogether with communist revolution.”

That’s why the party’s sign outside the biggest aerospace plant said, “Trayvon, Layoffs, Productivity Schemes: Strike the Whole Damn System!”

Capitalists organize production to sell products. Each boss needs to maximize his/her profit. Money

measures all the value stolen through the exploitation of our brothers and sisters and ourselves.

Communist production will be for use. Each of us will get what we need. No matter where we work, we will contribute collectively for the good of our class and according to our abilities.

No capital need be accumulated. Hence, no need for exploitation, no need for racism to divide and weaken the working class, no need for money to mark exchange and profits, no wallets except maybe to carry pictures of your loved ones!

Summer Project Leaflets Start Debate

Workers from every ethnic group were angry over the verdict. One operator brought it home when he referred to the Seattle Police Department (SPD).

“Everyone knows the SPD’s been

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SUMMER PROJECT BRINGS COMMUNIST SOLUTIONS TO MASS TRAYVON PROTESTS

LOS ANGELES— “Tell me exactly how communism is going to get rid of racism!” said a Black young woman who saw our signs at the Trayvon Martin rally.

“Capitalism was born with racism and to fight racism we need to fight capitalism. With communist revolution we will be getting rid of the material basis of racism, which includes wages, privilege, exploitation, and inequality. By mobilizing the masses to be active participants and decision makers in the whole new society that we are creating, we will finally get rid of racism once and for all,” we answered her.

“That sounds interesting; give me one of your papers,” she said.

The Los Angeles ICWP Summer Project has been good. It has given us an opportunity to deepen our understanding of communism. It has helped younger people develop as

committed communists. One young comrade took the initiative to keep a record of the number of Red Flags distributed, and broke down the percentages of areas of distribution. Then he pointed out “we have to visit the low area more and make sure that we increase the percentage there”. We have had good study groups (see letter, page 7).

Summer Project volunteers also visited rallying airport maintenance workers with Red Flag. They welcomed our communist ideas and asked about the new type of society we are fighting for. We met an old friend, got her number and are in contact with her. One young man declared, “I was surprised to see that every worker we approached took the paper.”

We were involved in several actions around the Trayvon Martin case. A youth volunteer concluded,

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ANTI-RACIST REBELLIONS AGAINST ZIMMERMAN VERDICT EXPOSE CAPITALIST CONTRADICTION, OPEN MINDS TO COMMUNISM

The masses in the streets in cities across the US were enraged by far more than the acquittal of George Zimmerman, killer of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. As in Brazil, where protests increased after fare hikes were cancelled, they are deeply angry with the system – capitalism – and wide-open to revolutionary communist ideas.

“We weren’t surprised by the verdict,” we heard again and again. “The whole history of the U.S. is a history of racism.”

When we said, “The wage system requires racism,” people listened. When we said, “To end racism, we need to get rid of capitalism,” there were few who disagreed. And when we said that communist revolution can end racism, many were eager to hear more.



Racism is the “Achilles’ Heel” of Capitalism

The Achilles tendon in your heel allows you to run fast and long. Racism allows the capitalists to reap super-profits and to stay in power by dividing the working class. But an injury to the Achilles tendon can put you on the bench. Likewise, racism is one of capitalism’s most vulnerable points.

The outrageous levels of unemployment among black workers, the criminalization of black youth, the repressive “gang injunctions” that won’t stop the epidemic of shooting deaths... these manifestations of intensifying racism should not confuse us about the crucial role of black workers and soldiers.

Fact: Black workers in the US are more likely than average to be employed in production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

Fact: Black soldiers are 22% of the enlisted people in the US Army, though only 16% of the population of 18-39-year-olds with high school diplomas.

Fact: Military brass complain that “during time of conflict, [black soldiers’] propensity to serve declines dramatically.”

Racism is the cutting edge of the bosses’ sharpening attack on all workers, especially as they prepare for eventual war against their main rivals Russia and China. But black workers and youth remain a key potential revolutionary force, and the bosses know it.

That’s why, after the first wave of rebellion following the Zimmerman verdict, liberal organizations rushed to corral the anger of the masses into a “new civil rights” reform struggle for “de-

mands” like federal charges against Zimmerman and an end to racial profiling and mass incarceration. That’s why Obama’s emotional speech was aimed to win anti-racists back to patriotically feeling “part of America.”

Mass anti-racist rebellions in Detroit and inside the US military helped to derail the US imperialist war in Vietnam. Mass rebellions today worldwide are temporarily upstaging inter-imperialist conflict.

Struggles like these change us. They expand opportunities to mobilize the masses for communism. “This has opened peoples’ minds to something they never thought of—that the whole system has to go,” said a young LA comrade. “People aren’t afraid of the cops,” declared a *Red Flag* reader who marched in New York City with

a group of friends.

“How Will Communism End Racism?”

To uproot racism forever we must destroy its material basis: capitalist profits, markets, money, and wage-slavery. But there’s much more.

Mobilizing for communism includes struggling to tear down the social and physical walls the bosses have built to divide us. At school, at work, in our neighborhoods and in our homes we must build unbreakable ties among workers, soldiers, and youth based on sharp and principled struggle and criticism/self-criticism.

Communists must lead in exposing the bosses’ divisive ideas and building communist class solidarity. Racist and sexist jokes are not funny. Putting people down because of age, language or disability is unacceptable. We must seek out and bring out the best in everyone, building the commitment to fight for the world we need and deserve.

This process will advance by leaps once the masses have won power and are using it to transform every aspect of life.

Communism will have no gated communities like the one Zimmerman patrolled. The masses mobilized for communism will allocate housing according to need, integrating every community worldwide to destroy the capitalists’ invented concepts of nations and race.

Communist education integrated with our communist production for need will allow plenty of time for community events where we can get to know each other better, build communist social relationships, and learn to treat each other with appreciation, respect and love.

Instead of “neighborhood watch” vigilantes like racist wannabe-cop Zimmerman, we’ll all look out for one another. If individuals cause trouble – still influenced by capitalist ideology – the whole community will mobilize to deal with them. We will be ruthless with those who intentionally mobilize around racism to disrupt communist society in an effort to bring back capitalism.

Mobilizing the Masses for Communism Now

“I never saw anything like this,” said a young-

adult comrade who attended the Leimert Park rally in LA the night the verdict was announced. “I thought about going to the mic to give a speech, but I didn’t think people were ready to hear what I had to say.”

We wish he had! We wish we’d helped him plan a speech!

Our comrade was right about the assorted anti-communist black nationalists and small-businessmen who called the rally, but wrong about the masses who poured in as the night wore on, and who eagerly took *Red Flag* and our leaflet.

Other people say, “Yeah, we need to get rid of capitalism, but you need to take people step by step.” We disagree. When the masses are in motion is exactly when the struggle over political line must be sharpest.

The steps we need to take now include increasing the circulation of *Red Flag* and the membership of our Party, along with finding many ways to move our friends into action around communist ideas.

We ask every comrade and every reader to find ways to step up to our historic task.

Why US Rulers Aren’t Standing Their Ground for “Stand Your Ground”

The Zimmerman verdict exposed important contradictions that threaten to hamstring US imperialism in its long-term preparations for world war.

The US imperialists themselves push the “gun culture.” They are the world’s biggest arms dealers. Their Army gives out “shoot-em-up” video games to children, hoping to enlist them later. The video-game industry is developing the mind-set and skills in young adults for future operators of killer drones and other weapons.

The military needs soldiers who will “stand their ground” and kill other young workers who “look different” in the imperialists’ wars for maximum profit. The Texas jury that acquitted Ezekiel Gilbert, who killed a 21-year-old escort for \$150 after she wouldn’t (illegally) give him sex, acted on the core values of US capitalism. So did Zimmerman.

However, the “gun lobby” has become a political base for Republican politicians who are determined to obstruct everything Obama and the Senate are trying to do on behalf of US imperialism. For example, they threaten to prevent the Comprehensive Immigration Reform that the rulers need as they prepare for world war (as *Red Flag* has explained).

The pro-boss Seattle Times claims that “the single best memorial to Trayvon Martin...is repeal of Florida’s Stand Your Ground law.” Interesting!

“Stand Your Ground” was originally a project of the viciously anti-worker American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). After

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LOS ANGELES MTA: MOBILIZE THE MASSES TO CONFRONT SEXIST ANTI-WORKER ATTACKS

A few weeks ago an incident occurred in one of the mechanic shops at MTA. It happened during the morning hours, after the acting lead-man had already given out the work assignments to the rest of the workers. The lead-man asked a woman mechanic, who he had assigned to change a differential, if she had ordered the differential. She answered that there weren't any in the warehouse.

"How do you know?" he asked her. She answered that the mechanic from the night shift had told her that there weren't any in reserve. So the lead man answered that she should have gone to ask in the warehouse and not depended on others.

Then he called her over to him with a movement of his index finger, apparently in an arrogant and very irritated way. Since she didn't respond to his call, he walked over to her, grabbed her by her shirt collar and shook her hard. Another worker who was there protested this act, asking, "What's going on? Why did you act like that?" So the lead man walked over to this worker and also grabbed his shirt, but this time his attitude had changed, pretending that it was all a joke, according to eyewitnesses.

The incident was denounced to the company. The lead man was suspended for a few days, accused of "horseplay." When he returned, he apologized to some of the workers, but other workers refused to accept his apology.

A worker called a meeting with the company and the union to discuss the problem. The union and the company, with an anti-worker attitude, said that we should forget about this, and get on with our lives and that they would come up with the solution. Many workers disagreed with this, because this kind of incident is part of our daily life and they believe that it is the workers who must take the necessary measures.

In the shop, many workers who are *Red Flag*

readers sought out comrades from ICWP to discuss the problem and find a solution. Some asked if the newspaper would say something about the incident. In one of the discussions it was said that the actions of the acting lead man reflect capitalist attitudes and ideas and show the need to mobilize the masses to a communist vision of the world.

In a communist society, when the workers have state power, the masses will mobilize to deal with these kinds of sexist, anti-worker attacks, first with words and, if this isn't enough, then with actions. Today we must mobilize the masses to the extent that we can.

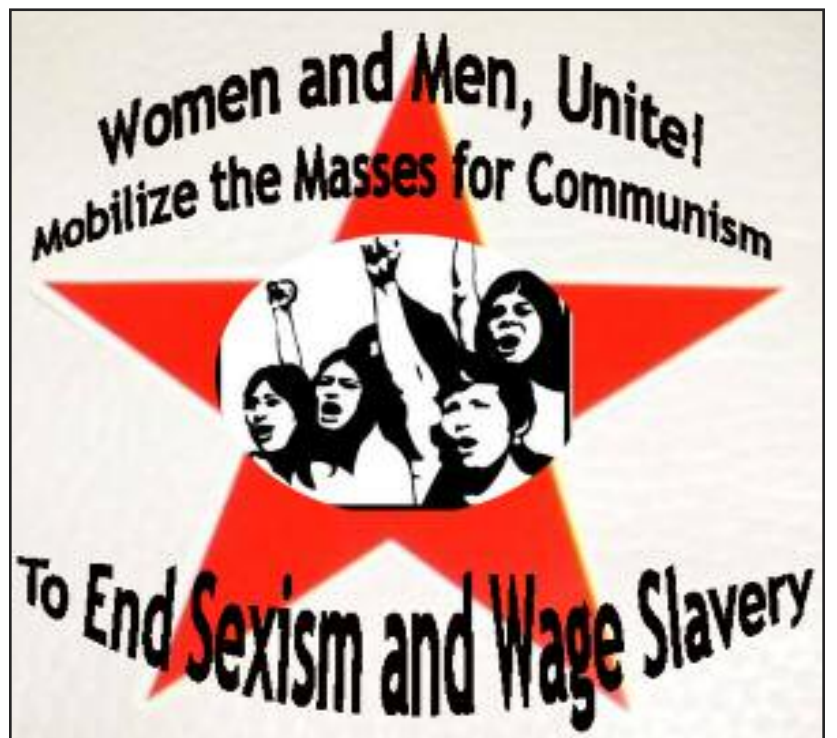
Obviously this incident has sparked a series of discussions and political questions: How to make the acting lead-man or any other see that attacking a woman or man worker is an attack on all workers, and that if he continues with this attitude we will take our own measures against them? How should we workers deal with these kinds of acts and what should be a political working-class solution to these kinds of problems? In fact, there are many similar problems in different divisions like racist attitudes, sexist harassment and the harassment of workers.

On the other hand, the majority of mechanics do not ask that he be fired, but that he be transferred to another division, because the accused worker, according to some, has a history of similar incidents or having an unfriendly attitude to co-workers. They are sure that it's a matter of time before such an incident re-occurs. Obviously, transferring or sending the problem to another division isn't a real solu-

tion.

In this division we already have some experiences of workers who were sent here and we all know that the problem remains the same. In this context, the best solution is a permanent communist political struggle, not only with the problematic workers, but with all of us so that we can increase our consciousness and understanding of our true role in society, what our interests are, and what we need to provide solutions to the problems presented to us.

As the working class, we need a communist political party like ICWP, in which we can discuss and find solutions to the problems that afflict us. Because it is not about fighting among ourselves, or dividing ourselves by "races" or countries, but instead uniting for a common goal, the conquest of a new communist society where there is no room for sexism, racism, nationalism, and all the evils that come with decadent capitalist society.



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Zimmerman killed Trayvon, enough large corporations quit ALEC that the organization itself backed away from Stand Your Ground. Obama's speech questioned whether Stand Your Ground is "really going to be contributing to the kind of peace and security and order that we'd like to see?"

Is that the "peace and security and order" imposed by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense?

Mass incarceration of black and latino/a men and women on a scale never before seen in the world, including long-term solitary confinement?

Record numbers of deportations, often for minor offenses?

Prosecution of whistle-blowers?

Force-feeding of hunger strikers indefinitely caged at Guantanamo – even during the Muslim Ramadan fast?

Drone assassinations personally approved by the President, including the murder of a 16-year-old US citizen in Yemen?

As the communist Lenin wrote in *The State and Revolution*, "The state is a special organization of

force: it is an organization of violence for the suppression of some class."

For Obama and the capitalist class, "peace and security and order" mean keeping imperialist rivals in check and the working class under control and attack.

While racist vigilantes can be useful to them, they realize that Zimmerman, Gilbert and their ilk are provoking the wrath of the masses. What these bosses truly fear is the potential of armed workers overcoming racist divisions to unite in communist revolution.

"What class must the proletariat [wage laborers] suppress?" Lenin asked. "Naturally, only the exploiting class, i.e., the bourgeoisie ... only to suppress the resistance of the exploiters, and only the proletariat can direct this suppression, can carry it out."

The armed masses, mobilized for communism by industrial workers and soldiers, will liberate ourselves from the capitalists' deadly racist "peace and security and order." Organized as the International Communist Workers' Party, the masses will build a new communist society based on working collectively to meet the needs of everyone, everywhere.

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known to shoot anybody," he said in disgust, citing past and recent examples of racist shootings and beatings.

Summer project volunteers distributed hundreds of party flyers detailing how racism was a product of capitalism, how communism would eliminate the material basis of racism. Mobilizing the communist-inspired masses will put an end to the legacy inherited from this rotten system.

These leaflets started many debates in the three main Boeing factories in the Puget Sound area. One such debate was about Wal-Mart.

The local media made a big deal of some angry protestors who broke into the Crenshaw (L.A.) Wal-Mart. Many Boeing workers noted that Wal-Mart notoriously super-exploits their employees. Other *Red Flag* readers added that the company wouldn't even sign the grossly inadequate pact the European distributors proposed to improve safety standards after the Bangladesh garment factory collapse that killed 1271 workers a few months ago. Meanwhile, they continue to reap the profits from these bloodstained clothes.

The crime of breaking into Wal-Mart pales before the crime of owning it.

Another friend commented on the mass rebellions in these kinds of "3rd world countries" and the emerging capitalist powers. "Considering that this country is becoming more like a 3rd world country for so many workers and young people, it's getting more likely it's going to happen here."

It Ain't Over Yet

"It ain't over yet," said more than one worker. The demonstrations continued throughout the week, but many workers had something more than just this case in mind.

One Boeing Machinists drove 25 miles to come to the closing Summer Project BBQ. He joined sixty others, including a multi-racial group of young people who had spoken at various demonstrations throughout the week as well as workers of many generations and countries. After discussing the world situation with new friends for hours, he left telling the volunteers, "The next time you come up for a project I may have joined your organization!"

With more like him joining the ICWP, the rebellions won't be over, but the bosses' days will be numbered.

HONDURAS: THE NEW HOLOCAUST THAT IMMIGRANTS SUFFER ON THE ROAD TO THE EMPIRE

According to reports and statistics from the Center for Returned Migrants, in Honduras, nine out of every ten people who try to reach the North (the US) are returned to the country. This year, 21,000 people were deported by air and as many by land. This means that more than one hundred Hondurans are forcibly deported every day, creating tremendous frustration for many.

Many of them or their families are in debt to pay for the adventure of the “American Dream” that they couldn’t reach. Now they have no choice but to continue living the reality of marginalization or to try the adventure again. Here in Honduras there are no opportunities for work, education and housing, the products of the capitalist crisis and resulting marginalization.

Much has been said about the holocaust that the Jews and other human beings suffered first-hand in Nazi Germany prior to the outbreak of World War II. In Central America, and in all of Latin America, for a long time, we have lived with another

holocaust that involves hundreds of thousands of people, which is the tragedy and suffering to which the immigrants are subjected on their journey to the north in their search for survival.

The tragedy starts when the migrants leave their country of origin. The route they have to travel is almost four thousand miles to get to the

US border. They do not have identification documents, or means of subsistence for their journey. From the time they enter Mexican territory, they face a heartbreaking environment, which is falling into the hands of criminal gangs. The least that the gangs do is strip them of their few belongings. Sometimes they subject them to threats



or rape them. The “lucky” ones can run and climb to the roof of a train called “The Beast,” where many are killed or their extremities are injured.

These calamities will not happen in a communist system, because, for one thing, the whole population will be engaged in collective work

that benefits all of society; that is, in collective production of all the goods that are required to meet workers’ needs. Nor will massive immigration to other countries exist. There will be no need for it.

The mass migration of people is nothing more than the failure of the capitalist system, which, to be able to subsist, requires and subjects the working class to greater exploitation. As a result this creates massive unemployment, neglect of basic needs of the population, and marginalization of the dispossessed.

But if the state becomes cynical and indifferent to this scourge, nevertheless it interests them because those who are able to enter the US and get a job send money back to their families. At this time, in several Central American countries, these remittances are the largest source of foreign exchange and that which sustains its economies.

Territorial borders between countries will disappear, since throughout history these were the work of the ruling class exploiters to control a certain territory, to maintain their private property, the means of production, to have their own system of exploitation and oppression in favor of the oligarchy. The oligarchy and their exploitation will not exist in the communist system for which we comrades of ICWP struggle.

WHAT WORKERS NEED TO LEARN

OAKLAND, July 6—Seven current and retired ICWP teachers from the US and Mexico, and a sympathizer, met to discuss a communist analysis of education. Our discussion was based on a document, written by comrades in Los Angeles, which we had read before the meeting. The discussion centered on the idea that capitalist schools were created to meet the bosses’ needs, not those of the working class.

We got to a paragraph which stated that it is dangerous for the working class to take up reform struggles such as fighting for better education or books. A comrade said this is not entirely true because books in capitalism can contain useful information which helps workers develop a communist analysis.

Another comrade, a retired teacher, replied, “In capitalist schools, they teach about genetics. Everyone now knows about DNA, but how does this knowledge benefit workers?”

“This knowledge, the retired teacher explained, “has helped the bosses train workers to make commodities for their profits, like genetically modified organisms, or for the biotechnol-

ogy industry. It has served also as the supposedly ‘scientific’ basis to reinforce racist lies like whites are smarter than blacks, stated by James Watson the racist geneticist, co-discoverer of DNA structure and Nobel Prize winner.”

A comrade teacher said, “But in capitalist books there is valid knowledge which workers should learn.”

Another comrade replied, “Yes, but knowledge without communist ideas doesn’t benefit the working class; the laws of motion in nature don’t change. What changes is how knowledge and technology is developed in capitalism to benefit the bosses.

“Under communism,” the comrade continued, “the use of knowledge and technology will serve the interests of workers – not to control or hoard, but to share; not to make commodities, but to meet the needs of humanity; not to exploit but to emancipate humanity.”

The comrade teacher asked, “So what we do everyday with our students is useless? What should we do?”

A comrade replied, “We know that we have to

survive under capitalism, but our main goal each day should be to spread communist ideas and build ICWP for communist revolution.”

A comrade gave an example of a group of high school youth who collectively organized, produced, and promoted a play without adult input. This showed that workers are capable of leading society without bosses.

A comrade said, “In our literature we should mention explicitly that winning industrial workers and soldiers is key for communist revolution, and that the role of teachers is vital to achieve this goal with workers’ children who come to capitalist schools”.

Another comrade suggested, “You should write and develop this idea more and have it ready for the next meeting.”

“I’ll do it gladly,” she responded.

At the end of the meeting, the comrade teacher said, “My point of view on books was incorrect, but today I learned a lot from each one of you. A collective communist analysis is always better.”

—Teachers of ICWP in struggle for communism

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“The liberal capitalists are using this case as a tool to try to convince youth and workers to support their own agenda of doing away with the Stand Your Ground Law.”

He added, “That’s why it was important that we participated in rallies with other comrades, and took the opportunity to educate the masses by distributing close to 700 Red Flags at Leimert Park (an African American historical center) among other places.

We had many good conversations about communism. One young comrade said, “This experience has given me more confidence in our Party.”

After Obama’s speech in response to the

verdict, a young summer project volunteer said, “Obama’s greater goal is to abolish the Stand Your Ground Law which would help him further his goal in disarming the masses. There is a saying that guns don’t kill people, people kill people. The masses require guns in order to overtake the government and the ruling classes.”

That is why it is important to win the youth to join the army in order to mobilize workers in the military in order to have access to guns and other weapons. We need to mobilize the masses for a communist revolution, not capitalist “justice.” Then and only then will Trayvon Martin’s and all the other lives lost to racism and its parent, capitalism, be avenged.



Before and During a Draft

SOLDIERS NEED TO FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

The U.S. is cutting its military spending, but that does not mean peace for soldiers and workers around the world. The current spending “cuts” demonstrate how the U.S. is actually preparing for another world war in the near future. In fact, they aren’t cutting spending, but rather relocating the money to fit their new strategy of “pivot to Asia-Pacific.”

According to *The Washington Post*, the U.S. claims to cut military spending to “chip away at the federal deficit while reorienting the armed forces toward Asia.” This strategy has as a target their two main rivals, China and Russia. Therefore, it is no surprise that Russia’s military spending, according to the *L.A. Times*, “rose 16%... in 2012.” China is currently the second-largest military buyer, and increased its military spending by 7.8%.

We often hear that Russia and China are economic and military foes of the U.S. This competition will become a faceoff in a world war, where the U.S. bosses will have to draft soldiers. Remember that during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, more than 13,000 soldiers were required to extend their service without volunteering. This was essentially a draft. And even though the “stop-loss” practice has been currently eliminated, a draft can and will be implemented during a major conflict.

Even before a draft, soldiers must realize that imperialists’ interests are not our interests, and we must fight for communism, which, by eliminating capitalist competition and profit, will end

imperialist wars for profit. We may even talk about this imperialist rivalry among ourselves in the barracks.

As soldiers, we must discuss this issue in the context of our interests, not the interests of the imperialists. The bosses here in the U.S., and in China and Russia, will send us to fight and kill each other to save their imperialist profits. They will attempt to convince us that it is in our security and economic interests.

There are, in fact, many soldiers at this moment whose only chance of having a steady job is by joining the military. The truth is that soldiers come from working class families. Yet we are under the impression that we must serve our rulers in order to feed and protect our families. But we must reject this notion because the imperialist rulers send us to war to die and kill for their interests, not ours!

In fact, soldiers and workers in the US, China and Russia are class brothers and sisters who share a common enemy: the capitalist bosses.

As imperialists ready themselves to go to war with each other, workers and soldiers around the world must prepare for a war against all imperialists. They trust us with their arms and weapons. Workers and soldiers ultimately create and handle warfare technology. We have witnessed the rebellions in Egypt and Brazil. When workers and soldiers join together around the world to fight for their own interests, they are an unstoppable

force. When the imperialists force millions to join the military, we should be prepared to welcome a draft as an opportunity where even more workers and soldiers can join forces and organize for a communist revolution.

Our communist teachers should win their students to go into industry and the military. We should all struggle with our friends and co-workers to distribute *Red Flag* to their children and other relatives in the army, and to organize social-political events so that we can get to know them.

All industrial workers who read *Red Flag* should encourage their young relatives to join the army to mobilize their fellow soldiers for communism. In this way, we will prepare the soldiers of the world to ally with the workers of the world to fight for communism.



GI Resistance in Vietnam

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

THE MATERIAL BASIS OF IMPERIALISM IS CAPITALISM (PART II)

All big capitalist powers and some smaller powers have imperialist foreign policies. That is, they try to dominate and exploit the workers and the resources of weaker countries. Their competition with other rival powers leads to bigger and bigger wars.

Liberal anti-imperialists argue that imperial policies are wrong and should be changed by abolishing their huge military machines and bloody wars. Communists understand that this is impossible under capitalism, since imperialism has its material basis in the nature of capitalism. Conflicts among capitalists drive each to do everything possible to make higher profits to keep from losing out to the others.

Foreign policies characteristic of imperialism have existed since capitalism took root in Europe in the 1400s. Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English, French, Swedish and Venetian capitalists all fought for plunder like gold, spices and slaves, and for control of trade.

By the end of the 19th century, big capitalist powers managed colonial empires that dominated most of the world. They went beyond plunder and trade to investment in plantations, mines, railroads, ports, factories, etc.

The Russian communist leader Lenin described imperialism as “the highest stage of capitalism.” He correctly deduced that the drive for further imperialist expansion would lead to world war.

Two world wars later, in the mid-20th century, the decline of older imperial powers and mass revolts against them forced a change in imperialism, but didn’t end it.

Capitalist powers created new arrangements where nominally independent local governments followed orders from imperialists and got a share of the profits. This is now the dominant organi-

zation of the planet, with national governments set up, defended or destroyed by imperialists. They exploit the oil, minerals and low-cost labor of countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and South Asia.

The appearance, but not the essence, of imperialism had changed. Imperialism’s inner drive for further expansion will lead to a third, even deadlier world war.

The Profits of Imperialism

Imperialism is enormously profitable in some ways that existed before capitalism, and in others unique to capitalism.

A key characteristic of modern imperialism is foreign investment (“export of capital”). Capitalists are driven by competition to invest in other countries to keep their profits up. Nearly two-thirds of the assets of the 100 largest multi-national corporations are in foreign countries. The United States and the European Union are the biggest foreign investors, and the largest foreign investment target is China, followed by the US, India, Indonesia, Brazil and Australia.

Some investments are aimed at access to large consumer markets or to raw materials like oil and metal ores. However, investment to exploit low-wage labor in labor-intensive industries is particularly profitable. Workers in wealthy countries are already paid much less than the value their labor produces. Workers in low-wage areas produce just as much value but are paid far less.

In 2011, the worldwide total direct foreign investment reached \$21 trillion, yielding profits of \$1.5 trillion, only a 7% rate of profit. In Bangladesh, however, where the government website brags that “wages and salaries are still lowest in the region, a strong business advantage,” a total investment of \$6.2 billion in 2011 yielded a profit of \$1.2 billion, a nearly 20%

profit rate. Foreign investment there increased \$1.7 billion in 2012.

This super-exploitative foreign investment shows up on product labels that say “made in” Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Mexico, El Salvador, and many more. What the labels don’t say is that imperialist domination means starvation wages and deadly working conditions, as in Bangladesh. It means mass repression when workers, like the South African miners, resist the imperialists’ local partners. It means that class struggle will nonetheless break out, interfering with imperialist plans.

Imperialism also reaps high profits by monopolizing key resources like oil, gas or metal ores. A power that controls these resources can charge high prices for them, beyond the profits gotten by exploiting the labor of the workers who produce them. Controlling access to resources is also critical to holding back the economic growth and military power of rival capitalists.

Since capitalist profits are at the root of imperialism, we can only end imperialism by destroying capitalism worldwide. The next article will describe how mass mobilization for communism can end capitalism and imperialist war.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: FARMWORKERS NEED COMMUNISM TO END BORDERS AND WAGE SLAVERY

Approximately three million workers work in the fields in the US producing fruit, vegetables, nuts and other products crucial to the health and lives of everyone.

The average wage of a farm worker in the US is about \$10,000-\$12,000 per year. The back-breaking, bent-over, sped-up work is seasonal and mostly piecework. Farmworkers have one of the most dangerous jobs in the US! On the average, one farmworker dies every day because of sweltering heat, long hours without breaks, and working with dangerous pesticides.

Capitalism organizes work and everything else for the bosses' profits—at the sacrifice of workers' lives. The food industry is a glaring, brutal example.

In communism, the working class will collectively produce healthy food under conditions designed for workers' safety without poisoning the workers who grow the food or those who eat it.

Farm work and city work won't be separated. Without profits and bosses, workers will be liberated to learn and invent new ways to safely produce healthy food and to integrate work in the fields and urban life. Machinery will be used to help us, not further enslave us.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Increased Exploitation of Farm Workers

The bosses' new immigration bill that passed in the Senate will increase the super-exploitation in the fields while seeking to win some long-time residents to the illusion that they can have more stability.

The bill has two categories for farmworkers. One is for workers who have lived and worked in the US since 2011. Farmworkers could apply to be put in a five year program at the end of which, if they have been continually working in the fields, they can apply for a green card. However, if they stop working in the fields, and work somewhere else, they would not qualify for this program, but instead for the 13 or more year program for other immigrant workers. During their five years of continual work in the fields, they would not get any benefits, including Obamacare.

The other category is a new "guest" worker (bracero) program. In this program, workers would come from Mexico or elsewhere to work temporarily and then have to return home. This bracero program was used from 1942 (in the build-up to World War II) to 1964, to force immigrant workers into the worst slave labor con-

ditions under threat of immediate deportation.

The bracero program is to guarantee a mass of workers under the direct control of the US government and bosses to work for the lowest wages and worst conditions in agriculture, construction and other jobs. It means that all farmworkers and other workers will face downward pressure on their already poverty wages and dangerous working conditions.

The bosses constantly try to pit worker against worker using their racist borders as a battering ram. In the face of this mounting attack, in the bosses' build up to wider war, workers need to build unity between immigrants and citizens, and between those who have been in the US longer and the coming braceros, who will be used as a threat against workers fighting the growers.

The bosses use their borders to drive down the wages and conditions of all workers as they must produce more food inside the US for war. We

need unity to destroy capitalism, its borders and its racist wage slavery. Farmworkers have a history of militantly fighting the racist growers in the US, Mexico, Central America and worldwide. This time, our fight must be for communism.

ICWP invites farmworkers to join us to mobilize for communism, to get rid of borders, and wage slavery to produce for profit, so that we can collectively produce only to meet the needs of the international working class.



WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

EL SALVADOR- Masses of workers are in motion against the capitalist oppressor. Thousands of workers protested in Turkey against the government that is using religion to divide and poison the workers. In Spain and Greece workers are struggling against the inhuman austerity plans which serve to "save" the capitalists from the crisis they created.

The working men and women of the world don't need a new capitalist government of "leftists" or "national unity." The workers of Turkey, Brazil, and the whole world need to destroy the capitalist state apparatus which serves and administers the bosses' profits worldwide.

The masses need communist leadership to guide them to build a communist system under the leadership of the International Communist Workers Party which will put an end to the structural problems of capitalism, insecurity, organized crime, poverty, and exploitation. The workers are the only ones who can solve their problems by uniting working men and women, soldiers, students, farmworkers, and intellectuals to organize to build a mass, invincible Red Army to destroy capitalism.

The communist system is a crucial step in the development of human civilization. Struggling for and building communism means that together we

will work so that every man, woman, and child in the world has food, housing, clothes, dignified education, and health care. In communism no worker will be forced to work long hours to fill the pockets and interests of an elite. Each will work with and for the community.

Materialism and dialectical contradictions every day show us that money and the capitalist system are responsible for society's problems. Each year, thousands of people die from diseases and the vile living conditions they are forced to endure, while pharmacies and hospital shelves are full of medicines and treatments denied to the workers because they don't have the money. 1.3 billion tons of food are thrown away every year while more than 870 million people suffer from malnutrition.

Communism will ensure that everyone can enjoy art, literature and music and develop his/her potential and aptitude. It will break down the barriers of nationalism, racism and patriotism and unite us. Communist education will be massive and of quality for all workers. Capitalist education that teaches us to be passive, not to think, and fosters individualism and selfishness will cease to exist. Communism will create a nonsexist, inclusive education system that promotes human values where no one is denied a book because they

don't have money.

Our victory is certain. The day will come when the whole working class wakes from its sleep and raises its steel fist with strength and power to break the chains of wage slavery and social inequality and to annihilate the international bosses and capitalism.

Working men and women, youth, farmworkers, soldiers: join our victorious struggle. We will win if all of us organize worldwide to spread our communist ideas through our newspaper *Red Flag*, read our manifesto Mobilize the Masses for Communism (MMC), and accept communist revolution as our only goal.

Building the International Communist Workers' Party is our duty and commitment to building a communist world. We learn from our huge successes and our painful defeats. We will not fail those comrades who have died and those who continue to struggle on all fronts and battlefields for the red morning when the sun will shine on our Communist flag forever hoisted with pride..

"There is no greater honor or pride in the world for the human being than to live and die for Communist Revolution."

Join the International Communist Workers' Party. Let's fight, Together and Organized, for Communism.

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

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Tear Up the Tracks of Racist Capitalism

“What do you think will happen to that guy who killed Trayvon Martin?” a co-worker asked. “He might get a manslaughter conviction, but I wouldn’t be surprised if he walks,” I answered.

“That would be terrible,” he said. “I want justice for the family. I want him behind bars.”

“There’s no justice,” I responded. “Nothing will bring Trayvon back. But if Zimmerman goes to jail, maybe at least he won’t kill another black teenager for a while.”

“To me it’s a man killing a child,” he said. Then he told me that a cop stopped him for no reason when he was 12 years old.

“The cop asked me what gang I belonged to,” this black worker related, “and when I said I didn’t, he pulled back his arm like this” – demonstrating – “and punched me hard in the face. When he asked again I told him ‘any one you want me to belong to.’ When I told my father,” he added, “he told me to stay inside.”

“That’s the cops’ real job,” I said. “To terrorize whole communities so we do what the bosses tell us and don’t fight back.”

He thought a little, and then said, “I’m not that crazy about Obama. Do you think it would be different if we had a woman as president?”

“No,” I answered. “Look at Maggie Thatcher in England. She led the bosses’ attacks on working people there. It’s the system that’s rotten, not just the individuals who run it. They all work for Wall Street, for the corporations.

“Think about a train,” I continued. “No matter who’s in the driver’s seat, the train runs along the same tracks.”

He thought for another moment before declaring: “Then we’d better tear up those tracks!”

—LA comrade

Courage, Fury, Love... and a Communist Political Line

I was eight years old when my mother took me to a guerrilla encampment in El Salvador. There I saw huge farms with pigs, beans and corn. I was excited to see how the guerrilleros organized the food collectively, and I also saw how they built home-made bombs.

But the most amazing thing was when I saw a fighter returning from a mission with a bullet wound in his leg. They took him to their hospital, bandaged him up, and he went out to play a soccer game with his comrades. The enthusiasm and strength of this fighter strengthened all his comrades in the fight to liberate the Salvadoran people from the oligarchy.

Remembering this reminds me of the guerrillero comrades in El Salvador who fought with bravery, conviction and love, giving their lives for a better society. But today those ideals of a better society for the workers are not reflected in the reality that we live in El Salvador. Here, life is worth less every day.

Those who in their day led the people in a fight for the benefit of the proletariat, with promises of land and a better life, now run the country, living in mansions, and traveling all over the world. The poet Roque Dalton said that they had become “petty bourgeois.” I would say that from red they have become pink; even their initials are now lower case—from FMLN to fmln.

Of course, the guerrilleros who died in combat

are our heroes, but now we realize (and for sure several of them realized it then) that the revolutionary struggle needs more than courage, fury and love. It also needs a revolutionary communist line, the study of dialectical materialism and the understanding that the fight must be directly for communism.

In his day, Monseñor Oscar Arnulfo Romero, representative of the oppressed, fought to improve the precarious conditions of the Salvadoran people. We can’t deny this, but we can make a constructive criticism of the forms of the political struggle against capitalist ideas.

Now in the International Communist Workers’ Party we realize that you can’t make a communist revolution with just courage, fury and love, but that the revolutionary communist struggle must be linked to a completely communist political line. We need dialectical materialism to form communist leaders.

We honor those heroes fallen in the struggle and will always remember them, but we must do our best to fight directly for communism. The struggle requires mobilizing the masses for communism, and nothing less.

—Comrade in Spain



Summer Project Volunteers Take Communist Ideas to Soldiers at Joint Base Lewis-McCord

Summer Project Brings Growth Opportunity

Our summer project is a special time for many reasons, especially for seeing old friends and making new ones. I seized the opportunity to travel to Seattle with three wonderful comrades and was changed in the process! I know a little Spanish, but I always hesitated to use it because I couldn’t express myself as well as in English.

On this trip, I found that my comrades felt the same way about speaking English. We decided that, together, we’d work through our reservations and practice all the time. As we built our confidence, our small talk naturally turned into more substantive discussions about communism. Our pact immediately helped our party because, upon entering Seattle, we went straight to a pro-Trayvon Martin demonstration, where I met a Spanish-speaking man who gladly took our paper. I was amazed to actually find that I wasn’t nervous to be in conversation with him! My other comrades offered their support, which gave me the confidence to try something I never would have before! As it turns out, this man came to our BBQ the following weekend, had good conversations, and looks forward to staying in touch!

Later, it was my turn to encourage my friends

as they practiced their English while selling *Red Flag*. They did an excellent job and it seemed to come very naturally. They laugh because I’ve already thanked them several times while we’ve been here and I think my constant jabbering is starting to wear on them. I feel like my world has just doubled in size and, where we were bound as comrades before, now we are friends too!

Now I feel empowered to increase my commitment to ICWP with no more apprehension to reach out to my Spanish-speaking class brothers and sisters. I strongly encourage my comrades, who may have the same reservations I did, to trust their comrades to help them learn and to trust the masses to have the patience to listen and take them seriously.

A large factor in this leap forward for me was that my comrades never gave up in their struggle with me. I encourage all my comrades to never tire in helping each other overcome whatever may be holding us back in our political, social, and personal development. It will only make our party stronger!

--bilingual comrade

Studying Contradictions; Learning How to Win

During the LA Summer Project, we studied the Party’s pamphlet on dialectical materialism entitled *Communist Dialectics: The Philosophy of Struggle*. We emphasized that all development takes place based on contradiction; the unity and struggle of opposites. We examined various examples: a basketball game, pregnancy and capitalism, concluding that contradictions are resolved by their intensification. And that at any given point one side of the contradiction is dominant. “So if we want our side to win,” interjected a young comrade, “then we must do more, distribute more newspapers, have more conversations about communism with our friends and co-workers.”

We discussed the falling rate of profit.

“The bosses save money by bringing in more machines in the process of production,” said a young woman. “Yeah, but they still have to pay the cost to maintain that machine or equipment,” answered another young man. It became an interesting exchange. “But machines do not get angry and they don’t rebel,” added the first. “But the boss can pay workers different wages. He can exploit some while super-exploiting others and even work them to death like the Nazis did in the labor camps,” added a third comrade.

It became clear that the falling rate of profit is an inescapable result of capitalism’s laws of development. The capitalists constantly try to avoid the falling rate of profit with many measures: lowering wages, lay-offs, searching for new markets, resources and raw materials.

Then the question was posed: “If every capitalist and imperialist in the world, like China, Russia, etc has to deal with the falling rate of profit, then what is the logical outcome?” “War! That’s the logical outcome,” answered a young comrade. Indeed the way they reset the falling rate of profit is through world war, by destroying the competition’s factories and productive capacity. This is why organizing in the imperialists’ armies becomes paramount, we concluded.

--Los Angeles Youth Comrades

CAPITALIST CULTURE FROM A COMMUNIST PERSPECTIVE:

Please send in drawings, photos, or written contributions (no more than 300 words).

**What messages are sent by *Ironman III*?**

Subtle references to world war in movies are more intense and frequent. We must learn to see through this propaganda to shield ourselves from this media bombardment by the bosses. We do this through discussions with our comrades, friends, family, coworkers, and strangers.

The more we discuss communist ideas and the contradictions we see in capitalist society, the less this media onslaught through movies like Ironman will influence us to accept to the bosses' demands to shed our sweat and blood in their factories, fields, and wars. When we conclude that the bosses' interests are not our own, we can begin the fight for communist revolution to provide for our interests—the working classes' needs.

In *Ironman III*, "The Mandarin" is a terrorist created by a powerful capitalist. The Mandarin is the comic-book archenemy of Ironman. The Mandarin's character was born and based out of China. He is a descendant of Genghis Khan, who controlled most of Eurasia through imperialist

Stay tuned...

In future issues we will be discussing

WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE TO LIVE UNDER A COMMUNIST SYSTEM...HOW DO WE KNOW IT WILL WORK?

To join study groups that will begin discussing this topic contact us at

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conquest. The *Ironman III* plot not-so-subtly pits bosses of China (The Mandarin/Mongols) against the US bosses (Stark/US military).

Ironman III's robots include the red, white and blue "Iron Patriot." The use of robots is a reference to the US use of robots in its eventual war against China. The real-life US has a relatively small population (1/4 China's) and military (1/2 China's) compared to China. The US has started creating a robot army and will likely use it to out-compete China.

We need to watch and understand the politics of the world's bosses. We need to read, write, and distribute *Red Flag* to develop our communist critique and analysis so one day SOON we will take control and live in a communist system!

—Red critic

**The Purging of Capitalists' Ideas**

In 2020, in this movie, America has become a "utopian" society where crime, poverty, and unemployment rates are zero. This is thanks to the government's decision to legalize murder and crime one night a year for 12 hours. These events are known as "the purge."

In the movie, capitalist scientists believe that all humans are born with evil and the intent to kill. As they put it, one night to "release the beast" brings order to American society. As the movie progresses, you learn that society has no issues because working and poverty-stricken people are constant targets during these events.

This allegorical film is meant to show anti-working class imagery, where working class citizens are in a state of fear of government abuse of power. We workers of the world need to purge ourselves of these capitalist images and mobilize for a communist world where we workers take charge and the bosses' nightmares are finally realized.

Communist Summer Project in Seattle:**WORKERS & SOLDIERS READING & DISCUSSING RED FLAG**

Our Summer Project in Seattle began in the most motivating way with a long two day trip. We took advantage of this time to discuss with the comrades themes like dialectical materialism and also to write a leaflet.

As we were arriving at our destination, the comrades who were waiting for us invited us to a demonstration against the verdict in the case of Trayvon Martin. We distributed dozens of *Red Flag* newspapers and leaflets there, and we spoke to several people who said they were very angry with the racism that the system carries out day in and day out.

We met an immigrant worker who was very open and interested in our ideas. He said he liked to come to these demonstrations because "it seems important to add your grain of sand to the struggle." So we invited him to participate in a more effective and forceful way with us in the activities of the project. Because of his job, he couldn't participate during the week, but only in the social activity at the end of the project.

The next day, we got our calendar of activities, which included distribution of our newspaper and leaflets at several different places. We went to three Boeing factories, where we distributed more than 500 *Red Flags* and hundreds of

leaflets among the workers.

Here one of the most motivating experiences that we had was with a young black worker who, after he left work, was waiting for the bus. He didn't want to take our literature until one of his friends (a white worker) took it. That interested him and he came to ask us for a paper. While he was waiting for his bus he read *Red Flag*, and was very interested. The next morning when they went to work together, they saw us and greeted us warmly and between them they took three more newspapers for their friends inside the plant.

We also visited friends of the Party to strengthen the relationship with them. In one of these visits, we had a good discussion about the eventual need for armed revolution. This is something about which many people don't want to think about, but we have learned from bitter experience, for example in Chile under Allende and many others, that it will be necessary.

We also went to a military base to take our ideas to the soldiers. We were pleased, as always, with the good response to the offer of an openly communist newspaper. Then we visited the neighborhood where we went door to door to speak with soldiers' families.

Throughout the whole week, we distributed

over 1,000 *Red Flags* and hundreds of leaflets. In addition, every day this project strengthened us more as comrades since we worked together collectively, including on things that apparently are not important but which in reality are, like the work of the household chores, since this sexist system teaches us that this is women's work.

Every time we left to distribute the paper or to visit comrades, we were more motivated because we realized that the masses are open to our ideas and that our struggle for a better society, that only communism can give us, is being well received by the masses. Many youth, and men and women workers are interested in learning about our line and when we see all this, we realize that we are on the correct road. And not just here, but around the world, the masses are in motion like in Brazil, Egypt, etc.

Finally, the person who we met the first day called us the day after the closing activity asking us for more newspapers for a co-worker. During the interesting project this summer, not only new contacts, but co-workers and old friends were encouraged in seeing many new people. They responded by taking more newspapers to distribute among their friends and relatives and with them to spread communist ideas.

Communism: just common sense!

Mom, my teacher said that we are free to make choices in America!




Yes, dear but the bank will still not let us stay in our home.



How about we move next door? That house has been empty for years!



The bank would not be too happy with that... You see, we are free to think about what we'd like, but nothing is FREE, under capitalism



I don't like capitalism! Why can't we just make everything free? I think I'll tell my teacher and all my friends that we need to change this!

